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## State group honors ABD co-owner Peterson earns Builder of the Year distinction *CARI MERRILL*

By CARI MERRILL

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It's been almost 20 years and four economic cycles since Associates in Building Design Ltd. began in Fort Collins, and the business is still going strong.

Co-owner Bob Peterson knows it takes persistence, drive and passion for the business to ride out the ups and downs, and it's that style he employs in all the work he does.

Take those qualities and add it to his everyday work, and it's the reason why he was recently named the 2008 Builder of the Year by the Colorado Association of Home Builders, or CAHB.

"There's honestly nothing better than being honored by your peers," Peterson said in an interview at his office.

But right away, Peterson won't take all of the credit.

"This award was awarded to me personally, but this is not my award," Peterson said, recognizing the 17 others on ABD's staff, including his wife, Rita. "I've been fortunate to be awarded several things ... none possible without my staff."

The Builder of the Year award recognizes a builder who has done well with marketing, design, product creation, green building, unique development and CAHB contributions.

"What you do is you show a passion for the industry and you get involved in the industry on many levels," he said.

Peterson was president of CAHB in 2004 and is the Colorado representative to the National Association of Home Builders' executive committee.

Peterson's business partner and wife, Rita, wasn't surprised about the award.

"The first thing that comes to my mind is since it's a statewide award and the person is nominated by a peer and you're elected by peers, that's what's so rewarding because it means that you're so well-respected and doing something right," she said.

Peterson also won 2007 Remodeler of the Year from NAHB.