



AIA/HUD Secretary Awards Recognize Four Outstanding Housing Projects

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For immediate release:

Washington, D.C. – May 14, 2009 – The American Institute of Architect's (AIA) Housing and Custom Residential Knowledge Community, in conjunction with the Office of the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), recognized four recipients of the 2009 AIA/HUD Secretary Awards. This year's jury recognized projects in the categories of community-informed design, creating community connection, and excellence in affordable housing design. These awards demonstrate that design matters, and the recipient projects offer examples of important developments in the housing industry.

Community-Informed Design

**Homeless Assistance Center, Dallas, Texas
CamargoCopeland Architects, LLP and Overland Partners Architects**

Known as "The Bridge," the Homeless Assistance Center meets the growing concerns of homelessness in Dallas. A safe haven and focus for services for more than 6,000 homeless people, it empowers both the chronic and newly homeless to come off the streets and sustain permanent housing in order to live productively. Since opening in May, the Bridge has been more successful than anticipated. Widely accepted by homeless people, a facility designed for 400 now handles up to 1000 people a day, and more than 500 individuals have received training, counseling, secured employment or permanent housing. Results are tangible and the surrounding neighborhood is revitalizing; crime has reduced by 18 percent. The Bridge proves that shelters should not be isolated, but an integrated part of our community.

Creating Community Connection

**Project Place – Gatehouse, Boston
Hacin + Associates, Inc.**

This new six-story mixed-use building developed by a non-profit agency that helps men and women experiencing homelessness reestablish themselves in society by offering job training, work experience, education, housing, and support services. The building contains 14 units of affordable SRO apartments on the top two floors, a multi-function space for community use, and a ground floor commercial restaurant space, which subsidizes the rent for the building's SRO units and is a job generator for the

neighborhood. This sustainable building, currently pending LEED certification, includes two geothermal wells which provide this on-profit agency with an energy efficient means of heating and cooling the building, thus allowing the agency to help the environment, reduce their operating budget, and preserve more funds for their ongoing programming efforts.

Excellence in Affordable Housing Design

Bridgeton Neighborhood Revitalization, Bridgeton, New Jersey Torti Gallas and Patners

Located in a small town in southern New Jersey, Bridgeton Neighborhood Revitalization is not the stereotypical HOPE VI grant recipient. HOPE VI grants typically have gone to large cities, addressing huge swaths of distressed public housing through urban revitalization projects. This project represents the maturation of the HOPE VI program, addressing urban neighborhoods more sensitively in a broader variety of city contexts. The revitalization plan evolved from the careful identification of where - and where not - to build. Parcels scatters in the northern quarter of the city were selected, all of them nearly vacant blocks, almost entirely paved over from former industrial uses. These parcels were physical barriers to pedestrian and social connectivity, and presented havens for illicit activity. Conversely, the former public housing site was revitalized by removing the existing buildings and restoring the site as a park, reconnecting the neighborhood to the Cohansey River parks and knitting the two sides of the city back together.

Irvington Terrace, Fremont, California McLarand Vasquez Emsiek & Partners, Inc.

This 100-unit low-income housing development in Fremont strikes a fine balance between progressive modernist forms and a traditional village-square-like community. It forms a block-long perimeter of flat-roofed rental apartments, articulated with interlocking rectilinear volumes that define individual units. These fused and richly textured units avoid the monumental austerity of past failed experiments in modernist affordable housing by providing street wall relief and variety, complete with street-enlivening stoops and porches. The rows of housing surround two town-square courtyards with adjacent public amenities. The project successfully balances the design aspirations with the risk of cultural dislocation of the residents. As a result, all stakeholders, including both client and residents, can relate to the project design.

The awards were presented during the 2009 AIA National Convention and Design Exposition in San Francisco.

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