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4th Annual Building Industry Awards Recognizes Outstanding Achievement in the Residential Building Community

COLUMBUS, OHIO – Central Ohio’s leaders in residential construction came together for the 4th annual Building Industry Awards on October 29, 2008. The Building Industry Association of Central Ohio (BIA) honored its members at a ceremony held at Bridgewater Banquet and Conference Center in Powell, Ohio.

“The Building Industry Awards provide the opportunity to recognize outstanding achievement in residential construction,” stated Jim Hiltz, Executive Director of the BIA. “These Awards honor distinction at all levels of the building industry. Members have the opportunity to be acknowledged in front of their peers for their accomplishments.”

Past presidents of the BIA presented awards to companies in nine different categories, including Developer of the Year, Development of the Year, Exterior Architectural Design, Material Supplier of the Year, Next Generation Builder of the Year, Remodeling Project of the Year, Subcontractor of the Year, Superintendent/Production Manager of the Year and Urban Development of the Year.

Two new members were inducted into the BIA Hall of Fame, which includes members who have demonstrated exceptional qualities of leadership over the years and who have displayed exemplary devotion to their industry and their community. **F. Stevens Potter, Potter Homes Company, and Wilbur "Wib" Strait, The Strait & Lamp Group**, joined the ranks of 14 other BIA members who have been inducted in the Hall of Fame since 2005.

The Building Industry Awards were established in 2005 to honor distinction at all levels of the residential building industry – including developments, developers, architects, subcontractors, suppliers, superintendents, remodelers and landscape designers – and to recognize companies that have a history of exceptional achievement.

Additional information about each award presented, along with the winners of each award, are listed below.

For more information or photos, please contact Patty Sobiech at (614) 891-0575 or patty@biahomebuilders.com.

Developer of the Year – Planned Communities, Inc.

This award recognizes outstanding achievement in the development of land, single family subdivisions, condominiums or apartment projects.

Planned Communities, Inc. is one of the largest and most respected residential and commercial real estate firms in central Ohio. Founded in 1961, the company has been a BIA member for nearly 40 years. Planned Communities has developed over 15,000 prime residential lots in more than 35 separate communities and over one million square feet of first class retail and commercial space in central Ohio.

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Development of the Year – Tremont Club by Schottenstein Real Estate Group

This award recognizes outstanding housing development in this region.

Schottenstein Real Estate Group has operated as a multi-family specialist for over 30 years and has developed over 20,000 rental units, 5,000 for-sale units and a variety of commercial, retail and office projects. **Tremont Club** is a resort-style community located in Hilliard, which opened in May 2007. Divided into two communities, Tremont Club includes a quaint village of first floor owner's suites and town homes as well as a cozy community of uniquely designed estate homes.

Exterior Architectural Design – Duffy Homes

This award recognizes creative exterior architectural details, use of materials, roof lines and overall curb appeal.

Duffy Homes' Neighborhood Launch development features downtown residential units with front and back entrances, outdoor living spaces and garages. By expanding vertically instead of horizontally, this pedestrian-friendly neighborhood is a natural fit in the midst of high rises and the downtown landscape. Throughout the neighborhood are seven parks with water features, tree-lined boulevards, wrought-iron fencing and green space.

Material Supplier of the Year – Suburban Steel Supply Co., LLC

This award recognizes a company's approach to providing and supplying materials, their degree of service delivery, and their involvement in the industry.

Suburban Steel Supply Co., LLC provides the highest levels of customer service by anticipating clients' needs and delivering quality materials in a dependable and timely manner. Suburban Steel Supply Co. has established control processes that efficiently handle inventory, improve accuracy and assist with delivery. Their one-stop-shop slogan is not merely lip service – they offer rebar and concrete accessories, ornamental fabrication, custom powder coating, field erection, crane service and decorative concrete supplies.

Next Generation Builder of the Year – Heritage Custom Homes

This award recognizes a builder who has demonstrated outstanding commitment to promoting the objectives of the BIA and the best interests of the housing industry.

Heritage Custom Homes was founded five years ago and has been a BIA member the entire time. They have been active in the BIA since joining, attending a variety of seminars and events. The company builds less than ten homes a year, mainly on the northwest side of Franklin County. Heritage Custom Homes places an emphasis on quality amenities, superior customer service and attention to detail.

Remodeling Project of the Year – Dave Fox Remodeling, Inc.

This award recognizes excellence in remodeling, including creative use of existing space, innovativeness of work and quality of the total project.

Dave Fox Remodeling, Inc. took on the challenge of transforming a custom-built 1950's home into a modern residence designed for today's lifestyle, all within a nine-month timeframe. The home was built on a ravine and in order to maximize the breath-taking view, a 1,000-square-foot addition was designed. The kitchen was renovated into a spacious gourmet kitchen, a solarium and office were added, the foyer was updated, the unused living room was converted into a formal dining room, the second floor master's suite was relocated, and a mudroom was created.

Subcontractor of the Year – John Eramo & Sons, Inc.

This award recognizes outstanding and distinguished service as a subcontractor that provides exceptional products, service and delivery.

John Eramo & Sons, Inc. has provided site development to area builders and developers since 1966. The company is a third generation family-owned business, specializing in the installation of underground utilities, earthwork, erosion control and stream restorations for residential subdivisions, developments and public works. For over 40 years, they have been installing everything from clay tile and PVC to ductile iron and RCP. Their utility crews are trained to handle difficult situations and to respond quickly and efficiently to problems that arise.

Superintendent/Production Manager of the Year – Jeff Boyer, Nicholson Builders

This award recognizes an individual who has demonstrated unique contributions to the home building industry, while successfully improving customer satisfaction and delivering exceptional service.

Nicholson Builders' core philosophy is communication, cleanliness and craftsmanship – the three C's. One employee in particular has demonstrated excellence in the three C's and much more. **Jeff Boyer** is able to work around family members and pets, while staying on budget and within the timeframe of a project. He has demonstrated the type of approach that results in rave reviews from clients, doing whatever it takes to ensure that a client is taken care of.

Urban Development of the Year – Neighborhood Launch by Duffy Homes

This award recognizes an outstanding housing development in an urban/downtown location.

Neighborhood Launch by Duffy Homes encompasses nine city blocks with tree-lined boulevards, landscaped medians and decorative light poles, known as the "Strip of Hip." This development would eliminate the sprawling parking lots in the central business district, renovate the Gay Street corridor and create a true urban neighborhood over time. Neighborhood Launch boasts true residential construction finishes inside and out, while incorporating pieces of historic significance into the façade of the buildings. With a unique mix of lofts, flats and town homes, residents can walk or bike to countless destinations.

Hall of Fame – F. Stevens Potter, Wilbur "Wib" Strait

Only a few select individuals make contributions so significant and deserving to be considered for the BIA Hall of Fame. In addition to being successful in their own businesses, inductees have unselfishly devoted their time and efforts over the years to an industry that they respect and are committed to. They are revered by their peers and community alike.

F. Stevens Potter from **Potter Homes Company** earned a bachelors degree in mechanical engineering from The Ohio State University. Steve successfully mastered both the commercial and residential building worlds. He and his partner built several commercial projects, including motels and apartment complexes. He joined the BIA in the early 1970's and quickly became involved in the association. In the mid-80's he served on the Board of Trustees, eventually becoming BIA President in 1987. Steve was instrumental in the development of Potter's Creek, a residential community in Worthington. He built the BIA/COSI House (the predecessor to the BIA Foundation House) at the 1986 Parade of Homes in Dublin's Earlington Village. He was named BIA Builder of the Year in 1986, and in 1990 he was presented with the Washburn Schofield Memorial Award for his commitment to the community. Steve was also a member of the Worthington Jaycees and the Arts Council.

Wilbur “Wib” Strait’s father, Wilbur C. Strait Sr., started **The Strait & Lamp Lumber Company** along with Arnold W. Lamp in Hebron in 1950. Following the death of Strait Sr., Arnold Lamp became the sole owner. When he retired in 1977, he sold the company to his partner’s son Wib Strait. Under Wib’s skillful leadership, Strait & Lamp has made a number of changes to strengthen their position in the marketplace. The company became a member of the National Buying Group Hardware Wholesalers which allowed them to offer various hardware and building material programs. The acquisition of Fifth Avenue Lumber in the mid-80’s and Dublin Millwork in 1990 expanded their services. A contracting division was formed in the mid-90’s to frame lumber packages. In 1997 the expansion of the Lumbercraft facility doubled the production of roof and floor trusses. Panelized wall systems were added to the building supply line up. A new interior trim division was introduced, and Strait & Lamp branched out to wholesale lumber. Wib was named BIA Associate of the Year in 1999 for his volunteerism and support of the industry. He has also been involved on advisory boards for Lumber Mutual Insurance, Hardware Wholesalers and various assisted living facilities.

The Building Industry Association of Central Ohio represents single and multiple family home builders, developers and remodelers in the area. Other members include subcontractors, suppliers and service professionals. Founded in 1943, its primary services include legislative and regulatory representation, development of favorable public perceptions of the industry, promotion of business standards, and support of home ownership. The BIA is the annual sponsor of the Parade of Homes, CondoQuest and the Showcase of Remodeled Homes.

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