AIA East Bay
A Chapter of
The American Institute of Architects

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For Immediate Release

Exceptional Residences Lauded in Bay Area

Oakland, CA—June 3, 2010—The American Institute of Architects, East Bay, awarded seventeen residential projects with jury honors for 2010 Exceptional Residential: Bay Area Regional Design Awards. This program is the Bay Area's only soley-residential architectural design awards program.

The distinguished 2010 Design Awards jury was comprised of leaders in the architectural community: David Arkin, AIA (Berkeley, CA), partner and founder of Arkin Tilt Architects;Tim Culvahouse, FAIA (Berkeley, CA), editor of the journal *arcCA*; and Michelle Kaufmann, AIA (Marin County, CA), founder and principle of Michelle Kaufmann Studio.

"The exceptional quality of the design and the thinking behind each submittal left us inspired and hopeful," wrote Michelle Kaufmann in her blog at www.michellekaufmann.com. "There were consistent themes running throughout: most had sustainable design elements; green certifications including LEED and Build it Green; more than half of them incorporated PV solar; many utilized rain catchment systems. Green wasn't something that was added on, but was integral to the beauty and overall approach. As a whole, the homes have gotten smaller and smarter. There were many remodels and fewer tear-downs. There was a focus on affordability, as well as diversity, and thoughtful multifamily."

As David Arkin, AIA expressed to the audience during the evening's awards presentation, "Today I am very proud to be a Bay Area Architect."

AIA East Bay 2010 ExRes recipients are:

Citations

Oxford Plaza, Berkley
Architect: Solomon ETC, San Francisco

Oxford Plaza consists of 97 units of low-income family housing and commercial space over a city parking garage in downtown Berkeley. Financially and programmatically, it is an independent entity, but it is adjacent to, and integrated with, the David Brower environmental center. Units range from three bedrooms to studios with 70% 2- and 3- bedroom units, providing the only affordable family housing in downtown Berkeley. Units are also targeted for special needs individual.

Jury Comments: *Strong, substantial presence in the context of downtown Berkeley facing the UC campus. Sense of substantiality reinforced by the façade being articulated plastically, rather than by additive elements. Unique shading strategies. Interesting.*

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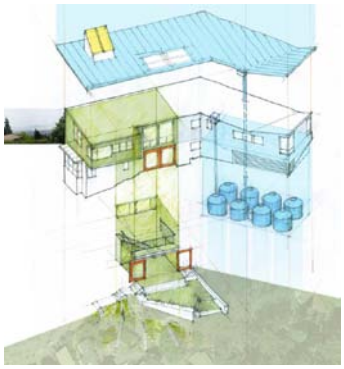
Exterior

P.A.A.V./Whitworth Residence, San Anselmo
Designers: Student Design-Build Team, Graduate School of Architecture, Academy of Art
Pre-fabricated Adaptive Auxiliary Volume (PAAV) is a 120 sf home-office. The clients' need for an auxiliary office space was expanded into a dual program that met the office requirement and expanded the requirement to a lounge and relaxation area for the clients' family. PAAV is a student design/build project which was constructed in an intensive three-month period by five architecture students.

Jury Comments: *The unexpected splitting of the floor level gives significant differentiation to the small space. We liked the exploration of innovative, alternative construction techniques—frames and panels built off-site. Low budget, a lot in 120 sf. Commendable scale and detail. Split level—effective. Innovative construction techniques.*

Residence in the Berkeley Hills
Architect: GHA Design



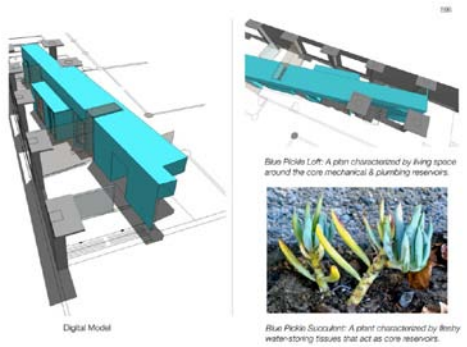
In addition to a commitment to building green, the clients had three particular goals: to connect to a courtyard or garden; to take advantage of a spectacular Bay view; and to harvest rainfall as a precious resource. These simple ideas became the main form-givers for the house. As a result, this home was the first in Berkeley to have a permitted 8,500-gallon rainwater collection system, which, as the jury remarked, "was no easy feat". Sunshades are re-purposed from army surplus stretchers and clad in billboard material diverted on route to the landfill.

Jury Comments: *Playful use of salvaged materials. Impressive amount of storage. Well-proportioned elements expressing real purpose—shape, water collection; bravo. A little bit of the Mobile Army Surgical Hospital to the awnings.*

Taube Koret Campus for Jewish Life, San Jose
Architect: Steinberg Architects

The Taube Koret Campus for Jewish Life in Palo Alto is a new paradigm in senior housing. The project features a 193-unit continuum of care residential community that is an integral part of a larger mixed-use intergenerational campus filled with educational, fitness, health & wellness, cultural, and community resources.

Jury Comments: *Multi-generational, multi-use, model for the future, as demonstrated by the presence of human beings in the photos. There is an overall palette of materials and forms, yet has enough variation to not feel monolithic. Buildings have an interesting interplay with the outdoor spaces.*



Blue Pickle Loft, Oakland
Architect: Paul Welschmeyer Architect
A first home was carved out of the plumbing core of an industrial office building. From complete darkness with no windows, a wonderfully livable loft environment with outdoor space was created.

Jury Comments: *Layering of the space between kitchen exterior that captures outdoor space and provides depth in loft renovation. Use of pickle spine to organize the space was smart; there's a lot going on in a relatively small area. Clever utilization of opportunities for light and darkness. Unique finding of residential use in previously non-res building plan makes excellent use of LTD.*

Merit Awards

Maher Residence, Livermore
Architect: Mikiten Architecture
The house sits on the edge of a permanently preserved open-space and vineyards. The family includes her husband who is a software engineer, wood worker, and swimmer, their three teenage children, a grandmother and a wife with degenerative muscular dystrophy. Her electric wheelchair is large, and her range of motion limited. This house allows them to enjoy every moment with one another in a way that suits their lifestyle, needs, and design aesthetic.

Functionally, it accommodates increasing disability without using institutional products. Environmentally, it minimizes mechanical climate control through strategic orientation, fenestration, shading, and natural airflow. Solar hot water heaters reduce consumption, and sips panelized construction reduced lumber use.

Jury Comments: This *fits the landscape well—there's a contextual response to street, forming a compound within the open landscape. The discreet approach to accessibility is commendable. It allows one member of a family to function on a daily basis without calling attention to what is a tragic disability.*

Park Street Residence, San Francisco
Architect: Studio Sarah Wilmer

This renovation and addition, located in a neighborhood built largely after the 1906 San Francisco earthquake, synthesizes the vernacular character and scale of the original cottage with the growing needs of a modern family. Expanding the house from 1,050 sf to a still-modest 2,150 sf, the design opens the home to the southern garden, maximizing passive solar heat and light. The middle level, free of most demising walls, is dedicated to living/eating/cooking spaces that open onto a canvas covered deck. A translucent wall along the living/dining area and a west oriented clerestory at the kitchen create a luminous light filled urban home.
Jury Comments: *This entry is a great example of how to tell a before & after story well. The gentle abstraction of the street façade suggests the contemporary treatment within, without hyperbole. Did a nice job of bringing natural light into the space. We liked the simple elements and materials.*

House for Two Artists, Annapolis
Architect: Marcy Wong Donn Logan Architects

The clients, a composer and a photographer, wanted a small house to replace a dilapidated shack on their secluded Northern California land. Due to the intense pace of their careers and travel schedules, the house was conceived of as a bucolic refuge that was inspired by, drew from, and connected to the land. The clients - as custodians of this beautiful terrain – were intent on building as sustainability as possible – an objective fully shared by the architects. Much of the 1,660 sf house was constructed of salvaged materials, for sustainability goals, rather than budget reasons.

Jury Comments:
Great mix of classic and contemporary makes it a visionary project: in the tradition of the post and beam barn yet the 3D subdivision in the mode of furniture. Double-height but still cozy. Simple and effective use of color and materials.

Sonoma Retreat
Architect: Aidlin Darling Design

The Sonoma Retreat was created as a private exercise, meditation and relaxation space for a San Francisco businessman and his family. The building, while adjacent to the main house, was sited far enough away to provide complete privacy while in use. The program involved the creation of a primary meditation / workout / yoga studio with an adjacent steam room, changing rooms, bathroom, refreshment bar, private sundeck and an outdoor shower.

Located on ten acres of rolling hillside above the town of Sonoma, this private retreat is a freestanding structure adjacent to an existing rammed earth house. The Sonoma Retreat minimizes the footprint of the building and the impact to the environment. The structure was carefully sited in the landscape, passive heating and cooling strategies were implemented, and reclaimed and sustainable materials were considered throughout.

Jury Comments: *Exquisitely executed. Framing of the landscape to extend the space and capture the forms of the trees. We especially like that it is carved down into the hillside, then opening out. Great material palette—reclaimed wood floor. Elegant but not too precious.*

House for Miller Creek Ranch, Geyserville
Architect: Nielsen:Schuh Architects

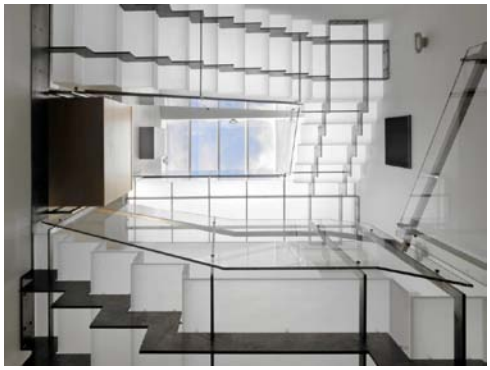
With a site of largely undisturbed native California terrain, the driving goal was for the house to compliment and feature its natural setting, while providing a home for a large, extended family.

The buildings are organized as a series of discrete spaces, all linked by a concrete loggia, which is both circulation and structural spine. This spine creates an accessible connection between the main house and remote bedrooms. Each space is sheltered by a pitched roof, hinging from the loggia walls at the low side -- held by light steel v-braces at the upper end, allowing the roofs to open toward the view.

The structure of board-formed concrete portal walls, oxidized steel and fir planking are left to naturally age. Terrace areas, captured by rubble stone walls, serve as transition between built elements and natural setting. Rooftop photovoltaic panels provide electric power for the ranch.

Jury Comments: *We appreciate that this is quite an appropriate material texture for the site, woven into the trees. Modern interpretation of the vernacular, elegant use of modest materials. Within the glass pavilions, elements frame activity more formally and give another layer of scale. It's an exceptionally elegant execution.*

Laidley Street Residence, San Francisco



Architect: Zack deVito Architecture

This new, ground-up single-family residence peers over a steep downhill slope with views of the city and bay. The owners, a family of four, were both architect and builder. The goal of the project was to create a modern, eco-sensitive, urban retreat that was kid tough and kid friendly, but didn't compromise on design. The open plan is rationally composed of two side-by-side volumes, the larger volume sliding past the smaller, pushing out toward the view on three levels. The rear, view side of the house is broken down with projecting balconies and capped with a sloping roof, projecting out from the living room.

A photovoltaic system provides nearly 100% of the required electricity and solar hot water panels reduce heating loads for the hydronic radiant heat and domestic hot water.

Jury Comments: *Exquisitely executed. Thoughtful construction—prefabrication, less waste, attention to detail—which was also well-represented. Sculpting of natural light into the center of the dwelling by way of the glass stairs—a classic problem of the row house.*

Vai Avenue Case Study, Cupertino

Architect: Leddy Maytum Stacy Architects

Inspired in part by the case study house program of the mid-20th century, Vai Avenue Case Study was designed as a net-zero energy / carbon neutral single family residence to meet the pressing realities of the 21st century. The compact 2,245 sf home (plus city-required garage) is located on a one-third acre lot in a typical, medium density suburban community. The house provides an open, flexible living space, three bedrooms, home office and family/guest room in spaces that maximize connections to the outdoors while reducing net annual site energy consumption and carbon emissions to zero. Utilizing conventional construction materials and readily available building technologies, this project illustrates that true net-zero energy homes, located in typical suburban neighborhoods, are attainable today. The project anticipates LEED for homes platinum certification.

Jury Comments: *The jury was impressed by the integration of excellent design details with a net-zero energy residence. It does indeed recall the Case Study houses sponsored by Arts & Architecture: simple, light, elegant.*

Shinsei Gardens Apartments, Alameda
Architect: Mikiten Architecture

Thirty-nine units of affordable housing on former navy land serve low-income families, including veterans and their children,

The LEED Platinum building is part of a new neighborhood, which was an opportunity to create context rather than merely respond to it. The architecture is a contemporary interpretation of Craftsman form and Japanese joinery. The buildings create community by enclosing a large courtyard. The play equipment is designed for two age groups (toddlers and

children) and is accessible to people with disabilities. The outdoor spaces are incredibly active, with adults and children out in the courtyard until well after sunset. All of the kitchen windows face the play space, so children are conveniently supervised. The project achieved LEED Platinum by incorporating green practices in every possible process and element.

Jury Comments: *A good example of how warm and inviting affordable housing should be. Good exterior space-making, creating community. Accommodates itself to the scale and forms of the context, finding balance in its density.*

Orinda Residence
Architect: Nick Noyes Architecture

Located in suburban Orinda adjacent to a protected watershed, this project involved the complete renovation of and minor addition to a neglected 1950's ranch house.

Carved from a warren of existing rooms, a large common kitchen/living/dining room was created that receives light and ventilation from all four sides and acts as the town square to the gathering of interior and exterior spaces that surround it.

Modest materials, exacting craft and a new garden and pool design combine to support the formal clarity of the project and to give it an air of appropriateness that encourages an informal indoor/outdoor lifestyle.

Jury Comments: *Well-executed, refined hand. We find the indoor and outdoor play to be well-integrated, but not overwrought. This renovation follows in the tradition of Wurster.*

Honor Awards

McDonnel Residence, Sebastapol
Architect: Leddy Maytum Stacy Architects
The clients, a couple who both worked for the Santa Rosa fire department hand-built a new modern home for themselves and four children on an uphill lot near downtown Sebastopol. Their budget was $300,000 ($150 per square foot). Like the fire stations familiar to them, the house is an efficient design composed of sleeping rooms upstairs, service spaces at the rear and a large open loft living space below. The house is oriented towards the views and morning sun to the east while the west face is nestled under a shady mature bay tree. Additional sustainable design features include generous natural ventilation, radiant slab heating, high-efficiency dual space/water heating, local and recycled building materials.

To meet their budget (and partly because they love to build), the owners formed a unique partnership with Fairweather Construction, a local general contractor. The owners worked alongside the contractor throughout the construction providing labor assistance and constructing many of the finishes and furnishings themselves. The result is a finely crafted yet affordable modern custom home.

Jury Comments: *Modest budget resulting in a project so simple, a fully integrated understanding of precedent. Crisp, straightforward plan. Well-represented. "And it is modular-friendly!"*

Atherton Residence
Architect: Turnbull Griffin Haesloop
Located on a flag lot in Atherton, this residence creates a retreat that maximizes open landscape and enhances the privacy of the site.

The house consists of a series of pavilions that focus on the pond, gardens and pool. The house features photovoltaic and solar hot water panels, radiant heating, passive cooling and many green building materials. Located on the peninsula south of San Francisco, this house sits on an internal suburban flag lot. The previous 1950's house, which was removed due to foundation failure, featured mature landscaping and a manmade pond that the clients wanted to preserve. They wanted the house to create a private retreat that would maximize the drama of the pond and take advantage of the privacy of the site. As advocates of year-round outdoor dining and entertaining, the clients wanted a series of pavilions that would open up to the landscape and have as many outdoor rooms as possible.

Jury Comments: *We admire the modest entry, opening through to a surprisingly intimate, yet at the same time expansive relationship to the pond and garden. Strong use of the topography and foliage to achieve a softened light. Consistent, simple palette. Pattern of concrete formwork contributes to scale. "Sums up California living."*

Casa Feliz, San Jose
Architect: Rob Wellington Quigley, FAIA
This project replaces an aging residential hotel near downtown San Jose with 60 new efficiency apartments. The project serves extremely low-income tenants and residents with developmental disabilities.

The tight infill site, less than a half-acre, required a creative and efficient design. Four stories of housing are located over a single level of below-grade parking for 22 cars. Amenities include a group activity room, lounge, common kitchen, computer stations, on-site laundry and communal porches and decks. The two-story lobby, flooded with natural light and augmented with a tile and light "hearth," lends dignity and grandeur to this domestically scaled project. These spaces connect visually with the outdoor spaces and circulation core on the upper floors, enhancing both social interaction and visual surveillance. The owner's commitment to producing a sustainable building was recognized with a Gold LEED rating. The building's crowning glory is San Jose's first living roof.

Jury Comments: *Well-planned and executed—it's green but doesn' "scream green". The common space provides an interweaving of scales, allowing individuals or small groups to find a place within the community realm. The architect wisely broke up the forms to fit within the fabric of the neighborhood, corresponding to the scale of the adjacent buildings. Massing is intimate and provides cross-ventilation. Good site planning—slices going through it that bring in light, graduated continuity with the public realm.*

AIA East Bay's 2010 ExRes Design Awards are sponsored by Aerotek, ArchVista, BlueBeam, Bodyguard, Dealey, Renton & Associates, Degenkolb, IOA Insurance Services, Kelly-Moore Paints, and McGraw-Hill Construction.

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The AIA East Bay's members are architects and allied professionals in Contra Costa, Alameda, Solano, and Napa counties. AIA East Bay, an architectural community founded in 1947, supports our membership in exemplary practice and professional growth.