

Local builders take their skills to the top

National awards recognize the best in Canadian home construction and design

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Three Vancouver Island members of the Canadian Home Builders' Association have reached the finals in three categories of the 2012 CHBA National SAM Awards.

The awards represent Canada's best in new-home construction, home renovation and innovative technology.

"The SAM Awards are like the Grey Cup of home design," says Casey Edge, CEO of the Vancouver Island chapter of the CHBA.

"It pits East against West in terms of creativity and design."

Edge says the national awards are an opportunity for local builders and designers to compete against building styles generally not seen on the West Coast.

"Generally speaking, we tend to hear a lot of 'ooohs' and 'ahh-

hs' in the audience whenever pictures of the West Coast entrants are shown at the gala event," says Edge.

"They work with only brick back east. They are blown away with the West Coast style, with our extensive use of cedar and natural rock."

Apart from style, he says, Vancouver Island entries capture attention because of the use of environmentally friendly products and building practices.

"The local designers have raised the bar in the field of sustainability," he says. "It's not what was built even 10 years ago. The

awards are a great way for the industry and the public to see the advances."

There are awards for projects of varying sizes in the following categories: new home (eight in total); home renovation (five); and marketing (six). In addition, single awards are presented for marketing excellence, green home and community development.

The Grand SAM award recognizes the new home builder who demonstrates the highest level of excellence in both building and marketing.

"This year's SAM Award theme — Awe — speaks to the ingenuity,

imagination and creativeness that drives new home builders, renovators and developers to build homes and communities that are truly awe-inspiring," says Ron Olson, CHBA president. "We take great pride in the achievements of our finalists."

The Canadian Home Builders' Association represents more than 8,500 member firms in the residential construction industry in Canada. The winners of the National SAM Awards will be announced at the association's 70th national conference on March 8 in Lake Louise, Alta. parras@timescolonist.com



COURTESY OF COASTAL CONSTRUCTION



SINGLE DETACHED HOME OVER 4,000 SQUARE FEET

Peninsula, by Coastal Construction, Sidney

This 5,000-square-foot house features four bedrooms and five bathrooms on two levels. As it's built on the side of a slope, the main floor is the only level seen from the front of the house, reducing its profile. The lower level is home to the owners' two children.

"The owners were very design-savvy," says Adriana Sharoun, interior designer for Coastal Construction, who also designed the home. "From the onset we had an architect, a landscaper and an

interior designer collaborating on the project. The house design is a harmonious blend of all three disciplines." She describes the layout of the West Coast contemporary house as "interesting," with angles that created vaulted ceilings interposed with oversized skylights. Overheight rooms with transom windows also contribute to capturing more available light.

Outdoor amenities include a firepit by the ocean and a sheltered hot tub.

Camelot Homes of Qualicum Beach is also a finalist in this category.

SINGLE DETACHED HOME BETWEEN 2,500 TO 4,000 SQUARE FEET

Cedar, by Coastal Construction, Sidney

This is a 2,900 square-foot, three-bedroom, 2 1/2-bathroom house on two levels located in Cedar. The whole upper level is dominated by the master suite.

"It's easy to see why this house made it into the finals," says Adriana Sharoun, interior designer for Coastal Construction.

"The West Coast design of this house speaks so much about everything one finds attractive about the West Coast."

Apart from the interior amenities, the waterfront property has outdoor features such as an outdoor kitchen and bar, multiple formal and informal patios as well as a kayak launch with its own bar.

When the owners entertain, some of the vegetables and fruit guest will nibble on will likely have been harvested from either the summer or winter garden.

The owners wanted a retreat that was, while modern, casual and cabin-like, with poured concrete floors for easy cleanup. "You won't find anything white in this house."



The owners sought sophistication with a casual, cabin-like retreat.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF COASTAL CONSTRUCTION

The people who chose this kitchen "were very design-savvy."