



AIA selects eight for accolades

By Paul Weideman

Eight projects by local architects were honored in the annual design awards of the Santa Fe chapter of the American Institute of Architects. The awards were bestowed Dec. 7 at La Posada, with introductions and comments by Henry Tom, principal of Line and Space LLC, Tucson.

Paul Stevenson Oles, Interface Architects, won an AIA Citation Award for his Sundial House. "Architecture," Oles told the gathering, "is really about dreams, and about dreaming, and the beginning of my dreaming about a house in Santa Fe of our own began 50 years ago with Philippe Register, who many of us knew as the consummate gentleman architect." (Oles was Register's first employee after the older architect opened his own office in Santa Fe in 1960.)

Spears Architects won two Citation Awards for its Santa Fe Prep library, which achieved LEED "Gold" certification, and for its St. Michael's Drive redevelopment study. **ellis/browning architects ltd.** won a Citation Award for the Lena Street Lofts, a grouping of several structures that includes the home of the Trust for Public Land and many small businesses. Lisette Ellis offered her firm's thanks to developers/builders/owners Rick and Rachel Brenner "for their commitment to this vision of an affordable industrial village."

Suby Bowden + Associates won an AIA Merit Award for Casa Paciencia, an Arizona biomedical think tank and residential complex that was designed after the old barrio

in downtown Tucson. An effort to bridge the traditions of Mexico and United States, it features brightly colored buildings (which also helps visitors orient themselves) and Mexican detailing.

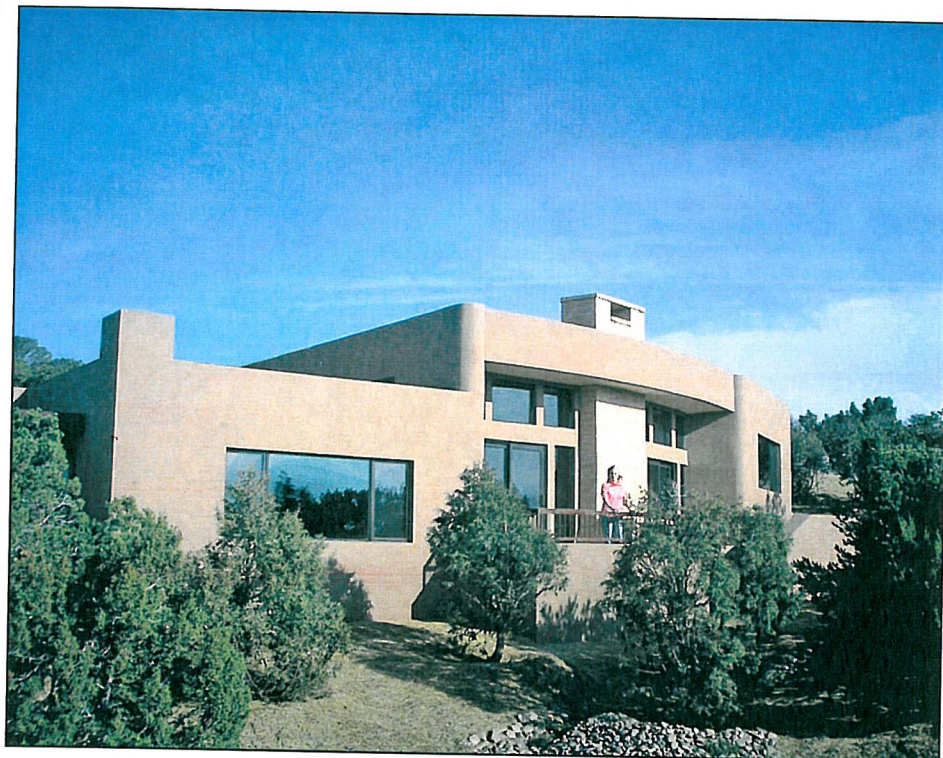
Bowden's company also won an Honor Award for its muscular, angular, glassy, and elegant Taos Residence.

Also recognized were **Atkin Olshin Schade Architects** for its work on the Center for Contemporary Arts and **WoodMetalConcrete Architecture** for its Tesuque Elementary School addition. Santa Fe Public Schools superintendent Bobbie Gutierrez called the school project "very creative, and that's what education is all about." She praised the addition as "creating a wonderful and warm working environment for our students."

After the awards were announced, Geraldine Isais Forbes, director of the architecture program at the University of New Mexico, thanked the chapter for its generosity and dedication to architecture. "We tend to think of that 60-mile drive as this huge divide, but we can't really do that," she said. "I mean, we really have to think about architecture and the design of our communities and the environment of New Mexico — advancing it and saving it at the same time and what does that mean? That's a huge question for all of us."

Closing remarks were given by Albert Moore, AIA. "I've asked myself," he said to the gathering, "if there's some significance to my becoming AIA-Santa Fe president at a time that burdens our souls with concern for our own economic health, safety, and welfare, both





Facing page: Taos House by Suby Bowden & Associates (Photo courtesy Kate Russell)

Top, right: the Sundial House by Paul Stevenson Oles, Interface Architects (Rendering and photo courtesy Paul Stevenson Oles)

Bottom, right: the Lena Street Lofts by ellis/browning architects ltd. (Photo by Paul Weideman)

architecture

for our firms and for our profession in general. And when I listen, there is that small, soft voice within that I sometimes pay attention to saying that this is a time for boldness and leadership, not of the egoic kind, but a boldness of the heart...

"Let this year mark a shift in the paradigm that divides us, the paradigm of the fierce competition and the belief that there is not enough work for us all, to a new paradigm expressed by the Chilean poet Pablo Neruda, who said, 'Changing the world is an inside job.'"

Moore pledged to provide "the bold leadership that will enliven the spirit that has led us all to practice this noble profession." Among the things he wants to do as president are to develop an understanding of the holistic nature of the profession through active collaborations with appraisers, builders, bankers, lawyers, landscape architects, zoning officials, and others; facilitate debate among Santa Fe's mayoral candidates on how architects will play a role to shape the future of the city; and sponsor a fundraising event "focused on the public awareness of our modern design work and our urban design work."

The AIA-Santa Fe gave special recognition to James Horn, Spears Architects, for his work as originator and 2009 chairman of the organization's lecture series. Horn acknowledged the University of New Mexico, the Center for Contemporary Arts, and the Santa Fe Art Institute as partners in the lectures.

He announced a collaboration with the New Mexico Museum of Art, which will bring the traveling exhibition *Museums in the 21st Century: Concepts, Projects, Buildings* to Santa Fe. The show, opening on Jan. 29, will feature guest talks and workshops. Potential guest presenters include Christopher Mead, professor and dean of fine arts in the UNM School of Architecture + Planning; and Brad Cloepfil from Allied Works in Portland, Ore.

