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Photo Courtesy/John Byrd

The diver's helmet on display helps carry out the nautical theme of this award-winning project by BOWA Builders of McLean.

Design firm sails to prize

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■ BOWA wins top COTY award

By JOHN BYRD
Special to The Times

BOWA Builders of McLean has sailed into two major remodeling awards by helping an Arlington attorney fulfill his seafaring dreams.

The homeowner and his wife have spent weeks exploring the Caribbean in their 50-foot cabin cruiser; the Chesapeake Bay is like their backyard.

So an eagle's nest atop the house had long been a dream of the homeowner, inspired by the view of the Washington Monument from his rooftop. When the couple decided to renovate their Dutch Colonial house, they gave this idea to the contractor.

It proved to be such a good

one, the resulting renovations won two top honors for BOWA Builders: a Monument Award sponsored jointly by the Northern Virginia Building Industry Association and the Maryland National Building Industry Association, and a Contractor of the Year grand prize for "Best Addition Over \$500,000" from the National Association of the Remodeling Industry.

The couple had wanted a three-story addition wrapped around two sides of the house, which meant deconstructing an earlier addition. Architecturally, the home's original Dutch Colonial antecedents found more distinct expression

See BOWA/B2

BOWA

From Page B1

in the Craftsman style.

Altogether, some 2,000 square feet of new space was added.

Once work began on the master bedroom suite, there was little doubt where the creative focus of the project would be – namely, out at sea.

The eagle's nest thus sits above the master bedroom and adjoining owner's spa.

The master bedroom features a gas-log fireplace with a herringbone brick interior. A beautiful sleigh bed stands in the middle of the bedroom, with a mysterious wooden

trunk at its foot. A hallway to the right leads to a changing area and master bath, with its large soaking tub and tiled steam shower. To the left, a ship's ladder leads from the "captain's quarters" to the eagle's nest.

BOWA suggested the ladder as a way to save space. The original plans called for an L-shaped staircase leading up to the eagle's nest, but the ladder seemed perfect. The builder quickly had one specially made by a boat builder in Jessup, Md.

The octagonal white room has a window at every turn.

As the finishing touch, an old diver's helmet was placed on a stand to the left, and a globe sits on a table in the center.