Judging Guide

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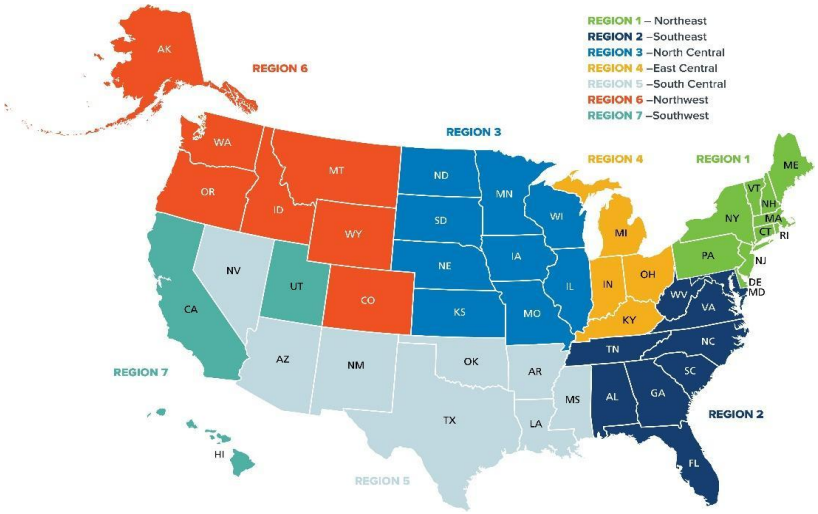
Thank you again for agreeing to participate as a National Remodeler of the Year judge. You have been selected due to your important contribution to the remodeling industry and your high regard for the RotY program. We recognize that you are committing your valuable time and expertise as a volunteer, and we are sincerely grateful.

The Judging Process *(Chapter and Regional Scoring)*
A RotY Award winner is an entry that demonstrates remodeling excellence based on specific criteria. Entries are judged on functionality, problem-solving, aesthetics, craftsmanship, innovation, the degree of difficulty, and entry presentation. Scores will be made available to the entrants after the respective chapter/regional winner announcements are made. Judges are to refrain from discussing scoring with other judges during this process.

There are seven Regions, and all entries are judged against other submissions from their same region and entry category to select regional winners. The NARI Region map was originally delineated based on a combination of the age of the housing stock and the number of chapters in the area.

All regional winning entries are re-judged *(as described below and in phase 2)* to select a national winner in each category. On rare occasions, no winner may be selected in a particular category at the regional or national level, if the outlined NARI standards and point criteria is not met. The decision of the judges is final.

Regions



Categories and Rules
For each entry you can view the category with description, the project city and state, the project cost, and the presentation.

Please take a few moments to familiarize yourself with the RotY categories (Appendix A) and the program rules (below).

Rules

- The presentation is limited to 30 pages.
- Project costs must include ALL fees; designer, subcontractor, homeowner sweat equity, homeowner purchased items, etc.
- The pdf presentation must contain before and after pictures.
- The pdf presentation must not identify the entrant in any way.
    - If the identity of the entrant's company or personnel is evident, the entry is automatically disqualified.
- Judges reserve the right to adjust the category or deduct points if these rules are not followed.
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Regional Judging – phase one –
Judges begin by individually reviewing all the entries in the same category by region.

- Prepare to focus on and complete one category at a time.
- Score the selected category in the first available region, then move through to the next region(s) in numerical order to score the same category to completion.
    - This will allow staff to effectively allocate the regional winners in each category.
    - Note: We may not have entries in every category and/or region.

Scoring Criteria
RotY judges will consider the following questions when reviewing the RotY entries during the Regional judging phase. Only the numbered questions appear on the evaluation page on the platform. The sub-questions are referenced here to help you think through the main question. Points will be awarded on a scale from 1-15.

Score Section	Definition
1	Disqualified: Entry violates a mandatory program rule.
2-3	Did not address: Question is unanswered or lacks relevant evidence.
4-5	Addressed minimally: Limited explanation or evidence; key details are missing.
6-9	Met the Minimum: Addresses the criterion with basic supporting evidence and meets the minimum expectations.
10-12	Above the minimum: Strong evidence of thoughtful design, craftsmanship, or problem-solving.
13-15	Exceptional achievement: Outstanding execution, creativity, or innovation supported by compelling evidence.

1. To what degree does the project enhance the existing structure aesthetically?

- Is there rhythm, continuity, and repetition in the design lines?
- Is there texture, color & contrast?
- Is there balance in the symmetry/asymmetry, or focal point/emphasis of interest?

2. To what degree does the project enhance the existing structure functionally?

- Do the room's new floor plans function well?
- Is the counter space or work area adequate to perform necessary tasks?
- Is there good traffic flow?
- Is safety addressed adequately?
- Are the materials functional?
- Is lighting addressed – both general & task?

3. Is there evidence of superior craftsmanship and detail?

- Evidence of care in moldings, woodwork, and stairs
- Cabinetry integration and function
- Countertop fabrication and use
- Tile and masonry
- Use of other challenging materials, formats, and sizes that take extra care to install

4. How did the project show evidence of innovative uses/or materials and methods of design and construction used in the project?

- How did the entrant present innovative uses/or materials?
- Did the entry overcome obstacles/challenges through construction?
- How did the design show outside-of-the-box thinking?

5. To what degree were the expressed needs of the client met?

- Did the entry describe the client's needs and desires?
- Did the entry show that those needs were met through photos and descriptions? How did the entrant overcome obstacles/challenges through design?

Residential Historic Renovation/Restoration will also consider the following:

6. Were original uses of materials reused or replicated in the project?

- Were original materials reused, or replicated?
- What evidence of preservation is presented in the details, moldings, or concept?
- Is there clear evidence of the entry being on the historical records, or a strong desire by the owner to preserve the original design of the structure?

7. Were methods of application used to improve or enhance the original style of the structure?

- Was the project successful with design integration of a new/modern use or function or in preserving the original structure's use/purpose?
  How were changes made to maintain the original design integrity while adjusting for current codes around traffic flow and access?

Residential Architectural Design will be judged on the following criteria:

1. **To what degree were the expressed needs of the client met?**
2. **To what degree does the project enhance the existing structure-functionally?**
3. **To what degree does the project enhance the existing structure aesthetically?**
4. **Were innovative uses of materials used in the design and/or construction.**
5. **How well do the working drawings communicate the details of the design to the tradespeople and the client.**
   - How clear and organized are the drawings?
   - Is the existing vs. Remodel project clearly defined?

Note – We request you include your constructive thoughts in the "Judges Comments" section for each entry whether good or not-so-good regarding your scoring. Our entrants count on each judge's feedback to help them improve their entries the future.

National Judging –

The judges, as a team, will look at each of the regional winners within each category to determine the national winners per category. During this phase no score sheets are used, and the previous score sheets are not referenced. The judges discuss

the projects, each sharing their perspective. As a team, they decide on the national winner for each category. Staff will record the national winners and judges' comments.

Accessing the Site

Log into your NARI OpenWater account:

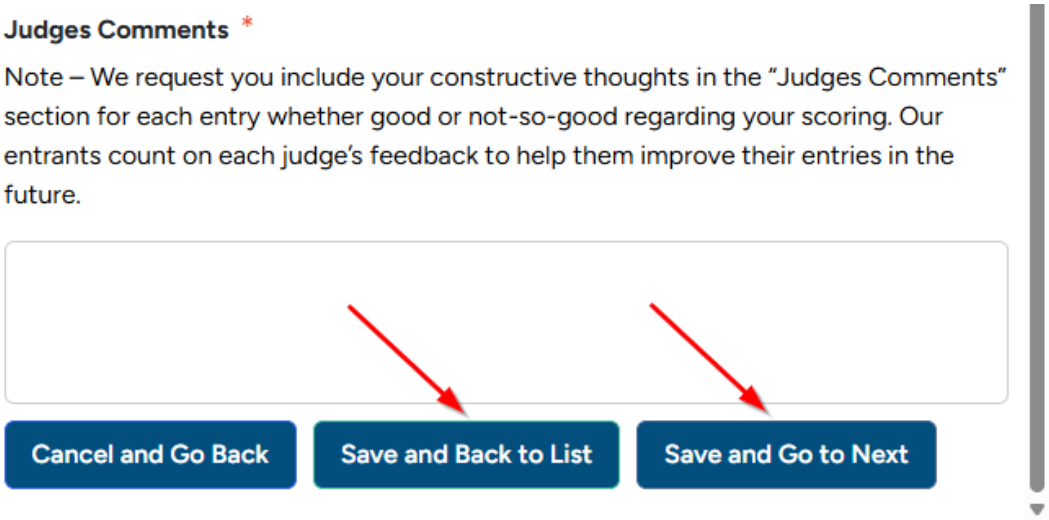
https://nari.secure-platform.com/site/organizations/main/home

Open "My Account" → select "My Judging Assignments"

Click "Open" next to a category, or "View All Categories"
Score one category at a time across all regions before moving on to the next category.

Click "View Application" to begin scoring

Add comments → "Save and Back to List" or "Save and Go to Next"



Please let us know if you have any questions.

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01-01 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.

01-02 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.

01-03 Residential Kitchen $100,000 to $150,000

Best residential kitchen remodel with a total project cost* of $100,000 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.

01-04 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.

01-05 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.

02-06 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.

02-07 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.

02-08 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.

02-09 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.

02-10 Residential Bath Over $150,000

Best residential bath remodel with a total project cost* over $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.

03-11 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 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.

03-12 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.

03-13 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.

03-14 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 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.

03-15 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 in order to qualify.

03-16 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 in order to qualify.

04-17 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 build-outs, which increases livable space of the existing home. The project is limited to one addition per structure. Interior and exterior photos may be used.

04-18 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.

04-19 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.

05-20 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 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.

05-21 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.

05-22 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.

05-23 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.

06-24 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.

07-25 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.

07-26 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.

07-27 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.

07-28 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 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.

07-29 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.

08-30 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.

08-31 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.

09-32 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.

09-33 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.

10-35 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.

10-36 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.

10-37 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.

11-37 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.

11-38 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.

11-39 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.

13-44 Universal Design - Kitchen

Kitchen remodeling projects utilizing Universal Design standards and practices. Projects entered in this category must meet RotY 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.

13-45 Universal Design - Bath

Bathroom remodeling projects utilizing Universal Design standards and practices. Projects entered in this category must meet RotY 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.

12-42 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.

13-43 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.

13-44 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.

*Cost is defined as contract price, all extras, change orders and the fair market value of materials and products that were purchased, sweat-equity and in-kind services provided, and/or any subcontract work. The cost of all homeowner provided products, services, or labor should be included in this cost. All mark-ups and profit should be included in the cost provided. For member-owned projects, costs should include normal mark-ups as if the project was contracted to an