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Building Reputations:

Spotlight on Award-Winning Remodelers and Their Most Lauded Projects

By Cathy Cruise

Do you ever wish your home was more functional, or dream of roomier rooms? Long for light, ache for ambiance? You're not alone. With fewer people buying new homes these days, more are considering remodeling.

"When there's no easy sale or trade-up option, it makes sense to improve upon what you have," says John Byrd, president of Home Fronts News Service. "There's a sense today of people settling in and making a house into one that works for them."

But how to choose a contractor? Take a look at their achievements—like these 10 area builders, most of which received the National Association of the Remodeling Industry's (NARI) Contractor of the Year (CoTY) awards (national and regional). Others took home the big-name Chrysalis and American Institute of Architects (AIA) awards.

Eagle Home Design, LLC

11738 Indian Ridge Road, Reston; 703-476-5550; www.eagleprojects.us

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Winner: NARI 2008 Regional CotY Award, Residential Kitchen \$60K to \$100K, Region II

For: Home in Sterling

This kitchen had very little counter space, and not enough room for entertaining friends and family. While the owners wanted a contemporary look, they wanted it to match the traditional decor found in the rest of the home.

By removing one wall section, Eagle Home Design nearly doubled the size of the kitchen, freeing up traffic flow in and around the area, and providing a space that can now comfortably fit up to 20 people. More counter space was supplied as well, with the use of black, natural stone countertops. All new cabinetry and appliances were installed. Bisazza tile and prefinished hardwoods were placed on the floors, giving the room a contemporary, upscale design that blends well with the adjoining rooms and decor.



“Today’s clients are more willing to take risks in their remodels,” says John W. Thompson, principal at Eagle. “That means they’re becoming open to more minimal contemporary design. They are also very interested in rooms that use space more efficiently than the original design allowed.”

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