

HEARTHSTONE BUILDER AWARD ENTRY FORMS:

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INSIDE STORY

SWEET HOME  
ALABAMA

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# Builder

THE MAGAZINE OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF HOME BUILDERS

OCTOBER 2009

hanley wood

## BUILDER'S CHOICE 2009

Urban infill  
sweeps design and  
planning awards  
with style  
*and substance*

**WM. S. MARVIN HALL OF FAME**

Honoring the  
Masters of Design





Small, green, efficient,  
and inventive, this year's  
projects reflect an industry  
poised for recovery.

2009

BUILDER'S

CHOICE

BY JENNY SULLIVAN, NIGEL F. MAYNARD,  
KATHLEEN STANLEY, TERESA BURNEY,  
AND MONICA STERN-MORALES

**T**HIS MAY HAVE BEEN THE MOST UNpredictable year on record in the 29-year history of the Builder's Choice Awards. We weren't quite sure what to expect in the way of design submissions amid news of foreclosures, bankruptcies, and personal hardship. And yet the entries arrived and shone in spite of the dreary economy, like the sun peeking out between the clouds even as the rain pours down.

We are happy to report that great work is still out there, and, in many ways, better than ever. But this year's entries also are beginning to reflect a reality far different from the one we knew in the bubble economy. Big trophy homes were few and far between among the 2009 contenders, while our judges were presented with multitudes of nifty remodels, adaptive reuse buildings, affordable housing (particularly senior

housing), and small, jewel-box custom homes—many of them green.

Regionalism has become an architectural imperative, it seems, in light of concerns about sustainability, and many winning projects are the proud bearers of local materials and craftsmanship. Luxury is not extinct, but it is simpler, more restrained, eco-conscious, and increasingly forged in housing configurations that share walls. Infill locations have become veritable hot spots as crumbling buildings, dead malls, and parking lots morph into thriving mixed-use neighborhoods.

It's a different way of looking at design, to be sure. But it's perhaps just what we need to foster a healthier industry and stronger communities.

Thanks to all those who entered for giving us good news to report and lots of good work to savor.—*J. Sullivan*

MARTIN PETERS PHOTOGRAPHY







## GRAND

**Category:** Custom home,  
6,000 square feet  
or more

**Entrant/Architect:**  
Allen + Philp Archi-  
tects/Interiors,  
Scottsdale, Ariz.

**Builder:** Linthicum Corp.,  
Scottsdale

**Interior designer:**  
David Michael Miller  
Associates,  
Scottsdale

# BRIDGE HOUSE

## Scottsdale, Ariz.

ARCHITECT JONATHAN HEILMAN'S directive was to build a house that would be "at one with the desert." The end result is a home that resembles a desert oasis. Tucked between two Sonoran hilltops, its breathtaking views are tempered by shady terraces and a shimmering negative-edge pool that seems to disappear into the skyline.

In some parts of the 7,450-square-foot home, it's difficult to tell where house stops and desert begins. Floor-to-ceiling glass leads to a shaded terrace, which then progresses onto an open pool deck. Other glass walls wrap around atriums or jut, at angles, onto terraces. Materials used both inside and outside echo the organic grays and tans of desert sand and rock.

The home is organized into three distinct and separate realms. The living area, kitchen, and media room sit one floor above ground level, perched on the terrain like a glass pavilion. These transparent spaces are offset by a more fortress-like sleeping wing carved into the hillside, which becomes yang to the living area's yin. The third realm is a detached guest

house in back containing a small living area and bedroom.

Unifying these complementary building forms is the gallery bridge—a distinctive feature from inside the house, as well as for motorists climbing the 90-foot rise over the 13-acre site. With its array of reflective glass, the bridge mirrors the mountains in the distance and marks the dividing line between public and private spaces. It also spans the driveway, creating an ethereal portal into a motor court tucked behind the house. —T.B. (see page 54)

