

75 Designs, 5 Communities,
ONE BUTTON

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NEW HOMES



A wicked trio

Adding scare factor to ghoulish night. I8

Passing of a legend

Farewell to Harris Mitchell. I14

AWARDS OF DESIGN EXCELLENCE • THE WINNERS



BARRY HOBIN

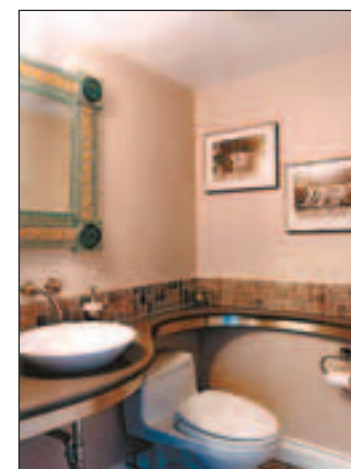
Custom home designed by architect Barry Hobin for technology star Antoine Paquin won the People's Choice Award last Saturday. The \$12.8-million home has been sold.



Kitchens flooded the awards, with Denys Builds Design coming out on top with a brash red offering on Laurier Avenue.



Penny Southam won the judges' approval for details with this vibrant pumpkin-coloured storage wall.



Carleton Kitchens maximized space in this bathroom under 75 square feet, adding curvy stainless steel trimwork.

The best in 2003

A Rockcliffe mansion, edgy kitchens, steel townhomes and an adult community in the heart of Kanata take home honours from design fête, writes **Kathryn Young**.

Monarch Homes and one of the city's top architects, Barry Hobin, were the heavyweights at last Saturday's design fête honouring the best in Ottawa's housing industry.

Monarch, which a week ago was named top builder in Ontario, left the Corel Centre party with five glass-and-marble trophies, as did lanky architect Hobin, who had to miss the affair because he jetted his entire firm to a work-

shop in New Orleans.

The funky firm Urban Keios Design was close behind with three trophies honouring excellence in housing design. Holitzner Homes, Design First Kitchen Interiors, Blom Design, Laurysen Kitchens and Gerhard Linse Design & Building were also triple winners.

This was also the year of the kitchen, with culinary designers flooding categories with sleek, modern combinations, big helpings of stainless steel and curvy eating islands.

Kitchen and bath designers

and home builders large and small took one or two trophies apiece from the 20th annual Awards of Design Excellence hosted by the Ottawa-Carleton Home Builders' Association.

Clad in sequins, silk and tuxedos, some 300 guests sipped champagne and nibbled chocolate *petit fours* while examining photos of the 154 finalists' entries and analysing the winners.

"Having it broadly based and spread out encourages more people to join (the association) and participate in the

awards," said Gerhard Linse, who won for best large custom home and two renovation categories. "I'm really pleased."

Judges described the past year as one of consolidation in the design field, after several years of surging ahead with innovative, edgy home plans and renovations.

"The last three or four years it's really edged the bar up," Mr. Linse said, adding that Ottawa housing design is on par with the best in Canada — even though that might not be reflected in Canadian maga-

zine coverage. "They leave Ottawa out and we've got stuff here that's as good as anywhere."

An opulent Rockcliffe mansion built for technology millionaire Antoine Paquin earned the Hobin firm two awards — for best custom home over 7,000 square feet and the People's Choice Award, sponsored by the *Citizen* but selected by members of the public who voted at the Ottawa Fall Home Show.

See **WINNERS** on page I2