



Big 50 (top 50 remodelers in the U.S.) - 2001

Remodeling May 2001 Niches The Big 50

John DeCiantis works in a picturesque sea village with a large fishing community where affluent homeowners have continued renovating their 18th-century houses. When they want a remodeler, they call on DeCiantis. In fact, he's made a name for himself doing difficult remodels. His company restored a 160-year old stone masonry church, put an addition on a local library, and completed a bookstore fire restoration. "We get a lot of calls for remodels other contractors won't do," DeCiantis says.

For the church remodel, DeCiantis' crew gutted the inside of the cut-block granite structure. They first removed pews, then photographed, numbered, and documented them. The crew pulled down the plaster walls and rebuilt them and replaced the floor. Most of the wood wainscoting was reused, but workers had to stain the few new panels to match the old wood patina.

DeCiantis has a fully equipped millwork shop, but, at this point, his crew does not have the time for shop work and now uses subs. The company also plans to open a showroom. All this contributes to DeCiantis' main goal of being 100 percent design/build. "People are willing to pay for it and you can control the project from the start increasing efficiency and having delighted customers." DeCiantis says.

rd of service. John is currently serving as President of the Builders Association of Eastern Connecticut, and this is not the first time he has been acknowledged for his accomplishments. John DeCiantis has been BAEC Remodeler of the Year a record three times, in 1998, 1999 and again in the year 2001. Professional Remodeler magazine ranked DeCiantis Construction among the "Top 50 Remodelers" in the country and John's company has won HOBI awards for a diverse and challenging array of projects including a dance studio in Ledyard, a kitchen remodel in Lyme, a second floor addition in a home in Stonington and a barn turned music studio in Lyme. In an effort to share ideas and learn from other remodelers around the country, John participates in a national remodelers group, similar to a "Builder 20" club. In 2001, his community efforts won him a "Good Neighbor of the Year" award, which recognized his Good Samaritan work with the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center.

Restoration~Design/Build