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2008 Gold Circle Awards

NRCA honors members who have made
outstanding contributions to the industry

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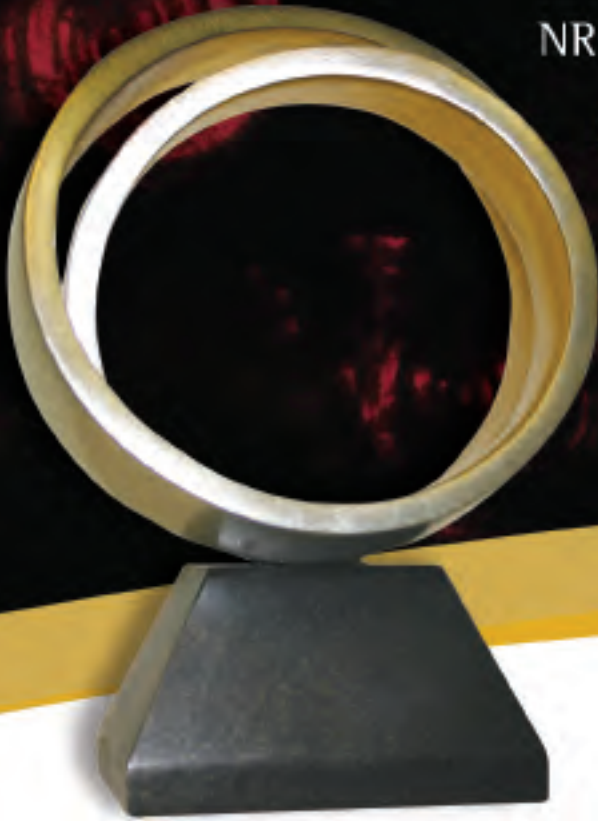
Golden Opportunities

NRCA members receive

Gold Circle Awards


for exceptional roofing projects

by Ashley St. John



Every year, NRCA honors members who have made outstanding contributions to the roofing industry through its Gold Circle Awards program. Members are nominated by their peers for meeting standards of achievement in four categories: outstanding workmanship, innovative solutions, service to the community and service to the industry.

The 13th annual Gold Circle Awards were presented to members during NRCA's 121st Annual Convention in Las Vegas. This year, 20 nominations were received for projects completed between June 1, 2005, and Sept. 31, 2007. There were no winners in the categories of outstanding workmanship—low slope, innovative solutions—reroofing or service to the industry. Following are profiles of the winning projects.



Recipient: Steinrock Roofing & Sheet Metal Inc., Louisville, Ky.

Project: Bourbon County Courthouse, Paris, Ky.

Roof system type: Copper

Bourbon County Courthouse was built in Paris, Ky., beginning in 1901. Construction of the courthouse, which is Bourbon County's fourth courthouse, was completed in 1905 at a total cost of \$170,000. Bourbon County Courthouse is now listed on the U.S. National Register of Historic Places.

When it came time to restore the courthouse's ailing roof system, Fitzsimons

Preston Construction Group, Nicholasville, Ky., the project's general contractor, contracted Steinrock Roofing & Sheet Metal Inc., Louisville, Ky., to restore the courthouse's exterior walls and ceiling, dome roof and cupola.

Piece by piece

Renovations at Bourbon County Courthouse began during the first week of October 2006. Before Steinrock Roofing & Sheet Metal could begin work, scaffolding had to be erected.

"A structural engineer was consulted to confirm the security of the building's

ing," says Jim Steinrock, owner of Steinrock Roofing & Sheet Metal. "Scaffolding was erected from the courthouse's main roof spanning upward 80 feet to the top of the cupola.

"The scaffolding system was incredible; there were 57,000 pounds of scaffolding," Steinrock continues. "It was almost like working in a living room at times—we had nice platforms to work from. All workers were tied-off, as well."

After the scaffolding was erected, Steinrock Roofing & Sheet Metal removed the galvanized and copper skin of the walls, ceiling and roof. Each piece of roofing and decorative detail was

removed, lowered to the main roof and subsequently lowered to the ground.

"Each existing piece was driven back to our sheet metal shop, which is located about 90 miles west of Paris in Louisville," Steinrock says. "Wooden forms were built, and each new piece was fabricated, assembled, disassembled and transported back to the job site to be reassembled and installed."

All decorative and structural pieces were replicated and reinstalled using 20-ounce copper or lead-coated copper.

The existing upper cupola roof sheeting and water tables were constructed of wood and wired to steel structural members.

"Upon dismantling, the copper was removed, and it became evident it was the copper that was holding the roof together," Steinrock says. "The wood structure had disintegrated because the wires had rusted away.

"The wood had to be replaced without drilling into the steel structure," Steinrock continues. "Subsequently, a 'blocking and scabbing' technique was used."

The last elements installed on the roof system were two two-piece urns.

"Each urn weighed 220 pounds," Steinrock says. "Installation was complicated by the fact that we were unable to install the urns until after the scaffolding was removed in March 2007."

Patience required

The Bourbon County Courthouse project required patience and perseverance from Steinrock Roofing & Sheet Metal.

"Because of the intricacy of the details and complexity of the work, for a majority of the project we could only use two workers on-site to dismantle the existing pieces," Steinrock says. "One worker would drive the material back and forth between Paris and Louisville, and another worker and I would replicate the pieces overnight.

"The process can be likened to dismantling a decaying artifact, transporting it and assembling a replica," Steinrock says. "Almost 5,000 individual hand-cut pieces—some as small as ¼-inch square—had to be replicated. The workmanship required creativity, tenacity and patience."

And Steinrock Roofing & Sheet Metal demonstrated its tenacity and patience by working steadily to finish the job on time.

"We worked five to six days a week and only missed one workday because of inclement weather," Steinrock says. "We had various conditions of rain, wind, sleet and snow. One day, the temperature was as low as 4 F, and the wind chill was -28 F."

Steinrock Roofing & Sheet Metal completed work on the courthouse four days after its original deadline.

"If we had been timid, it would have been a different story," Steinrock says.

A job well-done

Finishing work on the Bourbon County Courthouse was a relief for Steinrock Roofing & Sheet Metal.

"Every aspect of this project was a challenge," Steinrock says.




However, the company is pleased with its meticulous work and finished product.

"Building something that will last 150 years is quite rewarding," Steinrock says.

For its exemplary work on the Bourbon County Courthouse, Steinrock Roofing & Sheet Metal also received NRCA's Gold Circle Platinum Award, which was a special award created to reward the company for excelling in all facets and surpassing all other 2008 Gold Circle Award entries.

Excellent work

The 2008 Gold Circle Award entries demonstrated outstanding dedication, innovation and charity in the roofing industry. NRCA looks forward to nominations for the 2009 Gold Circle Awards, which will be presented during NRCA's 122nd Annual Convention in Las Vegas Feb. 1-5, 2009.

For more information about NRCA's Gold Circle Awards or to submit a nomination for 2009, go to www.nrca.net or contact Chrystine Hanus, NRCA's executive assistant, at (800) 323-9545, ext. 7522 or chanus@nrca.net.   

Ashley St. John is Professional Roofing's associate editor.



Bourbon County Courthouse
Photo courtesy of Steinrock Roofing & Sheet Metal Inc.,
Louisville, Ky.