

Greater Ottawa

Home Builders'

Association





PRODUCTION HOMES: ATTACHED
2,000 SQ. FT. OR LESS | RICHCRAFT HOMES: THE BOUNDARY



PRODUCTION HOMES: ATTACHED
2,001 SQ. FT. OR MORE | CHRISTOPHER SIMMONDS ARCHITECT INC. WITH HN HOMES: THE PARKWAY



PRODUCTION HOMES: SINGLE DETACHED
2,000 SQ. FT. OR LESS | URBANDALE CONSTRUCTION: THE HORIZON SERIES BEAUMONT



PRODUCTION HOMES: SINGLE DETACHED
2,001 - 2,600 SQ. FT. | TARTAN HOMES: PARRHILL

HOUSING DESIGN AWARDS:

Winners show a levelling of the playing field

By ANITA MURRAY, *Ottawa Citizen*

If the 32nd annual Housing Design Awards given out Saturday are any indication, the times are changing for Ottawa's design scene. For the first time in three years, there was no runaway winner at the gala event hosted by the Greater Ottawa Home Builders' Association. Combined with a record number of entries, finalists and companies entering, it's a signal that the local design landscape is maturing.

"We were thrilled to see such a varied group of finalists and winners," says awards committee chair

Linda Oliveri. "There was not one particular company that swept the competition."

There were certainly many familiar faces among the 56 winners, with perennial heavyweights such as architects Christopher Simmonds and Barry Hobin each scooping up a handful of trophies, but there were also several talented newcomers to challenge them. In fact, almost one-quarter of entrants were new to the awards.

Projects continued the contemporary trend of recent years, with

gorgeous homes, kitchens, bathrooms and renovations showing off clean lines and uncluttered spaces, even in traditional designs. And while white kitchens and neutral tones still rule, there were plenty pops of colour and dramatic use of materials to add warmth and visual interest. Kitchens and bathrooms, as usual, were the most popular projects, with double-digit entries vying for one of five finalist spots in several categories. But close behind were production homes, perhaps fuelled by a spate of



PRODUCTION HOMES: SINGLE DETACHED
2,601 - 2,600 SQ. FT. | CARDEL HOMES: STONEWATER



PRODUCTION HOMES: SINGLE DETACHED
2,601 - 3,500 SQ. FT. | URBANDALE CONSTRUCTION: THE HORIZON SERIES OAKVIEW

recently built models to show off, many of which boast an increasing sophistication in design.

Among individual winners, Simmonds, Hobin and Astro Design Centre all tied for top honours, taking home five awards each. "This year was nerve-racking in terms of seeing the level of competition," said Astro designer Nathan Kyle, who won three of the company's awards.

Hot on their heels were awards newcomer HN Homes and relative newcomer Ha², which both exploded

onto the design scene, winning four trophies apiece. That was tied with veterans RND Construction and Urbandale Construction. HN's bold approach has brought fresh, contemporary options to production homes in the last couple of years, helped in no small part by its association with Simmonds and designer Leonhard Vogt, who also won two awards in his inaugural attempt. "We have a really good team," said HN president George Georgiadas.

"We offer a different kind of vision in the production market...we're

giving [buyers] their own customized home."

Ha², meanwhile, won a pair of trophies for a semi-detached project featuring distinctive, asymmetrical balconies clad in western red cedar as well as two renovation projects, one with RND. "I'm on top of the world," said a jubilant Houry Avedissian of Ha². "This was from 15 years of working hard in the business."

There were few green entries this year, but judge Doug Tarry was impressed with the ones that did



PRODUCTION HOMES: SINGLE DETACHED

3,501 SQ. FT. OR MORE | CHRISTOPHER SIMMONDS ARCHITECT INC. WITH RH HOMES: THE WINFIELD



COMMUNITY OF THE YEAR

BARRY J. HOBIN & ASSOCIATES ARCHITECTS INC. WITH SPRINGCRESS PROPERTIES: RAVENHILL COMMON

enter. "I always hesitate about the term 'green builder,'" said the co-owner of Doug Tarry Homes. "What I saw were companies that were committed to building that way, which I thought was really refreshing." Homes, who is a past president of the Ontario Home Builders' Association, was one of 10 judges from across the country evaluating the 269 entries in 53 categories.

"A green home needs to stand on its own merits from a design point of view because these are design awards and then have the benefit of the additional sustainability points," added Algonquin College Architecture Professor Chris Hewett, the only local judge this year.

Just Basement's creativity in lower-level living continues to shine – it cleaned up in the two basement renovation categories, although it was competing against only itself in one of them. Interestingly, though, the winner for any room in the house was a Carded basement that's a dream for any Star Wars fan. Had it been eligible for one of the basement categories, Just Basement might have been knocked off its pedestal.

Others who were not knocked off pedestals included Simmonds, who won the anywhere in the world category for the fourth year in a row with a cantilevered cottage in Val-des-Monts. RND reclaimed the green custom home award it has

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had a habit of winning the past few years – this time with Simmonds. And Corvinelli Homes, the only entry for green production home, has owned the category since its introduction in 2010.

One project proved so popular that it won all three categories it was entered in – Ravenhill Common by Hobin and Springcress Properties: a collection of townhomes in Westboro built around Westboro United Church. It won the new community of the year category, low to mid-rise building and low-rise unit.

Among the special categories, Amsted Design-Build beat out a handful of others who have also

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CUSTOM HOME

2,401 – 3,500 SQ. FT. | GREENMARK BUILDERS INC.: CEDARLAKES CUSTOM



CUSTOM URBAN HOME

2,400 SQ. FT. OR LESS, CONTEMPORARY | BARRY J. HOBIN & ASSOCIATES ARCHITECTS INC. WITH CADA CONSTRUCTION: BROWN'S INLET BUNGALOW



CUSTOM URBAN HOME

3,501 SQ. FT. OR MORE, CONTEMPORARY | CHRISTOPHER SIMMONDS ARCHITECT INC. WITH MAPLE LEAF CUSTOM HOMES: ATLANTIS AVENUE



CUSTOM HOME

3,501 SQ. FT. OR MORE | BREMMER CONSTRUCTION: SUMMERSIDE DRIVE



CUSTOM URBAN HOME

2,401 – 3,500 SQ. FT., CONTEMPORARY | FLYNN ARCHITECT INC.: BOWER AVENUE RESIDENCE



CUSTOM URBAN HOME

MULTI-UNIT 2-6 UNITS | KAY ARCHITECTURE DESIGN: THE ROYAL TWINS



LOW TO MID-RISE BUILDING

6-49 UNITS | BARRY J. NOBIN & ASSOCIATES ARCHITECTS INC. WITH SPRINGGRESS PROPERTIES: THE BROWNSTONES OF RAVENHILL COMMON



HIGH-RISE BUILDING

50 UNITS OR MORE | BARRY J. NOBIN & ASSOCIATES ARCHITECTS INC. WITH MINTO COMMUNITIES: THE VIBE



LOW RISE UNIT

BARRY J. NOBIN & ASSOCIATES ARCHITECTS INC. WITH SPRINGGRESS PROPERTIES: BROWNSTONE 12 AT RAVENHILL COMMON



MID TO HIGH-RISE UNIT

CLARIDGE HOMES: FUSION, THE LILAC



RENOVATION

UNDER \$40,000 | GREENMARK BUILDERS INC. WITH KITCHEN CRAFT CABINETRY: MALNOTRA RENOV



RENOVATION

\$60,000 - \$95,999 | HA* ARCHITECTURE DESIGN: WIDE OPEN CONDO



RENOVATION

\$100,000 - \$199,999 | RMD CONSTRUCTION WITH HA* ARCHITECTURE DESIGN: ALTA VISTA TRANSFORMATION



RENOVATION

\$200,000 - \$349,999 | HAMEL DESIGN INC. ROBERTSON HOUSE RENOVATION



RENOVATION

\$350,000 - \$499,999 | CHUCK MILLS RESIDENTIAL DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT INC WITH PATTERSON HOMES: CHIKOOK RENOVATION



RENOVATION

\$500,000 AND OVER | MIRM BUILDERS WITH DEAN CALLIER DESIGN: SOPHISTICATED URBAN RENOVATION



BASEMENT RENOVATION

\$74,999 AND UNDER | JUST BASEMENTS: UPTOWN BASEMENT LOFT



BASEMENT RENOVATIONS

\$75,000 AND OVER | JUST BASEMENTS: RIDINGVIEW SPECIAL



CUSTOM BATHROOM

100 SQ. FT. OR LESS | GORDON WEIMA DESIGN BUILDER, QUEENSLINE ENSUITE



CUSTOM BATHROOM

101 SQ. FT. OR MORE | ASTRO DESIGN CENTRE, LOWER LEVEL ENSUITE RETREAT



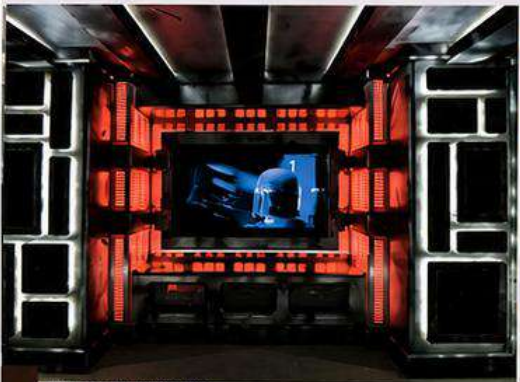
CUSTOM BATHROOM

POWDER ROOM | ROCA HOMES WITH IRPINIA OTTIMAK, WHITEHAVEN SOPHISTICATED GLAM POWDER ROOM



HOUSING DETAILS

RND CONSTRUCTION WITH HAMEL DESIGN INC., HINTONBURG GREEN BRIDGE



ANY ROOM IN THE HOUSE

CARDEL HOMES, STAR WARS HOME THEATRE



EXTERIOR DETAILS

HA+ ARCHITECTURE DESIGN, THE ROYAL CANOPY BALCONY



EXTERIOR LIVING SPACE

AMSTED DESIGN-BUILD, FOURTH AVENUE RENOVATION



ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD

CHRISTOPHER SIMMONS ARCHITECT INC., VAL DES MONTS



GREEN PRODUCTION HOME OF THE YEAR

CORYNELL HOMES, RUSSELL 71, RUSSELL TRAILS



GREEN CUSTOM HOME OF THE YEAR

CHRISTOPHER SIMMONS ARCHITECT INC. WITH RND CONSTRUCTION, WELLINGTON VILLAGE MODERN

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been named renovator of the year before to win that category an unprecedented sixth time – appropriate timing, given that the company is marking its 25th anniversary this year. Earlier in the week, Amsted was also named the province's renovator of the year at the Ontario Home Builders' Association awards in Huntsville, Ontario. "Unbelievable!" beamed Amsted President Steve Giesbrecht. "You can't be consistent and faithful without a consistent team and team. It's like a snowball rolling – bring them in with you, train them, and build them up and build them up.

Chuck Mills got the nod in the new category of designer of the year, edging out Cardel Homes. The architectural technologist is a veteran of the housing industry, with a penchant for sprawling homes with an arts and crafts theme. Mills also won for the renovation of a two-storey home that gave new life to the dated exterior and main living areas. "I can't begin to tell you how thrilled I am," said Mills. "I've been doing this a long time, so it's humbling to get the recognition." And Urbanable was named production builder of the year, while RND scooped up the custom builder of the year award.

In a twist this year, voting for the coveted People's Choice Award was made available online, as well as at the Ottawa Fall Home Show. Relative newcomer Greenmark Builders came out on top with a custom home that blends modern and the rustic. The family-friendly home also won in the 2,401- to 3,500-square-foot custom home category. "I can't believe it," said Greenmark President Mark Kranenburg. "The People's Choice Award is what blew me away. To me, it's the biggest award of the evening."