

NEWS RELEASE

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MEDIA CONTACTSLaura Cassels, casselsvfr@gmail.comVanessa Vidacs, vidacs@aiafla.org**Architects Honor NASA's Vehicle Assembly Building & Its Designers**

"Test of Time" design award presented July 27 in Orlando to Richard Bergmann, FAIA, Designer for the late Max O. Urbahn, FAIA, Project Architect, Project Manager Philip Moyer, and Kelvin Manning, Kennedy Space Center

[MEDIA: For sources, photos and more details, contact Laura Cassels, AIA Florida, at (850) 830-9690.]

ORLANDO – The Florida Association of the American Institute of Architects honored the Vehicle Assembly Building at Kennedy Space Center with a "Test of Time" design award, recognizing the extraordinary role played by the one-of-a-kind building's architects and engineers. The award was presented to the project designers and to Kelvin Manning, Kennedy Space Center Associate Director for Technical, on July 27 at the AIA Florida Convention and Trade Show in Orlando.



Richard Bergmann, FAIA, who worked with Project Architect Max Urbahn, FAIA, to design the Vehicle Assembly Building (VAB) and its adjacent Launch Control Center (LCC), nominated the buildings for the prestigious AIA Florida/Caribbean Design & Honor award. The 2019 jury of Tokyo-based architects exuberantly agreed that the complex is an epic example of great design that continues to perform as intended decades later.

"As architects, we are especially proud during this 50th anniversary of the moon landing that visionary design played an important role in the success of the Apollo program," said Nati Soto, FAIA, LEED AP, president of AIA Florida. "It is a great honor to present these gentlemen with our Test of Time design award for the Vehicle Assembly Building, a structure that is revered around the world."

Bergmann recalled for AIA Florida that he sketched the design for the VAB as visualized by Urbahn and himself and – with NASA racing to beat a 1966 construction deadline – saw it expeditiously built almost exactly as originally sketched, along with the adjacent LCC.



"Those of us who labored 24/7 starting in 1962 to design and erect the VAB and the LCC enabled the launch of the Apollo rockets to travel to the moon," Bergmann stated.

For more than 50 years, those structures have functioned as intended and have withstood direct hits from hurricanes, including three in 2004. The Vehicle Assembly Building – covering 8 acres, standing 526 feet tall, and emblazoned with giant paintings of the American flag and the NASA logo – has become a global icon of the U.S. space program and mankind’s desire to explore the universe. It was created to assemble rockets taller than the length of aircraft carriers. Those rockets carried humans to the moon and shuttled crews between Earth and the International Space Station.

AIA Florida collaborated with the Japanese Institute of Architects (JIA) to convene a jury of Tokyo-based architects to choose the 2019 design winners. The jury was exuberant in its praise for the Vehicle Assembly Building, citing its historic mission, its ongoing performance as a rocket-building machine, and the magnificent, first-ever design rendered by its architects and engineers with instruments and technology from a half-century ago.

The presentation ceremony for 2019 Design & Honor Awards and the [2019 People’s Choice Award](#) was held at the Ritz-Carlton Orlando, in Grande Lakes. For more information, contact Laura Cassels, casselsvfr@gmail.com, lcassels@aiafla.org, (850) 830-9690, or Vanessa Vidacs, vvidacs@aiafla.org (850) 284-1837.

For the complete list of 2019 Design & Honor Award winners, [click here](#).

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