

# AIA Mississippi

A Chapter of The American Institute of Architects

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



### CONTACT:

Joe Blake  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
601-360-0082 | [joe@aiams.org](mailto:joe@aiams.org)

## 2007 AIA Mississippi Design Awards Recognize Excellence in Architecture

BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI — The American Institute of Architects, Mississippi Chapter, recently announced the 2007 recipients of the AIA Mississippi Design Awards, the profession's highest recognition of work that exemplify excellence in architecture. Seven awards were presented to Mississippi architecture firms at the chapter's annual convention in Biloxi, June 17-19, 2007.

Jurors were comprised from architects throughout Tennessee. "The jury was interested in projects that fit their context whether it was a new building or renovation," said jury chair Todd Walker, AIA, partner of Archimania in Memphis. "In our deliberations, the projects we chose represented special qualities, vitality, and the importance of good design in architecture in an outstanding manner," Walker added.

### HONOR AWARD

College of Architecture Building—MSU, Jackson, MS  
By Barlow Eddy Jenkins, PA

This project featured the renovation of a 1920s, 3-story masonry and timber building to house the 5th Year program of the Mississippi State University College of Architecture. The crisp detailing, pools of light, and hushed acoustical properties of the galleries will be unchanged over time while the surrounding spaces—rich in texture, historical patina and filled with creative detritus of the design studios—can be modified to meet teaching needs without altering the basic building organization. The jurors noted that "the project exhibited an excellent level of detail that incorporated sustainable materials." They also noted that "the design is very inventive and educates us as to how to put a school into a tough existing environment."

### HONOR AWARD

Mendenhall Elementary School Classroom and Media Center Addition, Mendenhall, MS  
By Duvall Decker Architects

The project involved the addition of 12 classrooms and a media center to replace the oldest facilities on an existing campus embedded in a residential neighborhood. The new classroom wing completes the enclosure of a new courtyard for play and education that is open to the north. The new media center is a focal point in this courtyard and creates a new center for the elementary school campus. "This project incorporated a very well developed scheme demonstrating good design in a moderate cost project," noted jurors.

509 East Capitol Street  
Jackson, MS 39201  
(601) 360-0082

(continued)

**MERIT CITATION**

Chancery Buildings, Pontotoc County, Pontotoc, MS  
By Belinda Stewart Architects, PA

Pontotoc County has used the current courthouse, designed by N.W. Overstreet, since 1915, when the building was constructed. During the exterior restoration of the courthouse, the County realized the need to expand the functions of the Courthouse without destroying the integrity of the historic courthouse or relocating from the downtown court square. Additional office space was badly needed as well as courtroom space. The rehabilitation of these commercial storefront buildings into the Pontotoc Chancery Court and Chancery offices has provided a dramatic new face to Pontotoc's court square and has spawned the rehabilitation of other downtown buildings. Restoration of the historic courthouse continues with the courtroom recently restored. Jurors were impressed that "the design incorporated very skillful handling of the exterior with new interiors that yielded a user-friendly environment, while maintaining respect for the existing building."

**MERIT CITATION**

2915 North State Street Office Renovation, Jackson, MS  
By Duvall Decker Architects

This project involved the renovation of an existing 2,500 square foot, one-story commercial building to house professional offices, studio and support spaces. The existing building was a 1950s doctor's office located in an emerging arts district. With a minimum addition of new infrastructure and materials, an existing building with limited use options was transformed into a flexible and inviting building that contributes to the viability of its mixed-use neighborhood. Jurors noted that "the project design serves to educate the public on innovative sustainable reuse of an existing building that demonstrates attention to energy and moisture issues with the existing structure."

**CITATION AWARD**

Private Residence, Raymond, MS  
By Barlow Eddy Jenkins, PA

This project involved a small, new private residence located on a 25-acre horse farm in Raymond, Mississippi. It is a warm, simple structure that accommodates the owners' naturally frugal lifestyle. The residence features a private aspect and wide views on the south side, a courtyard adjacent to the bedroom, skylights, and swinging panel doors built on site of the same pine used for the interior paneling. Jurors were impressed that the project represents "a strong concept that is well executed in pristine fashion with excellent attention to detail."

**CITATION AWARD**

Prentiss County Courthouse Restoration, Booneville, MS  
By Belinda Stewart Architects, PA

The Prentiss County Courthouse was restored on the exterior and interior with sensitivity taken to provide handicap accessibility and modern conveniences. The original building was constructed in 1925, with N.W. Overstreet as architect, following a fire that devastated the previous 1904 courthouse. In the late 90s, the Mississippi Landmark building was in great need of restoration and was in danger of being vacated by the county. With the help of a Community Heritage Preservation Grant Program the county pursued the restoration project. Jurors noted that "the project exhibited a faithful restoration of an existing building with obvious time and effort shown to site restoration."

**SAMBO MOCKBEE MEMBERSHIP AWARD**

New Office of Guild Hardy Architects, Biloxi, MS  
By Guild Hardy Architects, PA

This project was honored by being voted the recipient of the Sambo Mockbee Membership Award, an award determined by the AIA membership. The project sought to combine two branches of an architecture firm into a new facility that meets the guidelines of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification. Sited next to a wetland preserve, great care was taken to retain the natural characteristics of the site. The interior is organized around a large open studio space with large expanses of windows on three sides.

(continued from page 2)

#### ABOUT THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

The American Institute of Architects, a professional society with more than 80,000 members dedicated to building healthy, safe, livable, and sustainable communities, celebrates its 150th anniversary in 2007. Through their work, American architects have expressed the richness of our nation's heritage and the vitality of its spirit. They have combined advances in building technology with design innovation to enliven our cities and communities and improve our citizens' quality of life.

AIA Mississippi is the voice of the architectural profession within the state. The AIA Mississippi Chapter exists to organize and unite in fellowship the members of the architectural profession; promote the aesthetic, scientific and practical efficiency of the profession; advance the science and art of planning and building by advancing the standards of architectural education, training and practice; coordinate the building industry and the profession of architecture to ensure the advancement of the living standards of people through their improved environment; and make the profession of ever increasing service to society. For more information, contact Joe Blake, Executive Director at 601.360.0082 or e-mail him at [joe@aiams.org](mailto:joe@aiams.org).

#### ABOUT BELINDA STEWART ARCHITECTS, PA

Belinda Stewart Architects, PA is celebrating their 17th year in downtown Eupora, Mississippi. The firm focuses on historic preservation/rehabilitation and on new traditional design. They excel in helping communities, governmental bodies and individuals see the hope and possibilities of their physical structures. By providing excellent examples of the reuse of Mississippi's existing historic structures, they strive to encourage preservation of existing buildings where possible. They help rediscover the significance of our built heritage – especially buildings built by and funded by the public such as our courthouses. For more information, contact Belinda Stewart at 662.258.6405 or visit the firm's web site at [www.belindastewartarchitects.com](http://www.belindastewartarchitects.com).

#### ABOUT DUVALL DECKER ARCHITECTS, PA

Duvall Decker is located in Jackson, Mississippi, and was established in 1998 to create forms and environments that enrich the lives of those who encounter and inhabit them. The firm's projects are varied in program and include buildings, renovations, interiors and master plans. Duvall Decker's clients are diverse and include universities, state agencies, municipalities, public school districts, churches, businesses, and individuals. The firm is comprised of a talented and dedicated group of individuals who share a love of the practice of architecture. Duval Decker believes in the importance of the built environment to enhance the goals and aspirations of its users, and in conscientious and comprehensive service to their clients. For more information, contact Roy or Anne Marie Decker at 601.713.1128, or visit the firm's web site at [www.duvalldecker.com](http://www.duvalldecker.com).

#### ABOUT BARLOW EDDY JENKINS, PA

Barlow Eddy Jenkins Architects is located in Jackson, Mississippi, and was founded in 1958, as Barlow & Plunkett, Ltd., The firm bases their innovative architectural and planning firm upon a single primary principle: the design of the built environment must enrich human experience. Personal involvement by principals of the firm in design and construction observation has been a policy throughout the firm's history. In the decades since, Barlow Eddy Jenkins has turned that principle into a commitment, compiling a record of pioneering achievements within our profession in Mississippi. The firm's clients represent a broad range of interests, from federal, state and local governments and public agencies to schools, universities, investors, developers, and private business. For more information, contact Chuck Barlow at 601.352.8377 or visit the firm's web site at [www.bejarch.com](http://www.bejarch.com).

#### ABOUT GUILD HARDY ARCHITECTS, PA

Guild Hardy Architects is located in Biloxi, Mississippi, and was founded in 1953, on the principle of providing complete and comprehensive professional services through dedicated client interaction and qualified, professional employees. GHA continues this tradition today by employing a highly skilled and talented staff to provide creative and innovative design solutions to satisfy their clients' needs. Over the last half-century, Guild Hardy Architects has become one of the largest and most respected architecture firms in Mississippi through their commitment to exceptional design and improving the built environment. The size and type of their projects is greatly varied and includes joint ventures with such world-renowned architects as Frank Gehry and Daniel Libeskind. For more information, contact David Hardy at 228.594.2323, or visit the firm's web site at [www.gharchitects.net](http://www.gharchitects.net).

NOTE TO EDITORS: Project images are available to the media. Please contact Brenda Crain with your request at [bcrain@cablone.net](mailto:bcrain@cablone.net).

###