

Partner with a PRO

Work with a member of the Olympia Master Builders to ensure quality work and a pleasant remodeling experience

As any homeowner who has undergone a remodeling project knows, the most overwhelming aspects of an already intimidating process are the choices. There are the materials, colors and textures to consider. There's placement, cost, longevity, maintenance, aesthetics, safety, property values...the list goes on. And before all this begins you have to actually commit to a remodeling contractor — arguably the most harrowing decision of them all.

Members of Olympia Master Builders (OMB) understand and are here to help make that process easier — and yes — even enjoyable. The OMB's Remodelers' Council is an organization comprised of the area's most trusted remodeling professionals. Membership in a trade organization is a good sign of strong commitment to craft and community, as well as indicative of superior knowledge and skill.

"Members carry the benefit of the professionalism of the whole organization behind them," explains Tim Dickey of Dickey's Remodel & Repair and last year's chair of the Remodelers' S Council. "By that I mean OMB has its own code of ethics and business principles to which the remodeler conforms. From the customer's perspective, this provides a lot more security."





Tim explains that rather than operating in a competitive atmosphere, Remodeler's Council members work together to improve industry standards in the area. "We benefit from the experience of people who have been in business for 20 years or more. OMB members are very open and willing to share and mentor one another."

around the continuing education of members. How are more and more contractors raising the bar? John Erwin, C.G.R. and C.A.P.S., of John Erwin Remodeling, and past Education Chair of OMB, explains: "Many contractors over the last few years, including myself, have taken a very proactive approach and have earned professional

to report that OMB has a total of twenty individuals that have taken the required classes to earn professional designations."

"NAHB designations set a contractor apart from all the others," says John Erwin. "These designations have the most targeted curriculum, accomplished teachers and widely respected education opportunities in the business. Through the NAHB, we now offer a total of thirteen different designations for contractors, real estate professionals, and their employees."

In the Olympia Master Builders organization:

Twelve individuals are Certified Graduate Remodelers' (C.G.R.), an exclusive professional designation emphasizing business management skills as the key to a professional remodeling operation. Six individuals are Certified Aging-in-Place Specialists (C.A.P.S.), a program teaching technical, business management and customer service skills essential to doing business in the aging-in-place market. Two individuals have earned their Graduate Master Builders (GMB) designation. A GMB has earned his Certified Graduate Builder C.G.B. or his C.G.R. designation and has continued to receive more advanced, in-depth instruction as a building professional.

Next, consider chemistry. Choosing a remodeler is about more than who can satisfactorily complete your project. A good remodeler will tell you that personal rapport is very important. "The remodeler you hire will be part of your home life for several weeks or months," according to Randy Foster, C.G.R. of The Artisans Group, and former chair of the Remodelers' Council. "It's important to make sure that your personalities work well together. Don't underestimate the importance of compatibility. You'll be spending a lot of time with this person's crew, and investing a lot of trust in their professionalism, so good communication is vital. Select someone with whom you feel comfortable sharing your ideas and concerns."

Last, but not least, remember that Remodelers Council members love what they do and look forward to helping you achieve the home of your dreams. Call Olympia Master Builders at:(360) 754-0912 or (800) 456-6473 or go online at www remodelnow.org ... And, have fun! ♦

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That altruistic philosophy extends beyond "membership" as well, as evidenced by the Remodelers' Council's active participation in Rebuilding Together Thurston County. OMB members have made a commitment to the community as a whole. This commitment shows they expect to be around for a long time.

To build their businesses, members understand they must keep learning. Indeed, the epicenter of Council activity revolves

designations from the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) University of Housing.

When we constructed the new building for OMB a few years ago, we made a very conscious decision to have a facility that we could use to hold classes for our members and take advantage of the courses offered by the NAHB. Before we had our facility, we had two members with professional designations. Now, three years later, I am very proud