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The Best of NEW HAVEN

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New Haven, truly, is the place to be when it comes to Connecticut. With the best pizza pies in the nation, ocean views and a community of motivated, talented individuals to show for it, the area is a powerhouse for positivity. After careful consideration from a population of opinionated voters, the Best of New Haven results are in. All voting for this long-awaited reader's poll was conducted online, a record number of voters for this year's categories. Here, we celebrate a diversity of choices, so we've given our readers the luxury

of seeing the top three contenders for each category we offered. From restaurants, to barbershops, to the best activities in the summer sun, with what New Haven has to offer, there's something for everyone.

The people of New Haven have spoken, and what follows is a comprehensive list of the county's best in nearly every category you can possibly think of. Seriously, everything you need to know about the county is in here. Local flavor, services for the home, entertainment – we've got you covered.

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BY ALEX FISCHER

if you're in the market for a renovation or have a project on your mind, getting Jonathan Gordon on your side is your first step in the right direction. The effects of the pandemic changed a lot— for everyone—but one trend that seems to have stuck across New Haven County and the state is a larger emphasis on home improvement. Over the last few years, we've spent more time in our homes than ever. This has been cause for many people and families to pick up their lives and move elsewhere, or for others make the best of their spaces and change them in ways that allow them to feel most like home.

Remodeling CONTINUED ON PAGE 37

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Jonathan Gordon and Jonathan Rohner came together to pilot Design by the Jonathan's, an award-winning interior design firm based out of New Haven, CT. This year, the firm was recognized by Hearst Connecticut Media Group's reader's poll as Best Home Remodeler along with John F. Murphy Construction and Santoro Home Improvements. In light of all the changes in the home remodeling space, Design by the Jonathan's has cultivated more creativity than ever before, specializing their offerings to every client's taste and preference.

The custom services range from residential to commercial projects, including kitchens, home offices, bathrooms, additions, basements, lighting and interior design expertise encapsulating it all. Gordon and his team serve as the creative geniuses and the go-getter's of every project, with an unmatched ability to make every client's big idea into a reality.

Remodeling CONTINUED ON PAGE 47



Bathroom renovation by Design by the Jonathans. Photo contributed by Design by the Jonathans.









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"Connecticut is on the rise, and with that comes a massive boom of renovation, remodeling and making spaces home," Gordon said.

**"YOU HAVE ONE
LIFE TO LIVE,
LIVE IT THE WAY YOU
WANT TO LIVE IT."**

"We don't just have one style that we recycle, we develop designs specific to our clients taste," he continued. Gordon and his team of designers work to make the process as seamless as possible, utilizing with 3-D visuals to give clients a real idea of what their space can look like. The team then hands the project off to a team of well-informed builders, renovators or contractors to execute the vision.

Tony D'Agostino of Santoro Home Improvements has done a phenomenal job as well faring the changes in the home improvement industry, taking home one of the winning titles for New Haven's Best Home Remodeler. The custom design and building company specializes in home remodeling as well as construction for residential and commercial establishments. D'Agostino says his crew handles a handful of sizable projects, placing them in the middle of the spectrum between large national, commercial builders and a small group with a single pick-up truck.

As many families in and around New Haven spent quarantine inside their homes, it was impossible not to notice the shortcomings of certain spaces. This has motivated many homeowners to put more effort into home improvement, allowing Santoro Home Improvements to soar.



Kitchen renovation by Design by the Jonathans. Photo contributed by Design by the Jonathans.



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New Haven Register
READERS' POLL

Santoro Home Improvements has been responsible for the remodel of many magnificent homes and spaces, this includes additions, bathrooms, decks, basements, kitchens and more. D'Agostino says that home additions have been among the most popular projects of the last few years, primarily for families interested in moving in their elder relatives.

**"THERE'S NOTHING
COOKIE-CUTTER
ABOUT ANY OF
THE PROJECTS THAT
WE DO."**

TONY D'AGOSTINO
Santoro Home Improvements

As Santoro Home Improvements continues to evolve, members of the community make the wheels turn fast with their kind testimonials and referrals.

D'Agostino's advises the greater New Haven community to be intentional in their desire to change pieces of their homes, however, taking the time to validate a builder's credentials is essential. Do your research and due diligence, and you're sure to have a positive result.

For more information, visit www.thejonathans.com, www.santorobuilding.com.

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