We had the honor of receiving four 2019 Awards of Excellence from the Maryland Building Industry Association (MBIA)!

According to the MBIA website:

The MBIA Remodeling and Custom Building Awards of Excellence Program recognizes remodeling designs and new custom building homes to industry professionals who provide customers with superior and creative projects that are sensitive to the existing structure and make appropriate use of the existing building elements, while being compatible with the neighborhood.

We strive to provide our clients with the level of service described above, and these awards attest to our strong commitment to giving our clients detailed, quality, and timeless workmanship in every project.

Our president, Tim Ellis; our Vice President, Barry Ellis; and our sales associate, Michael Teti, were in attendance to accept the awards in late November of last year. We are proud of the entire T.W. Ellis team for such an outstanding achievement.

These awards help confirm that you can have confidence hiring T.W. Ellis for your remodeling, addition, outdoor project, or custom home build. The following T.W. Ellis projects were recognized:

Silver Merit – Kitchen Remodel $100,000-$200,000
Project: Hussain Kitchen; Laurel, MD

We designed this modern farmhouse kitchen, installing beautiful hardwood flooring in Walnut, for a warm look. The new kitchen cabinets are a classic shade of white. Our client kept the original cabinets on their island. We hung these gorgeous pendant lights, with an old world feel, over the island. The kitchen countertops are engineered quartz, and the unique farmhouse sink is an undermount Tasso Fireclay sink.

(continued on page 4)
Most of us don’t have enough opportunities to spend quality time in nature, despite realizing the benefits from soaking in the breeze, looking at trees, and hearing birds. Even if you spend ample time outdoors, perhaps you feel like you have to leave your neighborhood to immerse yourself in nature. Even though parks and hiking are amazing, you probably don’t experience them on a daily basis. A wonderful way to incorporate more daily nature into a hectic schedule is creating an outdoor living space—right at home. Your options for an outdoor space can vary depending on your personality.

**Different Decks for Versatility**

Decks are versatile outdoor spaces; they can hold grills or entire outdoor kitchens, and they can accommodate areas around swimming pools, fireplaces, or outdoor living rooms. Depending on the look you prefer and your willingness to perform the maintenance required here are some different deck materials to choose from:

- **Standard deck boards** have a lifespan of 10-15 years when properly maintained.
- **Composite decking** is low maintenance lasting up to 25 years.
- **Plastic decking** is virtually maintenance free, like the TimberTech AZEK™ decking, pictured above, which can last up to 50 years!
- **Redwood, cedar, and teak** are popular wood choices which require sealing.
- **IPE wood** can last for up to 50 years or more. IPE is insect, mold, and rot resistant.
- **Aluminum/Steel Decking** is low maintenance, with a higher price point, and a distinctive look. Fire, mold, and insect proof.
- **Stone decking** is the most expensive decking material. It is low maintenance but heavy.

Whether you choose a deck, or a patio, either covered or uncovered, having the help of a professional to design, plan, and build your space is recommended.

**Screened Porches for Privacy**

If you want to get close to nature, but not that close. A screened porch is a fantastic choice when you love the outdoors but want freedom from mosquitos. A screened porch can accommodate seating and spaces for entertaining, as well as areas for grills, or fireplaces. Not only does a screened porch provide shade and views of your yard, but it also gives you a measure of privacy. If you do not have privacy due to neighbors, you can incorporate trees, shrubs, or landscaping walls into your yard to maximize your privacy. You can also install blinds onto your screened porch.

**Sunrooms: Sanctuary from Pollen**

If you want, or need, to be a step further from nature than a screened porch, a sunroom may be your ideal outdoor living space. A sunroom can have climate control hooked into your home’s HVAC, or separately installed. A sunroom expands your house’s footprint, providing sanctuary for family members with seasonal allergies. Sunrooms are the most all-weather outdoor area, creating a space that’s useable almost year-round.

**Decking Out Your Space**

If you’ve decided which space works best for you, you’ll want to select features to deck out your outdoor living area. Whether it’s an infrared heating system, fireplace, free-standing propane heaters, ceiling fans, a television or sound system, or a complete outdoor kitchen, there are an endless number of ways to customize your outdoor living space.

Outdoor kitchens can include cabinetry and counters resistant to the elements, sinks, bars, refrigerators, industrial-style grills, pizza ovens, smokers, and more. This emerald hue outdoor kitchen from Brown Jordan Outdoor Kitchens brings this year’s interior color trends outdoors. With areas for food preparation, serving guests, and even clean up, your outdoor kitchen will be a perfect spot for entertaining, or a daily dining option that gets the whole family outside this spring and summer, and beyond!
There are different reasons homeowners may want a kitchen remodel. Reasons for an update include outdated fixtures, dying appliances, awkward layouts, or a love of gourmet cooking. If you are a home chef, and your current kitchen is lackluster, here are considerations for a kitchen remodel.

Some home chefs claim a kitchen is only as good as its appliances. Many chefs prefer cooking on a gas range and would like more than four burners for cooking complex meals. Two or more ovens may be desirable, especially with various functions, like steam and convection. Commercial style refrigerators and freezers are also coveted. Glass doors on certain refrigerator models make it easy to see available ingredients. With stainless steel interiors and special air filtration, proper refrigeration elevates storing produce to gourmet cook’s status.

Ease of use and clean up are both essential. Two sinks, one for washing fruits and vegetables, and a deep sink for large pots and pans, are useful. Some people even prefer to have more than one dishwasher to streamline cleaning. The newest organizational features in cabinetry are a boon to home chefs. Roll out spice racks, pantry walls, and other specialty storage items keep everything at your fingertips. Hanging storage for pots, magnetic strips for knives, and countertop utensil storage are also helpful.

While countertop space and materials are important to home chefs, most of them are accustomed to a tight working triangle. Counter space means more to chefs than floor space. They aren’t going to walk laps in their kitchen, but they may need to roll out pasta onto the countertop!

Layers Upon Layers of Style

If you are remodeling or redecorating your home, one of the latest design trends is layering. It is not a new concept of design, but it is becoming wildly popular. You can layer different textures to bring depth and variety into a room.

• Layering rugs is a trending look in eclectic rooms, and it’s also a great way to stretch your budget. Take an expensive rug in a smaller size, and then place it in the center of a larger, less expensive rug. Anchor it down with a coffee table or ottoman and you have a look with depth.

• Use pillows and throws that vary in texture from your furniture’s upholstery. If furnishings are smooth, opt for textured throws, like fake fur, or geometric-patterned pillows. Geometric shapes create their own tactile looks, regardless of their finish.

• Layer pieces from different eras! With the mid-century modern-inspired style reemerging, it’s the perfect time to purchase pieces for a contemporary or transitional room of your home. Pairing antiques with the latest styles or finishes can also work. One added bonus of using vintage pieces is that upcycling is more sustainable than purchasing a brand-new piece.

• Layer with color. Color is ubiquitous in the home for 2020. If you have been holding back your enthusiasm for bold, bright, dramatic, and even moody color, now is your time to let loose! In the kitchen, consider using two-toned cabinetry, a colorful island, or splurge on the latest in bold appliances.

• Choose your common threads carefully. Make sure the staple patterns, colors, and objects for the room are ones you love. Layers make a space seem lived-in, like it has a soul. The commonalities that make it all actually work together are like threads holding the fabric of the design together.

One easy way to get started with layering is to create a mood board. There are online options available for this exercise, or you can use magazines and glue to create collage mood boards.
T.W. Ellis Recognized for Excellence in Building by MBIA

(continued from page 1)

Bathroom Remodel $50,000-$70,000

Project: Bowen Bathroom; Churchville, MD

This modern industrial style bathroom remodel has dark, but nuanced colors in its tile work and an expansive, two-person shower. The shower walls in this striking custom shower are tiled in Union tile, in Black Nickel. The shower floor is textured mosaic, and uses the same tile as the bathroom floor, which is Relevance, in Exact Black, installed in a diamond pattern.

Exterior Remodel

Project: Davitt Exterior; Easton, MD

As a part of altering this residence's layout and adding two additional bathrooms, we renovated the exterior. The addition of a screened porch facing the water, extended the family's outdoor living space. We replaced the roof with Landmark architectural shingles in Colonial Slate. New windows, and the addition of dormers created a striking change above the garage. In the backyard, we installed an aluminum spiral staircase leading up to the new roof top deck. The gorgeous blue siding is James Hardie, with a ColorPlus® finish, in Evening Blue.

Other

Project: VanHorn Bathroom and Laundry Room; Lutherville-Timonium, MD

Our goal was to create a beautiful and functional bathroom and laundry room. Our client selected 12 x 24, Dorado Plus, Enhanced, LVT flooring for the tile in the bathroom and laundry area. The shower wall tile is Bright Bevel Statuary with Mist grout. The accent tile is Grafite Superficci, Modulo Mosaic. The bathtub is an acrylic tub by Kohler with brushed chrome fixtures. The bathroom countertop, shower seat, and backsplash are all Cambria in the color Sea Grove. The vanity cabinets are from the Masterpiece® Line, in Fox Court Maple in the color Dove White.

We are so thankful to the Maryland Building Industry Association for this recognition of four of our remodeling projects last year! If you're looking for a quality, award-winning remodeling and building company, look no further than T.W. Ellis and get "Our Family Working Together with Yours."