remodeling

YOUR TOOLBOX FOR SUCCESS

2015 DESIGN AWARDS

Contents 10.15

VOL. 31, NO. 9

Cesar Rubio Photography

27
COVER STORY / 2015 DESIGN AWARDS

Our judges evaluated 162 entries and picked 18 as this year's cream of the crop, thanks to their demonstration of carefully planned and flawlessly executed design transformations. Find inspiration in the pages dedicated to these award-winning projects, which range from expansive commercial establishments to petite residential baths.

ONLINE NOW

Want to see even more of this year's Design Award winners? The Remodeling website has you covered. Our online multimedia features, including photo galleries, video tours, interactive content, and extended write-ups, give you an in-depth look at all of the winning projects. Visit www.remodeling.hw.net/rda to get started.

07
FROM THE EDITOR

11
YOUR BUSINESS

Design Trends / AIA's annual surveys show what's hot in the home
Marketing / How one firm's inventive ad campaign is getting major results
Finance / Keep cash flow on track with these six tips
Finance / Approach your finances like a remodeling project
Operations / When providing a service, can "good" and "cheap" coexist?
Online / Web-based home improvement leaders announce service expansions
Consumers / New data shows that local businesses are in high demand
Leadership / Take a cue from theater directors on how to manage a team

69
PRODUCTS

Winter Prep / Keep out the chill with these cold weather-ready standouts

80
YOU BUILT IT

Stunning sculpture

REMODELING (ISSN 0885-8039) Volume 31, Number 9, is published 10 times per year in January, February, March, April, May, June, August, September, October and November by Hanley Wood, One Thomas Circle NW, Suite 600, Washington, DC 20005. Copyright 2015 by Hanley Wood. Opinions expressed are those of the authors or persons quoted. Reproduction in whole or in part prohibited without written authorization. Subscriptions are free to qualified recipients. Publisher reserves the right to determine recipient qualification. Out-of-field subscription rates: US and possessions: $44.95; Canada $59.95 (Canadian dollars); all other countries $65 (US funds). Single copy price: $8.00 except Buyer's Guide, $10. For subscription information, write Circulation, REMODELING, PO Box 3494, Northbrook, IL 60065-9831. Canada Post Registration #40612608/G.S.T. number: R-120931738. Canadian return address: IMEX, PO Box 25542, London, ON N6C 6B2. Periodicals Postage Paid at Washington, DC, and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to REMODELING, PO Box 3494, Northbrook, IL 60065. Member: BPA Worldwide (BPAWW) and American Business Media (ABM).

Remodeling 2015

DESIGN AWARDS

2015 Design Awards

From more than 160 entries, these 18 stood out thanks to thoughtful details, innovative problem-solving, and a definite 'wow' factor

by Craig Webb
Laura McNulty
Curtis Sprung
Erin Ansley
Leah Demirjian
Dante Webster
Stacey Freed
Rena Goldman
and Kate Tyndall

This year, the Remodeling Design Awards went digital: From entering to judging, everything was done online. While that did streamline the process, the three judges still spent hours evaluating each entry—looking at photographs and floor plans, reading project descriptions, and deliberating as a group the merits of 162 remodeling projects from across the United States.

They looked for projects that feature ideas others in the industry will admire, be inspired by, and want to emulate. The projects that rose to the top were those that had "warmth and light," a "connection to the outdoors," and showed a "definite transformation" from their original designs.

THE AWARDS

Entries are organized into 11 categories, with an additional 39 subcategories based on price. Judges are not required to award a winner in each category and have leeway in determining which projects show the highest degree of design expertise and craftsmanship. Our judges selected 18 projects out of 162 for distinction: one Best of the Year, five Grand Awards, and 12 Merit Awards.

The whole-house remodel category faced the strongest competition, with 43 entries. Other hotly contested categories included kitchens (33 entries), bathrooms (20), and historically sensitive renovations (17).

THE JUDGES

Karman Hotchkiss, deputy director, home design content core, Better Homes and Gardens Special Interest Media, Meredith Corp., Des Moines, Iowa
Donald Lococo, AIA, principal, Donald Lococo Architects, Washington, D.C.
Paul Masi, AIA, Bates Masi + Architects, Sag Harbor, N.Y.

Hill House

Whole-House Remodeling over $500,000

Location: San Francisco
Architect: Cary Bernstein, Cary Bernstein Architect
Contractor: Felix Chan, Lara Construction
Landscape Architect: SurfaceDesign

Remodeling 2015 DESIGN AWARDS

Two ideas resonated with the judges on this project—its sense of cohesion and its engagement with the property. That's the essence of why this home is this year's Project of the Year award winner. The 1930s stucco bungalow "had no particular character," says architect Cary Bernstein, who was asked to expand the 1,100-square-foot house within its compact footprint. To keep within budget and the neighborhood scale, Bernstein chose to push the house out to the side property lines and 7 feet back. Contractor Felix Chan demolished the house to the first floor and reframed it.

Because the lot is fairly wide (for San Francisco) at 40 feet, it made more sense to demolish the house, then have SurfaceDesign do the landscaping before the build. The result is part of what makes the house seem cohesive, Bernstein says. Gaining space in the back meant creating a retaining wall close to the kitchen due to the hill's scale. Bernstein's solution: a step up within the house, which helps mitigate the retaining wall and give spatial configuration to the open plan. The house, now 1,800 square feet, is still modest. To increase the feeling of spaciousness, Bernstein raised the ceiling and specified large windows, five skylights and three clerestory windows.

The cohesion that struck the judges is by design. They remarked that "the composition considers everything, down to the detail of lighting and the furniture." Bernstein acknowledges that "the landscape and the décor were all of a piece conceptually." Her ultimate goal was to solve a problem of compact urban living: "It's not about having the biggest house and extra stuff. It was about having the right house." In this case, the right house took the top honors.—S.F.

Cesar Rubio Photography