

Press Release

For Immediate Release

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AIA Florida Named Association of the Year

Tallahassee – In October, the Florida Association of the American Institute of Architects (AIA Florida) was named the 2008 Association of the Year by the Tallahassee Society of Association Executives (TSAE).

AIA Florida was recognized for several of its programs and initiatives as well as its philanthropic involvement with the **1% Program**. This program connects non-profit organizations that need architectural services with the architects that have pledged at least one percent of their time to providing pro bono work. Pledging one percent equals approximately 20 hours per year. To date, AIA Florida has more than 6,400 hours pledged in Florida.

The Association was also recognized for its ground-breaking emerging professionals conference, which targets students, interns, architects and design professionals who have been licensed 10 years or less. Coincidentally, this Friday kicks off the 4th Annual Emerging Professionals Conference in Miami at the Shula's Hotel & Golf Club. The networking opportunities and continuing education (CE) courses offered at this mini-convention are designed to give younger architects the professional development and support they need to embark on new challenges.

The award was presented at TSAE's annual Education Day, which was held Wednesday at the Tallahassee-Leon County Civic Center. The Association of the Year Award recognizes an association that has demonstrated outstanding efforts, excellence and innovation related to its on-going or special programs/services that benefit their industry or profession, or the public at large. This is AIA Florida's second time in three years to be recognized for its outstanding association management.

"We are so pleased to be recognized for our hard work and commitment to meeting our members' needs," said AIA Florida Executive Vice President, Vicki Long, CAE. "We plan to continue our current efforts to develop even more support to our members in all their efforts."

Other accomplishments that helped AIA Florida earn the coveted title include:

- Providing new continuing education opportunities via online and DVD courses.
- Creating the *Design Matters* DVD, in partnership with the Florida Foundation for Architecture, that focuses on educating the general public about good design in architecture and the important role that architects play in community design—

aesthetically, emotionally and economically. To date, Design Matters has been distributed to more than 5,000 nationwide.

- Increasing membership despite rough economic times, through its participation in AIA National's "15 for 12" program, which offers memberships to join AIA Florida on Oct. 1 of a current year and receive full membership through Dec. 31 of the ensuing year.

"This is an excellent distinction for AIA Florida," said AIA Florida President, Don Yoshino, FAIA. "Our members and staff have consistently raised the bar for the association's management and innovative programming. Winning association of the year not once, but twice in less than five years reflects on their commitment to excellence."

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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.