

# Real Estate & Homes Classifieds

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## 12TH ANNUAL LIGHTHOUSE AWARDS



H2 Builders won a 2011 LightHouse Award for best overall for this home in Bluffton.

Photos special to the Packet and Gazette

# THE BEST OF BUILDERS

## Annual awards honor quality craftsmanship and design excellence

Special to the Packet and Gazette

**N**early 200 people attended the 12th annual LightHouse Awards gala to learn who judges chose as the Lowcountry's most talented builders. The awards gala, which is hosted by the Hilton Head Area Home Builders Association and presented by SunTrust Mortgage, took place Friday at The Westin Hilton Head Island Resort & Spa.

"It's amazing to see the craftsmanship and creativity of our builders," said Ashley Feaster, executive officer of the Hilton Head Area Home Builders Association.

The scope of custom building has changed significantly in the past three years, she said, as customers have become more budget-conscious and selective about the homes they build.

"Nonetheless, our area builders have found creative ways to make dream homes come to life," Feaster said.

First held in 1999, the LightHouse Awards are presented annually to builder members of the Hilton Head Area Home Builders Association for quality craftsmanship and design excellence in the construction of homes throughout the Lowcountry.

Twenty-one builders, including remodelers, custom builders, green builders and semi-custom builders submitted 54 entries and competed for four construction awards: best bath, best kitchen, best exterior and best overall new home, green home or remodel.

The construction cost of each remodeled or newly built home ranged from \$28,000 to more than \$2.4 million. Each award was subdivided into categories so that homes in similar price ranges and construction types competed against one another.

Six judges came to the Lowcountry to judge the construction quality of each home entered. The 2011 LightHouse Awards judges included builders, remodelers, architects and other industry professionals from Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina. Split into two teams, the judges spent two days visiting entries. In many instances, the separation between runner-up and winner was a fraction of a point.

Master of Ceremony Monty Jett announced award winners as attendees viewed a Power-Point presentation about the homes. The

subcontractors and suppliers who participated in the design and construction of each competing home were also recognized, and winners received marble obelisk trophies representing lighthouses.

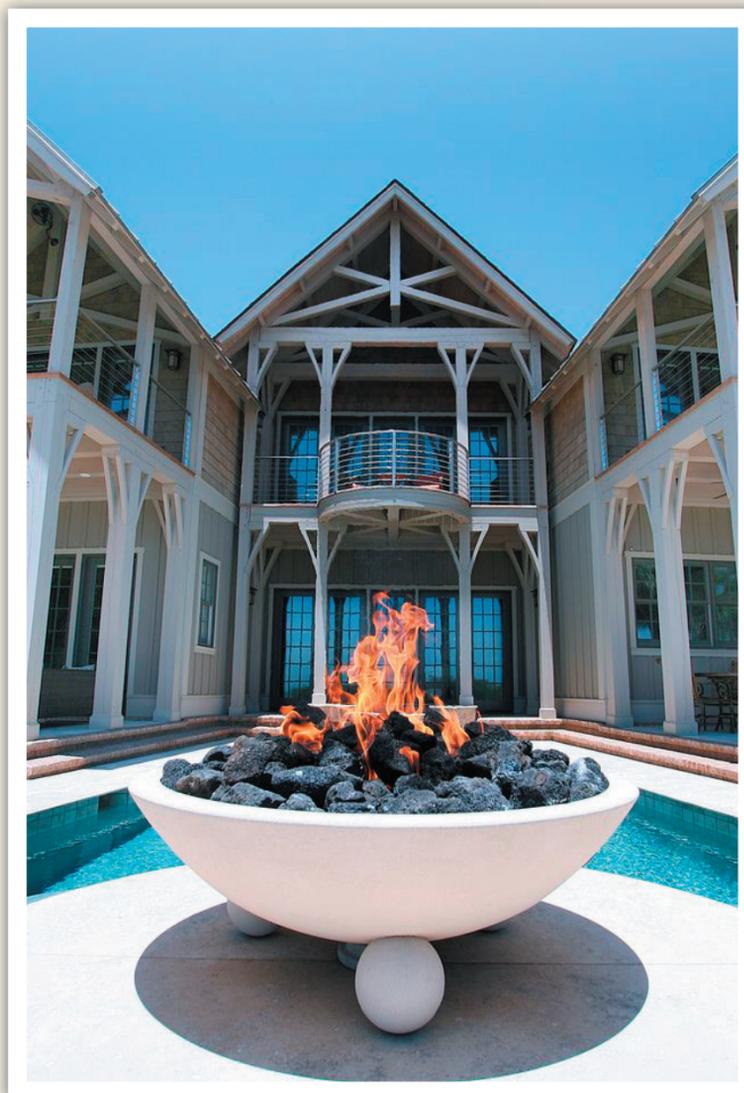
"This year proved to be another great year of quality homes, with 54 newly constructed or remodeled entries," said Dan Monroe, who has been chairman of the LightHouse awards program since its inception. He praised the participants' "dedication to build quality homes even in a difficult economy."

Led by Monroe, the 2011 LightHouse awards committee included Chris Cleland of Cleland Site Prep; Shirley Frampton of Peacock Cabinetry; Deborah Karambelas of Karambelas Enterprises; Deborah Monroe of LowCountry Home Magazine; Ed Pitoniak of SunTrust Mortgage; Scott Pleimann of Sea Island Kitchens; and Anna Ruby of J. Banks Design.

In addition to title sponsor SunTrust Mortgage, other sponsors included Distinctive Granite & Marble, Inc., J. Banks Design, KPM Flooring, LowCountry Home Magazine, Palmetto Electric Cooperative, StoneWorks, The Island Packet and The Beaufort Gazette. Special thanks also went to Carolyn's Landscaping, Click Event Productions, Custom Audio Video, Hilton Head Automotive, Monty Jett, Savannah Hardscapes and Show Services.

### THE BIG WINNERS

For a list of 2011 LightHouse Award winners, please see 2D.



An outdoor fire pit by the pool is a dramatic feature of this Hilton Head home, which earned Twelve Oaks Group a LightHouse award.