



# Architectural gems applauded

Web Posted: 10/26/2007 01:29 AM CDT

## Express-News

Two modest, quiet buildings — one a private guesthouse, the other a house of worship — took top honors in the 2007 Design Awards of the San Antonio chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

The awards were presented Wednesday night at the Pearl Stable.

A jury of architects from Dallas and Seattle and an editor with Architectural Record magazine chose to recognize 10 projects from among 58 submissions.

Honor Awards went to John Grable Architect for a South Texas guesthouse, and to Lake/Flato Architects for the Friends Meetinghouse in San Antonio.

Jurors praised Grable's design for its "artful massing" and for its relationship to the site and its trees. Built partly with recycled stone and timbers, this project also was one of two to receive a Sustainability Citation.

One juror characterized the Friends Meetinghouse architecture as "subtly thrilling." Lake/Flato's design was said to work "on all levels, from the planning, through to the nuanced detailing at the intimate level."

Merit Awards, the second level of recognition, went to Ford Powell & Carson for the Chinati Foundation's Wesley Gallery in Marfa; to Poteet Architects for the late art collector Linda Pace's loft in San Antonio; and to Lake/Flato for the Lende Learning Center at the Cibolo Nature Center in Boerne.

The jury issued Citation Awards to OCO Architects and Alamo Architects for their studios on South Flores Street; to Marmon Mok for the McCollum High School renovations and master plan; to Candid Rogers for a tiny Cor-Ten steel cabin in Marfa; to Lake/Flato Architects for the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Center for the Arts in Houston; and to Ford Powell & Carson for a temporary gallery for the Chinati Foundation in Marfa.

The collaboration between OCO and Alamo Architects also won a Sustainability Citation for extensive use of recycled materials and reuse of the structural bones of two former industrial sheds.

For the second consecutive year, the jury declined to issue a "Divine Detail" award.

Mayor Phil Hardberger chose Alamo Architects' side-by-side Fire Station No. 49 and Maury Maverick Jr. Branch Library for the Mayor's Choice Award.

Hardberger described the buildings as "inviting" and "light-hearted," and he was surprised that the architects had been able to make two such different building types "harmonize well."

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In their third year of recognizing a project that has stood the test of time, members of the local AIA chapter selected the Trinity University campus, as it developed between 1949 and 1981, for the 25-Year Award.

A collaboration headed by O'Neil Ford and Bartlett Cocke designed 46 buildings for the Trinity campus, built atop and within a former stone quarry.

The citation praises Trinity's "campus master planning, harmonious use of materials and pioneering lift-slab technology" and the blending of "rigorous modern forms with thoughtful craftsman details."

Readers of the San Antonio Express-News were invited to express their views of the 25-Year Award nominee on MySanAntonio.com. Robert Rivard, the newspaper's editor and master of ceremonies for the design awards, reported that the Aurora Apartments elicited "the most insightful comments." Richard van der Stratten and Herff & Jones designed the building, which opened in 1930.

*[As originally published, this story contained an error.](#)*

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