Design Awards and Holiday Dinner 2011

The year-end spectacular – this year at the Monterey Plaza Hotel – was a lovely event to celebrate the holidays, our Chapter, and, of course – good design!

The evening began with happy hour and happy people networking and sharing holiday cheer with sponsors, affiliates, and honored guests, and reconnecting with old friends and colleagues.

President Michael Wexer served as master of ceremonies honoring our sponsors (see pictures this page), thanking our 2011 Board of Directors and presiding over the vote of the new Board for 2012 (page 8), giving a final President’s message (page 7), and bestowing a brand new award on one of our distinguished members (page 3).

But wait! There was more excitement to come... the biennial Design Awards! (see next page!)
The Envelope, Please!

2011 AIA Monterey Bay Awards for Design Excellence

Commercial and Institutional Projects

MERIT AWARD
Kasavan Architects – Hartnell Community College, Center for Advanced Technology

MERIT AWARD
HGHB Architects & Planners – Monterey Peninsula Community College, Marina Education Center

Residential Renovation Projects

CITATION AWARD
Fletcher + Hardoin - ‘Wild Bird’ Residence, Big Sur

MERIT AWARD
Carver + Schicketanz – Carmel Residence

Residential (New Construction) Projects

CITATION AWARD
Feldman Architecture – Caterpillar House, Santa Lucia Preserve

MERIT AWARD
John Thodos, FAIA Architect – Nosler Residence Menlo Park
AIACC Monterey Design Conference – 3 x Terrific!

2011 Monterey Design Conference

Anyone attending the Monterey Design Conference in early October had countless opportunities to be wowed. This year’s slate of distinguished presenters was so varied there was truly something fascinating, educational, and awe-inspiring for everyone!

Missed it? “For the first time ever, keynote lectures... are available as online, video continuing education courses that will be available for AIA/CES learning units at www.aecknowledge.com

Two more years ‘til the next one? Two years too long!

(L: David Salmela, R: Tom Kundig)

AIACC Annual Design Awards Display Board Exhibition by Jerrold E. Lomax, FAIA

Thanks to the generosity of Patrick Oroso of the Oroso Group, the Gallery Space at The Independent building in Sand City was made available to our chapter to exhibit the recent AIACC Design Award Winners presented at the AIACC Monterey Design Conference (MDC) held at Asilomar.

The timing was perfect as the conference was winding down. The design awards had just been announced and their thirty-seven display boards as well as a power point presentation would be available. Karen Lesney, Assoc. AIA and MDC Committee members retrieved the materials and the A+P Committee members re-installed them at the Gallery Space for an opening reception on November 4th.

The Monterey County Weekly placed a nice article the day before with a photo of one of the award-winning buildings, information about our exhibit, and the opening reception. The Oroso Group kindly provided wine as well as a disc jockey from the DJ Windrift Company to play cool jazz music throughout the evening.

The winning awards displayed were excellent and diverse, and covered projects throughout the United States and other countries. The categories were Architecture, Urban Design, Interior Design, Energy and Efficiency. The prestigious 25-Year Award was presented to the Monterey Bay Aquarium.

MDC Home Tour by Karen Lesney

The home tour was the capstone of the MDC weekend and once again showcased the possibilities for modern and sustainable design on the Monterey Peninsula. It featured three regional modern residences in the Santa Lucia Preserve and was such a huge success it had to be expanded to three buses of happy attendees!

After tours of each of the three homes, a reception was hosted by Katherine Kennedy at the Caterpillar House. The event was sponsored by each of the three featured contractors, all local firms who continue to make the creativity of the architects possible. Food was catered by Santa Lucia Preserve with Scheid Vineyards kindly donating the wine.

L to R, after tour attendees: The 2008 La Loma Residence from Buzz Yudell of Moore, Ruble and Yudell Architects + Planners and Peter Winters Construction has two central courtyards and takes advantage of sunlight and views of the 150-year old oaks nearby.


Jonathan Feldman’s Caterpillar House (2010), constructed by Groza, is an environmentally-conscious response to modern ranch housing and the first LEED Platinum Custom Home of the Central Coast.
Nautical Nonsense Knows No Bounds!

2011 Sandcastle Competition Award Winners

BEST TRADITIONAL SANDCASTLE – Sea King Neptune – Surfer Dude,
Team: Alonzo, Crane, Leon, Sportsman, and VenGelder Families

BEST BRIBE (homemade soup) – Sea Puzzler & Lighthouse,
Team: Church of the Wayfarer

BEST KIDS AWARD - Hungry Squid, Team: International School of Monterey

GOLDEN SHOVEL – Captain Jack,
Team: Destefano & Mehringer Families

SOUR GRAPES – Sponge Bob’s Pineapple Castle, Team: The Gilroy Crew

BEST THEME – Surf’s Up at the Polar Express
Team: The Youth for Understanding from Pacific Grove and Davis

Changes to AIA Continuing Education

On Dec. 9, 2011, the AIA Board of Directors voted to modify the AIA’s calendar year continuing education requirements. AIA members will be required to complete 12 hours of HSW education annually; previously 8 HSW hours were required. The total number of continuing education hours required remains unchanged at 18 hours, which includes 4 hours of sustainable design (SD) education. The AIA Board will re-evaluate the SD requirement later this year.

The new HSW requirement goes into effect January 2012 and AIA members should fulfill their total 18 hours of continuing education during the calendar year. Additionally, the value and credibility of the AIA’s CES transcript services combined with the increased HSW requirement enables AIA members to fulfill state licensing requirements for most states.

Aligning closer with many state licensing boards’ practice, AIA members will no longer be able to self-report HSW courses for credit. Many states will not accept any self-reported credits for license renewals. AIA members will need to complete HSW credits by taking qualifying courses from registered AIA CES providers, and the providers will report HSW courses for members to receive HSW credits.

For courses offered by a provider outside the AIA network, members should work with their state licensing board to determine if courses meet the standards for health, safety, and welfare education. Members can still self-report credits that they earn, but they will appear as learning units on their transcripts in 2012.

For more information, contact aiamembercare@ai.org.
First Biennial
‘Political Courage Award’,
honoring Jeanne Byrne, FAIA
by Michael Waxer

On behalf of the Board and the Chapter I used the President’s prerogative to create a new award that was given out for the very first time, at our annual Holiday Design Award dinner.

I suggest this award be given out every other year, when appropriate, to honor one of our members in good standing who have demonstrated community leadership, and who have shown political courage, in an effort to improve our communities. Political involvement is encouraged, and a member who becomes an elected official is another big plus.

I had the honor of bestowing this award, the very first Political Courage Award, to Jeanne Byrne, FAIA. Not only is Jeanne an award winning architect, and an FAIA, but has also served as the elected Mayor of the city of Pacific Grove. Earlier this year Jeanne entered the race for a seat on the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (MPWMD), and she not only was victorious in her win, but by a very significant margin.

Jeanne’s no-nonsense approach toward problem solving will serve her well, and will serve all of us well. With Jeanne on the Board of the MPWMD there is a real opportunity that it can achieve its founding mission statement, to augment and manage the water supply of the Monterey Peninsula.

Collaborative Teams CAN Do! by Heather Marquard

This year’s Green Expo at the Monterey Conference Center, organized by the Monterey County Business Council (MCBC), included a fantastic opportunity for our AIA Chapter to strut its stuff while helping do a good deed for those in need.

CANstruction is a fun way to highlight local hunger issues in cities around the world. Teams build interesting sculptures out of non-perishable food items, which are then donated to their local food bank. The MCBC offered our Chapter the chance to build Monterey’s first ever CANstruction, which would be unveiled at the Expo. MCBC did great work securing all of our donated food and provided us with early access to our “site”, which was critical since we had to start and complete the entire structure in just the few hours before the Expo.

We gathered a diverse group of volunteers from the local A/E/C community and built our plans and “specs” for the requested lighthouse. The morning of the build, our team quickly set to work. Less than four hours later we had a variegated lighthouse of cans (green beans and PET milk) that stood just over six feet tall, was set on a rocky outcropping (baked beans) with foaming waves (powdered sugar, coconut, and cookies) and had a translucent light cap (bottled soda and water with raisin cap). After the most beneficial demolition known to man, The Food Bank of Monterey County netted over 1,000 non-perishable items to assist our needy neighbors.

Many thanks to the build team who helped me - Oona Gabersek of Oona Gabersek Landscape Architecture, mechanical engineer Scott Stroshane from Axiom, NARI member and contractor Tim from Regency Construction – and Machell Sterbick of MCBC and Sally Anne Smith, AIA, for all of the pre-planning work. We came, we saw, we CANstructed!
Holiday Dinner
all photos courtesy of Michael Wadsworth
President’s Message

Climate Action Plans, Stormwater Regulations, and Government Bans

2012 will be an interesting year. Let’s start with the Government bans. Our Governmental bodies are choosing, more and more, to ban items as modern science is able to measure how one thing impacts another. The City of Monterey just passed a ban of single use plastic bags, with the argument that the little bits of plastic may end up in the ocean and harm sea life. I am assuming for now that this environmental science is sound. However, perhaps the more interesting part of the ordinance is that the city requires businesses to charge 25 cents for each paper bag. Here is their logic, and consider for yourself if it makes sense to you: It requires more energy to make a paper bag than a plastic bag. Since the city is banning the plastic bags, they do not want folks to use the more energy intensive paper bags, so the mandatory fee.

In other words, because something requires energy to make the government can put a mandatory charge on it. The only problem, of course, is that absolutely everything requires or uses energy. Therefore, with this ordinance as precedent, the government can put a mandatory charge on anything or everything. Whether you think this is right or wrong, or whether you think this is acceptable because the end justifies the means, one thing I can assure you: The next mandatory charge ordinance, which you may not be as supportive of, will use this ordinance as the precedence, and the governmental body will ask you, ‘Why do you object to this but you were okay with the paper bag fee?’

Another government ban that begins January 1, 2012, is the 100 watt incandescent light bulb will no longer be able to be purchased in the United States (Federal legislation).

Stormwater Regulations, which are being enforced for the first time in California this Fall, could become quite an eye opener for our industry. Because the fines are very large, and the requirements quite extensive and easy to not get 100% correct, there is a strong possibility that the net result could be the cessation of construction work involving dirt during the wet season. This could have a negative and spiraling effect. Construction companies may choose to shut down for a number of months, which can leave folks without jobs, which ultimately could lead to an even greater exodus of folks from the construction industry.

Climate Action Plans are being developed all around us, and there are many possible outcomes of these plans. Some of the results of these plans can be positive, where greater efficiency can be achieved just because attention is being given to some standard practices. This could be as simple as bulk purchasing for large entities, such as the County Government.

Another example might be the ‘buy local’ initiative our AIAMB Board and several other local entities are working with the County on, so that RFP’s and RFQ’s give some consideration for local firms. This is beneficial for many reasons, including for sustainability, and the Board of Supervisors is scheduled to consider such a program next month.

However, many unintended consequences could also result. Significant new fees could end up being added to things based upon its Greenhouse Gas (GHG) production potential.

What is perhaps most interesting about this entire trend is that it is likely that ‘normal life’ will become more expensive due to new regulations. Those in our community who have less economic resources will suffer the most, and the government will be ‘shocked’ that the cost of living is rising dramatically, like it is a big surprise. But it is all not only predictable, but blatantly obvious!

I would encourage all of us to pay attention to these particular regulations and trends, and for us to speak up if they do not make sense for us and our communities. Activists are pursuing and demanding government regulations and bans. If these things matter to you, please let your opinions known to your elected representatives. I will volunteer as the coordinator of folks who may want to get involved and look into some of these issues, so please contact me if you’d like to learn more. My email is mlwaxer@sbcglobal.net.
Thank You to Our 2011 Board...

On behalf the Chapter we want to thank every member who served on the Board of Directors this year. Special thanks to President Michael Waxer who led the Board in productive and informative meetings infused with a spirit of collaboration; and for ensuring the Chapter kept a balanced budget all year, while still providing the level of programming and service our members expect.

For everyone who donated their time and talents, we cannot be more emphatic in our appreciation of your efforts. Now we enthusiastically

...Welcome New 2012 Board Members

Christopher Grasso, Philip Hardoin, secretary
Daniel Peartree, and newly promoted to President, Michael Wadsworth!

Don’t Miss! 2012 Membership Meeting

January 26, 2012 – 5:30 pm

Graniterock Conference Room, Seaside

All AIAMB members, affiliates and sponsors are encouraged to attend this meeting!

Find out what’s happening in the Chapter in 2012 and speak out on what programs and information you want or need in the coming months. Your voice and support are critical for our Chapter to remain vibrant and thriving. We want to continue providing top-notch events and remain a useful resource for our membership, and for that we need YOU!

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