

Northern Virginia boasts 12 COTY champs

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An L-shaped, architecturally-sensitive, three-level addition to a circa-1920's Arlington home won top honors for McLean's BOWA Builders in the "addition over \$500,000" category. It was one of the 17th annual Contractor of the Year awards, presented recently by the National Association of the Remodeling Industry.

The expansion wraps the house on two sides. It provides for a new upper level master bedroom, a five-person spa complete with steam shower and soaking tub, and a main-level kitchen enlargement that adjoins a breakfast room, family room and sunroom. A classic widow's walk that affords an impressive view of the Washington monument gives the renovation its one-of-a-kind distinction.

To create access to the home's top-most reaches, BOWA installed a custom-built ship's ladder. Tying off the old and new roofs was a particular challenge. The ceiling in the master bedroom suite is, thus, a masterful display of tectonic angularity. From its custom-stained marine grade wood ceiling to its stonewalled basement, the finish-work is a pristine expression of exceptional building skills.

Burke-based Kohler Homes won a grand award in the "detached structure" category for a multi-purpose out-building designed to complement existing structures and landscaping. The program called for a two-car parking garage, a sizeable playroom with full bath, an additional half bath convenient to an adjacent pool and storage for

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Photos Courtesy/John Byrd

This bright, modern kitchen takes full advantage of the rear porch and its impressive view, in a project that won a COTY award for Bowers Design Build of McLean in the \$100,000 to \$150,00 design range.

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decking furniture. The first complication: a natural swale in the middle of the designated construction site that functioned as a watershed for much of the property. To address this issue,



This ordinary kitchen was transformed into an elegant gourmet space by Bowers Design Build.

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Kohler developed a completely new drainage system (complete with large pipe running under the garage) that is thoroughly integrated into the landscaping.

Brick was selected for its perfect match to cladding on the existing structure. The assignment included replacing doors on the original garage with a carriage-house style used in the new outbuilding. It faithfully replicates existing house brickwork details.

Three brick piers with pre-cast capitals set off by specialty lighting anchor a new wrought iron fence to link the existing and new structures. The effect is to highlight the home's understated grandeur.

An enlarged and upgraded kitchen makeover featuring dramatic visual linkage to its bucolic setting won Bowers Design Build of McLean a COTY grand for "best kitchen \$100,000 to \$150,000." The art of achieving large goals within a strict budget is, of course, the accumulation of comparatively modest strategic decisions that add up to big changes. Hence, while Bowers incorporates space from an unused rear porch and moves an interior wall just two feet into an adjacent dining room, the new kitchen is suddenly large, light-filled and provided with views of the surrounding landscape. To give the new interior needed panache, designers explored color and textural themes with the owners, co-creating an interior in which flooring, glass facing cabinets and backsplashes converge in a softly upbeat ambiance. A five-burner gas cooktop, wine refrigerator

and work station with Internet access are among the amenities that bring the project elegantly up to date.

Converting a cramped, dark attic office into an efficient, inviting workspace won Sun Design Remodeling of Burke a COTY for "creative solution under \$15,000." In fact, the firm's innovative space saving plan and comprehensive upgrade came in at just over \$5,000.

Among solutions: recessing large storage files into the unused space under the roof's eaves to free up valuable floor space, replacing a small side-elevation window with a window wall and installing two skylights to further augment available light.

Natural wood with walnut stain were a welcome contrast to the beige carpet. The color scheme, too, presents a thoughtful consideration to tone and intensity, building an interior that is both restful and dynamic.

The 12 COTY Grand winners in Northern Virginia also include:

Sun Design Remodeling Specialists Inc of Burke for "Residential Addition Under \$250,000"; Bowers Design Build Inc of McLean for "Historical Renovations"; G&M Contracting Inc of Burke for "Whole House \$500,000 to \$1 Million"; Greg Smith Company Inc of Falls Church for "Custom House Less Than \$1 Million"; Commonwealth Home Remodelers Inc of Vienna for "Residential Kitchen Over \$150,000"; Burch Builders Group LLC of Warrenton for "Residential Bath \$30,000-\$60,000"; Henderson Design Build of Arlington for "Residential Bath Under \$30,000"; Old Dominion Stone LLC of Leesburg for "Residential Exterior Specialty" and TriVista USA LCC of Arlington for "Commercial Interior."



Photos Courtesy/John Byrd

The kitchen work island also serves as a place to display the charming collectibles in this Alexandria townhouse, in a design that won a COTY award for Michael Nash Kitchens and Homes of Fairfax.



The white counter created an inconvenient barrier in this Alexandria kitchen before it was removed in an award-winning project by Michael Nash Kitchens and Homes.