



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 50th ANNUAL BUILDING AWARDS APPLICATION DEADLINE TO BE EXTENDED

The application deadline for the Staten Island Chamber of Commerce's 50th annual Building Awards Program is being extended to September 23rd, 2011. Applications can be submitted for commercial and residential properties; new projects or renovations. Contact the Chamber office to obtain an application.

Judging will be held on October 14, 2011 and the 50th Building Awards luncheon will be held on Friday, December 2, 2011 beginning at 11 am.

Chairing this year's program are Claire Chesnoff, *Claire Properties*, and Bruno Savo, *Savo Brothers Realty*.

The Building Awards Program is coordinated by the Staten Island Chamber of Commerce to recognize excellence in design and construction on Staten Island. The Chamber of Commerce believes that buildings not only express the artistic attainments and material progress of a community but also its spiritual and moral character. Any commercial or residential structure on Staten Island may be submitted by the owner, or with the owner's consent, by the architect, engineer, interior designer, landscaper, or craftsman. Awards will only be presented to individuals who have submitted an application for a winning structure. New residential and commercial structures as well as renovation projects are eligible.

The Building Awards Program is sponsored by National Grid.

There are three classes of entries in the program;

1. Residential
2. Commercial (includes office buildings, banks, schools, restaurants, etc.)
3. Historic Restoration

There are 8 CATEGORIES

1. Exterior

This category applies to general design/construction of the exterior of a residential or commercial structure. Exterior entries should be submitted by the architect for design and the builder for construction.

2. Interior

This category applies to general design and construction of the interior of a residential or commercial structure. Interior entries should be submitted by the architect and interior designer for design and the builder for construction.

3. Craftsmanship

This category applies to a particular part of a project, such as a handmade fireplace, staircase, stained-glass window or other items that become an integral part of the structure. It is not for general craftsmanship, which is judged in general interior or exterior entries.

4. Natural Beauty

This category recognizes the practical and aesthetic use of Staten Island's natural terrain. The award may also be presented for the creation of "natural beauty" through landscaping etc...that enhances a structure or project in the community.

5. Interior Decorating

This category applies to interior decorating/design by creating beauty through the proper choice of color, lighting, as well as furniture selection and placement.

***6. Green Building (New Category)**

This category applies to structures that have included the principles of green design. The entry is to include elements utilizing alternative energy sources, materials and design

Features that contribute to natural sustainability. This special category is not included in the chairman's award.

***7. Outdoor Space Design (New Category)** Specialized award for outstanding design and/or decorating in an outdoor space. This category recognizes the creation of beauty in an outdoor space through color, lighting, furniture selection and placement and other elements of design that create a unique atmosphere in an exterior space. **Please note that landscaping projects should be submitted under Natural Beauty*

***8. Art (New Category)** A specialized award given to artists (or property owners) that show mastery of their craft, originality, and visual appeal. Applications may be submitted for a sculpture, mural or other specific piece of art created for a new residential or commercial construction or renovation project.

Green building, art and outdoor space design were just added to the program last year. These are specialized categories and will not be included for consideration for the Chairman's Award.

Awards include:

The Award of Excellence is the highest honor presented.

Awards of Achievement are presented for structures that the judges feel do not fully meet the qualifications for the Award of Excellence, yet make a significant contribution worthy of recognition.

The Chairman's Award is the highest honor presented for multiple categories. It is given to the applicant whose entry scores the highest in all five (5) categories (exterior, interior, craftsman, natural beauty, interior design.) Applicants must enter all five categories to qualify for this award. A Chairman's Award may be presented to one residential and one commercial structure.

In the beginning...

Already an established architect in 1960, Albert Melniker suggested that the Chamber of Commerce launch a Building Awards Program that would recognize outstanding architecture in the community. In 1961 the Staten Island Chamber's Building Awards Program was born.

"The objective of the program was to give awards to buildings that are a credit to the community," Melniker said, at the age of 91 for a profile on the program in the Chamber's Focus newsletter. "It was not meant to be an architectural competition. It provided for an award of buildings that improved the objective of city and town planning. Buildings for awards required a plan that represented an improvement to the community."

Today, the program commends the efforts of architects, developers, interior designers, and others involved in the construction process.

Licensed in 1940 as an architect, Melniker launched his career with the Board of Education, Bureau of Construction. In 1943, he joined the U.S. Army, and was stationed in the Pacific for two of his three years of service. He was commissioned an Army lieutenant on Saipan. In 1946, he first opened his architectural firm on Bay Street in the space currently occupied by the Staten Island Chamber of Commerce.

His notable projects over the years have ranged from cutting edge townhouse developments, like Village Green in Arden Heights, to modern commercial structures, such as seven of the SI Bank & Trust buildings.

Some of Mr. Melniker's other projects include schools: P.S. 31 and 50, Staten Island Tech, Port Richmond High School, Staten Island Community College and Richmond College; residential buildings: Fountains, Sea Cliff, Bay Street Landing and Bay Plaza apartment house; shopping centers: Richmond Avenue K-Mart, Greenridge Plaza and Tottenville shopping center and places of worship: St. Stephen's Church and New Dorp Moravian Church addition. Finally, Mr. Melniker also did the alteration and addition to the Broadway YMCA and Regional Radiology at St. Vincent's and the 122nd Precinct Station House.

After his death in 2002, the chamber renamed the President's Award in his honor. Each year, the Albert P. Melniker Award is bestowed on a structure, exhibit or person that enhances the quality of life on Staten Island.

This year the Chamber will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the annual program, which continues to be one of the Chamber's premier programs.

In celebration of the Building Awards 50th anniversary, which also falls in the same year as Staten Island's 350th anniversary, the 2011 program will be more special than ever. The history of the awards program as well as the history of the building industry on Staten Island will be highlighted. A commemorative journal will be published and offers past building awards recipients the opportunity to feature pictures of award winning structures.

For more information about the program, contact the Staten Island Chamber of Commerce at 718-727-1900. Applications and additional information are also available online at www.sichamber.com.

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