

INNOVATE /// CREATE /// SUCCEED

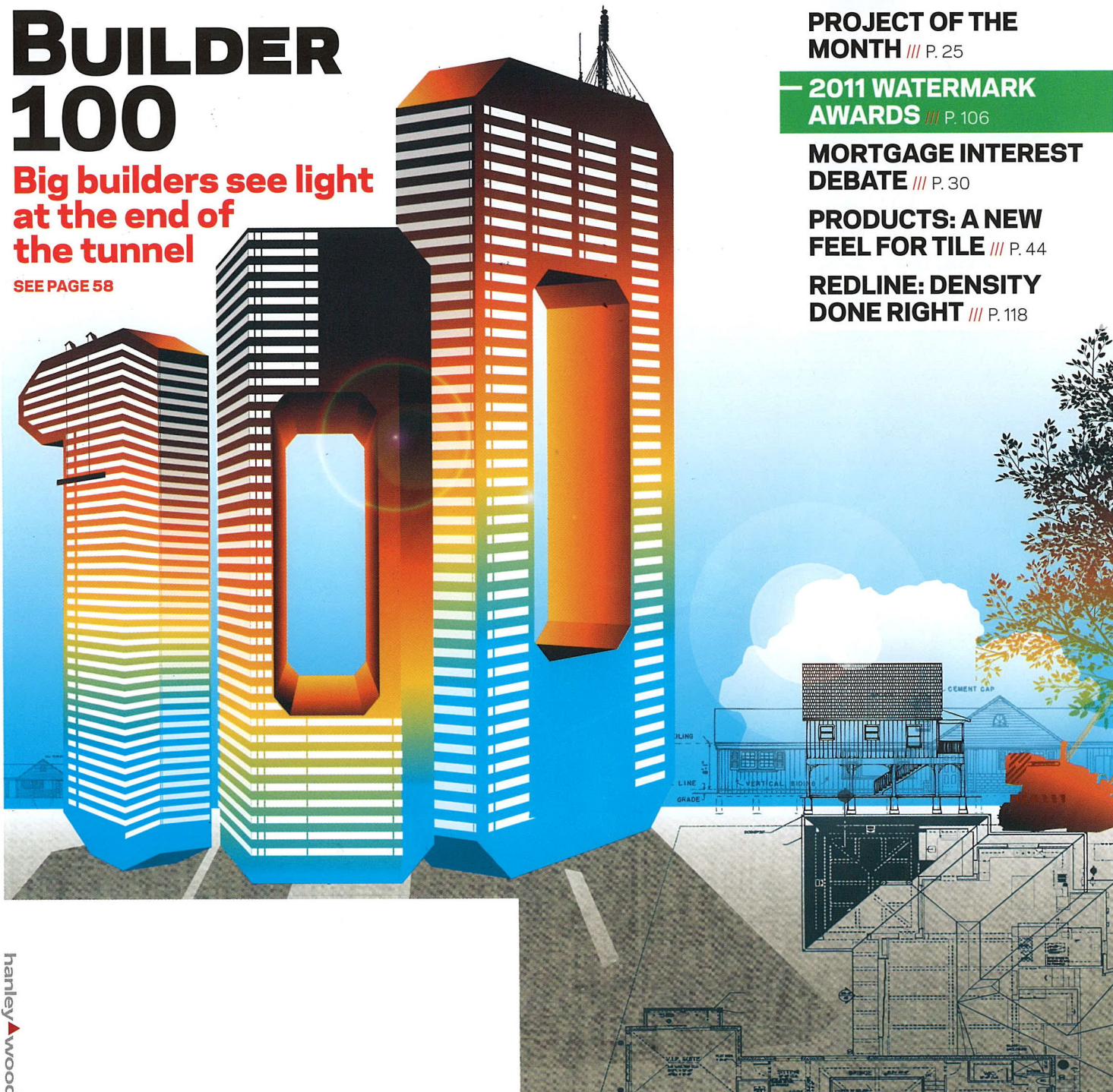
THE MAGAZINE
OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF HOME BUILDERS

Builder

BUILDER 100

Big builders see light
at the end of
the tunnel

SEE PAGE 58



PROJECT OF THE
MONTH /// P. 25

2011 WATERMARK
AWARDS /// P. 106

MORTGAGE INTEREST
DEBATE /// P. 30

PRODUCTS: A NEW
FEEL FOR TILE /// P. 44

REDLINE: DENSITY
DONE RIGHT /// P. 118

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Contents

18 Editor's Notes**20 Sightlines****143 Ad Index****Foundations**

25 Project of the Month: Luxury "jewel box" in Florida, modest in size, rich in detail

26 Field Report: Builder news you can use

28 Dashboard: Job growth necessary for housing recovery

30 Iconoclash: Should Congress eliminate mortgage interest deduction?

32 Design Details: Small outbuildings get pastoral treatment

32 Red Tape: Energy standards for residential construction change in North Carolina

34 Game Changer: New concrete surfacing that can transmit light

Products

39 Editor's Pick

40 Top Shelf

44 Category Review: Innovations in tile

Sound Off

52 Crowe's Economy: A look at economic conditions from the NAHB's chief economist

54 Housing Pulse: Advice on gaining and maintaining customer satisfaction

Build Smart

117 Construction Detail: Hurricane-fortified homes

118 Redline: Density done right

122 Callbacks: How to avoid or fix roof ice dams

NAHB

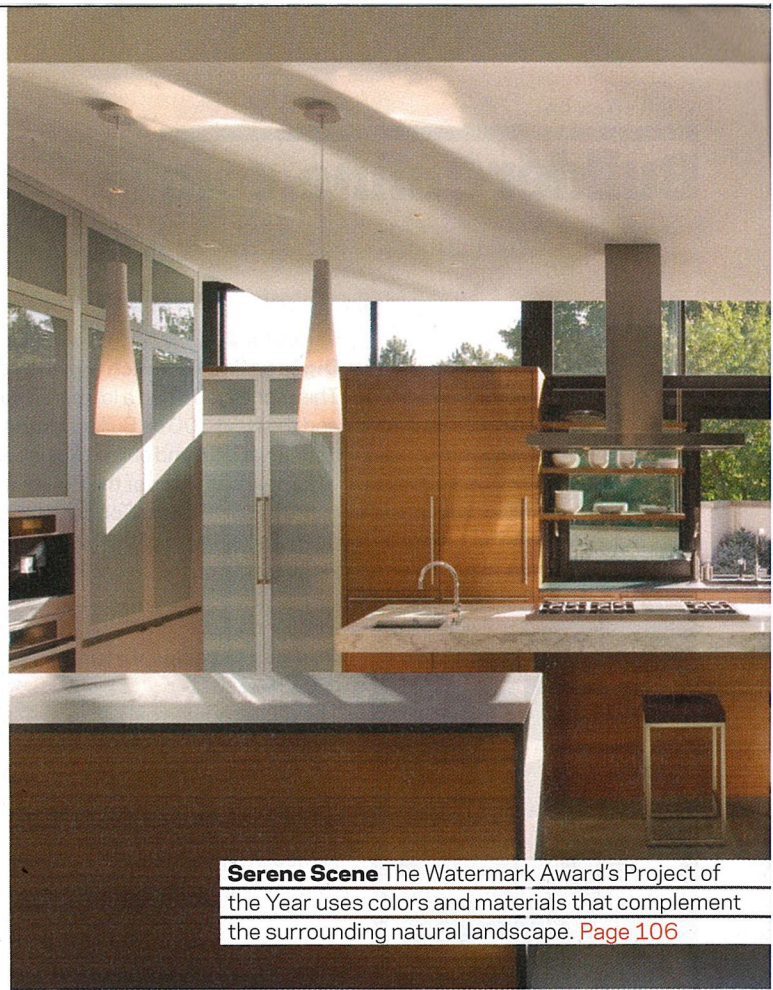
125 National Beat: News from the NAHB and the NAHB Research Center

Plan View

133 House plans that compete with existing homes

Next

144 Making polymers stronger and greener



Serene Scene The Watermark Award's Project of the Year uses colors and materials that complement the surrounding natural landscape. [Page 106](#)

Features**58 BUILDER 100**

Although 2010 was not a good year for housing, builders with the right products and prices were able to overcome buyers' reluctance. See how the top builders fared and who made the list for the first time.

106 2011 Watermark Awards

This year's kitchen and bath award winners prove that sustainability has become standard practice in the best designs.

On the Cover Our annual BUILDER 100 and Next 100 lists show that business may be thawing for the top 200 builders. Illustration: 500 gls

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FROM THE TOP
ROSEDALE
 BETHESDA, MD.
 GRAND, KITCHEN
 IN A CUSTOM HOME
 —OVER 5,000
 SQUARE FEET

Entrant/Builder/Developer Georgetown Development Corp., Monrovia, Md.

Architect Studio Z Design, Bethesda, Md.

Every kitchen design has to start somewhere. This one began with some antique pendant lights the owners had found years earlier and put into storage. To complement the light fixtures, builders Mel Silicki and James Maloney put together a palette that's high in contrast and texture, but minimal in its color selections. The double-island space is large (a requirement for clients who frequently host large parties) and could have easily looked overblown,

but it doesn't in light of this restraint. At the same time, a few inspired turns keep the broad space from feeling too uniform. Rather than specifying all light countertops and all dark cabinetry (or vice versa) the design alternates them. One island has a dark espresso base with a milky concrete top, while its twin sports painted white casework with a dark riveted metal top. Raw Urth Designs, a metal fabricator in Colorado, provided the metal countertop (it's rolled steel with a powder coat patina finish) as well as all of the cabinet hardware and the dramatic suspended metal vent hood, which is made from 3/4-inch-thick aged steel and weighs about 1,000 pounds. "We had to reinforce the ceiling, and during installation we needed a jack to raise it into place, along with about seven guys," Silicki says. Add to that some cypress ceiling beams, mahogany window casements, and a Jerusalem hand-honed limestone floor, and you've got a space that feels impressively Old World, yet at the same time light, open, and airy. — J.S.

ENCORE
PERFORMANCE
GREEN KITCHEN
IN A REBORN
SCHOOLHOUSE
 CHICAGO
 GRAND, KITCHEN
 IN A REMODELED
 HOME—OVER 5,000
 SQUARE FEET

Entrant/Architect/Interior designer/Kitchen designer Sullivan, Goulette & Wilson, Chicago

Builder Crescent Rock, Chicago

Designing a green kitchen in a converted 1880s schoolhouse sounds cool enough, but this one in Chicago looks even better than it sounds. The architects started by gutting the interior, exposing the brick bearing walls and old-growth wood structural joists. The resulting kitchen's unique ceiling texture is complemented by bamboo cabinets and a 37-foot-long wood counter that was cut from a fallen silver maple tree. The countertop's "live edge" lends an organic flavor. So do recycled elements such as furniture fabricated from salvaged gymnasium flooring and oak studs from a local farmhouse. The architects also reused lights salvaged from their own office renovation. But the space is not all second-hand; modern materials include an EcoTop paper-based island countertop, and 3form resin panels—bought from the manufacturer's remnants section—in the appliance garage. For those cold Chicago nights, radiant heating embedded in the new concrete floor will keep the inhabitants warm and cozy. — N.F.M.



Photos: left: Stu Estler Photography; right: Laura Wallace