



**RELEASE on
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2009**

Contact: Marisol Molstre, Essman/Associates
Phone: (515) 282-7145
E-mail: m.molstre@essmanassociates.com

Elyse Novak, Essman/Associates
Phone: (515) 282-7145
E-mail: e.novak@essmanassociates.com

Twelve Central States Region Projects Receive Awards for Design Excellence

Winners announced at the CSR/AIA Awards Celebration "Blue Ribbons & Blues"

Des Moines, Iowa (October 17, 2009) – The American Institute of Architects – Iowa Chapter (AIA Iowa), hosted the Central States Region Excellence in Design Awards Annual Design Awards program on October 16 in Des Moines, Iowa. The awards program recognizes excellence in architecture and emphasizes its importance in the community. The jury was chaired by Robert Ivy, FAIA and editor-in-chief of *Architectural Record*. Other jury members include Joann Gonchar, AIA, LEED® AP, senior editor of *Architectural Record* and contributing editor for *GreenSource* Magazine; Sebastian Howard, associate editor of *Architectural Record*; Clifford Pearson deputy editor of *Architectural Record*; and Suzanne Stephens deputy editor of *Architectural Record*.

Eight Central States Region (CSR) entrants received the Merit Award of Excellence. Awardees came from four of the five CSR states – Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska and Oklahoma.

Substance of Des Moines, IA, received a Merit Award of Excellence for the Weigel Residence, a private residence. Juror comments included, "Handsomely conceived and detailed." "Well thought out in passive energy use and orientation."

Also receiving a Merit Award was OPN Architects, Inc., of Des Moines and Cedar Rapids, IA, for the OPN Architects Offices. Jurors said, "Conscious use of layers, spaces and information." "Change in scale and intimate spaces in large flexible space is interesting. Clean lines of the new in a textured shell."

The Melrose Parking Expansion designed by HLKB of Des Moines, IA, received a Merit Award. One juror stated, "Two different elevation designs nicely unified into one result, not just wrapping. Commendable solution of a difficult building type."

BNIM of Des Moines, IA and Kansas City, MO, won a Merit Award for the Omega Center for Sustainable Living, a wastewater treatment facility and education center for sustainable living. Juror comments included, "Landscape and building conceived as one system. Good use of natural recycled material fitting into landscape with which it is intertwined."

Neumann Monson Architects of Iowa City, IA, received a Merit Award for the Davenport Police Facility. One juror commented, “Remarkable humane and light filled solution for an often overlooked building type. It has a very secure sense of scale from plaza to entry.”

Elliott + Associates Architects of Oklahoma City, OK, received a Merit Award for the Gaylord-Pickens Oklahoma Heritage Museum. Comments from the jurors included, “Color is vibrant but used judiciously.” As well as, “Almost European approach to adaptive reuse.”

A Merit Award was also given to Miles, Associates, Inc. w/HOK of Oklahoma City and Tulsa, OK, for Utica Place – a mixed-use development. Jurors said, “Unexpected but pleasant.” “Surprisingly deft use of historical forms and massing.”

Min|Day of Omaha, NE, received a Merit Award for Fogscape/Cloudscape, a 2-bedroom, 1-bath, single-family house. One juror commented, “Remarkably fresh and fun for a young person.”

Four CSR entrants received the Honor Award of Excellence. Elliott + Associates Architects received two honors in this category, along with one each for Min|Day and Cannon Design of St. Louis, MO.

Elliott + Associates Architects received an Honor Award for the Chesapeake Boathouse. Jury comments included, “Smart use of form for a simple building type” and “Sleek object inserted into the landscape, like a boat into the water.” The other Honor Award for Elliott + Associates was for ELEMENT at Chesapeake, a restaurant. Comments from jurors included, “Elegant insertion into a commercial office building. Skillful lighting and honey colored glazing created a glowing atmosphere for dining” and “Works well on outside and inside moving in. Interesting use of interstitial spaces.”

Min|Day also received an Honor Award for a single family residence, a house on Lake Okoboji. Jury comments included, “Takes advantage of a beautiful site” and “Wonderful innovative use of materials from inexpensive to luxurious. Great use of color.” The jury also stated that “views well thought out from every angle.”

The final Honor Award went to Cannon Design for Cannon Design Regional Offices, Power House Restoration/Renovation. Jurors remarked on the “Beautiful relationship between old and new, giving enough space to the old without cramping the new.” Other comments included, “Designed in countenance to the shell, clean and sculptural without being domineering.”

Since 1857, the American Institute of Architects has represented the professional interests of America’s architects. AIA Iowa, headquartered in Des Moines, is a statewide affiliate of the national AIA with 828 members. AIA Iowa members express their commitment to excellence in design and are proactive in the design of livable communities. Members adhere to a code of ethics and professional conduct that assures the client, the public, and colleagues of an AIA-member architect’s dedication to the highest standards in professional practice.

###

For more information, please contact Marisol Molstre at Essman/Associates, at (515) 282-7145, or e-mail her at m.molstre@essmanassociates.com.