Press Release

Miami Architects Dominate 2012 AIA Florida Design Awards

Tallahassee, FL – Eight Miami-based firms have been recognized for their outstanding and innovative design work in the 2012 Florida/Caribbean Design Awards, which are awarded by the Florida Association of the American Institute of Architects (AIA Florida).

The Miami-based winners are:

- **Mateu Architecture, Inc. –** an Honor Award of Excellence for the Kettal Showroom and a Test of Time Merit Award for the Luminaire Showroom.
- **Chandler & Associates –** an Honor Award of Excellence for Additions for Hybrid: Warehouse+Office.
- **ARQUITECTONICA –** an Honor Award of Excellence for the Performing & Fine Arts Complex at East Los Angeles College and a Merit Award of Excellence for Icon Brickell and Viceroy Hotel.
- **Jenifer Briley + Associates –** an Honor Award of Excellence and Committee on the Environment Sustainable Design Award of Honor for St. Stephen's Episcopal School Main Highway Pavilion.
- **ADD, Inc.** – a Merit Award of Excellence for Shelborne South Beach.
- **Rene Gonzalez Architect –** a Merit Award of Excellence for Indian Creek House.
- **Touzet Studio –** a Merit Award of Excellence for Parasol House.
- **Shulman + Associates –** a Merit Award of Excellence for Renovations to Soho Beach House.

The Florida/Caribbean Honor & Design Awards is the region's most prestigious award program for the architectural profession. This year, AIA Florida selected a total of 24 Design Award recipients. The awards are designed 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.

Architects across the state submitted projects in six categories, which were judged by a Kansas City, MO-based jury of prestigious architects. An out of state jury was selected to ensure the confidentiality of the authors and entries and ensures the jurors are unbiased. The categories are:

- The Unbuilt Design Award was established to recognize outstanding examples of recent, commissioned architectural designs not yet built or complete that also exemplify excellence in design while exploring the nature and science of the profession.

- The Award of Excellence, which encourages excellence in architecture for built projects. This category includes three sub-categories: New Work, Renovations & Addition and Historic Preservation & Restoration

- 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.

- The Masonry Award recognizes AIA Florida/Caribbean architects based on the technical and creative use of masonry in meeting aesthetic and functional design challenges.

A new category, the Committee on the Environment (COTE) Sustainable Design Award, was presented for the first time at the 2012 ceremony. The COTE Award was created to recognize excellence in the design of sustainable projects and promote public awareness of the built environment. When speaking of Jenifer Briley + Associates' award-winning project, the jury praised the project, stating, "All children should have the chance to learn in a building like this. It clearly engages teaching and learning with being a part of the community and ecology – important lessons for all of us."

The Florida/Caribbean Design Awards were presented at a ceremony on Saturday, July 21 during the Honor & Design Awards Gala at The Breakers Palm Beach. A full list of the 2012 Honor & Design Award Winners is available online at www.aiafla.org.

<div align="center">###</div>

The Florida Association of the American Institute of Architects, headquartered in Tallahassee, represents the interests of more than 3,200 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.