

NKBA SPECIAL FOCUS EVENT

TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR ENVIRONMENT

Determining the designer's place in the sustainable movement. **By Eric Mathiasen**

As part of the NKBA's increased emphasis on environmentally-responsible design, this year's K/BIS showcased a Special Focus Event on implementing sustainability. The speaker was Jonas Carnemark, founder of Carnemark Systems + Design, an award-winning firm based in Bethesda, Maryland that has specialized in green design for over 20 years.

When it comes to a culture of environmental leadership, Carnemark says that Europe currently carries the flag, with aggressive programs such as Sweden's Natural Step, Germany's Bau-Biologie and Blue Angel programs, and now the pan-European EU-SDS standards coming online. The United States, on the other hand, has been slower to adopt wide standards, preferring to maintain a sense of independence.

Still, times are changing. Carnemark

suggests the U.S. may be reaching a tipping point in environmental awareness and commitment, citing everything from Al Gore's recent film *An Inconvenient Truth*, to the explosion of new "green" media sources, to kids pressuring their parents, to the emergence of "green weddings."

Carnemark ended his discussion by summarizing the philosophy of "Why Sustainable Design?" that he uses to convince reluctant clients. He starts by emphasizing that sustainable design creates lower operating costs and reduced maintenance for residences. Next he explains how paying closer attention to energy use and



avoiding waste results in increased comfort and a healthier indoor environment. Finally, Carnemark demonstrates that those positives plus enhanced durability actually increase a home's value. What homeowner would argue against that?

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NKBA DESIGN COMPETITION AWARDS LUNCHEON

REWARDING THE ART OF THE INDUSTRY

The NKBA's best designers of 2008 receive their honors live on the show floor. **By Diana Tuorto**



For the second consecutive year, the NKBA Design Competition: Art of the Industry winners were announced live on the K/BIS show floor at NKBA Center Stage.

Attendees enjoyed a plated lunch and

the first look at this year's competition winners with their skillful designs. NKBA President-Elect Suzie Williford, presented the honorees with their awards before having their photo taken with NKBA President Sara Ann Busby,

CKD. A number of repeat NKBA Design Competition winners were announced, while several new faces were delighted to receive their first honors. Several winners were also excited to learn that they had won multiple honors in various categories.

Due to a dramatic increase in consumer and trade media attendance, this year's luncheon had sold out weeks prior to the event. A curious crowd of K/BIS attendees gathered and enthusiastically watched the ceremony from the show floor to applaud the winners.

Images, floor plans, and design statements of the 2008 Design Competition winners can be found on the NKBA's website at www.nkba.org. For more information on the 2009 NKBA Design Competition, be sure to visit NKBA.org and watch for e-mail messages from the NKBA on the subject this fall.

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