

## CHEFMAKERS COOKING ACADEMY Beautification Award

Criteria: A Chamber business that has renovated and/or beautified its exterior and/or grounds; thereby contributing to the overall beautification of the community.

Already one of Southern California's most popular destinations for acclaimed and aspiring chefs, as well as those seeking the very finest cooking equipment, Chefmakers Cooking Academy first opened its doors and fired up its Wolf ovens last November. Designed to offer an atmosphere blending the high-end functionality of a culinary institute with the warmth and comfort of a residential kitchen, Chefmakers owes much of its appeal to noted architect Stanley Felderman, a Palisades resident and co-founder of Felderman+Keatinge Associates ([www.fkadesign.com](http://www.fkadesign.com)), the internationally honored firm which includes among its designs MTV Networks' West Coast headquarters in Santa Monica.

To create an exciting new look, the façade of the entire building was re-plastered, new floor-to-ceiling frameless glass installed as well as new front doors and awnings and dramatic, yet aesthetically pleasing backlit signage. To complete the design the sidewalk was replaced and borders of simple, but elegant river rock installed. The dramatic use of lighting helps enliven the street.

The intent of the design, as well the overall Chefmakers concept, was to help people of virtually all ages, backgrounds, interests, and skill levels speak to each other through the universal language of food. As a result, visitors and students at Chefmakers not only learn to improve their culinary prowess, but also how the very act of cooking can serve to greatly enhance social interaction, family bonding, and community spirit. As Chefmakers' founder Richard Klein says, "Our goal is to combine interactive cooking instruction with entertainment and social interaction. We'd like to make the experience one that will not only enhance appreciation for better culinary skills, but to provide the means to get to know each other better though cooking together." In addition to cooking classes, Chefmakers also hosts cooking parties for all occasions. Registering for classes is easy – Online at [www.chefmakers.com](http://www.chefmakers.com) or by calling (310) 459-9444.