



AIA Miami

A Chapter of the American Institute of Architects

NEWS RELEASE

AIA Miami Presents 16 Outstanding Design Awards In its 53rd Annual Design Awards Competition

MIAMI – The American Institute of Architects Miami Chapter (AIA Miami) will present 16 awards for outstanding design and 29 community, trade and professional awards to architects, designers, students and community leaders in its 53rd Annual Design Awards Competition.

AIA Miami officials introduced the winners at AIA Miami Celebrate Design Awards Party at the Sky Terrace of the Bank of America building Saturday, November 17, with nearly 500 design professionals, students and others in attendance. The design awards are part of AIA Miami's Celebrate Architecture 2007, a series of events during November focusing on architecture and design. For a full schedule of Celebrate Architecture events, go to www.aiamiami.com or call AIA Miami at 305-448-7488.

Arquitectonica, Oppenheim Architecture + Design, Spillis Candela DMJM and Mateu Architecture were all multiple winners in the AIA Miami Awards. Arquitectonica received four awards of excellence (Menara Karya, Jakarta, Indonesia, Sarasota Herald-Tribune Headquarters, The Bronx Museum and Art – architecture; and Related Group Corporate Office Interiors – interior design) and one award of merit (Exaltis Tower of La Defense, Paris, France - architecture); Oppenheim won three awards of excellence (Enea Headquarters – architecture; and San Silencio, Costa Rica, and Dubai Promenade Marina & Beach Tower – both unbuilt); and Spillis Candela DMJM (City of Miami College of Police/Miami-Dade School of Law Studies, Homeland Security and Forensic Studies – unbuilt; and R&G Financial Corporation – interior design); and Mateu Architecture, Inc. (Ketal Showroom – architecture; and Presentation Studio and Apartment, architecture - architecture) won two awards of merit each.

Others honored with design awards of merit were Kobi Karp Architecture + Interior Design for La Perla Condominium – architecture; Max Strang Architecture for Kampong Educational Center – architecture; The Gordon Center for Research in Medical Education – interior design); and Upstairs Studio, Inc., for Casa Chiara – unbuilt.

Bernard Zyscovich, AIA, was honored with the prestigious AIA Silver Medal Award for outstanding contributions to architecture and AIA. Fullerton Diaz Architects received the Firm of the Year Award. Luis O. Revuelta, AIA, is the Architect of the Year, Alejandro Bonet, AIA, Interior Designer of the Year, Max W. Strang, AIA, Young Architect of the Year and Rick D. Ruiz, Associate AIA, Associate of the Year.

AIA Miami also honored two local mayors – Manny Diaz of Miami and Don Slesnick of Coral Gables. Diaz attended to receive the Environmental Preservation Award; Slesnick received the Governmental Leadership Award.

AIA Miami also honored revered Miami architect Jorge S. Arango, AIA, with a Lifetime Achievement in Design Award in a posthumous tribute at the November 17 event.

Dr. Eduardo Padron, Miami-Dade College president, received the Community Leadership Award. Dr. Stacey Mancuso, principal of the Design and Architecture Senior High (DASH), was given the Education Leadership Award. Architectural students of the year are Olivier Monfort from Florida International University, Mark Schreiber of the University of Miami, Giancarlo Belledone of Miami-Dade College and Marcela Ramirez, DASH. Roberto Rovira is the Landscape Architecture Educator of the Year.

Ralph Sanchez is the Developer of the Year and Bovis Land Lease is the Contractor of the Year. Hollywood Woodwork is the Subcontractor of the Year and Luis Aguirre, PE, is the Consulting Engineer of the Year. Dean Paul Diaz receives the Presidential Award.

Raul L. Rodriguez received the Public Service Award, Jaime Correa the Urban Design Award and Mark Smith, AIA, the Historic Preservation Award. J. L. Beattie, AIA, received the LEED Certified of the Year Award.

Marilyn Nepomechie, FAIA, and Carlos Casuscelli won AIA Miami's Award for Writing about Architecture. Carlos Domenech is the Architectural Photographer of the Year.

Deans and officials of local architecture programs recognized at the event included Dean Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk, University of Miami School of Architecture; Adam Drisin, director, Florida International University School of Architecture; Jose Lozano and Prof. Mario F. Ortega, Miami-Dade College; and Dr. Stacey Mancuso, DASH.

AIA Miami annually selects a panel of judges outside Florida to evaluate the entries and choose the winners. This year, the AIA Miami Design Awards were judged by a team of Chicago architects.

Sponsors of the AIA Miami Design Night Party are Benjamin Moore Paints, Daniels Kashtan Downs Robertson & Magathan Attorneys at Law, T-Square, Digital Drafting, Spine 3-D, mobiusinteractive and Crowther & Company Communications.

"The AIA Miami Design Award winners once again show the range of creativity, community awareness, and expertise of South Florida architects," said Bernard Horovitz of Bermello Ajamil, president-elect of AIA Miami who chaired the design awards program and the awards party.

"The AIA Miami Design Awards, a time-tested competition, is one of the longest-running and the most prestigious design award programs in the region," he said. "It is also a great way for architects and designers to receive peer recognition of their talent, creativity and success."

Horovitz will take the helm as president of AIA on January 1, 2008. Other new officers who will be introduced at the AIA Miami Celebrate Design Awards Party are Natividad Soto, AIA, Ferguson Glasgow Schuster Soto, president-elect; Cricket Snow, AIA, Zyscovich Inc., and Virgilio Campaneria, HKS Inc., vice presidents; and Hector Fernandez, AIA, Fullerton Diaz, secretary-treasurer. New board members are J. Beattie, AIA, Javier Cordova, AIA, George E. Peon, AIA, Yamil Tamayo, AIA, Leonard Townsend, AIA, Joseph R. Benesh, Associate AIA, and Lillian T. Chiu, Associate AIA. State directors are Javier F. Cruz, AIA, Martin A. Diaz-Yabor, AIA, Juan Crespi, AIA, Jorge S. Kuperman, AIA, and Angel C. Saqui, FAIA. Executive director is Mike Brazlavsky.

The AIA Miami Celebrate Design Night event included all of South Florida's design professionals – and everyone who loves art and design. Guests gathered at a cocktail reception at 6:30 p.m. on the Sky Terrace of the Bank of America building, where they first viewed an exhibit by students of the Florida International University and University of Miami schools of architecture, the Miami-Dade College architecture program, and DASH student exhibit. AIA Miami officials presented awards in the Sky Lobby before dinner and dancing outside on the Sky Terrace, overlooking Miami.

Selected images and winning projects will be exhibited at the AIA Miami office at 275 University Drive, Coral Gables, and can be viewed on the AIA Miami website at www.aiamiami.com.

For more information on the awards, Celebrate Architecture 2006 events, or AIA Miami, contact Mike Brazlavsky, executive director, at 305-448-7488 or visit the AIA Miami website at www.aiamiami.com.

AIA Miami, which will host more than 25,000 members of AIA during the international convention in Miami in 2010, has nearly 700 members and offers professional development and support for member architecture professionals in South Florida.

AIA national organization, which is celebrating its 150th anniversary in 2007, represents more than 80,000 architects in the United States. From a small group of professionals sharing a meal at Delmonico's in New York City in 1857 and the chartering of the first AIA chapter in 1867, the American Institute of Architects has grown from 37 members in the original New York chapter to more than 80,000 members in 300 chapters nationwide. AIA has become a robust, focused organization providing guidance, service, and standards to architects around the world. The AIA continues to strive for quality, consistency, and safety in the built environment and to serve as the voice of architecture. The first AIA annual meeting was held in October 1867 in New York, with those first few members; the 2005 AIA annual meeting in Las Vegas had nearly 23,000 attendees.

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