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2008 Northwest Design Awards Competition Winners Announced

(Seattle, Wash.) – Seattle Design Center (SDC) celebrated the best of regional interior design with the tenth annual Northwest Design Awards Competition. Local designers, architects and students competed with projects in ten competition categories. A panel of local subject experts (industry and media) evaluated submissions through an anonymous process, measuring each project on the basis of problem solving, creativity, quality of design and beauty of the space.

Awards were presented at the 2008 Northwest Design Awards Gala, September 25. The evening was celebrated by more than 300 members of the interior design community, including event sponsor Pedersen's Rentals and media partner *Seattle Homes & Lifestyles* magazine.

New this year: scholarships were awarded to winners of the student design category, with the first-place winner receiving \$1,250 and the second-place winner receiving \$750.

Competition categories included bathroom, bedroom, commercial, hospitality, kitchen, outdoor living, unusual spaces, whole house (less than \$400,000), whole house (more than \$400,000) and student design. The honorees in each category are:

Bathroom

Winner: Tyler Engle – Tyler Engle Architects PS

The project concerned redesign of a dated master suite into a modern spa-like bathroom. The goals of the redesign included making the space more functional, improving circulation, and creating a calm aesthetic, rooted in the Northwest with respect for the existing house. Bluestone tiles and etched glass were used to mirror the view of Puget Sound in an effort to connect the inside with the outside.

Judges noted excellent use of sustainable materials in the project.

Second: Sandra Gjesdahl – Bristol Design

In updating this master suite, the designer wanted to create a more rejuvenating and tranquil bath environment. The Salish Lodge-inspired project made excellent use of organic materials that epitomize the spirit of the Pacific Northwest. Compartmentalized spaces were removed while natural light was let in, and the cramped environment was transformed into a more generous space.

Judges commented on the nicely subtle palette.

Bedroom

Winner: Melissa Klebanoff – mkID

Simply put, the challenge was turning this standard-sized bedroom into a space for two teenage girls. In resolving the issues of space, creative solutions such as built-in bunk beds and closets were utilized. Privacy was another main concern, so private areas were formed with curtains and personal lighting systems to create a sense of independence within the shared room. Individuality and functionality were skillfully combined to give the girls a room they can grow up in.

Judges commented that the design was nicely executed.

Second: Barbara Hyde Evans – Hyde Evans Design

A small amount of inspiration led to a great amount of change for this bedroom. The flash of design insight came from a pair of black-and-white lamps the designer found while antiquing in California. With this motivation and some ingenuity, a tiny attic became a spacious master suite that enhanced the room's beautiful view of Lake Washington. The stark contrast of a black and white palette brought together with warm, dark wood furnishings makes the room comfortable, yet modern.

Commercial

Winner: Nancy Burfiend, Theresa Benny, Lana Noble – NB Design Group

The first wellness spa from this Canada-based company to ever grace the United States is fresh and cultured. The goals of the project were to incorporate East Indian principals of the five elements—water, earth, fire, air and wood—to inspire wellness and balance in the mind and body. The interplay between grass-woven panels, smooth wood finishes, and sensual fabrics makes the spa cocoon-like and luxurious. Environmentally responsible materials reinforce the goals of the project while creating an intimate setting for individuals seeking escape from urban life.

Second: Weber + Thompson Design Team – Weber + Thompson

A rare challenge was posed when this firm became both designer and client in fashioning their own ideal work environment. The design team collaborated with all staff members in planning the space, and collectively chose to feature passive ventilation, extensive day lighting, sustainable materials, and to strive for LEED certification. This culture of collaboration was built upon by creating healthy spaces that encourage social interaction and idea sharing. The office space is open with few walls and exposed ceilings so all employees can enjoy views of the outside. Materials, fixtures and equipment are all energy-efficient leading this project to fulfill its goal—the building has LEED-CI Platinum certification.

Judges called the project a truly uplifting space and praised the merging of aesthetics and sustainability.

Hospitality

Winner: Denise Corso, James Staicoff, Marlene Gillis, Heather Gee Pape, Dann Baker, Michelle Neidiger – CorsoStaicoff, in partnership with Holst Architecture, Lango Hansen, Papas Art and SD Deacon

In this renovation, a derelict 1960s motor lodge was turned into a sleek boutique hotel like a phoenix rising from its ashes. The design team focused their dollars appropriately, turning an old parking lot into a verdant courtyard and creating a dramatic, yet welcoming lobby. Guestroom layouts remained the same but warm tones and inviting textures common to the Pacific Northwest were integrated within them for a cozy and stylish atmosphere.

Judges praised the amount of mileage this “crisp and chic” project got on a limited budget. They also admired the excellent realization of the project.

Second: Denise Corso, James Staicoff, Marlene Gillis, Heather Gee Pape, Dann Baker, Michelle Neidiger – CorsoStaicoff, in partnership with David Kennedy, architecture and project management for Provenance Hotels; Ditroen, Dardinelle Troen; Nick Thomas; Michelle Majeski; Tessa Papas – Papas Art; Provenance Hotels and Western Construction

In this project, another weathered hotel was transformed into a sophisticated boutique property, one that integrates and showcases the artistic talents of the local and international glass art community. The project was influenced by the recent opening of the Tacoma Glass Museum and had the intention of designing the world’s first hotel dedicated to glass art. Thought-provoking, large scale glass art pieces hang from the ceiling, work is featured behind customized etched-glass walls throughout the floors, and each of the rooms contains sketches of inspiration and custom bedside lamps. Every guest is drawn into the story and process of creating glass art in a relaxing and captivating hotel environment.

Kitchen

Winner: Geralynne Mitschke – Ledingham Design Consultants

The principal design goal of this project was to create a kitchen that could gather a family around the various activities of cooking without problems of space and functionality. The second design goal was to bring in more natural light and connect the kitchen with the natural environment outside. All of this was achieved by pushing out an exterior wall to accommodate a center island and constructing a long horizontal window that brings in western light. A faux brick wall, white ceramics and countertops, dark wood cabinetry, and splashes of red give a clean, up-to-date, and comfy feel to this kitchen made for a growing family.

Second: Karen Ellentuck – Ellentuck Interiors

In redesigning this kitchen, supporting a family of four was at the top of the design’s priorities. Function, food storage and cooking space were considered when making this kitchen more modern and accommodating. A small center island was replaced with a more colorful, Vetrazzo-topped island that has become the center point of the room, providing a spacious place to eat and work. The space surrounding the center island is warm, with honey-toned cabinetry and floors, and more light enters the space from the room’s tall windows. The kitchen is now a more airy, fresh and cozy room to enjoy.

Outdoor Living

Winner: Scot Eckley – Scot Eckley Inc.

The challenge of this project was to take a small, neglected yard and turn it into a multi-functional, flexible space for a maturing family. The clients wanted a yard that was modern and could provide a space for dining, lounging, TV-

watching, congregating and entertaining. Demands were met through an adaptable, simplistic and child friendly plan. All architectural lines were shifted at an angle to the house to give an impression of more space. A TV-pavilion was built, while a rectangular, concrete lounge serves as additional seating and houses a fire feature. Areas were specifically reserved for hard-play and soft-play for children, and plants were specifically chosen to be non-poisonous and to not attract bees. The desire for the yard to be contemporary was satisfied by clean lines, geometrical furnishings, and vivid colors brought in through fabrics or flora. The plan also utilized sustainable principles throughout the design, such as recycling or updating existing materials.

Judges called this project a clear winner.

Second: Beverly B. Fuhs - Beverly B. Fuhs Design

Integrating a concurrent kitchen addition and providing a year-round patio were the challenges facing the designer in updating this outdoor living area. A pergola was designed and added to an existing cabana/art studio to let in light but keep the patio dry throughout the year. Overhead lighting was introduced, as well as electrical outlets and additional storage areas to increase the patio's utility. Mature plants were relocated and a large, new planter was integrated into the design to provide a segregated organic growth space that marks a transition into the garden. Blue stone in a cobblestone-like pattern was used to create a nice blend with the existing slate architecture.

Unusual Spaces

Winner: Rick Sundberg, FAIA; Stephen Yamada-Heidner, AIA; Martha Rogers; John Kennedy; Misun Chung Gerrick; Debbie Kennedy – Olson Sundberg Kundig Allen Architects

This project has given Seattle another museum of which to be proud. The Wing Luke Asian Museum's design drew from the building's rich history—the original 1910 multi-story building served as a social center and living quarters for Chinese, Japanese and Filipino immigrants. Areas of the space, such as narrow doorways and small rooms, were preserved to keep the intimacy and history of the space and to provide a venue for immersion exhibits. Original objects that were no longer functional were used as inspiration or reinstalled as works of art. Many of the initial building materials were salvaged and reused to maintain the character of the building. The museum is a faultless, attractive blend of the past and the present.

Judges commented on the beautiful integration of historic patina and industrial chic, modern concepts and traditional architecture. The project's design and implementation was praised as inspiring.

Second: Scott Cole - Ardeo Design

The owner of this yacht had two demands: make it contemporary and make it safe. The custom audio/visual system was modernized with sound quality enhancement and the addition of a 42" plasma TV. Visibility from the pilot house was increased, a hard-to-see step was relocated, and some tables now have adjustable heights. The layout of the yacht was improved and now encourages more conversation in a comfortable and lush setting. Lamb skin, leather and other luxurious fabrics along with custom-made furniture and cabinetry enhance the magnificent setting.

Whole House Less Than \$400,000

Winner: Tyler Engle – Tyler Engle Architects PS

A storefront building was turned into a live/work space in this design challenge. The remodeled space had three goals to fulfill: it had to have a sky-lit, central space for gatherings; each room had to be multi-functional and be

able to open and close to adjacent rooms; and the client's contemporary art collection needed to be accommodated and presented. The use of pivot and pocket doors, hidden and paneled spaces, and a built-in bed greatly increased the flexibility of the spaces, while the polished concrete floors and clean lines showcased the client's art collection. There is no mistaking the sophisticated modernity of this home.

Judges admired the clear and dramatic solutions used to answer the challenges of the project.

Second: Michael Steuve – SRM Architecture and Marketing

Drama, elegance and a surprising amount of space come together in this small condominium redesigned for better entertaining. To create more space, the dining area was converted into a multi-purpose casual area with large custom furniture for seating and a floor-to-ceiling beverage and wine bar. A constricting hallway closet was removed and storage was relocated to a built-in wardrobe that houses a television while displaying the owner's attire like an upscale clothing store. The kitchen of the home was designed to act as an extension of the elegant living areas. The sense of drama is generated by specific attention to lighting details and is enhanced by the contrast between the lush textures of rugs and fabrics and dark walls, ceilings and polished wood furnishings. This bold condominium is sure to impress.

Whole House More Than \$400,000

Winner: Tom Kundig, FAIA; Elizabeth Bianchi Conklin; Huyen Hoang; Debbie Kennedy – Olson Sundberg Kundig Allen Architects

Set amidst the natural splendor of Montecito, California, this home was created to be in harmony with the landscape, to have a no-nonsense vibe, and to be dog-friendly for its canine-loving client. The environment surrounding the house is challenging, so the design team created a house that acts as an umbrella to shield the house from the sun and allows cool, offshore breezes to move through the space. The outdoors was a main focus of the design, so furnishings were kept elegant and minimal, with durable materials for the four-legged family members. The material palette was kept to a minimum with the principle use of raw materials, such as steel, glass and concrete, to create simplicity. Full height sliding doors and windows give the entire house majestic views of the outside, balanced by the sophisticated minimalism of its interior.

Second: Lin Heppner – ART + Commerce Design, Inc.

The main challenge of this project was to combine five forty-year-old suites into a single penthouse residence. The old structural frame had to be concealed or incorporated when integrating the existing rooms and seven balconies into a single design. The design achieves its goals by moving all principle rooms to the perimeter and keeping the areas nearest the building's core available for ancillary uses. It also clearly takes advantage of amazing water, city and mountain views. The cohesiveness of the concept and the luxurious feel give the retired residents the relaxing home they have always wanted.

Student Design

Winner: Wei Cai, recipient of \$1,250 scholarship – Bellevue Community College

Project: Feng Shui House

In this project, the goal was to update a Northwestern townhouse with a Chinese Feng Shui mentality. The townhouse needed an increase in natural lighting and a floorplan more conducive to the flow of Chi energy. The

designer envisioned this home remodeled with an open atrium at its heart, visible from most of the house. The stairs would be moved closer to the atrium and the circulatory system would have no visual or psychological “dead ends.” The home would be rejuvenated with an “East meets West” eclectic design style and would apply sustainability practices in its new form. The townhouse is flawlessly envisioned for an occupant wanting balance and clarity in their surroundings.

Second: Jessica Chestnut, recipient of \$750 scholarship – Washington State University

Project: Vitus Wine Spa

The goals of this project were to design a spa that would create a restorative experience through the use of natural elements, symmetrical balance and simplicity. The main challenge presented was noise. The first solution was to create an indoor garden to absorb sound while increasing air quality. The second solution included a water pool and fountain for more sound absorption that gives a pleasing white noise to the space. The second challenge of the project—the spa is located underground, giving visitors no view of the outdoors. To fix this, the designer envisioned two outdoor gardens with 14-foot walls covered in vines, shrubbery and waterfalls. The gardens would provide areas for mineral pools and relaxing exercise. Spa guests would be given the complete experience of mind and body renewal.

Judges called the project very creative.

Attention Editors/Reporters:

To request photos of winning entries or schedule interviews with winning designers, please call Craig Cross at 206.957.7032.

About Seattle Design Center

Seattle Design Center opened its doors in 1973 to serve the region’s growing appreciation for quality design and home furnishings. Seattle Design Center is the only full-service design center in the Pacific Northwest serving professional interior designers and their clients in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Alaska and British Columbia. Nationally recognized as the premier marketplace for fine home furnishings and design services, Seattle Design Center is comprised of 55 showrooms encompassing 390,000 square feet of designer furniture, fabrics, accessories and architectural products and offices. Seattle Design Center is open to the public 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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