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"Local houses win national recognition"

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REAL ESTATE

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THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL

SECTION H

Mark Jones was the project architect for this neoclassical house at 346 Stonewall near Overton Park, one of two Midtown homes that garnered national awards for the Memphis architectural firm Looney Ricks Kiss in the annual Best in American Living competition.



Photographs by Jeffrey Jacobs/Architectural Photography

Looney Ricks Kiss Architects Inc. also won an award in the neighborhood revitalization category of the national Best in American Living competition for this neocolonial stucco-like house at 1767 Autumn. Brad Shapiro was the home's project architect.

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I-40 Corridor Area

Local houses win national recognition

By Jerome Obermark
The Commercial Appeal

Looney Ricks Kiss Architects Inc., a Memphis architectural firm, has won two national awards in the annual Best in American Living Awards competition sponsored by Professional Builder magazine and the National Association of Home Builders.

A total of 66 award winners were chosen from 407 entries in 18 categories. The awards were presented Saturday during a breakfast at the builders' annual convention in Houston.

The Memphis firm won a special recognition award for neighborhood revitalization, a new category. The firm won on the basis of two Midtown houses it designed in the Evergreen Historic District.

The homes were built in the corridor area near Overton Park, where new homes have been built in recent years to look as if they were built between 1910 and 1930, the period when most existing homes in the area were built.

The corridor area was redeveloped by the Memphis & Shelby County Office of Planning and Development.

One of the Midtown houses with a stucco-like exterior is a neocolonial design at 1767 Autumn. Its exterior is characterized by asymmetrical elements, including a steep gable and a bay window in front. Brad Shapiro was project architect. The house was built by Hank Hill Investment Co.

The other Midtown house is a

neoclassical brick house at 346 Stonewall featuring symmetrical exterior components, including balanced distribution of windows and columns plus a radius transom above the front door. Mark Jones was the project architect. McWaters & Associates was the builder.

The other Best in American Living award received by Looney Rick Kiss — a best in the east south-central region award — recognized the design of a 4,947-square-foot house in Knoxville featuring Greek Revival styling.

The Knoxville owner is a doctor who has friends in Memphis. During the family visits to Memphis, they became acquainted with Looney Rick Kiss's work in Midtown and downtown, Shapiro said.

The Knoxville house is built on a 60-acre tract. Like the Midtown houses, it was designed to look as if it were built decades ago, said Shapiro, the project architect.

Actually, the Knoxville house was built about three years ago. The owners have said they have had a number of calls from people who ask if they could rent "that nice old house" for a party or reception. The owners have taken those comments as a compliment, Shapiro said, because that's the look they wanted.

Carson Looney, a principal in the firm, and Shapiro represented the firm in accepting the awards.

Looney, Shapiro and Michael Medick, another architect with the firm, also conducted seminars or design reviews for builders during the convention.

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