

NARI RotY™

REMODELER OF THE YEAR

2026 AWARDS

**NARI of Central Ohio Categories
and Rules**

SUBMIT / ENTER ONLINE

DETAILS

You are invited to compete for the 2026 NARI of Central Ohio Remodeler of the Year (RotY) Awards. The RotY Awards recognize excellence in remodeling. Companies from one-person shops to the largest remodeling firms have reported that winning this award is a major factor in enhancing their image within the industry and with prospective customers and is a major morale booster for their employees. Remodeling project entries are judged on five criteria: meeting clients' objectives, functionality, aesthetics, craftsmanship, and innovation. Please read the rules thoroughly before submitting an entry..

HOW TO ENTER

Begin by visiting

<https://nari.secure-platform.com/site/organizations/R4-EC-CO/solicitations/106003/home>

Read through the 2026 RotY Rules and click the 'Submit' button to begin your submission. Be sure to fill out the necessary forms for your submission, including the Photographers Release Form as well as the Contractor Agreement.. Architectural Design categories have a separate agreement.

FEES

Entry fee is **\$200**, Team Member **\$125**, Sept.12-Oct. 21
Early Bird fee is **\$185**, Team Member **\$110**, Aug.17-Sept.11,
Late entry fee is \$225, Team Member **\$140**, Oct. 22-25

DEADLINES & DATES

All entries must be submitted and paid for via the online submission portal by **11:59 PM on October 25th**

JUDGING

This year's judges are drawn from NARI Chapters outside of our Region (Region 4)..

SUMMARY OF PROJECT

The "Summary of Project Section" in the online submission is where you can add language for your Master of Ceremonies Script to be read at the RotY Awards Banquet – In the event your project is chosen as a winner, the Master of Ceremonies will read a brief description of your project to the audience. Please provide a description of your project in 100 words or less. Descriptions may be edited without your approval.

PHOTOGRAPHY

All photography submitted becomes the property of NARI of Central Ohio and may be used in any marketing or promotional material including the NARI of Central Ohio website. {No people should be visible and should not have been altered.

Use angles that are easily recognizable as for before-after locations.

GUIDELINES/ADDITIONAL TERMS

- All submissions must be anonymous. Do not include your company name or logo anywhere in your submission. This
- includes photos, blueprints and drawings.
Single Entrant Winner – A single entrant in a category may receive an award based on the overall average scores for the
- year's submissions.
A contractor member company may enter multiple projects in multiple categories and may enter a maximum of two
- projects in the same category. If applicable, a project may be entered in multiple categories.
If you have a large, multi-area project, and would like to enter just a portion of it, you may break it out and/or enter the
- entire project.



RULES

Who can enter?

The entrant organization needs to be a NARI member in good standing that had complete oversight and supervisory responsibilities for the work completed (see exceptions for the Architectural Design category).

Entries are eligible if they have not been submitted in the same category in a prior NARI National Remodeler of the Year (RotY) awards contest and have a finish date range of December 1, 2024 – November 30, 2026. Dates may vary with chapter award programs.

Team Members are other NARI member companies (other than the entrant organization) that worked on the project. There is an additional fee for each Team Member.

Entries for new structures will not be accepted except in the **Residential Detached Structure** category.

The same project may be entered into one category or in multiple categories with additional fees.

Presentation

The presentation must be submitted in PDF format and can be up to 30 pages long. The file can be up to 20MB. This presentation is the only file the judges will see. We suggest using PowerPoint, Publisher, Word, InDesign, or similar program to build an entry, and then save it to a PDF file.

The company name or any individual's name can't be in the presentation, or in the file name, or otherwise identify the member company or the client in any way. Before, in-progress and after photos are encouraged to help show the complexity of the process or the obstacles encountered.

A project summary is required, 100 words or less, *in addition* to their presentation. This summary will be used to describe winning projects after winners are announced.

Photo Uploads

Images and/or photos in the pdf presentation, or image upload section can't contain any recognizable individuals, logos, or any other identifying information. Note, exception of Image Upload #3 for company logo.

Any photo enhancement is limited to brightness, contrast, or sharpness. No items may be added or removed through photo enhancement techniques.

Take “before” photographs before the start of every project. Take the “after” shots from the same angles as the before photos whenever possible.

RULES

Project Costs: Include all fees; designer, subcontractor, project owner sweat equity, etc.

Project Owner/Contractor and Photographer's Release forms: All forms must be completed for each entry to be eligible. Forms are available at nari.org/enter and during the entry process.

All fees are non-refundable, non-transferable, and cannot be carried over to subsequent years.

The Judging Process:

Winners are selected by an impartial panel of judges who are experts from within the industry. The evaluation process is done without revealing company names. A Remodeler of the Year Award winner is an entry that demonstrates remodeling excellence. Entries are judged on functionality, problem-solving, aesthetics, craftsmanship, innovation, the degree of difficulty, and entry presentation. Judges reserve the right to disqualify, adjust the category, or deduct points if program rules are not followed. It's possible that no winner is selected in a particular category if NARI standards are not met. The decision of the judges is final.

Regional Judging- (National Program Only)

Judges begin by individually reviewing all the entries in a category within a region. They do not collaborate or see each other's scores but may discuss aspects of the project for clarification. Once a category within a region is completed, a regional score for each entry is obtained by averaging the judge's scores. The highest average score obtained, providing the project meets the minimum score needed, determines the regional winner for each category.

National Judging-(National Program Only)

The judges will review each of the regional winners with the other judges who reviewed the same category to select a National Winner.

Judges Scoring Criteria can be found at nari.org/enter

CATEGORIES

NARI of Central Ohio Local & National Categories:

Residential Kitchen Under \$50,000

Best residential kitchen remodel with a total project cost* of under \$50,000. Kitchen projects that include remodeling of any other adjacent space such as a family room, dining room, mudroom, etc., should be entered into a Residential Interior category. Only interior photos may be used.

Residential Kitchen \$50,000 to \$100,000

Best residential kitchen remodel with a total project cost* of \$50,000 to \$100,000. Kitchen projects that include remodeling of any other adjacent space such as a family room, dining room, mudroom, etc., should be entered into a Residential Interior category. Only interior photos may be used.

Residential Kitchen \$100,000 to \$125,000

Best residential kitchen remodel with a total project cost* of \$100,000 to \$125,000. Kitchen projects that include remodeling of any other adjacent space such as a family room, dining room, mudroom, etc., should be entered into a Residential Interior category. Only interior photos may be used.

CATEGORIES

Residential Kitchen \$125,000 to \$150,000

Best residential kitchen remodel with a total project cost* of \$125,000 to \$150,000. Kitchen projects that include remodeling of any other adjacent space such as a family room, dining room, mudroom, etc., should be entered into a Residential Interior category. Only interior photos may be used.

Residential Kitchen \$150,000 to \$200,000

Best residential kitchen remodel with a total project cost* of \$150,000 to \$200,000. Kitchen projects that include remodeling of any other adjacent space such as a family room, dining room, mudroom, etc., should be entered into a Residential Interior category. Only interior photos may be used.

Residential Kitchen Over \$200,000

Best residential kitchen remodel with a total project cost* over \$200,000. Kitchen projects that include remodeling of any other adjacent space such as a family room, dining room, mudroom, etc., should be entered into a Residential Interior category. Only interior photos may be used.

Residential Bath Under \$40,000

Best residential bath remodel with a total project cost* under \$40,000. Bathroom projects that include remodeling of any other adjacent space such as a master (clothing) closet, dressing area, or make-up room, etc., should be entered into a Residential Interior category. Only interior photos may be used.

CATEGORIES

Residential Bath \$40,000 to \$70,000

Best residential bath remodel with a total project cost* of \$40,000 to \$70,000. Bathroom projects that include remodeling of any other adjacent space such as a master (clothing) closet, dressing area, or make-up room, etc., should be entered into a Residential Interior category. Only interior photos may be used.

Residential Bath \$70,000 to \$100,000

Best residential bath remodel with a total project cost* of \$70,000 to \$100,000. Bathroom projects that include remodeling of any other adjacent space such as a master (clothing) closet, dressing area, or make-up room, etc., should be entered into a Residential Interior category. Only interior photos may be used.

Residential Bath \$100,000 to \$150,000

Best residential bath remodel with a total project cost* of \$100,000 to \$150,000. Bathroom projects that include remodeling of any other adjacent space such as a master (clothing) closet, dressing area, or make-up room, etc., should be entered into a Residential Interior category. Only interior photos may be used.

Residential Interior Under \$100,000

Best residential interior remodel with a project cost* under \$100,000. Includes, but is not limited to, such projects as family or recreation room remodeling, bath or kitchen project with adjacent space, home theater or .

CATEGORIES

or media rooms, wine rooms, attic conversions, etc. Work must be done within the existing walls of a residential structure. This category does not include room additions or basements. Only interior photos may be used.

Residential Interior \$100,000 to \$250,000

Best residential interior remodel with a project cost* of \$100,000 to \$250,000. Includes, but is not limited to, such projects as family or recreation room remodeling, bath or kitchen project with adjacent space, home theater or media rooms, wine rooms, attic conversions, etc. Work must be done within the existing walls of a residential structure. This category does not include room additions or basements. Only interior photos may be used.

Residential Interior \$250,000 to \$500,000

Best residential interior remodel with a project cost* of \$250,000 to \$500,000. Includes, but is not limited to, such projects as family or recreation room remodeling, bath or kitchen project with adjacent space, home theater or media rooms, wine rooms, attic conversions, etc. Work must be done within the existing walls of a residential structure. This category does not include room additions or basements. Only interior photos may be used.

Residential Interior Over \$500,000

Best residential interior remodel with a project cost* over \$500,000. Includes, but is not limited to, such projects as family or recreation room

CATEGORIES

remodeling, bath or kitchen project with adjacent space, home theater or media rooms, wine rooms, attic conversions, etc. Work must be done within the existing walls of a residential structure. This category does not include room additions or basements. Only interior photos may be used.

Residential Interior Feature under \$50,000

This category represents one special interior feature of a project with a cost* under \$50,000. It includes but is not limited to projects such as railings and columns; brick, stone and masonry work; tiling; air conditioning and heating; fireplaces; vestibules; insulation; kitchen hoods; glass block; wall finishes such as plaster; flooring; best use of lighting or lighting control systems, or home automation. Work must have been done to the interior of an existing residential structure, and only interior photos may be used. The residential interior feature must be specified in the entry materials and in the descriptive text to qualify.

Residential Interior Feature \$50,000 and Over

This category represents one special interior feature of a project with a cost* of \$50,000 and over. It includes but is not limited to projects such as railings and columns; brick, stone and masonry work; tiling; air conditioning and heating; fireplaces; vestibules; insulation; kitchen hoods; glass block; wall finishes such as plaster; flooring; best use of lighting or lighting control systems, or home automation. Work must have been done to the interior of an existing residential structure, and only interior photos may be used. The residential interior feature must be specified in the entry materials and in the descriptive text to qualify.

CATEGORIES

Residential Addition Under \$250,000

Best residential addition with a project cost* under \$250,000. Includes, but is not limited to, additions, add-a-levels, or attic buildouts, which increases livable space of the existing home. The project is limited to one addition per structure. Interior and exterior photos may be used.

Residential Addition \$250,000 to \$500,000

Best residential addition with a project cost* between \$250,000 and \$500,000. Includes, but is not limited to, additions, add-a-levels, or attic buildouts, which increases livable space of the existing home. The project is limited to one addition per structure. Interior and exterior photos may be used.

Residential Addition Over \$500,000

Best residential addition with a project cost* over \$500,000. Includes, but is not limited to, additions, add-a-levels, or attic buildouts, which increases livable space of the existing home. The project is limited to one addition per structure. Interior and exterior photos may be used

Residential Exterior Under \$50,000

Best exterior project with a cost* under \$50,000. Includes, but is not limited to, alterations to the exterior of a residential building such as porticos, porches, glass or screen enclosures or greenhouse

CATEGORIES

rooms (unconditioned spaces), windows, dormers, and exterior resurfacings like siding, stucco, etc. which enhances the overall appearance of the exterior. Exterior photos may be used, and interior photos of attached unconditioned spaces may also be used.

Residential Exterior \$50,000 to \$100,000

Best exterior project with a cost* of \$50,000 to \$100,000. Includes, but is not limited to, alterations to the exterior of a residential building such as porticos, porches, glass or screen enclosures or greenhouse rooms (unconditioned spaces), windows, dormers, and exterior resurfacings like siding, stucco, etc. which enhances the overall appearance of the exterior. Exterior photos may be used, and interior photos of attached unconditioned spaces may also be used.

Residential Exterior \$100,000 to \$200,000

Best exterior project with a cost* of \$100,000 to \$200,000. Includes, but is not limited to, alterations to the exterior of a residential building such as porticos, porches, glass or screen enclosures or greenhouse rooms (unconditioned spaces), windows, dormers, and exterior resurfacings like siding, stucco, etc. which enhances the overall appearance of the exterior. Exterior photos may be used, and interior photos of attached unconditioned spaces may also be used.

CATEGORIES

Residential Exterior Over \$200,000

Best exterior project with a cost* over \$200,000. Includes, but is not limited to, alterations to the exterior of a residential building such as porticos, porches, glass or screen enclosures or greenhouse rooms (unconditioned spaces), windows, dormers, and exterior resurfacings like siding, stucco, etc. which enhances the overall appearance of the exterior. Exterior photos may be used, and interior photos of attached unconditioned spaces may also be used.

Residential Detached Structure

Structures such as garages, pool houses, studios, guesthouses, sheds, gazebos, pavilions, etc., remodeled or added to an existing residential property. Interior and exterior photos may be used.

Entire House Under \$250,000

A project, with a cost* under \$250,000, that remodeled or renovated a substantial portion of the entire residential house, inside and outside, or where multiple additions and/or style changes in footprint or elevation have been made in more than one location. The entry must include a description of the portions of the existing structure that were incorporated into the finished project. Pictures and plans submitted with the entry must highlight those portions of the home retained in the new design.

CATEGORIES

Entire House \$250,000 to \$500,000

A project, with a cost* of \$250,000 to \$500,000, that remodeled or renovated a substantial portion of the entire residential house, inside and outside, or where multiple additions and/or style changes in footprint or elevation have been made in more than one location. The entry must include a description of the portions of the existing structure that were incorporated into the finished project. Pictures and plans submitted with the entry must highlight those portions of the home retained in the new design.

Entire House \$500,000 to \$750,000

A project, with a cost* of \$500,000 to \$750,000, that remodeled or renovated a substantial portion of the entire residential house, inside and outside, or where multiple additions and/or style changes in footprint or elevation have been made in more than one location. The entry must include a description of the portions of the existing structure that were incorporated into the finished project. Pictures and plans submitted with the entry must highlight those portions of the home retained in the new design.

Entire House \$750,000 to \$1,000,000

A project, with a cost* of \$750,000 to \$1,000,000, that remodeled or renovated a substantial portion of the entire residential house, inside and outside, or where multiple additions and/or style changes in footprint or elevation have been made in more than one location. The entry must include a description of the portions of the existing structure

CATEGORIES

that were incorporated into the finished project. Pictures and plans submitted with the entry must highlight those portions of the home retained in the new design.

Entire House Over \$1,000,000

A project, with a cost* Over \$1,000,000, that remodeled or renovated a substantial portion of the entire residential house, inside and outside, or where multiple additions and/or style changes in footprint or elevation have been made in more than one location. The entry must include a description of the portions of the existing structure that were incorporated into the finished project. Pictures and plans submitted with the entry must highlight those portions of the home retained in the new design.

Residential Historical Renovation/ Restoration Under \$250,000

The renovation/restoration of the interior and/or exterior of a residential structure, or addition to a residential structure, originally built at least 75 years ago with a cost* under \$250,000. Any and all changes are to have closely matched architectural style and building type. Any and all products used are to be of a material authentic in style to the area in which the building was originally built, paying special attention to period trim detail and period coloring. Restoration of missing historic features and added structures are to respect the essential historic character and architectural style of original building design.

CATEGORIES

Residential Historical Renovation/ Restoration \$250,000 and Over

The renovation/restoration of the interior and/or exterior of a residential structure, or addition to a residential structure, originally built at least 75 years ago with a cost* \$250,000 and over. Any and all changes are to have closely matched architectural style and building type. Any and all products used are to be of a material authentic in style to the area in which the building was originally built, paying special attention to period trim detail and period coloring. Restoration of missing historic features and added structures are to respect the essential historic character and architectural style of original building design.

Commercial Interior

Remodeling performed within the existing walls of a previously occupied commercial space. Clearly define the type of client and the client's needs in the project description. Only interior photos may be used.

Commercial Exterior

Remodeling performed on the exterior of an existing commercial structure. Clearly define the type of client and the client's needs in the project description. Only exterior photos may be used.

Residential Landscape Design/ Outdoor Living \$100,000 to \$250,000

CATEGORIES

Residential Landscape Design/Outdoor Living Under \$100,000

Best residential landscape design/outdoor living project with a cost* under \$100,000. Includes, but is not limited to, landscaping, pathways, driveways, patios, pagodas, outdoor kitchens, decks, terraces, pools, spas, etc. Work is not exclusive to existing structures. Commercial projects should be entered in Commercial Specialty. Only exterior photos may be used.

Residential Landscape Design/ Outdoor Living \$100,000 to \$250,000

Best residential landscape design/outdoor living project with a cost* of \$100,000 to \$250,000. Includes, but is not limited to, landscaping, pathways, driveways, patios, pagodas, outdoor kitchens, decks, terraces, pools, spas, etc. Work is not exclusive to existing structures. Commercial projects should be entered in Commercial Specialty. Only exterior photos may be used.

Residential Landscape Design/ Outdoor Living over \$250,000

Best residential landscape design/outdoor living project with a cost* of \$250,000 and over. Includes, but is not limited to, landscaping, pathways, driveways, patios, pagodas, outdoor kitchens, decks, terraces, pools, spas, etc. Work is not exclusive to existing structures. Commercial projects should be entered in Commercial Specialty. Only exterior photos may be used.

CATEGORIES

Residential Landscape Design/Outdoor Living Under \$100,000

Best residential landscape design/outdoor living project with a cost* under \$100,000. Includes, but is not limited to, landscaping, pathways, driveways, patios, pagodas, outdoor kitchens, decks, terraces, pools, spas, etc. Work is not exclusive to existing structures. Commercial projects should be entered in Commercial Specialty. Only exterior photos may be used.

Basement Under \$100,000

Best basement conversion with a cost* under \$100,000. Work must be done within the existing walls of a residential structure. Additions are excluded from this category. Only interior photos may be used.

Basement \$100,000 to \$250,000

Best basement conversion with a cost* between \$100,000 and \$250,000. Work must be done within the existing walls of a residential structure. Additions are excluded from this category. Only interior photos may be used.

Basement Over \$250,000

Best basement conversion with a cost* over \$250,000. Work must be done within the existing walls of a residential structure. Additions are excluded from this category. Only interior photos may be used.

CATEGORIES

Universal Design – Kitchen

Kitchen remodeling projects utilizing Universal Design standards and practices. Projects entered in this category must meet CotY criteria for Residential Kitchens (any price point). Projects entered in this category may also be entered into the appropriate Kitchen category separately with additional fee. All Universal Design entries will be judged by NARI Universal Design Certified Professionals. Entries for commercial projects are not eligible at this time.

Universal Design – Bath

Bathroom remodeling projects utilizing Universal Design standards and practices. Projects entered in this category must meet CotY criteria for Residential Bath (any price point). Projects entered in this category may also be entered into the appropriate Bath category separately with additional fee. All Universal Design entries will be judged by NARI Universal Design Certified Professionals. Entries for commercial projects are not eligible at this time.

Universal Design- Other

Remodeling projects utilizing Universal Design standards and practices that are not a kitchen or bathroom. All Universal Design entries will be judged by NARI Universal Design Certified Professionals. Entries for commercial projects are not eligible at this time.

CATEGORIES

Residential Architectural Design Under 500 sq ft

Residential remodeling projects focusing on architectural design under 500 square feet. Submissions should include full design plans including site plans, floor plans, elevations and rendering including a minimum of one scaled drawing. If you did not hold the contract for this project, you must have the general contractor sign a separate form that allows you to enter the project in this category.

Residential Architectural Design Over 500 sq ft

Residential remodeling projects focusing on architectural design over 500 square feet. Submissions should include full design plans including site plans, floor plans, elevations and rendering including a minimum of one scaled drawing. If you did not hold the contract for this project, you must have the general contractor sign a separate form that allows you to enter the project in this category.



CATEGORIES

Residential Architectural Design Under 500 sq ft

Residential remodeling projects focusing on architectural design under 500 square feet. Submissions should include full design plans including site plans, floor plans, elevations and rendering including a minimum of one scaled drawing. If you did not hold the contract for this project, you must have the general contractor sign a separate form that allows you to enter the project in this category.

Residential Architectural Design Over 500 sq ft

Residential remodeling projects focusing on architectural design over 500 square feet. Submissions should include full design plans including site plans, floor plans, elevations and rendering including a minimum of one scaled drawing. If you did not hold the contract for this project, you must have the general contractor sign a separate form that allows you to enter the project in this category.

CATEGORIES

Residential Architectural Design Under 500 sq ft

Residential remodeling projects focusing on architectural design under 500 square feet. Submissions should include full design plans including site plans, floor plans, elevations and rendering including a minimum of one scaled drawing. If you did not hold the contract for this project, you must have the general contractor sign a separate form that allows you to enter the project in this category.

Residential Architectural Design Over 500 sq ft

Residential remodeling projects focusing on architectural design over 500 square feet. Submissions should include full design plans including site plans, floor plans, elevations and rendering including a minimum of one scaled drawing. If you did not hold the contract for this project, you must have the general contractor sign a separate form that allows you to enter the project in this category.