

AIA New Orleans Celebrates the 12th Year of Canstruction©
Event Provides *Food and Shelter* to Those in Need

NEW ORLEANS (October 1st– October 10th , 2010) AIA New Orleans will be hosting a Gala with the theme 'Serving up Local Flavor' at Canal Place on October 2nd 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 10th.

Canstruction© New Orleans is an innovative charitable event that is celebrating its' twelfth year and the more than 720,000 pounds of food raised since its inception. The fourteen 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 2nd and will feature an awards ceremony to honor the most creative structures juried by local leaders and personalities. Tickets for the Gala are \$15-\$20 for AIA members; \$25 for the general public. Entertainment will be provided by Creole

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String Beans, with food and drinks provided by numerous local restaurants and distributors including Somethin' Else Café, Crescent Pie and Sausage, The Melting Pot, Juan's Flying Burrito, Liberty's Kitchen, Slice, and Chevy's. A silent auction will be held during the event featuring unique items donated from local retailers and organizations including the VOODOO Experience VIP passes, Mignon Faget, The Roosevelt Hotel, the New Orleans Hornets, International House Hotel, Michalopolous, Terrence Sanders and much more. All proceeds from the Construction© 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 non-profit businesses with design professionals.

Sponsors for this year's event include Landis Construction Co, Daltile, Jim Stone Co., Alexander & Sanders Insurance, Letterman's Blue Print and Supply Co., Julien Engineering and Consulting, Oschner Health System, The Lemoine Company, LLC., Shields Mott Lund LLP, Glazers, Ridgway's, 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 or by calling 504-525-8320. The structures can also be viewed by the public October 2 - 10 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 70 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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