

For Immediate Release – Embargoed Until 6:00 P.M. March 6th, 2008

Media Contact:

Melissa Urcan

504-525-8320

urcan@aianeworleans.org

American Institute of Architects New Orleans Announces Recipients of the 2008 Design Awards

New Orleans, LA (March 6th, 2008) – The New Orleans chapter of the American Institute of Architects has announced the recipients of the 2008 Design Awards. Another record breaking year for entries, eight were chosen out of over 70 to receive awards of honor and merit.

This year's awards theme of '*Architecture Matters*' reflects AIA New Orleans' aim to continue raising awareness of why architecture matters. "It is clear that it takes the efforts of not only great designers and their teams, but that of great civic leaders, business leaders, and a myriad of individuals working in harmony to achieve important works of architecture. When done well, the result is a sustainable, beautiful, working, healthy built environment that serves the people and planet in which we live," said AIA New Orleans Executive Director, Melissa Urcan.

The awards were presided over AIA New Orleans President Richard Fullerton, AIA, Design Awards Chair Angela O'Byrne, AIA, and featured several prominent keynote speakers including Dawn Watson-Romero, Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism.

Secretary Dawn Watson-Romero praised the architecture community for its key role in the rebuilding process: "Good architecture is very important to this city. Not only does it communicate prosperity and a progressive attitude to the rest of the nation, it also reflects the strength and willingness of the New Orleans' community to overcome the hurdles left in the aftermath of Katrina." She also commended AIA New Orleans as "a body of forward-thinking individuals who have continued to ensure that the integrity of New Orleans' precious architectural heritage is not lost."

AIA New Orleans President Richard Fullerton, AIA, said, "The amount of entries we received this year was overwhelming. I think it sends an important message to the people of New Orleans that our members are committed to the rebuilding and restoration of this great city."

"This year we feel very fortunate to have a jury with such prestige," said Richard Fullerton, AIA.

This year's jury was comprised of three internationally recognized architects: Sylvia Lavin, Professor of Architectural History and Theory at UCLA; Eric Owen Moss, FAIA, Eric Owen Moss Architects; and Peter Zellner, Associate AIA.

Sylvia Lavin shared her perspective on the Design Awards and the jury process: "I feel privileged to be a member of this jury. Architecture has always been a machine for inventing novelty. This year we reviewed over seventy designs in several categories. In the end we chose the winning designs that best reflect the year's overall theme in their respective categories."

About AIA:

AIA New Orleans is a nonprofit organization comprised of nearly 400 professional architects and connected to the national chapter of 80,000 professional architects worldwide. Founded in 1910, AIA New Orleans' mission is to represent, educate and serve the architecture profession and entire community as concerns the built environment. The chapter hosts more than 35 different events each year for its members and the public. These events include lecture series, continuing education classes, building tours, architecture exhibitions, our annual design awards and DesCours, an eight-day contemporary architecture and art festival that explores the newest in design and technology. To learn more please visit, www.aianeworleans.org.

American Institute of Architects New Orleans 2008 Design Award Winners:

Award of Honor

- 1) Master Planning and Urban Design**
Award of Honor: Reinventing the Crescent
New Orleans, LA
Eskew+Dumez+Ripple

New Orleans has long been dependent on its majestic river. The banks of the Mississippi have served many purposes throughout the city's rich history. This project proposes a plan to redevelop six miles along the Mississippi River, from Jackson Ave. to the Holy Cross levee.



2) Architecture Award of Honor: The Rebuild Center

New Orleans, LA

Wayne Troyer Architecture

With an outreach objective to serve 250 to 300 people per day, this facility is a social service and recovery center for the growing transient population of New Orleans in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.



3) Residential Award of Honor: Lowerline Street Residence

New Orleans, LA

Bild Design

Aiming at introducing a progressive affordable housing type to an urban perimeter zone of New Orleans, this newly constructed, two-family prototype capitalizes on vertical development to gain living space and an extended view to the Mississippi River.



4) Projects Award of Honor: Make It Right House
New Orleans, LA
Eskew+Dumez+Ripple

New Orleans' current housing crisis has created the need for both cost-effective and sustainable living. With its low construction costs, this highly energy efficient design plans to accommodate New Orleans' low-income residents with affordable housing.



Award of Merit

1) Historic Preservation/ Restoration/ Rehabilitation Award of Merit:
The Hammond Train Depot Restorations
Hammond, LA
Holly and Smith Architects, APAC

Upon receiving a donation, the Hammond Chamber of Commerce commissioned the complete restoration of the historical train depot, built in 1912. The project involved the restoration of the exterior facade and adaptive reuse of the interiors.



2) Interior Architecture Award of Merit: Gallery Bienvenu
New Orleans, LA
Ledbetter Fullerton Architects

This project aimed to renovate an outdated art gallery to better accommodate exhibits of large scale paintings and sculpture along with a new demand for multi-media installations.



**3) Architecture Award of Merit:
L.I.T.E. (Louisiana Immersive Technology Enterprise)**
Lafayette, LA
Eskew+Dumez+Ripple

A cooperative endeavor between the Lafayette Economic Development Authority (LEDA) and the University of Louisiana Lafayette, the Louisiana Immersive Technology Enterprise resulted in this 62,000 sq. ft. technology center. This center will provide unprecedented research and development opportunities utilizing computer visualization technologies for a wide range of potential clients.



4) Projects Award of Merit: NOLA Shotgun LOFThouse
New Orleans, LA
Wayne Troyer Architect

The NOLA Shotgun LOFThouse reinvents Louisiana time-proven typology with an affordable, sustainable and innovative new prototype rooted on the landscape.



###