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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2007 Northwest Design Awards Competition Winners Announced

(Seattle, Wash.) – The Northwest’s top designers were recognized at Seattle Design Center’s annual Northwest Design Awards Gala held September 27. The Northwest Design Awards competition recognizes interior design professionals whose work has made a significant contribution to the design industry. Projects are judged on the basis of problem solving, creativity, quality of design and beauty of the space.

Awards were presented in fourteen categories: kitchen, bathroom, living room, bedroom, whole house (more than \$200,000), remodel, best of traditional design, best of contemporary design, retail, commercial, yacht/jet, outdoor living space, environmentally responsible design and student design. The honorees in each category are:

Kitchen –

Winner: Nils Finne FINNE Architects

The project primarily concerned the design of a new, highly crafted modern kitchen in a traditional home located in the Magnolia neighborhood of Seattle. The kitchen design relies on the creation of a very simple, continuous space occupied by highly crafted pieces of furniture, cabinets and fittings. Materials such as steel, bronze, bamboo, stained elm, woven cattail, and sea grass are used in juxtaposition, allowing each material to benefit from adjacent contrasts in texture and color.

Judges noted that the cohesive material palette throughout and the attention to lighting and furniture make for a complete package.

Second: Jim Staicoff Corso Staicoff

In designing this loft kitchen, the primary challenge was to design a contemporary kitchen that would serve as both a platform for entertaining and a functioning kitchen for the family. You’ll see that the design team created planes of

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color and texture that contrast with the herringbone oak floor. The island is the main focus of the space, with a floating white slump glass dining counter and a white quartz composite work counter over dark-stained zebrawood cabinetry.

Judges commented on the detailing and use of materials, and called the project an exercise in appropriate restraint.

Bathroom –

Winner: Amely Wurmbrand Designs, Allied Member ASID

With the hope of the first blooms of spring in mind, the designer created a spa-like retreat to bring a smile and sense of joy whenever someone enters the room. A local muralist painted a sumi-inspired mural of a Japanese cherry blossom on the rear wall of the bath, which became inspiration for all of the materials used. That inspiration evident in the color of the cabinetry, subtly pink plaster walls, and rough tumbled marble mosaic flooring which brings to mind a well tended Japanese garden.

Judges called the project poetic, noting its beautiful composition and execution.

Second: Scott and Sandra Gjesdahl

Bristol Design and Construction, NKBA Member

It's hard to believe this 204 sq. foot room became a generous master closet, serene master bath, laundry and utility room all at the same time. Multiple functions merge harmoniously in this master suite. The challenge—the only adjoining space to grow into in this couple's condominium was a utility room that contained the water heater, furnace and washer/dryer. These were cleverly integrated into the master suite plan behind sliding shoji doors that flank the shower.

Living Room –

Winner: Holly Van Biene

Van Biene Interiors

The principal design challenge came with melding the home's traditional details with the clients' desire for a more minimal, modern interior. The clients love the outdoors, so purchasing this home because of its breathtaking views of Mt. Baker and Lake Sammamish was logical. However, the view, not the home's details, fit their passion. Elegance, warm colors, a little glam, simplicity, and curves over sharp angles were the desired look, as was marrying the view with the interior.

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Judges appreciated the great color scheme that really defines the playfulness of the space.

Bedroom –

Winner: Monica Ensign Monica Ensign Interiors

The principal challenge of this project was the floor plan itself—a tight, narrow space with no storage, no central lighting and the sudden need to convert part of the bedroom into a nursery. Clients could not agree on style, but the project was completed in 3 weeks for a TV show! Key elements include storage space for shoes, since they had more than 100 pairs of shoes each, and use of vertical space via a platform behind and above the bed with adjustable lighting on dimmers.

Judges admired the composition of color and texture, calling the design warm and appropriate for the space.

Second: Eleanor Olsen, AKBA Total Spaces Design, NKBA Member

The design goal for this project was to create a tailored, sophisticated and personalized refuge with a sense of drama that is both pet and environmentally friendly. In addition, the homeowners wanted to unite elements from their travels to Asia and South America. Renewable cork flooring replaced carpeting, walls were painted with low VOC paint, and new furnishings in FSC certified natural cherry give an uncluttered, classic atmosphere reminiscent of their travels to Asia.

Whole House (more than \$200k) –

Winner: Susan Marinello Susan Marinello Interiors, Allied Member ASID

The whole house renovation was guided by lifestyle, and the number one goal was to create open living spaces. The secondary goal was to stay within a very real budget; as important to the project as realizing the space plan. Drawn to cleaner lines of modernism while also feeling a connection to the past, the designer strove to honor this 1942 house.

Judges felt the project was nicely done and very well decorated.

Second: Nils Finne FINNE Architects

The interior of the house is highly crafted with many custom-designed fabrications, including complex, laser-cut

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steel railings, hand-blown glass lighting, bronze sink stands, and unique furniture such as the cherry bed in the master bedroom. In addition, the house has many sustainable design features, such as low VOC paints, 2x8 framing to achieve 42% higher insulation than conventional walls, and radiant heating throughout the house.

Judges noted that great craftsmanship makes this a modern master work.

Remodel –

Winner: Gregory Carmichael

Gregory Carmichael Interior Design

The owners of this condominium loved its location in the heart of one of Idaho's most scenic ski resort communities. The space itself, however, left them cold. They were determined to transform a very ordinary townhouse into an extraordinary vacation getaway. New beams and columns of African mahogany were added throughout the main living areas to bring a sense of order and solidity. A palette of slate and limestone was used consistently to bring a sense of cohesiveness to the home's bathrooms and kitchen.

Judges called this a beautiful transformation into a warm, highly detailed composition with excellent choice of materials, fabrics and furniture.

Second: Larry Ho

Freiheit & Ho Architects

The original design objective was to update finishes, but similar to many remodels, the project expanded into an 18-month rebuild. The greatest challenge was reconfiguring spaces utilizing the original footprint of the house. This was necessary because of compliance codes regarding the necessary setback distance between the house and Lake Washington. The project's great success was largely due to respectful incorporation of the original northwest contemporary design of the home.

Judges complimented the project's use of colors and materials.

Best of Traditional Design –

Winner: Michael Stueve

SRM Architecture

The design team identifies four goals for this project—create a home where contemporary and traditional pieces

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coexist well; design for easy entertaining; use storage to both reveal and conceal; and design for ease of maintenance and family living without losing its sophisticated edge. On top of that, the owners wanted a home that was child-friendly with an adult sensibility. Highly visible areas, such as the dining room, have custom designed

Judges admired how well the modern and traditional work together in the space.

Second: Claire Nightingale, ASID

Nightingale Design Associates

The goal for this project was to design a 234 square foot living room for a family of 4 and their golden retriever while maintaining a traditional style—meaning family appropriate fabrics and furniture. In addition, special attention was paid to traffic flow into the adjoining dining room.

Judges called it a compositionally well-made room.

Best of Contemporary Design –

Winner: Kim Munizza

Mithun

The owner has two great loves: modern architecture and making wine. Designers were challenged to break from tradition in determining the new winery's structure and materials while at the same time celebrating its time-honored process. The results represent the tradition of wine making, but with a fresh interpretation that respects the client's progressive taste in buildings and technology both, including computer-monitored vats. Linear concrete walls direct views to a world-class garden that is brought into the tasting room through floor-to-ceiling windows. This transparency articulates the modern materials with scenes of nature that connect visitors to the world of the grapes.

Judges said bravo to innovative architecture and design that was well crafted, well planned and well executed.

Second: Alda Pereira

Alda Pereira Design Inc.

The interior design concept demonstrates the cool simplicity of the modern architectural form with an open, progressive floor plan. By paying close attention to sight lines and definition between private versus public domain, the designer created a generous, functional living space that takes full advantage of the views and features the natural character of the locale. Finishing materials were selected to compliment and balance the cool hardness of the building exterior with a warm organic appeal to the senses.

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Judges commented on the project's understated and elegant composition.

Retail –

Winner: Paula Devon Raso Paula Devon Raso Interior Design

The client is in the business of luxury—fine pens, timepieces and leather goods. The new space needed to reflect this luxury; to be elegant, open, and warm while creating an air of exclusivity and style. The existing space was barren, with dingy ceiling tiles, exposed duct work, unnecessarily low ceiling soffits and well worn carpet. The design team sought to warm it up with unobtrusive color and texture.

Commercial –

Winner: Amy Nichols, Dean Harris, Jennifer Mukai JPC Architects

The designers were asked to create a space with a refined contemporary feel that took advantage of natural light and showcased the owner's spectacular art collection. Resolution of the challenge included use of a tone-on-tone color palette to create reflective surfaces for both natural and indirect light. A sculptural undulating wall is used as an organizational element to link the front reception space to the private executive offices at the opposite end of the suite. Within this wall, customized art niches display pieces from the owner's private art collection.

Judges commented on good use of materials and lighting, calling the space very sculptural in its solution.

Second: Stephen Marshall-Ward Stephen Marshall Design

The purpose for this project was to transform an inflexible, drab, monochromatic, 100-year-old sanctuary into a flexible, inspiring and beautiful worship space for the twenty-first century. Important to the design was the inclusion of new lighting, sound and video/projection systems, furnishings, and art pieces that speak to the spiritual focus of the space. The project included remodeling the entry porch and narthex as well as restrooms, hallways and making all parts of the building ADA accessible.

Judges admired the light fixture and found the space to be simultaneously spiritual, warm and beautiful.

Yacht/Jet –

Winner: Scott Cote Ardeo Design

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This project began with reconfiguration of the layout to improve general traffic flow, particularly stairways. The cabinetry detailing was refined to create flush front cabinets in quarter-sawn African cherry veneer. A marble-topped pass through between the salon and galley was designed with a motorized lift to raise a partition with art mounted on both sides to separate the spaces.

Second: Scott Cote

Ardeo Design

With a goal of improving the yacht builder's original interior general arrangement layout, the designer began by reconfiguring the salon/ dining area and galley layout so the dining area could accommodate a custom designed drop-leaf cherry wood dining table and six chairs. The owners commissioned the designer to create an interior style reminiscent of classic traditional yachts of a bygone era.

Outdoor Living Area –

Winner: Peter Jahnke, Eric Meglasson, Keith Ballantyne PIQUE architecture

The clients were interested in adding a large amount of program (grill, hot tub, changing room, dining table, bar, reading area and security gates) in their very small back yard, while maintaining as much open area as possible. The solution began with calculation of the allowable building area in the back yard, which was then transferred directly into a vertical plane, therefore doubling the buildable area. Through a series of sliding and pivoting elements, the individual bits of program are housed in the vertical wall. The ability for occupants to control and transform their environment is the most fundamental way to interact with and affect the architectural event.

Judges called the project brilliant and a transformation at its finest.

Environmentally Responsible Design –

Winner: Julia Sandetskaya

Musa Design

The project was to design a small 950 sq. foot restaurant in a modern office building. With sustainable requirements, the designer incorporated recycled content and rapidly renewable materials. Tables were custom designed with sustainable plywood called Ply boo, which is made of a coconut tree. Additional sustainable elements include benches made of Ply boo, stools made of aluminum frame with a natural woven base made of recycled paper, and sofas upholstered in wool.

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Judges called the project smart with a clever design.

Student Design -

Winner: Julie Rackley, Student Member ASID Bellevue Community College

The design challenge was to create interiors and fixtures for a restaurant and bar in Seattle that incorporate the design concept of "Wetlands: Sheltering Layers" in an exiting and dynamic way. Clear red Plexiglas forms are lit from within and suspended from the restaurant ceiling, creating intimacy and drama, while sheltering different areas within the restaurant. A huge mural/photograph of the 520 Montlake interchange gives a gritty and skewed perspective of sheltering layers, providing the wow factor for the bar. The restroom employs luxurious finishes and plenty of water features, echoing the wetlands theme.

Judges commented on the beautiful presentation of the work and the ease of finding the design intent. One said the student designer was worthy of hiring right now.

Second: Michelle J. Leszczynski, Student Member ASID Bellevue Community College

The design challenge was to create a comfortable and inspiring space for a writer-in-residence in a three story glass structure—making the writer feel a part of the campus but not on display. This was achieved by creating layers, including balconies as buffer zones and a glass stairwell that obscures views into the living spaces. Scale was also used to create a sense of journey from public to private. The scale of the floor pattern changes from oversized abstraction in the public space to comfortable resolution on the upper private space.

Judges call the project an amazing imagination of program and poetry, and found it inspired and ambitious in scope.

Attention Editors/Reporters:

To request photos of winning entries or schedule interviews with winning designers, please call Craig Cross at 206.957.7032.

About Seattle Design Center

Seattle Design Center opened its doors in 1973 to serve the region's growing appreciation for quality design and home furnishings. Seattle Design Center is the only full-service design center in the Pacific Northwest serving professional interior designers and their clients in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Alaska and British Columbia. Nationally recognized as the premier marketplace for fine home furnishings and design services, Seattle

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Design Center is comprised of 65 showrooms encompassing 390,000 square feet of designer furniture, fabrics, accessories and architectural products and offices. Seattle Design Center is open to the public 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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