

# The Daily Transcript

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THE DAILY TRANSCRIPT

## Design

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AIA College of Fellows. The jurors gathered in Phoenix in September to sift through more than 80 entries, deliberating for several hours before paring down the list to 15 recipients.

"There's always a lot of interesting dialogue when you get a group of different architects with different viewpoints together to try and agree on which projects get an award," said jury member John Kane, who is the founding partner and design principal of Tempe-based Architekton. "We were really interested in urban projects that were sustainable, cost-effective and beautiful at the same time. When they can hit all those buttons, they become really obvious award-winners."

During the awards ceremony held Thursday in Torrey Pines, AIA San Diego handed out 24 awards, including the juried awards, two student design awards, and a handful of accolades that were chosen by the AIASD board.

An Honor Award for architecture was given to Studio E Architects for reimagining Saxon Suites, a student housing project on the UCLA campus.

Along with the complete renovation of the 345-bed complex, Studio E created a \$4.5 million commons building at the heart of the project. The two-story building, which includes gathering spaces, study lounges and offices, features a 30-foot-long cantilever that was necessitated by poor soil conditions.

"When we got into the design, we discovered that part of the building was sitting on 60 feet of uncompacted fill," said Eric Naslund, a principal with Studio E. "So our solution was to ground the building on the good soil and cantilever it way out over the bad soil, where we couldn't land any columns or supports."

Another challenge was the university's requirement that the design team add a fire lane that connects to the center of the complex. Rather than adding "a tarmac and red curbs," the designers inserted a plaza "with seating and tables that spill into it," Naslund said.

The other Honor Award in the architecture category went to IDEA1, a full-block development in East Village with more than 50,000 square feet of creative office space, 295 residential units and 12,000 square feet of street-level retail.

Designed by Miller Hull, the project envelops a large courtyard known as The Hub. The 12,000-square-foot, publicly accessible space features advanced audiovisual technology and plays host to movie screenings and musical performances.

"Being a courtyard building that's mixed-use and relatively simple and cost-effective—that's a great design," Kane said. "We're starting to see projects of that caliber in Phoenix, and we're really jealous that we don't have more of them."

In the "urban design" category, the Honor Award went to Quartyard, a community space featuring food-and-beverage concepts built out of repurposed shipping containers.



Photo courtesy of Ivan Hu

Romberg Resurgence, a concept designed by Ivan Hu, won one of two student design awards.

The concept originated as a thesis project by three master's students at NewSchool of Architecture & Design who went on to form RAD LAB. Led by Philip Auchetti, the local studio has carved out a niche for itself by using the repurposed containers to activate blighted lots, build housing or create unique commercial spaces.

Auchetti said the firm's "cargotecture" has a "cool factor to it, but it's also looking at the sustainability and reusability of the containers themselves, which is obviously a positive thing."

The Australian-born designer was also recognized with AIASD's Young Architect of the Year Award. He shared this year's award with Jared Basler, who has spent the last two years advocating for a streamlined approval process for accessory dwelling units (ADUs), also known as granny flats.

To promote quality design in the burgeoning market, AIASD introduced a new category for ADU projects. The Enclave, a granny flat project in Coronado designed by Crossman Architecture, took home the inaugural award.

Designed by Martin Crossman, the unbuilt accessory unit will add what is essentially a 450-square-foot apartment to the second floor of a 1950s-era tract home. (The home is actually owned by Crossman and his wife, Donna.)

Crossman said he wanted to design an ADU that could be used as a rental, in-law unit or a home office to showcase the building type's flexibility. He said part of the motivation behind the project was to show Coronado homeowners an alternative to the common practice of replacing modest homes with what the firm's website describes as "Cape Cod leviathans."

"Part of the idea was to make a good case for how these could be a benefit to the neighbor-

hood and provide people who might not be able to afford to live here a place to stay," Crossman said. "It provides much-needed housing that is near the city center, amenities and public transportation."

A separate jury convened to decide the winners in a category devoted to designs by students of NewSchool and Woodbury University.

The winners included a concept by Ivan Hu, a NewSchool graduate who is now a designer at Domusstudio Architecture. Hu's project, called Romberg Resurgence, was created as part of a competition to design a zero net energy recreation center at Cal State Monterey Bay.

Responding to the site's heavily wooded environment, Hu envisioned a passive design that takes advantage of the surrounding vegetation to reduce the building's heating and cooling needs.

"To mediate the temperature, I used the landscape and the treescape as part of the façade," Hu said. "In the wintertime, when the leaves fall, it allows more sunlight into the building, and when the leaves come back, they create a natural shade."

Working with a group of professional engineers, Hu calculated that the building would produce three times more energy than it would use.

"The idea was to be one with nature and give back more than the architecture needs," Hu said.

Awards were also given to the following projects:

### Architecture

**Merit Award** – domusstudio offices. Firm: domusstudio architecture

**Merit Award** – Del Mar Civic Center and Town Hall. Firm: The Miller Hull Partnership

**Merit Award** – La Jolla Guest House. Firm: Gluckman Tang Architects

**Merit Award** – Spectrum IV. Firm: LPA

**Citation Award** – Makers Quarter Block D. Firm: BNIM

**Citation Award** – PLNU Science Center (Sator Hall + Latter Hall). Firm: Carrier Johnson + CULTURE

### Interior Architecture

**Honor Award** – Equinox La Costa. Firm: Retail Design Collaborative

**Merit Award** – Virginia Way. Firm: DuCharme Architecture

**Merit Award** – The Honor Foundation. Firm: Gensler

### Unbuilt

**Honor Award** – 705 Sixth Avenue. Firm: Rios Clementi Hale Studios

**Merit Award** – Front Street Tower. Firm: Rios Clementi Hale Studios

**Metro Tijuana Award** – Casa Coubes. Firm: Generica Arquitectura + Diseño Urbano

**Citation Award** – Superior Court of California – San Diego. Firm: Skidmore, Owings & Merrill

**Savings By Design's Energy Efficiency & Integration Awards** – San Diego International Parking Plaza. Firms: Gensler and Watry Design; UC San Diego Mesa Nueva. Firm: Mithun

### Student Design

Mackenzie Sims, Learning Environments for Creativity; NewSchool of Architecture & Design

### Patron of the Year

Kilroy Realty

### Legacy Awards

Balboa Park Botanical Building and Lily Pond, 1915, Carleton M. Winslow and Frank P. Allen Jr.

Macy's Mission Valley, 1961, A.C. Martin and Frank L. Hope & Associates

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