



CULUS

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Arts on campus

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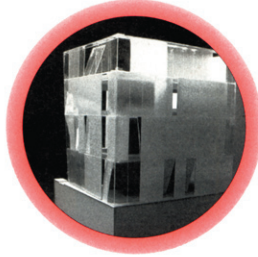
Why isn't there more great architecture in New York?

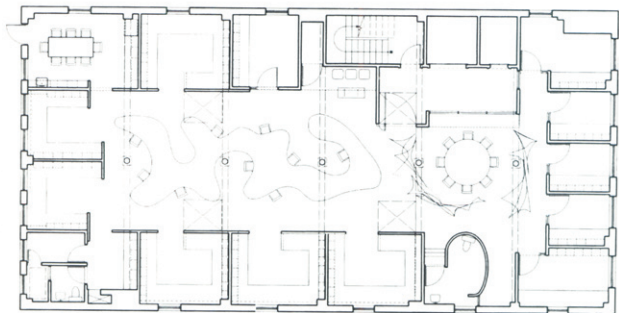
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2000 AIA New York Chapter Design Awards

45

Help for Exporting Expertise





INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE AWARD

Resolution: 4 Architecture

**Thunder House Online
Marketing Agency**

Chelsea, Manhattan

This 5,000-square-foot office space on the top floor of an old warehouse was designed and built for \$135,000 in only ten weeks for an internet company employing nine people but expecting to add 25 more. The clients wanted to encourage the convergence of different ideas.

A skylit entry portal of corrugated metal and translucent panels provides a transition from the elevator landing. On the north end of the loft are private offices with doors and sidelights of structural acrylic for acoustical privacy. Geared to the width of skylights, a series of low partitions wraps the perimeter, defining semi-private offices for creative personnel with linear blue overhead lights symbolizing a computer screen. An undulating Baltic birch table, fabricated on site, weaves around columns, knitting together the work area for web site production, literally linking ten people. In a conference zone defined by overlapping Lycra panels stretched to create an ephemeral volume with visual privacy, the channeled creative energies culminate in presentations to clients.

AP: An amazing way to create open space that offers some privacy with that white textile that really makes life lighter and more attractive if you sit inside.

JM: It's inventive and playful and doesn't feel closed. **SM:** We were taken with the freshness of approach to plan and use of this material to take deconstructive elements a bit further.

Client: Thunder House; **Project Team:** Joseph Tanney, Robert Lutz, Setu Shah; **Lycra Partitions:** Gisela Stromeyer; **Contractor:** Monumental; **Photographer:** Peter Mauss/Esto.



At Varying Scales, Poetic and Bold Solutions

by Kira L. Gould

Some refreshing insights about the origins of architectural excellence surfaced at the AIA New York Chapter Design Awards 2000, held September 26. "We gave special consideration to how the projects responded to place and to the environment, and to the social impact they could have," said architecture juror **Ricardo Legoretta, Hon. FAIA**. Often, design awards push aside such aspects of the architectural process in the rush to reward formal invention and material exploration. But Legoretta's jury, one of three three-member panels, seemed determined to keep the social and environmental context in mind. After a long day examining 300 entries in three categories—Architecture, Interior Architecture, and Projects (for unbuilt works)—the nine jurors discussed their choices at a symposium, moderated by *Architecture* magazine editor **Reed Kroloff**. The program was organized by the AIA New York Chapter Design Awards Committee.

Eleven Architecture Awards were chosen from a pool of 106 entries by Legoretta, of Legoretta Architectos in Mexico City; **Margaret McCurry, FAIA**, of Tigerman McCurry in Chicago; and **Maryanne Thompson, AIA**, of Thompson & Rose Architects in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The jury honored a wide range of projects. "We were looking for things that might foster a richness of the human experience," Thompson said. "And these come in different scales." All three jurors said they were pleased with the range of the

projects, though McCurry noted that they were disappointed not to find any outstanding low-cost housing in the mix. "But in general, we found that there was an enormous number of qualified projects."

The Architecture Award winners were Bartram's Garden Barn Renovation and Lathe House Addition (Philadelphia) by **James Dart, Architect**; Cranbrook Natatorium (Bloomfield Hills, Michigan) by **Tod Williams Billie Tsien and Associates**; the Neugebauer House (Naples, Florida) by **Richard Meier & Partners**; EIBS Pond Park Pavilion (Staten Island) by **Sandro Marpillero and Linda Pollak**; Tribeca Pointe (Manhattan) by **Gruzen Samton**; Cohen House (Osprey, Florida) by **Toshiko Mori Architect**; Armed Forces Recruiting Center (Manhattan) by **Architecture Research Office**; Millanville House (Millanville, Pennsylvania) by **Bone Levine Architects**; Hamilton Square (Washington, D.C.) by **Skidmore Owings & Merrill**; Little Red Schoolhouse (Manhattan) by **1100 Architect (Juergen Riehm and David Piscuskas)**; and the LVMH Tower (Manhattan) by **The Hillier Group** (architect of record) with **Atelier Christian de Portzamparc** (design architect), of Paris.

Eight Interior Architecture Awards—four commercial and four residential—were selected from 114 entries by **André Putman**, of Paris; **Stephanie Mallis, AIA**, of Stephanie Mallis, Inc., in Boston; and **Juan Miro, AIA**, a professor at the University of Texas School of Architecture in Austin and a partner in the newly created firm, Miro Rivera Architects. This category, more than any other, was dominated by a determined modernism. Monochromatic interiors, most of them white,

turned up again and again. But Miro noted that "these are not dogmatic modernists. They are using objects you wouldn't expect," Putman agreed. "The eclecticism we are seeing implies a great deal of freedom," she said. The winners, all in New York City except the Jill Sander Milan Showroom by **Gabellini Associates**; were Tehen New York by **Daniel Goldner**; Eileen Fisher Showroom by **CR Studio Architects**; Loft Renovation by **Kar-Hwa Ho**; Thunder House Online Marketing Agency by **Resolution 4 Architecture**; and Historic Teahouse & Garden, Manhattan Rooftop, and Central Park Pied-a-Terre, all by **Shelton Mindel & Associates**. The Thunder House project was the only low-budget effort recognized; Mallis said they tried to present more awards in that category but didn't find other exceptional works.

Four Project Awards, for unbuilt works, were selected from 80 entries by **Gae Aulenti** of Milan; **Laurinda Spear, FAIA**, of Architectonica International in Miami; and **Brian Brace Taylor**, author and professor at the New York Institute of Technology. This was the most selective jury; Spear noted that they wanted to be unanimous on all awards, and felt that "four is enough." Taylor reported that "as newcomers to New York, we found a lot of the work surprisingly conservative. Much of it seemed locked into an 'international style.' We didn't want to encourage that globalization—the look of everything blending together." Aulenti was frustrated with some of the entries, which she felt insufficiently explained their context. Winners were World Trade Center Plaza by **Swank Hayden Connell Architects**; American Museum of Natural History People Center by **CR**



Stephanie Mallis, Andrie Putman, Juan Miro judging Interior Architecture awards



Campari Knoeffler, AIA, and Brian Brice Taylor discuss Projects entries



Gae Aulenti, Laurinda Spear, and Brian Brice Taylor judging projects



Margaret McCurry, Reed Kroloff and Gae Aulenti rehash discussion



Ricardo Legoretta, Margaret McCurry, and Maryanne Thompson judging Architecture awards

Studio Architects; the Hudson River Park Site Structures Master Plan by **Anderson Architects**, all in Manhattan; and Helmut Lang, Minami-Aoyama, in Tokyo, by **Gluckman Mayner Architects**.

Encouraged by Kroloff and Design Awards Committee chair **Campari Knoepfler, AIA**, many jurors offered advice for those planning to enter next year. Legorreta noted that not all the entries his jury reviewed indicated the location of the project. "It's very important to know this," he stressed. "It's not possible to fully and fairly evaluate the project without knowing where it is." McCurry seconded his comment, noting that many of the submissions could have benefited from a better explanation of their contexts. She added that strong photos are critically (and obviously) important. "That's a reason to wait until the project is really ready to submit and you have enough images," she said.

Spain's jury read many of the submitted texts out loud, which she found eye-opening. "Some of the words I'll never use again, and neither should others, include 'collage,' 'interior street'—this is one I use all the time but never again!—and 'notion.' These are buzzwords and they weaken the descriptions."

The subject of historic preservation and restoration projects remained unsettled. Only one such project was awarded (Hamilton Square, in the architecture category). Miro suggested that it may be time to consider adding a category. "It's difficult, and perhaps unfair to both categories, to weigh preservation and restoration projects against gut renovations," he said. "It's a subject that comes up frequently, and it's no wonder: some 40 percent of the construction projects in

the U.S. today are additions or renovations, and in a city such as New York, a good many of those involve historic buildings. Miro added that "the few preservation projects we saw did not document what the space looked like before. Without that, we cannot judge the technical excellence or whether there was innovative interpretation."

Architect.org Launched

The Architecture Research Institute founded in New York by **Beverly Willis, FAIA**, in 1995 has launched an online web portal to provide research and information for the architectural and urban planning communities.

Architect.org provides over 350 categorized links, a global competition listing, and an extensive interdisciplinary bibliography with over 1,000 entries. All are searchable by keyword on the site's proprietary search engine. The site also provides current news, fed by several international news distribution agencies, which is updated on a daily and weekly basis and the Institute's own research.

The not-for-profit Institute is a virtual think/act tank that studies how the rapid and diverse changes associated with the new global society and digital technology can help make twenty-first century cities compact, sustainable, more walkable, and less auto-centric.

New York architects associated with the Institute are **Willis and Lynne Breslin**, who are trustees along with a variety of scholars from different disciplines, and advisory board members **Edward Larrabee Barnes, Robert Geddes, Hugh Hardy, William Pedersen, Hani Rashid, Marilyn Taylor**, and Pratt Institute graduate program director **Catherine Ingraham**.

Kudos

□ The winners have been announced for the Design competition for the National Memorial to Martin Luther King, Jr. in Washington, D.C., and they include some New Yorkers. **Boris Dramov** and **Bonnie Fisher, of ROMA Design Group**, San Francisco took top honors. In a field of nearly 900 entrants, **Kevin Kennon** of Kohn Pedersen Fox placed second and **Michelle Bertoman** and **Lisa Lulo** of Brooklyn Architects Collective earned the third spot. For more information, visit www.nlmemorial.org/nmlk.

□ The Donald G. Brinkmann Scholarship Awards, established last year in memory of the late Gensler designer, have been awarded to **Allen Chieh-Wai** of Parsons, **Sigal Baranowitz** of the New York School of Interior Design, and **Radha Kalaria** of the School of Visual Arts.

National Memorial to Martin Luther King, design competition, Michelle Bertoman, A.J. Loeffler, Heather Roshund, Lisa D. Lulo, Robert Papocchia, and David Boyle of Brooklyn Architects Collective



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The New Jersey School of Architecture at New Jersey Institute of Technology seeks applicants for positions at the rank of Assistant or Associate Professor.

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Architectural History: Candidates must hold a PhD in architecture & 20th century architectural history, with additional expertise in urban systems. A record of scholarly research & publication, as well as teaching experience, are req'd. Teaching in the school will include survey & seminar courses in both the undergraduate & graduate professional programs. Send letters of interest, curriculum vitae & list of 3 references to: **Personnel Box NJSOA-AAP/AH.**

The university reserves the right to substitute equivalent academic qualifications or professional experience at its discretion. NJIT is an equal opportunity, affirmative action, equal access employer & especially encourages applications from women, minorities & persons with disabilities. Send resumes to the specific personnel box of interest to:

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