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In this issue are the winners of the 1988 New Mexico Society of Architects (NMSA) annual design awards. The awards were presented at the Santa Fe Design Conference held last fall.

It is gratifying for me to be able to report that the 1989 New Mexico Legislature passed an Interior Designers Registration Act. It was signed into law by Governor Garry Carruthers on March 15th.

It appears that negotiations between the American Institute of Architects and the American Society of Interior Designers, over the past year, resulted in the reversal of AIA's stand in opposition to Interior Designers becoming registered under a simple "title act". Without trying to open old wounds, or to ruffle feathers, the reader may remember that I not only supported such a registration act in the 1987 legislature, but spoke before several legislative committees in the House and Senate on behalf of the legislation; it died in the final minutes of that session. (See editorial, NMA March/April, 1987).

I wish to express my congratulations to those members of ASID who helped to lobby the 1989 act to a successful conclusion.

Ruleen Lazzell, daughter of our Associate Editor/Advertising Director, Carleen Lazzell, is one of 18 recipients, out of a roster of 62 finalists, of a Fulbright Scholarship to travel to the Netherlands this summer. The purpose of the trip is to participate in a seminar entitled: "History, Culture and Society of the Netherlands". Ruleen is a lecturer in history at El Paso Community College and teaches history at Canutillo High School in Canutillo, Texas. Congratulations, Ruleen. I know that you will enjoy the Netherlands and will both contribute to and benefit from the seminar.

The cover of this issue of NMA is sponsored by Van Gilbert, AIA, architect for the Rio Grande Zoological Park Bandshell and Lake. (See page 9). Thank you from this editor, the "staff" and the magazine committee.
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6 / March-April 1989
1988 Design Awards
New Mexico Society of Architects

The N.M.S.A. Design Awards program seeks to recognize outstanding projects by New Mexico Architects and Landscape Architects, and to promote public interest in design excellence. New and adaptive reuse projects completed within the past five years, designed by members of the New Mexico Society of Architects and the New Mexico Society of Landscape Architects, are eligible for consideration.

This past October, a three member panel of jurists from Pennsylvania, all members of the National Committee on Design/ Awards Task Group and distinguished designers in their own right, selected five projects to receive awards from thirty-five entries. The jurists included Laurie Olin, ASLA, environmental designer, author and lecturer; Peter Bohlin, FAIA, architect, critic and historian; and Charles Dagit, FAIA, architect, professor and committee chairman. Alan Taylor, President-elect of the Albuquerque Chapter AIA, coordinated the 1988 Design Awards program and served as liaison to the jury.

The five award-winning projects illustrated on the following pages display the skillful artistry and intelligence that create outstanding design solutions. Yet these are only a handful of projects from many excellent public, commercial and residential works created by area design professionals in recent years.

In reflecting upon the projects which were selected for these awards, Taylor acknowledges that quality of presentation and photography is an important factor in the selection process. After all, the jury couldn't visit the projects first-hand.

The distinguished jury, members of the Awards Task Group, of the American Institute of Architects/National Committee on Design, are all from Pennsylvania. From left to right: Laurie Olin, ASLA; Peter Bohlin, FAIA; Charles Dagit, Jr., FAIA. (For a brief resume of each juror see pages 18 and 19, New Mexico Architecture, September/October, 1988.)

The awards displayed on the following pages are:

Rio Grande Zoological Park Bandshell and Lake
    Van H. Gilbert, AIA, Architect

Suarez Residence
    Holmes, Sabatini, Eeds, Architects, members AIA

American Toyota
    Patrick McClernon, AIA, and William Osofsky, AIA, Architects

Friedman Residence
    Westwork Architects, PA

Nelson Residence
    Westwork Architects, PA

The awards winning buildings begin on page 9

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Award of Excellence
Van H. Gilbert, A.I.A.
Architect

Río Grande Zoological Park Bandshell and Lake
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Jury Notes
“This project is, at first glance, a straightforward solution to the festive bandshell in a park. On second look the sophistication of its situating and its evocative zoomorphic quality is a witty and appealing structure. The handling of the exterior and interior in combination with the water, particularly for the water’s reflective quality on the acoustic material is special. The frugality of the few lines in a 30s art deco-like style is restrained yet expertly treated.”

Rio Grande Zoological Park Bandshell and Lake
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Owner:
City of Albuquerque
Mr. John Moore, Director
Mr. Ray Darnell, Assistant Director

Architect:
Van H. Gilbert, A.I.A., Architect

Design Team:
Van H. Gilbert, A.I.A.
Ronald E. Shafer, A.I.A.
James Graf, A.I.A.

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The site, at the edge of a grove of cottonwood trees 50 to 60 feet tall, also had a low-lying area perfect for a man-made lake. This spectacular setting for the Bandshell also afforded views of the distant mountains.

The viewing experience of the Bandshell varies as one follows the path from east to west. The trees serve as a curtain, exposing the Bandshell and lake to the viewer in ever-differing patterns as the leaves and branches diffuse the New Mexico sunlight. It is as though one were slowly unwrapping a package and experiencing the excitement of what is inside in tantalizing bits and pieces.

The Bandshell hovers over a man-made lake which is intergrated into the Zoological Park and serves as a waterfowl exhibit. The lake, reflecting off the Bandshell acoustical overhang, presents ever changing, intricate patterns for the viewer to enjoy. Besides enhancing the music, the lake lends a sense of escape to the total Zoo experience.

The shell is dramatic and flowing in its design, offering a sense of solitude and drama even when there is no performance. During the performance, however, the intricate acoustical system and complete stage provide exceptional opportunity for the actor or musician.

The Bandshell hosts the New Mexico Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, but can also be used for plays, opera, a small chamber music ensemble, jazz ensembles, or a puppeteer. Seemingly floating on the lake, the water enhances not only the music, but attracts waterfowl that swim around the stage or watch the performance from a nearby cottonwood tree.

The stage is already being used for a variety of events, educational demonstrations, and entertainment. The Bandshell can even be rented for a private party! Behind the stage are small dressing rooms, bathrooms, offices and storage.

This spectacular new performance center with its sweeping roof, simple lines, and waterfowl in flight brings a kind of oriental serenity to this dynamic Zoo.
A flat, half acre rural site in the north river valley area of Albuquerque known locally as the “bosque”. As is typical of the “bosque”, natural vegetation is abundant and includes indigenous plant materials such as cottonwood, mesquite, Navajo willow and a wide variety of native grasses. This area of Albuquerque was the first to be settled by the Spaniards in the 16th Century and the prevalent architectural theme is typically that of the massive adobe wall, topped either with steep sloping roofs or flat roofs covered with sod.

A 4,500 square foot residence for a married couple with one child. In addition to the need for the typical residential functions, the owner had a great need and desire to have the enclosed spaces also function as gallery and museum space. Their lifestyle includes a love of Victorian furniture, art deco and art nouveau, and therefore have amassed a great collection of furnishing and artwork of these styles. The resultant challenge to the architect was to create a background of materials and forms in such a way as to blend the artwork with the traditional architecture of the southwest, and to accomplish this within the context of a residence.

Employing the simple massing and roof forms of early New Mexico architecture, three basic structures are organized as a “compound” around a south facing courtyard. The plan of the compound allows for the segregation of “public” and “private” spaces by buffering those areas with zones of dining and kitchen areas. The design of each interior space is independent of each other in order to provide for the incongruity of art forms, similar to that of museum gallery design.

The exterior image, consisting of massed stucco walls, galvanized steel pitched roofs and dormers and traditional window forms, provides for a consistency of context within the bosque areas and leads to an element of surprise upon entry into the interior.

Jury Notes

“This residence in contrast to many seen in the southwest, is consciously working in the Anglo Vernacular, no less valid than the Spanish or the Pueblo vocabulary. The tin roofs, with gable ends pulled apart by breezeways holds together while at the same time responding to climatic conditions. The building does not try too hard and is detailed consistently creating real space from modest techtonics; a sensitive understatement.”
Jury Notes

“This two-part building of modest program related to the everyday in its unpretentious way gives dignity to its use. The industrial urbane quality of the interior is visually rich and yet does not seem to compete with the cars. A few excellent architectural moves gives drama to the setting.”

American Toyota
Albuquerque, New Mexico

The clients wishes were to create a “stage” setting with a theatrical analogy to display the polished sophisticated technology of the automobile. In addition, the building should have a variety of light, spaces, scale and views.

The two part program divided between “sales” and “service” reflects this dual nature by choice of materials. The glass showroom and outdoor sales are the dominant element, set at an angle on the site so as to be visible to freeway travelers from both directions. Behind the showroom and central support facilities, the parts department and service shop are housed in a massive concrete shell, creating the primary contrast between glass box and concrete mass.

Simplicity and contrasts were used throughout to heighten the awareness of elements such as entry/exit ways. Unadorned concrete both shelters and marks the entrance as it projects from the glass facade. Similar contrasting elements are delineated in the floor finish of integrally colored concrete by the addition of stainless steel strips reinforcing the grid pattern of the glass facade and the precast panels.
As a metaphorical ship in the desert, the Friedman residence comes to rest between two rugged granite outcroppings in the foothills of the Sandia Mountains above Albuquerque. The power of this landscape is overwhelming and the air of mystery in this place is charged by the presence of megalithic granite boulders that dominate and shape much of the terrain. The ritual need to touch this landscape and bridge to it is acknowledged in the entry ramada that fingers out into the site. The tracery of the entry element is in counterpoint to the simple massive forms of the dwelling.

At evening, the home glows like a lantern in its desert setting with the entry ramada reaching out to welcome guests into the courtyard setting. The main living area at the center of the house fulfills the client's need for a backdrop for frequent entertainment of guests, and commands spectacular views of the rugged mountains to the northeast as well as vistas of the city to the west. Patio areas on both the northeast and southwest sides of the home provide settings for outdoor activities that are a tradition in the mild New Mexican climate. The master bedroom suite with the adjacent sunroom provides a quiet retreat for the owner as well as a chance to sample views and light from all directions.
Award of Excellence
Westwork Architects, P.A.
Architects

Nelson Residence
Albuquerque
New Mexico

Jury Notes
“A sophisticated handling of interior spaces using the most common of materials. The spaces are deliberately handled and are consistent with the interior. The spatial quality of the house is well conceived and executed.”

The Nelson Residence derives meaning from a response to its site. Set in the foothills above Albuquerque, the house assumes two postures in relation to its surroundings. The face presented to the city is ordered and orthogonal, while the side which responds to the natural precinct of the mountains becomes fragmented and irregular. Two major axes organize the plan. The entry axis points the way to a nearby canyon and terminates in a shade structure which bridges over the perimeter wall in a move which signifies an open-ended connection between the house and nature. This connective link can also be read as a forest transformed into lithic permanence. The second plan axis is orthogonal to the city grid and finds its beginning as a skeletal framework of columns emerging from the site. At the spiritual center of the plan is a small entry court carved out as a circular space which turns in on itself and focuses the energy of this place.
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Congratulations are extended to Van H. Gilbert, Architects for winning the NMSA Design Award and the TACA Award of Merit for the Rio Grande Zoological Park Bandshell

Michael S. Rich Contractors appreciated being associated with you on the project.

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