

AIA Mississippi

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2006 AIA Mississippi Design Awards Recognize Excellence in Architecture

JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI., June 21, 2006 — The American Institute of Architects, Mississippi Chapter, recently announced the 2006 recipients of the AIA Design Awards, the profession's highest recognition of work that exemplify excellence in architecture. Selected from 27 submissions, 6 awards were presented to representative firms at the chapter's annual convention in Sandestin, Florida.

"There were a wide variety of projects selected from the entries the jury reviewed for 2006. The jury was interested in projects that fit their context whether it was a new building or renovation," said Jury Chair Larry Scarpa, AIA, from Pugh + Scarpa in Santa Monica, California. "In our deliberations, the projects we chose represented special qualities, vitality, and the importance of good design in architecture in an outstanding manner."

HONOR AWARD

SAMBO MOCKBEE MEMBERSHIP AWARD

Mississippi Library Commission Headquarters Building, Jackson, MS
By Duvall Decker Architects, PA and Burriss Wagnon Architects, PA

The Commission is a repository of books and multi-media materials as well as a service institution. This public building invites inquiry through sectional, diagonal and indirect connections between spaces and between the interior and exterior. The building's main reading room overlooks the center of the composition, an exterior green lawn set against the surrounding woods. "This project presented a modernist plan with a strong understudy of a classical building," said Scarpa of the juror's comments. "The use of light quality in the main reading room gives it the feeling of a grand hall. The entry sequence is especially rich spatially and materially."

In addition to receiving the Honor Award by the jurors, the project was also honored by being voted the recipient of the Sambo Mockbee Membership Award, an award determined by the AIA membership.

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HONOR CITATION

Restoration of Yalobusha County Courthouses
By Belinda Stewart Architects, PA

The small rural county of Yalobusha has two court districts and therefore two courthouses – both of which are significant historic anchors for their communities. These courthouses were in danger of being abandoned by the county for a new modern, centrally located courthouse. The larger Water Valley Courthouse was originally constructed in 1886, with modifications following a fire in 1913. Jurors were impressed that the two buildings were “returned to their original grand state with subtle improvements. Historic preservation was demonstrated in the details and the project stayed true to the original character of the interior spaces.”

HONOR CITATION

Natchez Trace Visitors Center, Clinton, MS
By Belinda Stewart Architects, PA

The building plan for this public facility was developed utilizing forms from local traditional residential structures. The building appears to be two stories from the exterior, but the interior of the building is open to the full height giving the rooms the scale required to feel historic while maintaining a modern edge. All exterior handrails, columns, steps, and wood details are re-milled 100 year old heart cypress. The site was developed to provide for picnic areas, nature trails and views to the Natchez Trace Parkway. Jurors felt that the project represented a “traditional building with modern sensibilities. While the building is rooted in traditional architecture, it has contemporary ideas and is a refreshing way of looking at traditional architecture.”

HONOR CITATION

Diaz Deck | Boathouse
By Duvall Decker Architects, PA

The deck | boathouse for this private residence incorporates a minimal steel frame, a slatted cypress enclosure and a copper roof — all intentionally shaped to form the structure. The construction is additive, but the shape and the repetition of components provide cohesion. Jurors noted that the building “serves as a gateway to the house from the river and utilizes a good color palette that blends well with the rest of the environment.”

MERIT AWARD

Mendenhall High School Gymnasium Addition and Renovation, Mendenhall, MS
By Duvall Decker Architects, PA

The existing gymnasium needed strategic renovation and an addition that would enhance the use of the facility. The addition included a new entrance and ticket booth, a public lobby to accommodate home and visitor entrances, two health classrooms, a new concession facility, and accessible toilets. Jurors noted that “the project is a good example of contextual work in relation to an adjacent historical building.”

ABOUT DUVALL DECKER ARCHITECTS, PA

Duvall Decker is located in Jackson, Mississippi, and was established to practice architecture with exceptional professional care and attention. 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 number of projects the firm accepts are intentionally limited to ensure that the principals actively work on all phases of the work. The firm 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 their web site at www.duvalldecker.com.

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ABOUT BURRIS WAGNON ARCHITECTS, PA

Burris/Wagnon Architects, P.A. based in Jackson, MS, is a vigorous design and service-oriented architectural and planning practice, committed to high quality design and construction. Firm Principals Stan Wagnon, AIA, and Bill Burris, AIA, strive to maintain an architectural practice with a reputation for acquiring and producing thoughtful and carefully-executed projects. They have been responsible for the design and construction administration of a wide range of building types, including educational, corporate, civic, ecclesiastical, and historic preservation projects. For more information, contact the firm at 601.969.7543 or visit their web site at www.burriswagnon.com.

ABOUT BELINDA STEWART ARCHITECTS, PA

Belinda Stewart Architects, PA is celebrating their 16th 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.

ABOUT THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

For almost 150 years, members of The American Institute of Architects have worked with each other and their communities to create more valuable, healthy, secure, and sustainable buildings and cityscapes. AIA members have access to the right people, knowledge, and tools to create better design, and through such resources and access, they help clients and communities make their visions real.

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 Donna Murray, Executive Director at 601.360.0082 or e-mail her at donna@aiams.org.

NOTE TO EDITORS: High resolution images are available to the media. Please contact Brenda Crain with your request at 228.392.3595 or e-mail bcrain@cableone.net.

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