

aiaVT



*The aiaVT newsletter is published by AIA Vermont,
the Vermont Chapter of the
American Institute of Architects.*

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President's Column

Guy Techmacher, AIA
2008 President AIA Vermont

Our Annual Meeting took place December 6th at the Country Club of Vermont in Waterbury Center, with 94 members and guests in attendance. There was a delicious smorgasbord of hors d'oeuvres and much stimulating socializing, to the extent that we ran way beyond our scheduled time to start the agenda and didn't even notice that the band never showed up!

As usual, the Design Awards Ceremony was the highlight of the evening, with seven winning projects, a People's Choice Award, and a total of 43 submissions on display.

Four new Board members were introduced: Christopher Blood, Harry Hunt, Diantha Korzun, and Caitlin Davis, Student Representative. Welcome to the Board! Retiring from the Board are David Epstein, Andrea Murray, and Jessica Georgia – a heartfelt thank you for their above and beyond the call of duty efforts.

Lauren Davis presented a review of the aiaVT activities and programs conducted during 2007, and David Epstein reported on our legislative activities. Some highlights:

- Architecture Design Forum panel discussion.
- Architecture Week and Studio Socials.
- Tours: VINS tour with Efficiency Vermont and Griswold Concrete Manufacturing tour.

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AIA Contract Documents

Order your electronic document software
from the AIA website, www.aia.org

You can order paper documents by calling
AIA New Hampshire, 603-357-2863.
A price list is on line at
www.aianh.org/tools/contractdocs.shtml

- 3rd Annual CANstruction – in the first 3 years of this event, aiaVT has contributed a total of over 50,000 pounds of food to the Vermont Food Bank, for distribution to the needy.
- Learning By Design – 2nd student competition and Architects In Schools events.
- Lectures at Middlebury College, sponsored in conjunction with The Bread Loaf Corporation.
- CORA – Green Housing panel discussion
- Traveling show of the aiaVT Design Awards submissions – five locations around the State.
- Legislative Programs: Support for H.520 – Commercial Building Energy Standards; Opposition to S.93 – Fee based bidding for professional services for State funded projects; Opposition to Fire Safety Department proposal to adopt NFPA 2000 in lieu of IBC.

This is the time for special thanks and recognition: to A.W. Hastings for their six consecutive years of sponsorship for our Annual Meeting; to Susan Weeks for putting together the Powerpoint presentation each year; to Steve Clark for managing our website all these years; to Marsha Wilmot for her unstinting commitment for three years to CANstruction; to Lauren Davis for her enthusiasm and diligence as aiaVT President, Learning By Design chairperson, and mother of two. To Andrea Murray for her selfless contribution of time and effort as editor of our newsletter, and, most important, to Hanne Williams, our Executive Director, without whom we would be lost.

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**BETTER BUILDINGS
BY DESIGN
CONFERENCE 2008**

**FEBRUARY 13 & 14
SHERATON BURLINGTON**

Don't miss the region's premier design and construction conference, featuring interactive learning about building durability, efficiency and value.

Efficiency Vermont

**877-248-9900 or
www.encyvermont.com/conference**

What's ahead?

For 2008 we have adopted a theme for our programs and activities: Sustainability.

This stems from the suggestion of AIA National, which has urged all member chapters to do the same.

Each month, we plan to focus on a particular Sustainability topic, and the Board has set up a tentative calendar:

January -- on the 22nd a talk by Bill McKibben, noted environmentalist, which will be an introduction to the overall theme.

February's focus will be Energy Efficiency, with the Better Buildings by Design Conference.

March: LEED in Vermont.

April: Sprawl in Vermont.

May: Focus on Vermont firms and their Sustainable projects.

June: Alternative Energy and Historic Preservation.

July: Focus on Local Materials.

August: Focus on Residential.

September: Advocacy and the Allied Design Professional Summit.

October: Focus on Commercial and Institutional Projects.

November: Focus on Education.

December: Beyond Sustainability – looking at Regenerative Design.

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Private Residence, New Haven, Vermont Photo: Birdseye Design

In addition, we will continue our standing events such as the Traveling Show of Design Awards Submissions (starting at Norwich University January 19); Architecture Week and Open Houses in May; CANstruction, to be held in September; the Annual Meeting & Design Awards Ceremony in December, and Studio Socials in Spring, Summer and Fall. We will also continue our advocacy in legislative matters concerning architects, with David Epstein leading the Public Policy Committee.

In closing, I would like to urge all members to pick a Sustainability topic or topics of interest to them for which you would be willing to volunteer time and energy. In shaping and carrying out aiaVT programs you will help advance our and our community's knowledge and awareness of this crucially important subject. Contact Hanne at aiaVT@madriver.com or me, at guyt@blackriverdesign.com.

Annual Awards

Seven awards for "Excellence in Architecture" were given out at the Annual meeting and Design Awards Presentations of The American Institute of Architects/Vermont Chapter. There were ten categories of judging criteria and the Jury; three members of AIA Rhode Island, Kathleen Bartels, Derek Bradford and Stephen White chose seven from among forty-three entries.

The Award in the Residential Category was given to Birdseye Design of Richmond for a "Private Residence" in New Haven, Vermont.

The Jury chose to recognize a residential project as they thought this house in particular was one of those well-done moments in architecture. A bold rendition of traditional forms built with "new materials" using spare and well-executed details. Everybody wanted to live in this house.

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Health Care & Rehabilitation Services of Southeastern Vermont
Photo: Jim Westphalen



Medical Clinic in El Salvador Photo: Sellers & Company



Mary Fletcher House Restoration Photo: Gary Hall

Bread Loaf Corporation of Middlebury won the Award in the Sustainable Category for "Health Care & Rehabilitation Services", South Eastern Vermont

This project was seen by the jury as building with a challenging program that had a convincing well-executed sustainability agenda. The Sustainability features were simple, low tech, common sense, and consistently implemented through out the project. There was a restrained elegance and generosity in the plan and spaces throughout the structure that was especially notable given the building type.

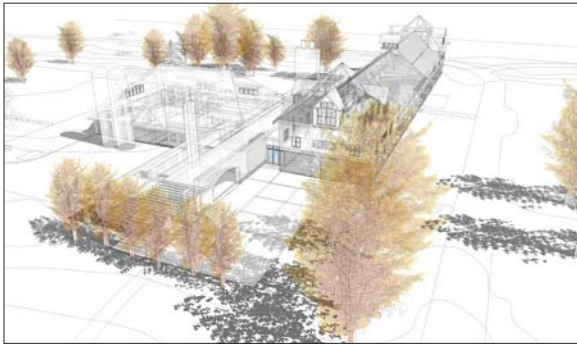
In the Small Project Category the Award was given to Sellers and Company of Warren for a "Medical Clinic" in El Salvador.

The overwhelming comment for this small project was "SMALL PROJECT – BIG HEART". What impressed the jury most was that this was a DESIGN led project with a social agenda; both the design and the agenda showed through loud and clear. The building had clean simple plan with a central space for ventilation and community. The jury liked this emphasis on community and natural/vernacular HVAC systems as well as the creative use of local materials and construction techniques.

Freeman-French-Freeman Architects of Burlington was given an Award for the "Mary Fletcher House Restoration" in Burlington, Vermont. The Award was in the Historic Preservation Category.

What appealed to the jury about the Mary Fletcher House Renovation and additions to the Fletcher Allen Health Care complex was the balance between the restoration and new work. FFF was commended for saving the Mary Fletcher House and putting it forward as the crown jewel in the complex. The additions are recessive "back ground" buildings using more contemporary materials in a subtle complementary manner. The team was impressed that the added buildings didn't imitate but had a quite understated confidence of their own behind the renovated house.

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Learning Center in Shelburne, VT Rendering: SAS Architects



Eco Resort Village in Costa Rica
Rendering: William Maclay Architects & Planners



Black Tree House Photo: Megan Moffroid

In the un-built Category the Award went to Smith Alvarez Sienkiewicz Architects of Burlington for the "Learning Center" in Shelburne, Vermont.

SAS had a beautiful presentation that immediately caught the jury's attention. Commendations were given for thorough planning that will save a remarkable structure. The additions to the complex are sympathetic and complimentary to the original buildings without copying them. The hope of the jury is that the buildings will be as handsome as the presentation.

William Maclay Architects & Planners of Waitsfield were given an Award in the New Directions Category for "Eco Resort Village" in Costa Rica.

The Eco Resort Village in Costa Rica stood out for its deliberate program and thoughtful layout in the landscape. Resort complexes tend to be haphazard. Without being contrived or controlled the Eco Resort Village master plan set a high standard for the development with a sophisticated level of detail. The presentation showed just enough of all the parts to convey the clear formal intentions and values of the project.

In the Landscape Category, the Award was presented to Arrodesign of Waitsfield for the "Black Tree House" in Warren, Vermont.

Architects love follies and the jury was no different. They were immediately taken with the Black Tree House. Though the project was traditionally composed of a roof column and base it dematerialized in a contemporary way to let the trees and landscape read through the architecture. The project was cleverly detailed using innovative construction techniques, which the jury appreciated for the beauty of the details and the risks taken to implement them.

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Lake House Project Photo: Jim Westphalen



All the entries were displayed at Burlington's City Hall in November where the public was encouraged to vote for their favorite project. The winner of "The People's Choice" Award was Michael Minadeo and Partners of Burlington for the "Lake House Project" in Burlington.

New Online Toolbox Helps Vermont Communities Plan for Conservation and Growth

Is your community facing growth pressures and wrestling with difficult decisions about how land is developed or conserved? A new, online toolbox can help you understand the issues, weigh your options and take action.

The Community Planning Toolbox, developed by Smart Growth Vermont, features a variety of land use tools and resources that Vermont communities have used to encourage neighborhood development, revitalize village centers and protect local farms and forests. "So many Vermonters agree on what they want their community to look like in 20 years," says Noelle MacKay, Executive Director of Smart Growth Vermont. "They just need the zoning, bylaws or plans to make it happen."

"Let's say your community wants to ensure future development doesn't encroach upon a local forest," says MacKay. "The Toolbox's Issues section describes how productive forests are key to the economic and environmental well-being of our state. In the Tools section, you'll find specific tools to prevent forest fragmentation, such as resource conservation districts and subdivision regulations. In the Case Studies section, you'll learn how other Vermont communities used these tools to balance growth with conservation."

Have a smart growth success story in your community? Contact Smart Growth Vermont at (802) 864-6310. They will be adding new issues, tools and case studies to the Toolbox over the next year.

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aiaVT Welcomes

Thomas Mitchell, Assoc. AIA, of Williston

Maura O'Dea, AIA, of Colchester

aiaVT is edited by Andrea Murray, AIA. Published views are the author's and not necessarily the views of AIA Vermont or any other organization.

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AIA Vermont reserves the right to edit articles for available space and determine appropriate content prior to inclusion. Submissions must be received by the 15th of the month prior to publication.

The Toolbox is part of Smart Growth Vermont's Community Planning Partnership. To use the Toolbox and learn more about the Community Planning Partnership, visit their new website at www.smartgrowthvermont.org. Smart Growth Vermont is dedicated to forging growth and conservation solutions for Vermont communities and rural countryside.

2008 AIA Photography Competition

AIA St. Louis announces that the 2008 AIA Photography Competition has gone digital. All entries for the competition must be submitted on a CD ROM for the March 1, 2008 deadline.

Eligibility

The competition is open to any and all architects *actively registered* in the United States. The contest is also open to Associate members of the AIA, and student members of AIAS in good standing. Professional Affiliate or Allied members are not eligible. Slides submitted by ineligible individuals will not be processed and will not be returned. Entry fee for AIA members (AIA & Assoc. AIA) is \$30; AIAS members is \$15. Entry fee for non-member registered architects is \$50.)

The top 14 entries will be exhibited at the 2008 AIA National Convention in Boston, MA. Images for the 2010 Architectural Engagement Calendar (approximately 52 images) will be selected from all submitted entries and will include the 14 award winners. All images must be submitted on CD ROM.

A complimentary 2010 Architectural Engagement Calendar will be provided to each entrant whose image(s) are selected.

Entry deadline is March 1, 2008.

To download the rules and regulations as well as an entry form, visit www.aia-stlouis.org; click on Features.