

Annual StarNet Design Awards

A Starstruck Evening for StarNet Commercial Flooring Cooperative and the Winners of the Fourth Annual Design Competition

The Grand Ballroom at the Ritz Carlton Hotel in Cancun, Mexico, was aglow under thousands of twinkling starlights as StarNet members, vendors and guests gathered for their annual celebratory banquet this past April. The dinner marked an occasion the attendees look forward to every year—the Design Competition Awards. The evening capped days of business sessions, a trade fair and socializing that were as relaxed and friendly as Cancun's beaches.

Grand Prize Winner



The competition, now in its fourth year, recognizes outstanding creativity in flooring design in commercial interiors. Winners were selected in several building categories for projects completed in 2001. A grand prize was awarded to the designer/architect with the most innovative and trend-setting use of flooring. Winners were awarded spectacular star-shaped crystal trophies and cash. A total of 54 entrants and 30 StarNet members vied for awards at this year's competition.

This year's Grand Prize Winner was a project by Aimee Davies, a designer with RTKL, and Shane Cook, an architect with Morris Architects. Their project was also this year's Healthcare category winner. Davies and Cook worked with StarNet member Texan Floor Service, Ltd. on the Denton Cooley Tower that houses the Texas Heart Institute and St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital in Houston, TX.

The custom design replicates the two sides of the human heart. There are two hearts per operating room, and 24 hearts total in the facility. Jim Sawyer, a project manager at Texan Floor Service, was the StarNet member working with Davies on the project. Each of the insets was hand cut using a heavy gauge sheet metal template. "We hand cut the hearts because the material was too bulky to ship to a water jet cutter," states Sawyer. In addition to skilled hand cutting, water jet cutting was used for the inset numbers used on the floors in each operating room. "The job also required precision heat-welding of seams and flash coving," Sawyer says.

"We specified Noraplan Mega rubber flooring for its durability, cleanability, slip resistance and stain resistance," says Ms. Davies. "We also used colors to define function and space, such as using the same color for sterile areas, operating rooms and transitions to other areas such as patient recovery." Davies says although she had never worked with Texan Floor Service before, she is impressed with the organization. "I know I can go to Jim for help with any of my flooring needs. He is very service oriented," she states. Bob Collier, president of Texan Floor Service, was also present at the awards ceremony.

Grand Prize Winner



Grand Prize Winner
Project: Denton Cooley Tower, Houston, TX
Designer/Architect: Aimee Davies of RTKL
Shane Cook of Morris Architects
StarNet Member: Texan Floor Service
Flooring - Noraplan Mega rubber

THE 2002 STARNET DESIGN AWARDS CONTEST IS UNDERWAY. DESIGNERS AND STARNET MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ENTER THEIR PROJECTS. ENTRY DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 31, 2002. WINNERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED AND AWARDED AT THE STARNET ANNUAL MEETING, SPRING 2003, IN TUCSON, ARIZONA. CONTACT YOUR STARNET MEMBER FOR DETAILS.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND PHOTOS, SEE OUR WEBSITE, WWW.STARNETFLOORING.COM/AWARDS.

Education Winner



Education Category Winner
Project: Perrysburg High School, Perrysburg, OH
Designer/Architect: Ronald Fanning & Gay Elliot
of Fanning/Howey Associates
StarNet Member: OCP Contractors
Flooring - Lees carpet

Public Space Winner



Public Space Category Winner
Project: Milestone Showroom, Carrollton, TX
Designer/Architect: David Koslan of
Jacobs & Associates Architects
StarNet Member: RWA Flooring Solutions
Flooring - Armstrong resilient and Beaulieu carpet

Hospitality Category Winner
Project: Mark Pardo Aveda Lifestyle Salon Spa,
Albuquerque, NM
Designer/Architect: Michelle Mullen and Douglas Heller
of Mullen Heller Architecture
StarNet Member: Business Environments
Flooring - Formica hard surface



Hospitality Winner





Large Corporate Winner

Large Corporate Category Winner
Project: Mortgage Bankers Association of America, Washington, DC
Designer/Architect: Bella Schiro of Davis Carter Scott
StarNet Member: Potomac Floor Covering
Flooring - Lees, Durkan, Beaulieu carpet



National Account Winner

National Account Category Winner
Project: Sketchers USA, King of Prussia
Designer/Architect: Michael Palmer of MPA Architectural Group
StarNet Member: Floorcovering Consultants Group
Flooring - Armstrong hardwood



Small Corporate Winner

Small Corporate Category Winner
Project: The Nelson Project, Philadelphia, PA
Designer/Architect: John Nelson, Nelson & Associates
StarNet Member: Metropolitan Contract Carpets
Flooring - Milliken

A Letter from Our President and CEO, Lori Dowling

It's gratifying to see the enthusiasm for this design contest grow every year. Our first year we had 23 entries. Four years later that number has more than doubled to 54. I'm astounded by the design sophistication and creativity, and by the innovative use of materials across budget ranges. We're also seeing more designers turn to their StarNet member for professional, unbiased opinions about all aspects of flooring, including advice before, during and after construction. These close working relationships that designers and StarNet members are establishing with each other confirm my belief that this organization is unique.

Design Awards Star-Caliber Judges

Jennifer Thiele Busch is the editor-in-chief for Contract Design Magazine. She says, "A holistic approach is what set the winners apart from the ordinary. We made our first and second cuts based on total design concept," she adds. Other aspects Busch says were important included the strength of forms, details and colors. She emphasized the need for the space to be visually compelling, and the need for aesthetics to carry equal weight with other factors such as maintenance.

Maurie Welsh O'Neil is the associate publisher and art director for Floor Focus Magazine. Her judging philosophy incorporated the total design challenge, the quality of the overall installation, and how the flooring provided a design solution. "The floors must work with all the surfaces and furnishings," she emphasizes. "We looked at each category with slightly different criteria, recognizing that school budgets aren't the same as high profile corporate offices," she adds. Her advice to next year's participants is, "Give us a lot of perspectives on the space, not just the floor. Tell us a complete story."

Michelle Olmstead is a senior associate for DES Architects and Engineers in Redwood City, CA. Olmstead says, "My short list boiled down to a combination of design integrity and craftsmanship of installation, including details like seaming and how flooring transitions were handled. Aesthetics shouldn't suffer because of the space's physical needs, so the challenge is meshing everything beautifully and realistically." Next year, she says, "I'd like to see more focus on design details."



2001 Annual StarNet Design Awards Judges, seated from left to right: Michelle Olmstead, Jennifer Thiele Busch and Maurie Welsh O'Neil.

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