

Peterson named Remodeler of the Year *CARI MERRILL*

By CARI MERRILL

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Those who have ever remodeled a room or a home can attest to the stress that can come from a torn-up house or unreliable contractors.

But Bob Peterson of Fort Collins has a passion for helping people solve those housing issues.

He uses that passion in his work everyday as co-owner of Associates in Building and Design Ltd. It's the same passion that helped him win the National Association of Home Builders 2007 Remodeler of the Year award.

The award recognizes Peterson and his company for its dedication to professionalism, education, service and communication. The NAHBR Council was founded in 1982 as a department of the National Association of Home Builders, advocating professionalism, business and technical excellence as well as responsibility.

"When ABD makes a commitment to someone, we'll bleed to make that commitment," Peterson said of his and his company's dedication to getting the job done right, not leaving clients with a nightmare.

Peterson exudes dedication, compassion and a great personality, say his employees.

Sales consultant Steve Suchy is impressed by Peterson's perseverance.

"The construction industry can be so brutal," Suchy said Thursday of his boss of two years but friend of a decade. "He hasn't lost his passion, his zest."

Peterson began as a school teacher and a coach in Eastern Colorado in 1974. But while he was teaching, he found his love for building and started in the construction industry full time in 1978. He later moved to Fort Collins and opened ABD in May 1990 with his business partner and wife, Rita.

Once he got involved in NAHBR in 1994, he saw other professionals winning the Remodeler of the Year award and it gave him motivation.

"I've always been a builder, but I think a builder is an educator and a coach," he said.

But Peterson is quick to share the credit of the award.

"The things that I do that are industry things and community things, I can do that because I have a great staff," he said of the 21-employee firm.

But his wife knows how humble he can be.

"We wouldn't be where we are today without him," she said, tearing up as she recalled the ceremony in Las Vegas when he received the award. "It's unbelievable for him to be nominated in such a high level of peers and then to be selected."

But Peterson says he couldn't have worked hard and earned the award without the help and support of his wife of 26 years.

"Having her as a partner also helps me to pursue my visions and dreams," he said of his wife who brings "tremendous value" to the business.