

# EVENING OF EXCELLENCE



Nate Vils for Welhouse Construction

## NARI Honors Transformational Remodeling Projects

BY GRACE OLSON

National Home Improvement Month is here, and that means the National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI) is celebrating.

Nari of Northeastern Wisconsin—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.

"There are good quality, trustworthy contractors out there," Executive Director Cheryl Kaczmarek insists. "(Members) must commit to and exemplify the NARI principles of integrity, fair business practices, continuous education/training, quality craftsmanship and home improvement excellence."

It's enough to commemorate, but the group takes it a step further by hosting an annual Evening of Excellence event each May, honoring members and their most noteworthy projects of the year.

"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," Kaczmarek says.

From transforming basements into entertainment spaces, creating functional and charming kitchens and revamping a midcentury house into a forever home, this year's projects highlight NEW NARI members' innovation, vision and hard work.



BEFORE





## *Eclectic Industrial Basement* **TIMBER INNOVATIONS**

PROJECT START: SEPTEMBER 2020  
COMPLETION: JULY 2021

What began as a completely unfinished basement became a multifunctional space with a variety of components: a home office and gym, relaxing spa area with sauna, guest bedroom, home theater and a kitchenette plus entertainment space.

"It went from a blank canvas to a multi-purpose entertainment space with natural light," Paul Driessen, Owner/President of Timber Innovations, says. "Large windows and stair-cased window wells brought in light from outside while providing an emergency exit. Using glass walls allowed that light to spread further toward the interior areas of the space. They made the basement feel less like a basement."

While there were no major challenges, Driessen explains the lack of natural lighting, a support post that couldn't be moved and a cracked foundation were the main design and construction challenges faced during this project.

"As the designer, as well as builder, on this project, we worked closely with the homeowner to create their exact vision for this basement," he says. "They wanted a contemporary industrial look with fully functional spaces that provided areas for entertaining, relaxation and exercise. The completed project not only delivers this, but many smaller moments of artistry and craftsmanship." ✦



Ryan Hainey Photography