

Phoenix Business Journal - October 13, 2008
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Friday, October 10, 2008 | Modified: Tuesday, October 14, 2008

Four individuals receive coveted Arizona Architect Medals

Phoenix Business Journal - by [Jan Buchholz](#) Phoenix Business Journal

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Architects from across Arizona celebrated the 50th anniversary of the state chapter of the **American Institute of Architects** at the Celebrate Architecture gala Sept. 27. The largest crowd in the group's history, more than 500, turned out for the event at the Phoenix Arts Museum.

"Since this was the 50th anniversary, we decided not to notify the winners ahead of time," said Tina Litteral, executive vice president of **AIA Arizona**. "Since (no one) knew who was going to win, I think they were a little nervous."

AIA introduced a new tradition by commissioning artists Gary Beals and Mayme Kratz to create works of art to represent the awards.

Also, the jury for the design awards was a delegation from across the border. Three Mexico City-based architects picked this year's winners: Miquel Adria, editor of *Arquine*, an internationally distributed architecture publication; Bernardo Gomez-Pimienta, director of the School of Architecture at Universidad Anahuac del Norte; and Jose Manuel Castillo, founder of *Arquitectura 911sc* and a professor at Universidad Iberoamericana.

"We felt the architects from Mexico City would understand the challenges of designing within this (desert) environment," Litteral said.

The trio selected 12 winners from among 145 submissions. The highest design achievement is the Honor award, followed by the Merit and Citation awards.

The Firm of the Year and Sustainable Firm of the Year were selected by a jury of AIA architects from South Carolina.

Four individual architects were selected for the Arizona Architects Medal from nominations submitted to the Arizona Committee of Fellows. The elite committee decided whether there would be any recipients this year, based on each nominee's cumulative body of work.

This year's design winners all presented edgy, ultra-modern silhouettes cutting across several genres: municipal facilities, private residences, mixed-use developments, churches and utility projects. The projects that earned awards are featured on these pages.

"The quality of the design (winners) were top-notch," said James Trahan, chairman of AIA's board and the emcee for the evening.

The four Arizona Architect Medal recipients also were outstanding, given that some years no one receives the coveted award. This was just the second time since 1975 that four individual architects were honored:

- Will Bruder — One of the most prominent medal winners of the evening, Bruder is a self-taught architect. He apprenticed under design icon Paolo Soleri and opened his own design studio in 1974. He has earned widespread acclaim for the design of the Burton Barr Central Library in Phoenix and the Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art.

His Phoenix-based firm, Will Bruder & Partners, also was recognized for two projects this year: an Honor Award for the Taxi mixed-use development, a former cab dispatch warehouse in an industrial section of Denver; and a Citation Award for the Hercules (Calif.) Public Library.

- Jeremy Jones — The director of design at DWL Architects & Planners Inc. also serves as vice chairman of the Scottsdale Development Review Board. He was one of the primary architects of the Mesa Arts Center. He also designed the Appaloosa Library, under construction in Scottsdale, and the West Branch Library, scheduled to be built in Glendale.

- Gordon Rogers — Rogers has been designing award-winning contemporary homes since 1967. He also designed low-income housing in Michigan that was commended by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

- James Richard — Richard is a partner in Richard & Bauer Architecture LLC. The firm has been acclaimed for work in the higher education, research and library sectors. Its design of the Arabian Library in Scottsdale received one of the three Honor Awards.

Ryden Architects Inc., a small firm specializing in historic preservation projects, was recognized as Firm of the Year. Don Ryden, who founded the company in 1984, served as AIA Arizona's historic preservation coordinator for six years. Some of the firm's notable projects have been the rehabilitation of the Phoenix Union High School campus (circa 1911), the renovation of the first floor of Old Main at the University of Arizona in Tucson, and building analyses of the Tovrea Castle and Carrarro Cactus Gardens.

Weddle Gilmore Architects LLC was honored as Sustainable Firm of the Year. The company has an extensive portfolio that includes

international projects. It has earned kudos for its trailhead and nature designs, as well as projects at the Phoenix Zoo and the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community's Memorial Hall.

Trahan said he was especially gratified by Weddle Gilmore's recognition.

"They have been producing amazing work over the years," he said.

Philip Weddle, principal of the firm, also was thrilled.

"We're deeply honored," he said. "Developing environmentally responsive design has always been a core part of our firm's philosophy."

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AIA Arizona: www.aia-arizona.org

AIA Honorees

The Arizona chapter of the American Institute of Architects announced its 2008 award winners Sept. 27. All honorees are AIA members registered and licensed in Arizona. Of 145 submissions, 12 were chosen by a jury of three architects based in Mexico City: Miquel Adria, Bernardo Gomez-Pimienta and Jose Manuel Castillo. The three levels of recognition are Honor, Merit and Citation, with Honor being the most prestigious.

Firm of the Year: Ryden Architects Inc., Phoenix
Sustainable Firm of the Year: Weddle Gilmore Architects, Tempe

Arizona Architects Medal winners:
Gordon Rogers: Gordon Rogers Architect Inc.
Will Bruder: Will Bruder & Partners
Jeremy Jones: DWL Architects and Planners
James Richard: Richard & Bauer Architecture LLC

Honor awards:
Taxi Mixed-Use Development
Built: 2007
Architect: Will Bruder & Partners
Where: Denver
Purpose: Reuse of former Yellow Cab terminal into office and residential space

Arabian Branch Library
Built: 2007
Architect: Richard & Bauer Architecture LLC
Where: Scottsdale
Purpose: New 21,000-square-foot branch library

Sun Devil Energy Center
Built: 2006
Architect: Gould Evans LLC
Where: Arizona State University, Tempe
Purpose: Heat and power plant

Merit awards: PRD845
Built: 2007
Architect: Studio Ma Inc.
Where: Downtown Phoenix
Purpose: Infill residential development

Social Condenser
Built: 2007
Architect: Blank Studio Inc.
Where: Superior
Purpose: Public gathering space/gallery

VH R-10 gHouse
Built: 2007
Architect: Darren Petrucci
Where: Martha's Vineyard, Mass.
Purpose: Private home

Citation awards:
Cesar Chavez Library
Built: 2007
Architect: Line & Space LLC
Where: Laveen
Purpose: Public library

The Commons, East Valley Bible Church
Built: 2007
Architect: DeBartolo Architects Ltd.
Where: Gilbert
Purpose: Gathering place

Garcia residence
Built: 2001
Architect: Ibarra Rosano Design Architects
Where: Tucson
Purpose: Private home

Hercules Public Library
Built: 2006
Architect: Will Bruder & Partners
Where: Hercules, Calif.
Purpose: Municipal library

Peoria Center for the Performing Arts
Built: 2007
Architect: Westlake Reed Leskosky
Where: Peoria
Purpose: Community theater

NorthPark Center
Built: 2006
Architect: Omniplan
Where: Dallas
Purpose: Shopping center expansion

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