



**AIA Miami**

A Chapter of the American Institute of Architects

## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **AIA Miami Presents 14 Outstanding Design Awards In its 55th Annual Design Awards Competition**

**MIAMI** – The American Institute of Architects Miami Chapter (AIA Miami) has presented 14 awards for outstanding design projects and 25 professional honors to architects, designers, students and community leaders in its 55th Annual AIA Miami Design Awards.

AIA officials announced the winners at AIA Miami Celebrate Architecture +Design gala and student exhibit at the Miami Event Space in the MiMo District recently, with nearly 300 design professionals, students and others in attendance. The design awards are part of AIA Miami's Celebrate Architecture + Design 2009, a series of 34 events during November focusing on architecture and design. Most of the lectures, tours, exhibits, receptions and other events are free and all are open to the public. For a full calendar of events, go to [www.aiamiami.com](http://www.aiamiami.com).

AIA Miami received more than 125 entries in the design competition, and eight different firms received awards for specific projects. The institute presented multiple design excellence awards to three of those firms: Shulman + Associates, with an Excellence in Architecture Award and two Awards of Excellence in Architecture for Unbuilt Designs; Max Strang Architecture Inc. for two Awards of Excellence in Architecture; and Zyscovich Architects for an Award of Excellence in Architecture for Unbuilt Designs and an Honorable Mention Award in Architecture.

Martin Diaz-Yabor, AIA, received two prestigious honors, the AIA Silver Medal, for leadership in community activities and service that has directly benefited the profession or community, and the Architect of the Year Award. Miguel A. (Mike) Rodriguez, AIA, received the Lifetime Achievement Award.

AIA Miami annually selects a panel of judges outside Florida to evaluate the entries and select the winners. This year, AIA Miami Design Awards judges, all professionals in New York City, were Calvin Tsao, FAIA, principal of Tsao & McKown, president of the Architectural League of New York and a past officer of the AIA New York Chapter; William C. Louie, FAIA, principal of Kohn Pederson Fox Associates (KPF), whose projects include the award-winning Espirito Santo building in Miami; and Kate Orff, founding principal of Scape Studio, a board member of the Architectural League of New York and a past steering committee member of AIA New York Chapter. Tsao and Louis are both AIA Fellows.

Excellence in Architecture Awards went to Shulman + Associates for the Rubell Family Collection and Residence in Miami; AECOM for Cayman International School; Max Strang Architecture Inc. for the Latterner Residence; and Max Strang Architecture Inc. for the Stein Residence.

Zyscovich received an Honorable Mention in Architecture Award for Pine Jog Elementary and Florida Atlantic University Environmental Education Center.

The Excellence in Interior Design Award was presented to NC-Office (Cristina Canton, Peter Nedev, Elizabeth Cardona and Niklay Nedev) for the Bustelo Coffee Shop.

Awards of Excellence in Architecture for Unbuilt Designs went to Shulman + Associates for The Look Inn, Miami Beach; Shulman + Associates for Soho Beach House, Miami Beach; Mateu Architecture Inc. for Casa Sky Valley in Georgia; HF Architect (Hector Fernandez, AIA) for Housepod; and Zyscovich for Miami Senior High School.

Arquitectonica won the Test of Time Award for The Atlantis condominium on Brickell Avenue, which also won AIA Florida's Test of Time Award statewide earlier this year.

The Excellence in Student Design Award Undergraduate Upper Division was awarded to Madeline Gannon and Mario Menendez of Florida International University for New Havana Waterfront. The Excellence in Student Design Award Undergraduate Lower Division went to Zaira Pourier of Miami-Dade College for Museo de la Libertad, Havana, Cuba.

AIA Miami Professional Honor Awards were also presented to Joseph Benesh, AIA, Young Architect of the Year; In Design, Inc., Interior Design Firm of the Year; Curtis & Rogers Design Studio, Inc., Landscape Architect of the Year; Rilea Group, Developer of the Year; Javier A. Betancourt, AICP, Urban Designer of the Year; Cricket Snow, AIA, Public Service Award; Skanska Construction Company, General Contractor of the Year; Bill O'Connell & DeSimone Consulting & Engineers, Consulting Engineer of the Year; Friends of Miami Marine Stadium, Historic Preservation Award; Marilys Nepomechie, FAIA, Sustainable Design Educator; Sebastian Eilert, AIA, Sustainable Design Architect; William R. Nash, Inc., Subcontractor of the Year.

Subatra Basu, AIA, Governmental Leadership Award; Adam M. Drisin of Florida International University, Education Leadership Award; Jennifer Siqueira, Community Leadership Award; CGI, Allied Member of the Year; Mario F. Ortega of Miami Dade College, Award for Writing About Architecture; Claudia Uribe-Touri, Architectural Photographer of the Year.

Architecture Student of the Year Awards went to Mayta Scotto at Miami Dade College, Isis Fumero at Florida International University, Carolyn Desmond at the University of Miami, and Jacqueline Rowe at Design and Architecture Senior High (DASH).

Selected images and winning projects will be exhibited on the AIA Miami website at [www.aiamiami.com](http://www.aiamiami.com).

For more information on the awards, Celebrate Architecture + Design 2009 events, or AIA Miami, contact Mike Brazlavsky, executive director, at 305-448-7488 or visit the AIA Miami website at [www.aiamiami.com](http://www.aiamiami.com).

AIA Miami, which will host more than 20,000 professionals during the national convention in Miami in June 2010, has more than 700 members and offers professional development and support for member architecture professionals in South Florida.

**ABOUT AIA:** The AIA national organization, which celebrated its 150<sup>th</sup> 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; today's annual meetings have 20,000 or more attendees.

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