

SHOWCASE AWARDS 2025

A Remodeling Awards Program Sponsored by NARI of Silicon Valley

OVERVIEW

Please read these FAQ's carefully as they shed light on any changes and resulting new processes. If you have additional questions or clarifications, please email the Chapter Executive Director at office@narisv.org.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. When is this year's deadline?

- The deadline to submit your Meta Award entries is **Friday, September 11, 2026 by 11:59 AM**

2. How do I enter the Meta Awards?

- To enter in the awards program, visit the [NARI Silicon Valley online entry portal](#) linked at the top of the page
- Enter your NARI National Login ID (member profile email) and NARI National password. If did not update last year, visit the Login Setup Page [Here](#). Follow the prompts and upload your forms, enter information relevant to your project, upload your project in a PDF format, and upload your jpeg/jpg images. Then you will be prompted to pay for your entry. The chapter offers helpful guidance materials from tutorial videos to step-by-step screenshot instructions found on the Meta & Showcase Awards Rules & Forms page on the chapter's website.

3. How do I make my entry on a computer?

- Entrants can use the NARI Silicon Valley's Meta Project Entry Templates* or Use Your Own Custom Entry Template that should include a cover sheet or section to note the current entry year and category name (e.g. 2026 Residential Bath) and up to 100 words summary explaining the remodel transformation from before to after. We suggest using PowerPoint, Publisher, Word, InDesign, or similar program to build an entry. (Note: this is the only document that the judges will see)
- *Our provided entry templates are user-friendly tools of Microsoft Word or PowerPoint to put your information all in one file. You are welcome to modify the orientation of the layout from Portrait to Landscape to best suit your needs. When you are satisfied with your work, **be sure to save**

as a PDF with the entry saved as category type only - e.g.

2026_MetaProject#_EntireHouse [Note: Can add a # - e.g. 1, 2, 3 - at the end of the entry title if multiple projects in same category. No company name should be noted on the entry name]

- *When ready to save your Word template, make sure your completed entry is set to final or no markup display so the instructional “Comments” fields to the right of the screen are not visible when save as PDF document.
- There are many helpful online guides for using these programs. If you get stuck, try using Microsoft’s help section, YouTube, or even do a Google search for “How do I do XYZ in PowerPoint?” for step-by-step instructions.

4. How do I get an entry number and how much does it cost?

- Entry numbers will be automatically-generated from the online platform.

Fees:

- i. \$135 for each individual entry/project team leader of a team entry
- ii. \$110 for additional team members (i.e. job collaborations from other NARI company members)
- iii. Annual Sponsors at the Silver, Gold and Platinum levels can use any available credits for complimentary Meta entry submissions. See the credits option on the payment page.
- iv. **Payment for all entries must be completed at the time of entry by project team leader.** *Fee reimbursement arrangements will need to be made between team members and the project team leader.*
- v. Entries can be paid for using the secured credit card option at the time of checkout or can submit a check payment* payable to NARI Silicon Valley and mailed to the chapter’s PO Box address. See options at Checkout.

5. Do I have to use a professional photographer to take the photos?

- Professional photos are not required, but better-quality photographs show the most detail and give a better impression overall. Remember, you are trying to convince a panel of judges that your entry should be selected, so even if you don’t use a professional, use the best quality photos possible, particularly for your “after” photos.

6. Do I have to include “before” photos, or will “after” photos alone be sufficient?

- “Before” photos are required. It is not possible to see transformations if photographs of how the area looked prior to remodeling are not included. Get in the habit of taking “before” pictures at the beginning of every

project, even if the space is just a shell. What began as an average project just might turn out to be your best work. Also, taking your “before” and “after” photos from the same angle helps the judges to see the project from the right perspective.

- Take photos for work-in-progress if it will help show the complexity of the process or the obstacles encountered.

7. What are the limitations to enhancing my photos?

- Any photo enhancement is limited to brightness, contrast, or sharpness. No items may be added or removed through photo enhancement techniques. Do not add or subtract items, or change the image in a way that may increase or decrease the value of the project.
- **Please inform your photographer of the above conditions, please notify the NARI office immediately if professional photographer’s enhancements are made beyond your control**

8. Where do I upload my images for each entry? e.g. photos, floor plans, and drawings

- You will be asked to upload your images twice as part of your entry process. Into the Image Upload section right below the Presentation Upload (this will only be used by NARI National for promotions and for the Meta Remodeling Awards slideshow)

9. Does the Photographers Release and Agreement and Awards Program Client Contractor Agreement need to be filled out for every entry?

- Yes, the Photographers Release and Agreement and Awards Program Client Contractor Agreement needs to be completely filled out for all entries.

10. How do I determine in which category to enter my project?

- Read the category criteria very carefully in the Categories listing and don't forget to check out the specialty categories that are very broad and cover unusual types of projects. Also be sure to verify dollar amounts if applicable.

11. (REMINDER) Can I enter a project in more than one category?

- Yes, the same project may be entered in one category or in multiple categories with additional individual entry fees (see bullet #4). If you have a large, multi-area project, and would like to enter just a portion of it, it's fine to break it down. For example, if your project included the remodel of an entire house, you can enter an Entire House category and enter a Kitchen category, an Interior category, and two Bathroom cat

12. Can I use NARI members from other Bay Area NARI chapters on my team?

- Yes, but they must be current members in good standing with that chapter, and this will be verified. Also, a NARI Silicon Valley member must be the team leader on that entry.

13. Can I get help putting together my entry?

- Yes! The NARI Silicon Valley Office will offer a training and best practices webinar and 1-on-1 tutorials for a limited time to guide entrants through the new online portal (OpenWater) to understand the assembly of their online submission(s). Email office@narisv.org to schedule a 1- on-1 appointment. In addition, we offer step-by-step screen shot instructions.

14. (IMPORTANT) How many NARI of Silicon Valley participation credits do I need to be eligible to enter in the Meta Awards?

- A company entry must have at least one member of your company receive 3 credits, but if individual project team members want to be listed on the award(s) they will independently need 3 additional participation credits. Credits for project team members are non-transferable (see Meta Participation Credits Requirements document or also find on the Meta & Showcase Awards Rules & Forms webpage). Credits must be attained from October of the previous year to August of the awards year - e.g. October 2025 – August 2026 for the 2026 awards year. **In other words, you must have completed this requirement for entry in the awards program! No late credits will be accepted beyond what is noted below.**

15. How do I recognize project team members within my company once they accrued their own 3 participation credits?

- If company would like to specifically list internal project lead(s) on an award, you must email the NARI Silicon Valley Office at office@narisv.org with this information: 1) Entry Number; 2) Name(s), and 3) Any Credentials, if desired. *A reminder that 3 independent participation credits need to be earned per bullet #14 above.*
- Please know this is not the same as a team member and should not be entered in the “team member” fields as this will incur a separate charge for each entry as it meant for other/external NARI company members.
- Remember to check the Meta Participation Credits Requirements document noted above as team members need to have participation credits to be acknowledged on the entry.
- ****The Remodeler of the Year Awards (RotYs) [formerly Contractor of the Year Awards (CotYs)] does not allow for internal project members to be listed on the award(s) like we do on the chapter level.****

16. When will I be notified of my Meta score(s) and judges’ feedback?

- The NARI office will release the entries' scores and feedback some date in early October. An email notification will be sent to the primary contact noted on the submissions. Entrants will need to log into the Meta portal to retrieve the information.

17. Are there geographic restrictions as to where my remodeling project was done?

- Yes, anywhere in greater San Francisco South Bay, including Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Mateo and Alameda counties. The project team must be an active member of a NARI chapter

18. How do I enter the RotY Awards for a chance at regional and national recognition?

- Once the chapter judging is complete, the NARI National Awards administrator will notify entrants of the availability to forward to National. This feature will only be available for entries that require no changes. Entries requiring additional editing will need to be submitted directly to National via a second submission and cannot roll-up.