

Green building and remodeling for urban living.

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PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Otogawa-Anschel Design-Build Receives Contractor of the Year Award

Local Firm Honored with three awards and an Honorable Mention in Sustainable Design by Minnesota Chapter of the National Association of the Remodeling Industry

Minneapolis, MN (November 11, 2007)

Otogawa-Anschel recently received three 2007 awards for outstanding achievement in the Residential Kitchen categories of 60K & Under and 60K-75K, and Bath 30K-60K as well as an Honorable Mention in Sustainable Design at the 11th Annual Contractor of the Year (COTY) Awards ceremony. The event, held November 7, was hosted by the Minnesota Chapter of the National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI).

The COTY Awards recognize excellence in the Minnesota remodeling industry in 20 categories including sustainable remodeling, residential kitchens, bathrooms and exteriors, and commercial projects.

“Otogawa-Anschel illustrates the best of the best in remodeling in the Twin Cities,” said Bjorn Freudenthal, President of NARI of Minnesota. “This area has a wealth of industry talent and we are thrilled to honor the work of this company.”

Otogawa-Anschel Design-Build is a Minneapolis-based remodeling firm focused on urban development and city living. The company is dedicated to green building and creating energy efficient homes, and is committed to providing affordable remodeling options for its clients. Visit their website at www.otogawa-anschel.com.

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FOR REMODELING
EXCELLENCE



Residential Kitchen \$60,000 and Under

The homeowners liked to cook and wanted a kitchen in which they could enjoy cooking. They did not want to add to the home, but did want a kitchen where two people could work side by side. The primary challenge was how to fit everything into the existing space. Our creativity was put to the test as we rearranged access, repurposed space, and considered every inch available. The end result is a happy marriage of form and function. Glass inserts, cork floors, two-toned cabinetry, and creative utensil racks (made out of picture rail) really bring this kitchen together.



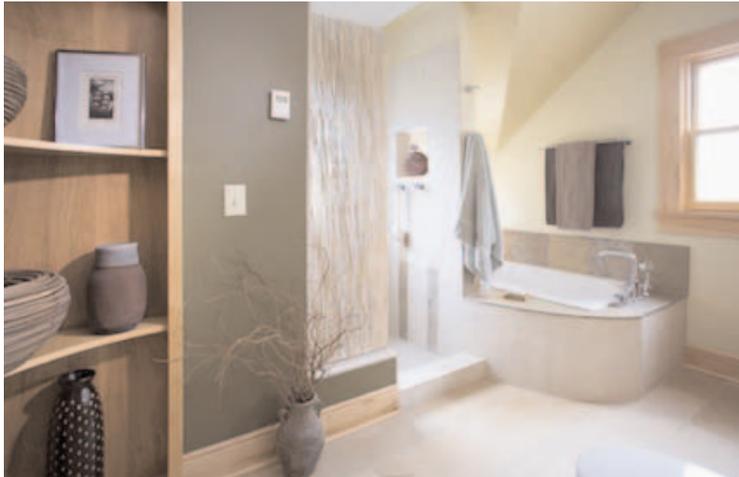
Residential Kitchen \$60,000 - \$75,000

This kitchen was the victim of a previous remodel that left it with a royal blue formica countertop, and a less than ideal workspace for the avid baker and cook. By borrowing half of an awkward coat closet and removing one of the three entry points into the kitchen, we were able to build a full baking station complete with a Wolf oven, ample storage, floor to ceiling wine cubbies, Viking range, and remnant granite. The transformation is dramatic, and myriad features are seamlessly integrated creating a clean, simple kitchen that is fun to work in, eat in, and live in.



Residential Bath \$30,000 - \$60,000

The new design called for relocating the bathroom door and taking over an existing closet. This gave us enough space for a walk-in shower, soaking tub, custom linen storage, and a custom double bowl vanity. The results are amazing. Natural light streams through a fiberglass shower window through a piece of eco-resin that serves as the shower wall. Light also comes into the room from another window to the side of the vanity. The custom vanity and tile work bring it all together and make this a real urban spa.



Honorable Mention - Sustainable

The new homeowners of this 1889 Victorian, which had been poorly remodeled in the 80s, wanted something fun, fresh and functional. To bring in more natural light, we opened up the West wall of the kitchen and installed ultra energy efficient Pella windows with blinds in the glass. We also installed a cork floor over the Wirsbo hydronic in-floor radiant heat; a durable, sustainable product that is more comfortable to stand on. This project also includes a 93% efficient sealed combustion boiler and a sealed combustion tankless water heater, Icynene spray-foam insulation, Energy Star appliances, and no AC.



COTY Awards

With final scores based on photo submissions and project details, the contestants were judged by industry peers that included professional remodelers, designers and architects affiliated with the Milwaukee chapter of NARI under a reciprocal agreement. Judging was based on problem solving, functionality, aesthetics, craftsmanship, innovation, degree of difficulty and entry presentation. Competing with nearly 100 entries in 20 categories and Best of Show, Otogawa-Anschel is honored to be identified as a leader among this distinguished group of remodeling firms.

The COTY Awards recognized excellence in the following categories:

Residential Kitchen \$60,000 and Under
Residential Kitchen \$60,001-75,000
Residential Kitchen \$75,001-120,000
Residential Kitchen Over \$120,000
Residential Bath \$30,001 - \$60,000
Residential Bath Over \$60,000
Residential Interior \$150,000 and Under
Residential Interior Over \$150,000
Residential Exterior
Commercial Interior
Exterior or Special
Residential Interior Specialty
Residential Addition \$200,000 and Under
Residential Addition Over \$200,000
Entire House \$500,000 and Under
Entire House Over \$500,000
Residential Historic Renovation/Restoration
Sustainable Remodeling
Best Newcomer
Best of Show

NARI established the annual COTY Awards in 1997 to foster a sense of pride and accomplishment among its members through friendly competition, as well as to increase public awareness of NARI professionals. All local award winners will be recognized in NARI of Minnesota's 2008 Remodeling Today consumer directory and website (www.narimn.org), and in Midwest Home magazine, Twin Cities Home Improvement Magazine, Luxury Renovations, and the Builders' Journal.

About NARI of Minnesota

NARI of Minnesota is a Chapter of The National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI), the only trade association dedicated solely to the remodeling industry. With more than 7,000 member companies nationwide, the Association is "The Voice of the Remodeling Industry"™. For membership and chapter information, or for more on the COTY Awards, visit the NARI MN website at [HYPERLINK "http://www.narimn.org"](http://www.narimn.org) www.narimn.org or contact the headquarters at 612-332-NARI.

The remodeling market, a \$230 billion industry in the U.S. in 2003, is expected to continue to experience significant growth. It is estimated that more than a million homes per year undergo major renovation or remodeling.

NARI is a professional association whose members voluntarily subscribe to a strict code of ethics. Consumers may wish to search www.narimn.org to find a qualified professional who is a member of NARI or contact the headquarters at 612-332-NARI for a copy of the consumer directory, "Remodeling Today."