

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



AWARDS GIVEN IN PRESTIGIOUS AIA LOUISIANA DESIGN COMPETITION

The American Institute of Architects Louisiana affiliate awarded four honor awards, four Merit Awards and one Members' Choice Award in its annual Design Competition. The awards were presented at the AIA Louisiana Design Conference Awards Luncheon, held in New Orleans on September 5.

A total of 63 design projects by architects throughout Louisiana were entered in the prestigious Design Competition. AIA members attending the conference select the Members' Choice Award.

Receiving an Honor Award and the Members' Choice Award was Tulane City Center of New Orleans for the Grow Dat Youth Farm in New Orleans. Other Honor Award winners were Eskew+Dumez+Ripple of New Orleans for two projects – the Civic Theatre Restoration and Crescent Park, both in New Orleans; and Trahan Architects of New Orleans for the Louisiana State Museum and Sports Hall of Fame in Natchitoches.

Awards of Merit went to Eskew+Dumez+Ripple for the Rosa F. Keller Library & Community Center; Post Architects + EOA Architects of Baton Rouge for the Mid City Gardens Activity Center and Residential Development in Baton Rouge; and studioWTA of New Orleans for 5940 Magazine. Receiving an Award of Merit for master planning/urban design was Waggonner & Ball Architects of New Orleans for the Greater New Orleans Urban Water Plan.

Following are descriptions of the winning Honor Award projects:

HONOR AND MEMBERS' CHOICE AWARD

Tulane City Center | Grow Dat Youth Farm

The project uses seven recycled shipping containers and steel trusses to create a large covered outdoor classroom and supporting spaces to serve as an agricultural facility for high school students. Agricultural techniques such as water managed on-site, crop irrigation, waste water treatment and bio-remediating landscape elements were integrated into the design. It included 4,800 square feet of covered outdoor space and 880 square feet of enclosed space. The judges commented, "This is very inventive and responsible architecture using a limited material palette. It is created with a very light hand although it is certainly bright, welcoming and urban."

HONOR AWARD

Eskew+Dumez+Ripple | Civic Theatre Restoration

The 800-seat theatre in downtown New Orleans was renovated to stabilize the condition of the building and add components such as multiple bar venues, standing, lobby and waiting areas. Wrapped in an ornate pattern and textural white finishes, the new spaces establish a romantic, ephemeral aesthetic of the historical building. The judges commented, "The restoration project leaves just enough authentic history in place to allow the space to feel its age, and at the same time uses light and pattern to transform the space into a completely modern venue."

HONOR AWARD

Eskew+Dumez+Ripple | Crescent Park

The 1.4-mile park along the Mississippi River includes bike paths, playgrounds, a dog run and adaptive reuse of two industrial wharfs, along with native landscaping. The park employs alternative energy resources that make it self sufficient. The judges commented, "This project stood out as a model for cities to create new civic spaces stitched together without creating a long term financial burden."

HONOR AWARD

Trahan Architects | Louisiana State Museum and Sports Hall of Fame

The 28,000 square foot building design interconnects athletic and the cultural/historical fabric of the region. The pleated copper exterior panels allude to the shutter and clapboard of nearby plantations, and compliment the curvaceous interior within the building. The dynamic foyer is sculpted out of 1,100 cast stone panels, and a veranda overlooks the city square, connecting the interior to the public realm. The judges commented, "The sensual cast stone panels and the rigorous detailed copper skin play off one another in exciting and dynamic ways. The building embodies a compelling experiment in juxtaposing two contrasting finish/surface materials."

MERIT AWARD

Eskew+Dumez+Ripple | Rosa F. Keller Library & Community Center:

This 10,000 square foot 1917 home was restored into a contemporary library and addition for community use. A small glazed lobby is the minimal link between the original home and addition, and transitions the architecture. The courtyard acts as a respite, and the library components pinwheel around the courtyard. The judges commented, "The exterior maintains a respectful attitude toward earlier architecture, and the interiors create engaging public spaces."

MERIT AWARD

Post Architects and EOA Architects | Mid City Gardens Activity Center and Residential Development

This project includes six buildings with 13,507 square feet of enclosed community space, along with 55,275 square feet of residential space. Located in a low-income area, it features 60 units of affordable housing with covered parking. The activity center provides for fitness classes, tenant/retail space, meeting space and administration, with a shared courtyard and vegetated green roof. The judges commented, "This project achieves a lot on a modest budget: to act as a sustainable, healthy housing model while exhibiting a commitment to building a community."

MERIT AWARD

studioWTA | 5940 Magazine

This seven-unit condominium building references both its historic setting on New Orleans' Magazine Street, and maintains a jewel-like quality in proportion and detailing. It includes a balcony, trellis, a shared courtyard, large windows to maximize light, and awnings to diminish solar heat gain. The units feature intricate stonework, natural wood ceilings and private exterior spaces. The judges commented, "It creates an elegant volume that doesn't overwhelm its historic context, creating a design strategy that appears very livable, crisp and comfortable."

MERIT AWARD

Waggoner & Ball Architects | Greater New Orleans Urban Water Plan

The team led an international network of experts in water management, landscape and urban design to create a water management strategy. The plan broadens hurricane protection, includes internal water management, and strengthens corridors, providing a working guide of water management for the next 50 years. The judges commented, "The project develops new public space around new water infrastructural projects, and represents a grand vision that is both pragmatic and beautiful."

###

Since 1857, the AIA has represented the professional interests of America's architects. As AIA members, nearly 83,000 licensed architects, emerging professionals, and allied partners express their commitment to excellence in design and livability in our nation's buildings and communities. Members adhere to a code of ethics and professional conduct to assure the client, the public, and colleagues of an AIA-member architect's dedication to the highest standards in professional practice.

For more information, see <http://www.aiala.com>.