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Renovations Unlimited wins Award for preservation work

D.C. Mayor Adrian Fenty presented the 2007 Mayor's Award for Excellence in Historic Preservation to Renovations Unlimited, Inc. for interior and exterior renovation and restoration of the Turkish ambassador's residence. Company President Donald Malnati accepted the award at the fifth annual event, which was held at the Atlas Performing Arts Center.

The restored mansion is an opulent 40,000-square-foot structure on Embassy Row off Sheridan Circle and Massachusetts Ave. NW at 1606 23rd St. N.W.

"Installing state of the art mechanical, electrical and HVAC systems posed the greatest challenge," Malnati said. "Renovating a historic structure that was built to house mechanical systems of the time, which, of course, did not include an air conditioning system or attendant ductwork, was a huge undertaking. A great deal of planning went into the redesign and implementation of the home's new systems, wiring and ductwork." The five-level structure, which features renaissance-style architecture, has a grand reception hall, a drawing room, a ballroom, kitchen areas, outdoor terraces, the ambassador's living quarters, and staff living and work space. The residence was one of the first in D.C., with an indoor swimming pool.

The Republic of Turkey, which has owned the property since 1936, selected architectural firm Archetype in 2001 to design the restoration and renovation.



MURILLO / MALNATI
group