

News



The 43rd Street Corner project, one of the new construction BLEND award winners. Submitted photo

HOMES HONORED FOR BLENDING INTO NEIGHBORHOODS

By Haley Egle / Murphy News Service

Tradition and innovation in design alike were reasons to honor several Minneapolis homes at the 2014 BLEND Awards on Sept. 29 at the Fulton Brewery.

The BLEND Awards recognizes local building projects that attempt to blend in to the aesthetic of the surrounding neighborhood.

"Neighborhoods benefit from having a distinct character," BLEND committee member Keiko Veasey said. "It's important to hold on to that uniqueness."

A residential building project in the Fulton neighborhood about eight years ago sparked concerns about its impact on the neighborhood, Veasey said. The biggest concern was whether it would compromise the area's character. This prompted several community members to take action, and the BLEND Awards were started.

"It's a way to reward and recognize positive projects, instead of penalizing those doing projects seen as negative for the neighborhood's character," Veasey said.

Although the BLEND Awards started as a single neighborhood affair, it has grown to recognize homes all over Minneapolis.

BLEND Award recipients were divided into an additions and remodels category, and a new construction category.

The winning projects for additions and remodels were:

- **Fulton Refresh:** architect/designer, Joseph Metzler of SALA Architects; builder, Vujovich Design Build; and owner, Maureen Rangen.
- **English Country on Mount Curve:** architect/designer, Dan Nepp and Petra Schwartze; builder, Choice Wood Company.
- **Light in Context:** architect/designer, Dan Nepp & Chris Strom; builder, Choice Wood Company; and owner, Kamil Ugurbil and Jutta Ellerman.

- **Wild about Jones:** architect/designer, Dan Nepp & Janet Lederle; builder, Trestle Custom Homes; and property owner, Katherine Sill.

- **Eyes on the Street:** a front porch addition: architect/designer, David Lund Design; and property owner, Myles and Judy Johnson.

The winning projects for new construction were:

- **Kenwood Cottage:** architect/designer, Peterssen/Keller Architecture; builder, Elevation Homes.
- **Lake Harriet Classic with a Modern Twist,** architect/designer, D.F.P. Planning & Design/Nelson Residential Design/Sarah Randolph Interior Design; builder, Rob Eldridge-Ridge Creek Custom Homes; and property owner, Jen and David Schmid.
- **43rd Street Corner:** architect/designer, Rehkamp Larson Architects; builder, Reuter Walton Construction.
- **Linden Hills Revival:** architect/designer, Ron Brenner Architects; builder, Kyle Hunt & Partners; and property owner, Jeff Stites and Jennifer Wilson.

And for the recently added EcoBLEND Award, the winning project was "reEnergize 3821."

"Three years ago the EcoBLEND category was added to reward and recognize projects that utilize sustainable design techniques and materials," Veasey said.

This year, there was only a single honoree in the EcoBLEND category. The BLEND committee would like to see this category continue to grow, "It's the next wave of projects," Veasey said. "We want to continue recognizing sustainable progress in our community."

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