AIA Los Angeles

A Chapter of the American Institute of Architects

35 Architecture Projects Awarded for Creativity, Audacity, and Longevity

Architecture Projects Honored at Downtown Event

LOS ANGELES—Projects ranging from advertising offices to an aerial tramway, from public schools to planetariums, were awarded by the American Institute of Architects/Los Angeles Chapter in the annual awards program, known to be one of the most competitive in the country. More than 400 projects were reviewed for the Design Awards, Next/LA Awards (for unbuilt work), and the new Decade Awards. Thirty-five projects were lauded by three panels of judges coming from LA's architectural community.

The winners will be announced during the AIA National Convention, at worLd pArty, a celebration of LA architecture on June 8th, from 6:30PM-11PM, at Olvera Street. "The Entries: AIA/LA Awards Exhibition" will display all submitted projects at Southern California Institute of Architecture (SCI-Arc), 960 E. 3rd St., Los Angeles, June 7-July 10. On June 9th, the AIA/LA will host a reception to celebrate the entries of this year's Award programs, from 6 to 9 PM. That same day, at 6PM, a panel discussion, "Who Says What Architecture Is?", will discuss and debate architecture in Los Angeles.

The Design Awards jury—Thom Mayne, FAIA, Morphosis; Chris Genik, AIA, Daly Genik Architects; and Sylvia Lavin, UCLA Department of Architecture & Urban Design—gave 13 honor awards to the following projects (jurors comments follow):

- Beijing Planetarium, Beijing, China, by amphibianArc

"This project is phenomenally beautiful and compelling in its thoroughness and attention to detail."

- Maximilian's Schell, Los Angeles, CA, by Ball-Nogues Design

"Here's a strong example of a simple idea utilizing state-of-the-art assemblage technology and narrative to create memorable public space."

- DROP: 41-LO Fielding, Los Angeles, CA, Darin Johnstone Architecture and Scott Parker

"We see beautiful choreography of light and shadow, which takes the mundane ceiling panel to a new and unpredictable level of resolve."

- Slash and Backslash, Culver City, CA, by Eric Owen Moss Architects

"This project puts an exclamation point on the 'everyday' in Los Angeles industrial complexes."

- No Good Television Reception Bar and Film Set, Beverly Hills, CA, by Gnuform

"It's an intensely engaging, sensual experience. It addresses a completely different sensibility."

- Keep off the Grass! Planar Landscape Phenomena, Los Angeles, CA, by Griffin Enright Architects

"A wonderful warped landscape on steroids that tries to make space that blows you away."

- Hill House, Pacific Palisades, CA, by Johnston Marklee & Associates

"The invention of this house is the examination of the building envelope."

- Children's Museum of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA, by Koning Eizenberg Architecture

"It has a sound urban agenda under tight budget conditions, and it does not condescend to children."

- Gardner 1050, West Hollywood, CA, by Lorcan O'Herlihy Architects

"This project has clarity and integrity, and it represents the next project type where discussion of architecture in this city will be advanced."

- Desert House, Desert Hot Springs, CA, Marmol Radziner + Associates

"We're seeing the emergence of a technology that will be with us in the future. This project sets a high standard for the pre-fab house."

- Endeavor Talent Agency Screening Room, Beverly Hills, CA, by NMDA, Inc.

"This project fully exploits the recent shift of computational design to interior architecture. It is skillfully crafted with no missed opportunities."

- Inotera Headquarters & Production Facility, Taipei, Taiwan, by tec PMC., Inc.

"It's a skilled building that exploits the potential of what a curtain wall can be. The façade and skin are amazing."

- Bamboo Bridge for "Here There be Monsters", Los Angeles, CA, by workshop LEVITAS

"This very inventive project comprises materials that are from different worlds, but that coexist nicely here."

The Next LA Awards were established to acknowledge work that is not yet built. Giving 10 honor awards were jurors Eric Own Moss, FAIA, Eric Owen Moss Architects; Nick Seierup, FAIA, Perkins + Will; John Enright, AIA, Griffin Enright Architects; Rick Gooding, Chu + Gooding Architects; and Jeffrey Inaba, HOLA.

- Portland Aerial Tram, Portland, OR, by agps architecture

"It offers a very clear design solution that displays lots of dexterity, focus. and engineering know-how."

- Camino Nuevo Charter Academy High School, Los Angeles, CA, by Daly Genik Architects

"This project combines an unusual site, an unusual charter school program, and an unusual architectural language."

- American Indian Cultural Center, Oklahoma City, OK, by Johnson Fain

"Its forms suggest that the project is derived from deeper meanings. It isn't jargon architecture. It strives for a genuine language."

- Herb Alpert Educational Village, Santa Monica, CA, by Koning Eizenberg Architecture

"We embrace this as optimistic architecture, and praise its frugality and economy of means."

- Ministructure 16/Book Bar, Jinhua, China, by Michael Maltzan Architecture

"This pavilion is architecturally meaningful on many levels. There is a consistency of the metaphor in the way the building's architecture is executed."

- Pirelli RE Offices, Milan, Italy, by Michael Maltzan Architecture

"The recombination and internalization of the building's exterior skin is very exciting."

- Mandeville Place, Philadelphia, PA, by Richard Meier & Partners Architects LLP

"This is the type of building that can push the future pro-formas of residential hi-rise developers everywhere."

- DIAMONDHOUSE, Santa Monica, CA, by XTEN Architecture

"This house derives its strength from the relentlessness of the design intention, which ultimately becomes transformational."

- Mary's Guest House, Austin, TX, by Yazdani Studio of Cannon Design

"The design displays a welcome economy of means. This small building has a compelling sense of urban scale."

- University of California, San Diego, Price Center Expansion, La Jolla, CA, by Yazdani Studio of Cannon Design

"It creates unique and exciting form not by being arbitrary, but by responding to an incredible variety of program conditions and requirements."

New for 2006 only, the Decade Awards were established to honor the "best of the best" in conjunction with the AIA National Convention. Only projects that had previously won AIA/LA Design Awards were eligible to enter, and were judged by Art Center President Richard Koshalek, Urban Partners Principal Daniel Rosenfeld, Hon. AIA/LA, and architectural journalist Joseph Giovannini, who gave three Honor, four Merit, and five Citation Awards to the following:

- O'Neill Guesthouse, West Los Angeles, CA, by Lubowicki Lanier Architecture (Honor)

"A lot of thought and craft went into this remarkable little project."

- Diamond Ranch High School, Pomona, CA, by Morphosis (Honor)

"This is a world-class example of rethinking creative ideas."

- Steinhüde Sea Recreational Facility, Steinhüde, Germany, by Randall Stout Architects, Inc. (Honor)

"This is the kind of work we want to encourage going forward."

- Samitaur, Culver City, CA, by Eric Owen Moss Architects (Merit)

"The phenomenon of what this project represents is worth noting."

- L.A. Design Center, Los Angeles, CA, by John Friedman Alice Kimm Architects, Inc. (Merit)

"This project is a successful intervention and cause for hope and opportunity in a challenging neighborhood."

- Solar Umbrella, Venice, CA, by Pugh + Scarpa Architects (Merit)

"Total architecture is expressed here, particularly in the architecturalization of the solar elements."

- Ground Zero Advertising Agency, Marina del Rey, CA, by Shubin + Donaldson Architects (Merit)

"This gutsy design urbanizes the interiors and eschews the notion of the corner office."

- University of California Riverside Fine Arts Building, Riverside, CA, by Israel Callas Shortridge (design architects),: Annie Chu, AIA (project designer), and Harley Ellis Devereaux (executive architect) (Citation)
- Sunscope: Ehrlich Residence, Santa Monica, CA, by John Friedman Alice Kimm Architects, Inc. (Citation)
- COop Editorial, Santa Monica, CA, by Pugh + Scarpa Architects (Citation)
- Reactor Films, Santa Monica, CA, by Pugh + Scarpa Architects (Citation)
- Beursplein, Rotterdam, The Netherlands, by The Jerde Partnership (Citation)

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