

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**The American Institute of Architects – New Orleans Announces Recipients  
of 2007 Design Awards**

**Award Honors Exemplary Models of Residential, Community & Restorative  
Design**

The New Orleans chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) has announced the recipients of the 2007 AIA New Orleans Design Awards. Twelve Honor and Merit Awards were chosen from over 70 applicant projects by a jury composed of three principals from leading national architecture firms. This year, AIA New Orleans received more applicants than any other year in its history. The awards theme of 'Good Design is Good Business' reflects the ongoing work of AIA New Orleans to highlight the best in design and revitalization Post-Katrina and Rita, and call attention to the importance of architecture in Louisiana's cities and communities.

The awards were presided over by AIA New Orleans President Michael Bell and featured prominent keynote speakers including Lt. Governor Mitch Landrieu, Louisiana Secretary of Economic Development Michael Olivier, Donna D. Fraiche, LRA Chair of Long Term Community Planning, and local hotelier and tourism leader Michael Valentino

Lt. Governor Landrieu praised the architecture community for its role in helping to rebuild the state and city: "Good architecture makes good business in communicating prosperity and a progressive attitude." He also commended AIA as "a body of forward-thinking individuals who responded immediately after Katrina by taking initiative to ensure that the integrity of New Orleans' precious architectural heritage was lost to neither natural nor man-made disaster."

AIA New Orleans President Michael Bell, AIA said, "Our awards this year send an important message about the talent, skills and all-around capacity of the architects and planners of this region."

"All of the jurors were very impressed with the quality of work we are producing here. This should bode well for the involvement of our architectural talent pool in helping this region to rebuild our residential, commercial and institutional buildings in a way that should set a new standard for the revival of a city after a disaster," said Bell.

"The architects in New Orleans and the AIA have been working hard to support the planning and redevelopment of our city. These awards reflect the

high level of commitment and excellence they have been bringing to their efforts,” Bell added.

This year’s jury was comprised of principals of leading national firms based in Chicago: Joe Valerio, FAIA from Valerio Dewalt Train Associates; Diane Legge Kempf, FAIA, ASLA – DLK Architecture; and John Ronan, AIA, John Ronan Architecture.

Valerio shared his perspective on the post-Katrina architectural environment: “It’s possible that stress leads to great work. Just as the fire in Chicago—which destroyed most of the city—led to great architecture, it seems that the storm here is now resulting in innovative work that will lead what’s happening in the rest of the country.”

### **The Awards and Jury Comments:**

#### **1) Master Planning and Urban Design**

##### **Award of Merit: Inner Harbor Navigation Canal Park**

New Orleans, LA

Perez, APC

Often civil engineering is no more than....well, civil engineering. In this case a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project provides vital public space that improves the quality of life for the surrounding neighborhood. The jurors noted that this project was designed prior to Katrina and are anticipating its completion.



**2) Historic Preservation**  
**Award of Merit: 1231 Decatur St.**  
New Orleans, LA  
Perez, APC

Residential conversions of historic buildings rarely have such a comfortable and pleasing outcome where old and new live so successfully side by side.



Photo Credit: Greg Miles

**3) Divine Detail**  
**Award of Honor: Ligo Science Education Center**  
Livingston, Louisiana  
Eskew+Dumez+Ripple

Form and function come together in an exciting and unexpected way in the design of this building where a dynamic exterior wall suggests its purpose: a science education center.



Photo Credit: Peter Richards, Shawn Lani

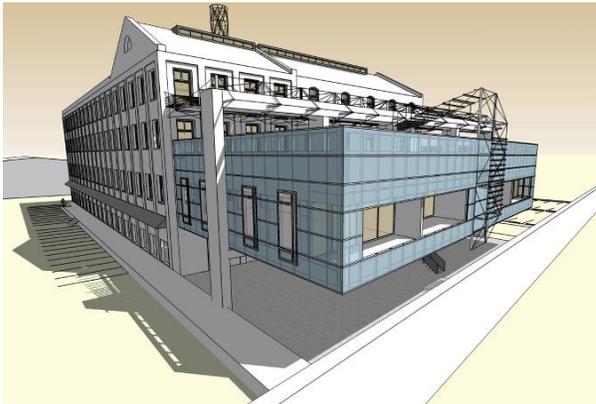
#### **4) Projects**

##### **a) Award of Merit: Rice Mill Lofts, LLC**

New Orleans, LA

Wayne Troyer Architect

The fact that the weathered and worn old warehouse in this project remained virtually unchanged, and the new additions were highly dynamic and sculptural caught the jury's attention. Note was made of the successful juggling of the use of different materials.



##### **b) Award of Merit: Magazine Street Apartments**

New Orleans, Louisiana

Eskew+Dumez+Ripple

In the clever design of this residence, through the simple movement of shutters, the form of this apartment building appears to change throughout the day. The modernist expression of the building's mass adds a rich pattern to the composition.



## **5) Interior Architecture**

### **a) Award of Honor: Studio WTA**

New Orleans, LA

Wayne Troyer Architect

This office space project provided more than just new interiors for the client. It enhanced the elements of the existing industrial buildings and seamlessly fused the vision of the architect.



Photo Credit: Neil Alexander

### **b) Award of Honor: Acadiana Center for the Arts**

Lafayette, Louisiana

Eskew+Dumez+Ripple

Jurors cited that “this interior is at once hot and cool. The white walls and glass partitions create bold gallery spaces that are both neutral and exciting. By contrast, a sculptured wood system that encloses service spaces adds a sensuality to the interior.”



Photo Credit: Chipper Hatter

## 6) Architecture

### a) Award of Merit: Coffee Shop

New Orleans, LA

Wayne Troyer Architect

With this project the architect transforms a heavy, oppressive, void into a meaningful social space- a place you want to be. PJ's Coffee House traditional brand is accommodated in the design of the sleek, new environment.



Photo Credit: Tracie Ashe

### b) Award of Merit: Kirin Sushi Restaurant

Hammond, Louisiana

Holly and Smith Architects, APAC

The simple yet distinctive design of this new restaurant features an abbreviated pergola that frames the upper outdoor deck. Inside, the architects' artful layering of different spaces creates different dining experiences while preserving a well organized whole.



Photo Credit: Marc Lamkin Photography/Design

**c) Award of Merit: Isidore Newman Lower School**

New Orleans, LA  
Waggonner & Ball Architect

The architects brought a visual vitality to the older school building with a design that fills the interior with light and enriches the entire campus.



Photo Credit: Alise O'Brien Photography

**d) Award of Merit: Lallage Faezel Wall Residential College**

New Orleans, LA  
Wayne Troyer / Lloyd Bray Architects

A glass enclosure forms the anchor of this winning design where screening grills temper the light. The jury was also impressed with the architects' material palate.



Photo Credit: Neil Alexander

**e) Award of Merit: Law Offices for Daigle, Fisse & Kissenich, PLC**  
Madisonville, Louisiana  
Holly and Smith Architects, APAC

In this small office building, the design of each component results in a structure that is more than the sum of its parts. The simple stucco façade and expanse of glass creates a sense of openness and sensitivity to its natural, wetland surroundings.



Photo Credit: Marc Lamkin Photography/Design

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AIA New Orleans is a non-profit organization comprised of nearly 400 professional architects, and connected to the national chapter of 80,000 professional architects worldwide. Founded in 1910, AIA New Orleans mission is to represent, educate and serve the architecture profession and entire community as concerns the built environment. The chapter hosts more than 35 different events throughout the year for its members and the public including a lecture series, Continuing Education classes, building tours, architecture exhibitions, an annual architecture film festival and our annual Design Awards program. AIA New Orleans has been closely involved with the rebuilding efforts as evidenced through programs and events to serve the community including the Governors Conference in November 2005; a charrette for Urban Impact Ministries resulting in sustainable home designs for odd-sized lots in Central City in 2006; co-sponsoring and co-organizing the 2006 Housing Solutions Summit which provided free seminars and education to over 30,000 New Orleans residents; and the ongoing Architect Pairing Program that pairs volunteer architects with homeowners adversely affected by hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Learn more at [www.aianeworleans.org](http://www.aianeworleans.org).

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