

# Press Release

## **For Immediate Release**

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## **AIA Florida Announces 2008 Design Award Winners**

**Tallahassee, FL** – Today, the Florida Association of the American Institute of Architects (AIA Florida) announced the winners of the 2008 Florida/Caribbean Design & Honor Awards.

AIA Florida selected a total of 25 Design Awards to receive the coveted awards. The Florida/Caribbean Design & Honor Awards is the region's most prestigious award program for the architectural profession. Design Awards are given each year to encourage excellence in architecture, to elevate public consciousness of good design and to recognize those owners, designers and contractors whose work enriches the built environment.

The 2008 Florida/Caribbean Design & Honor Awards will be presented Saturday, August 2 during AIA Florida's Annual Convention at the Breakers Hotel in Palm Beach.

Drawing on an international presence, AIA Florida worked with an Argentinean jury to select this year's winners. "We often think of Europe first when thinking of international design juries, but there are tremendous architects and juries in the Western hemisphere," said Mark Smith, AIA, chairman of the Membership Benefit and Recognition Commission. "The Argentinean jury included four of the most prominent architects in the world who were extremely impressed by the works of AIA Florida/Caribbean members and expressed a tough time selecting the winners."

An international jury was selected to ensure the confidentiality of the authors and entries and allow the jurors to be detached from prestige and any other unwarranted influence during the judging process. Winners were asked to submit projects in one or more of four design award categories. The four design award categories are:

- The Unbuilt Design Award goes to the person or firm that exemplifies excellence in design while exploring the nature and science of the architecture profession.
- The Award of Excellence, which encourages excellence in architecture for built projects.
- The Theoretical and Research Design Award recognizes work by associate architects, interns and students who are currently enrolled in an accredited architectural degree program in the Florida/Caribbean region.

- The Test of Time Design Award recognizes distinguished single works of architecture that have been around for at least 25 years in which the function, aesthetic statement and execution can be reassessed.

Each year, AIA Florida hosts a convention that brings together hundreds of industry professionals to network, earn continuing education credits, and to celebrate the profession. This year's Convention, which will host approximately 650 registered members, vendors and guests, will take place July 30 to August 3 at the Breakers Hotel in Palm Beach. Events include various tours, a golf tournament, a party hosted by AIA Palm Beach and a large tradeshow. The Convention theme is "Step It Up - Moving Toward Our Vision."

For a full list of Design & Honor Award winners, go to [www.aiafla.org](http://www.aiafla.org).

For more information about AIA Florida's 2008 Florida/Caribbean Design & Honor Awards and the Annual Convention, visit [www.aiafla.org](http://www.aiafla.org).

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**Editor's Note:** If you or someone from your organization is interested in attending the AIA Florida Annual Convention, please contact Monica McDonald at [mmcdonald@aiafla.org](mailto:mmcdonald@aiafla.org). If you plan to attend the 2008 Florida/Caribbean Design & Honor Awards Program, a table will be available for you, however if you would like to have dinner, the cost is \$110.

*The Florida Association of the American Institute of Architects, headquartered in Tallahassee, represents the interests of more than 3,600 members in Florida and the Caribbean. Members adhere to a code of ethics and professional conduct that assures the client, the public, and colleagues of an AIA-member architect's dedication to the highest standards in professional practice.*