

YOUR BUSINESS

YOUR CLIENTS

YOUR TEAM

YOUR PROJECTS

Referral sales basics

Predatory remodelers

On-staff parts runner

Door installation tips

remodeling

YOUR TOOLBOX FOR SUCCESS

Design Awards

The best remodeling projects of the year





remodeling Design Awards

The Judges

Tom Glass

Glass Construction,
Washington, D.C.

Karman Hotchkiss

Meredith Corp.,
Des Moines, Iowa

Charles Moore

Moore Architects,
Alexandria, Va.

John Rusk

Rusk Renovations,
New York

Jane Treacy

Treacy & Eagleburger,
Washington, D.C.

For the five judges—architects, remodelers, and a consumer shelter magazine editor—poring over the 257 binders sent in by industry professionals from across the U.S. and Canada for the 2013 Remodeling Design Awards, “restraint” was the word of the day. The judges applauded projects that were “edited” in such a way as to make a statement—not too many elements competing for attention. What held their attention were spaces that bridged old and new, traditional, transitional, and modern. The judges also looked at livability: were the projects something that today’s homeowners or business owners would want to live in or work in? And, as always, presentation was important. Clear, attractive entry binders that really showed off the projects trumped those that didn’t present as effectively.

Work that “mixes too many styles, [making] the project look amateurish,” failed to move forward during the process. And, in the kitchen category in particular, several judges felt that many designs were “poorly laid out for use” or used “the same style: white, flat front ... with too much crown molding.”

The Awards

Entries are organized into 12 categories, with an additional 45 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 21 projects for distinction: one Best of the Year, 8 Grand Awards, and 12 Merit Awards. The whole-house category had the strongest competition with 48 entries. Other hotly contended categories: kitchen (39), bath (37), and historically sensitive renovation (25).



WHOLE-HOUSE REMODELING \$250,000 - \$500,000

Desert Embrace

PRIORITIES

- Improve connection between interior rooms
- Provide a better visual connection from the house to the landscape

SOLUTIONS

Not only was this house poorly laid out, but architect Rob Paulus describes its Spanish style as “Santa Fake,” right down to the drywall made to resemble adobe. “A lot of what we did was more subtractive,” Paulus says, “taking things away and bringing it back to a simple box. From there, we opened up as much as we could,” by removing walls to create a better flow.

The homeowner, who was initially drawn to the house for its mature landscape and setting, wanted to create a stronger connection between the interior spaces and the backyard, so Paulus increased the glazing on the home’s rear wall to capture views.

As a film enthusiast, the homeowner also wanted a media room with a large 14-foot projection screen. Since the living room lacked the wall space to accommodate a screen that large, Paulus enclosed an outdoor porch and incorporated the existing outdoor fireplace.

The second phase of the project involved improving the outdoor spaces. A 20-foot-by-40-foot contemporary steel and Douglas fir porch roof canopy shades an outdoor living area that includes

an outdoor kitchen and has direct access from the home theater, great room, and master bedroom.

The indoor kitchen’s cabinets are also made of Douglas fir—but a polished, smooth version—to fulfill the owner’s request for natural materials and to provide both continuity of material and a contrast with the rough-hewn fir used for the trellis.

The roof canopy isn’t attached to the existing building, which makes it look like the canopy is hovering above the home and clearly is separate from the main structure. The architect’s original sketch of the canopy included a round opening over the outdoor seating area, but it was more cost-effective to make the opening rectangular.

To shade the media room’s two large windows, Paulus designed steel-slatted “boxes.” Their delicate structure contrasts with the heavier lines of the nearby canopy, and vines are now growing up the steel slats, further connecting the structure to the landscape.

JUDGES’ COMMENTS

The judges praised the “clarity of structure” that the architect was able to create from the original house and its connection to the new outdoor space. The house has beautiful detailing and materials, and they pointed out the interesting contrast between the raw steel and warm wood on the trellis.

Architect/contractor:
Rob Paulus, Rob Paulus
Architects, Tucson, Ariz.
Contractor (interior): Ted
Kline, Mega Trend, Tucson
**Interior design &
millwork/cabinetry:**
D. Scott Baker & Mary Ann
Hesseldenz, Baker +
Hesseldenz Design, Tucson