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Sammamish's Kara Bowman won a design award

May 28, 2013

By Administrator

Kara Bowman, of Sammamish, won second place in the best individual room contemporary category at the Northwest Design Awards Gala.

"I've been involved in design my whole life and always knew it was what I wanted to do," said Bowman, "Even when I was 4 years old, I was drawing up floor plans."

Bowman did running start at Bellevue College where she received her associate degree and then attended the Seattle Art Institute, where she earned her bachelor's degree in interior design. She now works for MacPherson construction.

"Our company does residential, high-end, new construction and sometimes remodels," said Bowman. The house for which she won wasn't started with the Northwest Design Awards in mind, she said.

"After the house was done, I heard about the awards and figured the Johnson's house was unique and might have a shot at winning," said Bowman.



Kara Bown shows off the bored concrete wall that she worked with during the award-winning design. Contributed

"The room I designed was organic and contemporary with clean lines and warm modern fixtures. It's on Pine Lake and the homeowners were amazing. Without them it wouldn't have been possible. They provided a picture of bored form concrete, and I had to collaborate to make sure the Johnsons liked it." Bowman said she would describe the room as being "pretty neutral" and that she brought color into the room with fixtures and pillows.

Gregg and Nancy Johnson, the owners of the home had only positive things to say about working with Bowman. She met with the family as often as two times a week about their ideas and needs over the course of 2.5 years.

"These meetings covered everything," Bowman said, "we discussed cabinets and tile as well as various accessories they wanted."

"Kara made the whole process of selecting and coordinating our design much easier. She is resourceful, intuitive, smart, and has a great eye for color. Building a house is a collaboration: owners, designer (Kara), architect and contractor, construction superintendent, and many subcontractors, craftsmen, and artists. It was hugely rewarding to work with all of them," said Gregg Johnson.

Craig Cross, Seattle Design Center's marketing manager is the person responsible for creating the category in which she won.

"The 14-year-old competition looks at a series of projects and asks them to focus on certain things that make them stand out," said Cross.

In this competition there are 14 different categories. The categories for this last competition, were bathroom, best individual room: traditional, best individual room: contemporary, commercial, hospitality, exotic retreats, kitchen, modest budget, big impact, most innovative design component, outdoor living area, small design firm luminary, student, whole house on a budget under \$400,000 and whole house on a budget up from \$400,000.

Bowman says she would like to enter again.

"It's not about getting first," she said, "the process itself is so much fun and every project is so different. That's what I love about design. It's never the same thing twice."



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An advertisement for Fischer Meats. It features a family of four (a man, a woman, and two children) standing around a barbecue grill. The text reads: "It's the perfect time to get the BBQ's going", "Check our website for more specials", and "425-392-3131". The Fischer Meats logo is at the bottom.

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Age of Design
14th Annual Northwest Design Awards
MARCH 2013

**Kara Bowman and
MacPherson Construction & Design**

Project Name: Organic Contemporary Great Room

Best Individual Room: Contemporary
Second Place



Diane Callahan
Diane Callahan, General Manager