

August 3, 2009  
**For Immediate Release**

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**AIA New Orleans Celebrates the 11<sup>th</sup> Year of Canstruction©**  
**Event Provides *Food and Shelter* to Those in Need**

**NEW ORLEANS (October 2<sup>nd</sup>– October 11<sup>th</sup> , 2009)** AIA New Orleans will be hosting a Gala at Canal Place on October 3<sup>rd</sup> to kick off Canstruction©, a national charitable event that invites teams of architects and designers from cities across the nation to explore a creative way of fighting hunger. The local, multidisciplinary teams build extraordinary structures made entirely from canned and other non-perishable food items which are donated to the Second Harvest Food Bank of Greater New Orleans and Acadiana after the event and disseminated to agencies serving people in need. An awards ceremony and silent auction will be held during the gala which benefits AIA New Orleans' Architect Pairing Program. The structures will remain on display to the public at The Shops at Canal Place through October 11<sup>th</sup>.

Canstruction© New Orleans is an innovative charitable event that is celebrating its eleventh year and the more than half-a-million pounds of food raised since its inception. The participating teams, drawn from design, construction, and business communities, design the structures in advance and have twelve hours to build the designs on the retail floors of Canal Place. Local grocery store Breaux Mart provides food items at cost and many local companies participate as monetary sponsors to help cover the cost of the structures for individual teams. The Canstruction© event generates enough food for the Second Harvest Food Bank of Greater New Orleans and Acadiana to feed hundreds of hungry families throughout the year.

The Gala will be held on the third floor of The Shops at Canal Place from 8-11 pm on October 3<sup>rd</sup> and will feature an awards ceremony to honor the most creative structures juried by local leaders and personalities including City Council President, Arnie Fielkow. Tickets for the Gala are \$15-\$20 for AIA members; \$25 for the general

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public. Entertainment will be provided by Judy Spellman and Company, with food and drinks provided by numerous local restaurants and distributors including Salvatore's, The Melting Pot, Juan's Flying Burrito, Liberty's Kitchen, Slice, Zea Rotisserie and Grill, The Pelican Club, and Savvy Gourmet. A silent auction will be held during the event featuring unique items donated from local retailers and organizations including the CAC, KV Work Space, the New Orleans Hornets, International House Hotel, Hotel Monteleone, and the Westin Hotel. All proceeds from the Canstruction© Gala will benefit the Architect Pairing Program, an outreach effort by AIA New Orleans. The Architect Pairing Program, which began in 2006 and is currently being staffed and revamped, pairs in need homeowners and businesses with design professionals.

Sponsors for this year's event include New Orleans Homes and Lifestyles, Frischhertz Electric Co., The Vinyl Institute, Broadmoor, Consulting Engineers Inc., Jim Stone Co., New Orleans Reproductions, Mazetti Nash, Lipsey Burch, Ridgways, Shrenk and Peterson, and Southern Eagle.

The public is invited to attend the Gala in support of these commendable endeavors. Tickets can be purchased from [www.aianeworleans.org](http://www.aianeworleans.org) or by calling 504-525-8320. The structures can also be viewed by the public October 3 - 11 at The Shops at Canal Place during regular mall hours.

**About AIA New Orleans:**

*AIA New Orleans is a non-profit organization comprised of over 400 professional architects, and is a component of the national organization whose membership includes 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 60 different events each year for its members and the public, including a lecture series provided in partnership with Tulane School of Architecture, continuing education classes, building tours, architecture exhibitions, an annual architecture film presented with the New Orleans Film Society, an annual Design Awards program and an annual architecture and art event, "DesCours." Most recently, AIA New Orleans opened the 'AIA New Orleans Center for Design' which serves its members and the public through offering architecture and design education opportunities in the forms of lectures, a study center, special events, and more. AIA New Orleans Center for Design is also the only dedicated architecture and design exhibition space in the state of Louisiana.*

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