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### SPOKESPERSON

TOM BAKER, OWNER/DESIGNER

- > Identify how many people will use the space together; exposure to daylight, environment and orientation on the lot; is there a view to design around?
- > Daylight, skylights, and size of space influence colour and material selection.
- > Some components to consider: size/style of tub/shower; rain shower head or hand-held; steam shower; seating; number of sinks; in-floor heating.
- > Lighting usually comprises of several groups/circuits of dimmable lighting, so various ambiances and moods can be created.

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**PICTURED**  
Tom Bakker Design's spectacular kitchen renovation is a finalist in the 2010 competition.



# The Georgies are coming Celebrate BC's best

BY SUSAN M BOYCE

**IT'S ALMOST HERE. THE DATE RENOVATORS,** homebuilders, and real estate marketers wait for. This year, the prestigious Georgie Awards will take place on March 5th at the new Vancouver Convention Centre, and you can bet there's going to be a whole lot of celebrating when the 43 winners are revealed.

"The move to a new venue is going to give us an opportunity change our presentation, to really jazz it up and inject a whole new style," says executive producer Scott Whitmarsh. Although he's keeping most details under wraps for now, he does note multi-media will play a big part in creating a fresh, contemporary look for this long-standing glitzy affair.



## NEW CATEGORIES, NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Renovators are particularly enthused about another change — introduction of the new Best Condo Renovation Under \$200,000 and Best Condo Renovation Over \$200,000 categories, awards aimed squarely at this burgeoning sector of BC's \$7.3 billion renovation market. Until now, condo renovations were at an immediate disadvantage since many standard techniques were restricted or disallowed by strata regulations. "You can't simply install energy efficient windows or put on an addition," says Rob Capar, president of *maison d'etre design-build inc.* "This new category recognizes the creativity needed to address the unique challenges of thinking inside the box."

For first-time entrant Tom Bakker, owner of Tom Bakker Design, the 2010 Georgie Awards are an affirmation that after 25 years renovating and building both throughout the Lower Mainland and abroad, innovation is still a valued and honoured skill. A finalist in two categories (including Best Outdoor Living Space — another new category for this year), Tom says he sees more people willing to put significant money into their renovation project. And those consumers value the "seal of approval" that comes with being acknowledged as a Georgie Award finalist. "Trends come and go," he adds. "But high quality design is timeless."

### AND THE WINNERS ARE...

More information about finalist in all 43 categories (renovation, new construction, and marketing) can be found online at [georgieawards.ca](http://georgieawards.ca). The winners will be announced at a gala celebration on March 5, 2011. Be sure to check back next issue when we talk about the winners and show you some of the projects deemed Best in BC.

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