

Every two years, the Idaho Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA)* assembles a jury of reputable architects to award honors to projects by architects practicing in Idaho. Last October, the jurors awarded six projects, from 30 entries, in three categories: Honor, Citation and Merit. In addition to the juror selections, one project was honored with a People's Choice Award. This prize provides an opportunity for the architectural community to present their recent work and encourages the public to become aware and involved with the built environment.

Overall, the jury felt that the diversity and quality of projects reflected a vital and thriving design culture in Idaho. This was evident in both the range of architectural programs and the variety of stylistic expressions. The jury also commented that there seems to be some conscious direction to an "appropriate contemporary regional aesthetic—one that moves the language of architecture in the state beyond heavy timber and native stonework." The winning projects demonstrated thoughtful and appropriate solutions in terms of budget, scale, program and context in a spectrum of architectural innovation that ranged from landscape to urban design.

Award-winning projects this year include an art gallery, a single-family hillside residence, a youth shelter, an urban office building, a community center and a car wash.

The three individuals selected to jury the 2006 AIA/IDAHO Design Awards brought a wide range of perspectives to the awards program. The jurors were: Prescott Muir, A.I.A., principal and founder of Prescott Muir Architects of Salt Lake City; Eric Migacz, A.I.A, design principal with MHTN Architects of Salt Lake City; Michael Tingley, A.I.A, principal with BOORA Architects of Portland, Oregon.

BY DESIGN

American Institute of Architects chooses local design winners

BY CATHY SEWELL

AWARD OF HONOR

J. CRIST GALLERY, BOISE | TROUT ARCHITECTS | BOISE



The J. Crist gallery is located on a former brownfield* site, situated in a light industrial warehouse-services neighborhood in Boise's west downtown. This immediate context, geometry of the site and solar orientation informed the design approach. The minimalist exterior and slotted openings reinforce the gallery's geometry and reveal fragments of the courtyard and glimpses of downtown from within the space. Designer Dwaine Carver said "it is its own place, simultaneously engaging and shutting out the site." Skylights, light shelves and cut-away corners modulate the natural light, illuminating the walls and spaces while preventing any direct light from falling across the art.

JURY'S COMMENTS:

This jewel-like project seemed to us to grow naturally from the trapezoidal geometry of its site as if it was always meant to be there. As one enters the Gallery to take in the collection, the building seems to disappear as it defers to the artwork it contains. This absence of architectural ego permits the Gallery to perform exactly as its program demands—to provide a respite from the outside world, allowing the unencumbered contemplation of art.

brownfield (broun'fēld'), n.

A term used to describe a piece of industrial or commercial property that is abandoned or underused, and often is environmentally contaminated. Examples include parking lots, warehouses and automotive repair shops.

*The AIA is a professional organization that helps architects serve the public's needs while building awareness of the role architects and architecture play in American society.



GREAT PERFORMANCES

Sting: Songs from the Labyrinth

Monday, February 26
10:00 p.m.

Sting revisits English composer and court musician John Dowland's serene and introspective music from a contemporary perspective. Sting's yearning tenor accompanied by Bosnian lute player Edin Karamazov re-introduces the Elizabethan composer's songs, interspersed with recitations from Dowland's personal correspondence. "For me, they are pop songs written around 1600 and I relate to them in that way," says the 16-time Grammy winner. Performances are from both Lake House, Sting's estate in Wilshire, England and the ancient gardens of Il Palagio, his home in Italy.



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AWARD OF CITATION

HAYS SHELTER HOUSE, BOISE



ZGA ARCHITECTS | BOISE

The Hays Shelter House is one of six programs operated by the Idaho Youth Ranch. Located within a residential neighborhood off Cole Road, the facility is set up as a co-ed emergency and crisis shelter for youth ages 9 to 17. The challenge presented to the design team was to create a safe and caring environment that felt and functioned like a home but that could also withstand the high energy levels associated with 20 youths.

The solution incorporates the use of conventional materials such as concrete block, wood and metal rendered over a clear layout of spaces that allows for maximum supervision by staff while creating a warm and welcoming environment void of any institutional character.

JURY'S COMMENTS

"We found the Hays Shelter House very thoughtful through its creation of a place conducive to the lives of the children who will [go] there. The planning of the project worked to reduce its scale, creating a non-institutional environment that is beautiful, uplifting, nurturing and safe."

AWARDS OF MERIT

IDAHO WATER CENTER, BOISE | NBBJ OF SEATTLE IN ASSOCIATION WITH ZGA ARCHITECTS | BOISE



The Idaho Water Center anchors the east end of the Courthouse Corridor located on Front Street at Broadway in Boise. The Courthouse Corridor is part of the River/Myrtle Urban Renewal District. The Idaho Water Center is home to private, state, university and federal entities. This blending of uses embodies the concept goal for the corridor and greater downtown area.

The brick, concrete, metal and glass structure responds to the geometry and context of the site, engaging the street while providing an enclosed edge to the Courthouse Corridor and

changing exterior expression as it responds to the varying solar conditions through the use of light shelves and vertical fins.

CALDWELL YMCA, CALDWELL | ZGA ARCHITECTS | BOISE



Situated on 14 acres of gifted land across from Caldwell High School and a community park, with cornfields as a backdrop is the Caldwell Family YMCA. The 86,000-square-foot facility accommodates all the traditional programs, including a 24,000-square-foot aquatic center and a 30-foot high climbing wall at the entry. The rectilinear form of the facility is interrupted by a bold, red-colored linear concrete block element that extends out into the landscape, anchoring the building onto the ground while organizing the interior plan concept.

The design team selected a material palette of concrete masonry, stucco and storefront glazing rendered, inside and out, in lively colors to reflect the vitality of the community of Caldwell.

J'S ULTIMATE CAR WASH, GARDEN CITY | COLE+POE ARCHITECTS | BOISE



J's Ultimate Car Wash used to be an abandoned, dated and in-need-of repair building along Chinden Boulevard in Garden City. The primary challenge the design team faced was how to come up with a solution on a limited budget, working within the iconography of the automobile, that would support the client's business philosophy of creating buildings that contribute to a community's identity and sense of pride. The building was gutted, leaving just the shell, and then through the use of color, form and material the character of the existing structure was transformed. The interior was also reconfigured

with a curvilinear plan inserted into the rectilinear form, then rendered with bright lights, stainless steel diamond plate and bold colors into a backdrop for the display of the automobile.



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AWARD OF CITATION

PRIVATE RESIDENCE, BOISE



HUMMEL ARCHITECTS | BOISE

The house was designed for a couple of artists who wanted to construct a house for their immediate family and regularly visiting family members, as well as create spaces within the house that were flexible and utilitarian, but contemporary, and that allowed them the opportunity to display and change out their extensive collection of art.

The house's hillside created a challenging building condition. While the site for the house offered panoramic views, the steep slope and natural drainage feature helped dictate the overall design for the project. Cantilevered decks help support the majority of the structure, minimizing the need for any resculpting of the site. The interior living spaces extend out into the landscape through projecting decks, blurring the distinction between indoors and outdoors.

The combination and complimentary nature of the materials, interior (OSB, steel and wood) and exterior (corrugated metal, steel and wood siding), coupled with the minimalist approach to detailing, allows the materials to become the "finish item" rather than applying a cladding. Designer Greg Ugrin indicated the intent was to work within traditional materials and applications but yet render them differently than "traditional, flat land" residential construction.

JURY'S COMMENTS:

Touching lightly on its site, the North End Residence seems paradoxically to grow from the landscape while, at the same time, allowing the untouched ground plane to pass beneath it. Here, we felt that the intersection of skewed masses creates a geometric complexity that responds appropriately to the topography of the site.

ARCHIFACTS

TROUT ARCHITECTS | BOISE | ESTABLISHED: 1968 | PEOPLE: 8

Back in the early 1980s, Steve Trout took ownership of the firm his father had established. Most of the projects that come through the office are from referrals. The firm's credo is "doing the extraordinary with the ordinary," using conventional materials like plywood and sheet metal and articulating them in an appropriate expression of purpose and place.

The firm has two downtown projects under construction; The Modern Hotel in the Linen District and the Grand Avenue Condominiums located in the River/Myrtle District and developed through the Neighborhood Housing Services.

They have also worked on civic projects and are currently working on tenant improvement projects for two branch libraries in the Southeast and West Bench areas of Boise. They hope to "create architecture with a capital 'A.'"

HUMMEL ARCHITECTS | BOISE | ESTABLISHED: 1896 | PEOPLE: 35

Hummel Architects has a long, remarkable history within Boise architecture. The founding firm Tourtellotte & Hummel built the majority of Boise's significant historic buildings—Idaho State Capitol, the Egyptian Theatre, St. John's Cathedral and Union Block just to name a few—but their work spans beyond the city limits and reaches many parts of Idaho. The reputation and legacy inherited by this now relatively "young" firm (the firm has a new generation of partners that has been brought on over the past 10 years) is something they plan to maintain and build upon. They work in a diverse market type—educational and government work as well as medical. They built their own building off Bogus Basin Road, which won 2002 AIA Award of Merit. That building is what brought the clients of this year's award and Hummel together.

ZGA ARCHITECTS AND PLANNERS | BOISE | ESTABLISHED: 1973 | PEOPLE: 23

For the past 30-plus years, ZGA has worked in a diverse market: higher ed, private sector, government and health care are just a few. Maintaining between 20-25 people will allow them to continue in this manner. Currently they are working on a St. Luke's Medical facility in Eagle, interior improvements to the old Boise Cascade building in downtown and have just completed a small medical office building out by St. Alphonsus.

COLE+POE ARCHITECTS | BOISE | ESTABLISHED: 1996 | PEOPLE: 17

Cole Poe has been at the forefront of green, sustainable design for the past seven years. Their office is located in the 5 Front Building, the first *LEED for new construction building certified in Idaho, in which they were the designers. They have completed a number of projects in the downtown core; Plaza One on 9th Street, Metro Car Wash on 13th and the Adelman Building are just a few. Since these awards, the company has changed its name to Modus Architecture. Founder Stan Cole left the firm in December to join Steed Construction.

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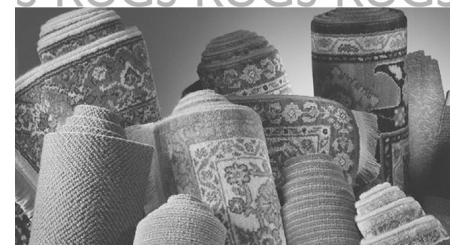
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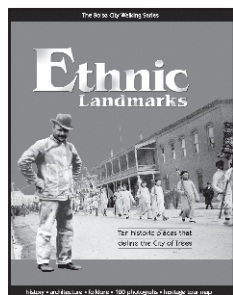
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PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD

PRIVATE RESIDENCE, KETCHUM



MCLAUGHLIN & ASSOCIATES | SUN VALLEY | ESTABLISHED: 1975 | PEOPLE: 6

The clients initially came to the architect with the idea of elevating the house to take advantage of the wonderful views. But with height restrictions and setback requirements, the architect and client came up with a solution that integrated the house into the site, while preserving views, and accomplished the goal of a house that blurred the line of demarcation of the outside and inside. Another challenge presented was the site's orientation to primary south and west sun exposures. The architect incorporated generous overhangs and integral sun shades.

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With the exception of the People's Choice Award for the Ketchum project, all the winning projects and firms were from the Treasure Valley, revealing the talent this area has to offer. There are a number of large-scale projects, both in the private and public sectors, within Boise that are designed by out-of-state architects with a local Idaho architect serving as part of the design team. Some of the award-winning firms indicated that Idaho firms are capable of working on a variety of project types and scale without the need for out-of-state architects. Some conveyed the benefit of bringing in regional or national firms for specific building types. These out-of-state firms often have considerably more experience and can up the ante for the local design community and increase public awareness of architecture with their involvement.

All the firms noted an increased awareness of their clients and the public of the built environment. For one designer, architecture is considered a success if it invokes a reaction, whether positive or negative. Having it noticed is critical and means people are paying attention. With the building frenzy occurring in Boise and around the valley, it is hard not to take notice. There have been several recent projects in downtown Boise that have evoked more negative reactions than

positive. Unfortunately, the built environment is difficult to take down once constructed. Several of the firms believe that providing more teeth to the design review process and enforcing and even updating the plans in place may help.

In the past 10 years, Boise and the Treasure Valley have been engulfed by an enormous number of people, the population almost doubling. As the area has grown, issues like sprawl, density, property values and infrastructure have come to the forefront, causing much debate. Increasing density seems to be the way to control the effects of sprawl. But perhaps the Boise culture is not necessarily urban and the American Dream is alive and well, just hard to find in downtown Boise, thus the continued exodus leading to sprawl. One solution offered is to draw a ring around the city to confine growth. Portland, Oregon, created their invisible urban growth boundary over 20 years ago; keeping farm and rural areas from being developed, their solution continues to be talked about across the country. As the area continues to grow, it will be the architects, planners, city leaders and the community's involvement that will define and shape the built environment for future generations. **BV**

For more information on the American Institute of Architects, go to www.aia.org.