

# Press Release

## **For Immediate Release**

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## **Design Competition Winners Address State's Affordable, Emergency Housing Needs**

**Tallahassee, FL** – Affordable, sustainable and hurricane-resistant housing may be a step closer to fruition now that the Florida Foundation for Architecture (FFA) has selected winners in a Florida Cottage Design Competition.

Florida Association of the American Institute of Architects (AIA Florida) emerging professionals (defined as students, interns, associate members and architects licensed 10 years or less) were challenged to design homes that would tackle some of Florida's toughest housing concerns. The recent focus on building "green" and Florida's hurricane-prone environment set the stage for the development of a new model for Florida housing—a hurricane resistant, affordable and sustainable model.

The competition sought to meet several goals such as raising the bar for design of emergency housing; providing hurricane-resistant sustainable homes at affordable prices; promoting the image of affordable housing; providing cost-effective, well-designed housing alternatives for Florida cities; and creating an opportunity for Florida's emerging architects to design homes that will eventually be built.

The Florida Cottage Competition received 39 entries from around the state. That number was whittled down to 10 finalists, and finally the top three. Lilian Sherrard, AIA from Tampa and Emilio Christopher Cox, a student at the University of South Florida in Tampa, tied for first place and Thomas Wannan, AIA from Orlando snagged third place. The top three designs were announced during AIA Florida's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Emerging Professionals Conference, which was held October 17-18 in Miami Lakes. The winners will receive cash awards and may have the opportunity to see their designs actually built.

“The entries we received surpassed my hopes in design, imagination and research,” said Foundation President, John Ehrig, FAIA. “The interest and enthusiasm expressed by the competition entrants, indicates that these ‘emerging professionals’ are ready, willing and able to face the challenge of developing new and unique approaches to address today's housing issues head on. I believe we may have just found some of the answers we need to change the way people think about affordable housing.”

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*The Florida Foundation for Architecture is a non-profit organization that exists to advocate the value of architecture to audiences beyond the profession. The Foundation receives funding through the solicitation and expenditure of gifts, grants, and legacies; and also establishes and funds scholarships and educational programs to recognize meritorious work.*

*The Florida Association of the American Institute of Architects, headquartered in Tallahassee, represents the interests of more than 3,600 members in Florida. 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.*