

NARI 2026 Remodeler of the Year Awards Program 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, 2023 – November 30, 2025.

For NARI of Southwest Ohio RotY Awards, the finish date range is November 1, 2023 – October 31, 2025.

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.

For NARI of Southwest Ohio RotY Awards, the entrant organization fee is \$200 per entry and \$300 for a team entry, regardless of how many team members.

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

You agree to authorize NARI **and NARI of Southwest Ohio** to use, print, reprint and publish your presentation.

Pictures of the completed project are not allowed in presentations for the Residential Architectural Design category.

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 the 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 to this rule for 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.

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.

Entry Fees

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 or **NARI of Southwest Ohio** standards are not met. The decision of the judges is final.

Regional Judging (National RotY 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 RotY 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.