



Sanderson Photography

NORTHEAST WISCONSIN'S
National Association of the
Remodeling Industry (NEW
NARI) celebrates National Home
Improvement Month each May, along
with a showcase honoring members'
extraordinary projects called
Evening of Excellence.

NEW NARI is one of three
chapters in the state that serve
homeowners by forging connections
with home improvement contractors,
various trade professionals, suppliers
and retailers who uphold their code
of ethics and high standards.

"It's become a very popular event
because members like seeing what
their colleagues have done and they
love hearing it from the colleagues'
perspective," Cheryl Kaczmarek,
Executive Director of NEW NARI,
says.

"When our members are able
to share the challenges that they
faced, and how they creatively met
those challenges, they get lauded
and praised by their colleagues.
It's wonderful to see what are
normally competitors in that kind of
environment. That's really the NARI
philosophy: the culture is that all of
us that are members try to support
each other."

From transforming commercial
properties to renovating dull spaces
into charming havens, this year's
projects highlight NEW NARI
members' innovation, vision and
hard work.

Evening of Excellence

NEW NARI Honors Extraordinary Projects

BY GRACE OLSON

Outdated Wasted Space and Poor Functionality to Custom, Elegant Flow:

LLOYD VOSTERS AND SON HOME BUILDERS

BEN VOSTERS, OWNER

Start/Completion Date of Project: March to September

What was transformed? Updated first floor, redesigned the layout of kitchen and master bath. Back hall, lockers, powder room, kitchen, pantry, master bath and closet were redesigned to eliminate the large amounts of open wasted space. Changes were made along the way that made sense to do so now rather than regrets and having to do them later.

Any major challenges? No unforeseen challenges.

Finished product: Exactly what the owners wanted, a cozy, updated home

From the homeowner: It is always an undertaking, and always stressful, and takes longer than you anticipate but the end result is worth all of that. The space is now perfect for a family of five with room to entertain and all the little extras that make it home.



Hillary Jean Photography

*Bare, Cold Potential to
a Warm, Inviting Gathering Space:*

TIMBER INNOVATIONS

PAUL DRIESSEN, MASTER CRAFTSMAN

Start/Completion Date of Project:
January of 2022 to June 2023

Vision: The owners wanted to create what sociologists call a "third place," somewhere besides work and home where a person can enjoy themselves; an inviting social space where family and friends chat over a delicious brew. It was important that it be accessible and welcoming to all (including dogs!).

What was transformed? Part of the space was an old industrial freezer, but it was a blank canvas. Our design was carefully crafted and we enjoyed the process of transforming the space.

To draw the eye to the bar area, an installation of varying lengths of Hemlock were hung in homage to an installation at a local art museum. Randomly hung lights between the boards add dimensionality to the sculpture, as well as more general lighting for the room. This artwork not only ties the brewery to the local community, it also epitomizes the artistry and craftsmanship the owners put into their craft beers.

Another homage to the community was the taproom walls which are lined with black-lacquered Ash from trees marked for removal and donated by the town. The wood grain adds beautiful texture and the color gives warmth to the room.

Any major challenges? The two main challenges of the space were adding plumbing under the concrete floor and dealing economically with a long neglected leaky roof. The third challenge was fitting the brewing equipment and plumbing fixtures into the limited space of the brewhouse. With planning, all the pipes and hoses were set into the brewery room and the concrete floor in an efficient and organized manner. This was a learning curve for the owners and contractor, as brewing had been done previously in the owners' laundry room at home.

Finished product: The Timber Tap Taproom and Brewery (in Kimberly) is a slightly industrial taproom with a Pacific Northwest flair. Composed of a mix of sustainable wood, glass, and steel, the space is warm, inviting, and uplifting. Its warm dark tones make it cozy. Its clean lines and contemporary design are uplifting.

Everyday someone new comes in and compliments on how the space transforms their mood, their peace of mind and how welcoming it is. I can't tell you how proud that makes me feel knowing that we can change how a person feels and bring happiness and joy without doing a thing except welcoming them in. >>



Hidden, Neglected and Tacky to Stunning, Distinguished and Peaceful:

NORTHSTAR BUILDS

JOHN GARCIA, DIRECTOR OF CONSTRUCTION

Start/Completion Date of Project:
November 2022

Vision: Create a contemporary lake home unlike any others on the Lake.

What was transformed? We tore down the existing house, reused portions of the foundation and garage slab. We added a new foundation for an addition. Many design changes were made along the way, which is always challenging, but we pressed forward and completed the job at hand.

Any major challenges? Proper engineering for the 14' soffit overhang above the patio.

Finished product: Contemporary design with expansive floor-to-ceiling windows providing panoramic views of Lake Wausau.

From the homeowner: (It is) truly life changing, living on the lake has been our dream. The original house was not our dream, but the newly renovated structure is our forever dream home.