



2010 AIASCV Design Awards

Christopher Wasney, AIA

I am honored to serve as Chairman of the Design Awards Committee for the 2010 AIASCV Design Awards Program. Our committee has been hard at work since early January planning this program and has made great progress. The awards celebration will be held on the evening of Wednesday, October 27th, at the stunning new Li Ka Shing Center for Learning and Knowledge Building at Stanford University.

Our theme for this year's program is "Firmness – Commodity – Delight." Vitruvius' classic and wonderfully elastic definition of a complete work of architecture is more relevant than ever to the challenges facing architects today. We will recognize excellent works that meet these timeless criteria:

Firmness: must now embody not only structural soundness but also energy efficiency and appropriate choices of materials and systems.

Commodity: must demonstrate ingenious, economical, and responsible solutions to both a building's function and its environmental impact.

Delight: the ability of architecture to raise the spirit. It can take many forms: the bold solution that commands attention; the subtle intervention that surprises the careful observer; the deferential treatment that leaves no fingerprints.

We are excited to introduce a few changes to the program. Foremost among these is our ambitious plan to have the judging occur on the day of the awards celebration. This will ensure that the entire jury will be present at the ceremony to offer their commentary on the winning projects, and add a "charrette-like" energy to the event.

Another new feature will be expanding the jury to include a landscape architect in addition to the customary three architects. We feel this additional perspective will enrich the judging process and emphasize projects that sensitively respond to their environments. We are close to finalizing our awards jury, and I can tell you that it will comprise distinguished architects from across the country.

I cannot stress enough the committee's goal to encourage as many entries from our chapter, and promise you that projects of all types and scales will be considered for awards. There will be no pre-determined number of winners within a given category. All work considered worthy of recognition by the jury will be honored.

The awards celebration will also include the Birge Clark Award, the Firm of the Year Award, and the 25-Year Award. The jury for these awards includes representatives of the Fellows Committee, past Birge Clark Award winners, and our chapter president. In addition, two Lifetime Achievement Awards, chosen by our committee and ratified by the Board, will be presented. One of the goals of awards programs is to heighten awareness of exceptional architecture in the eyes of the general public. We believe that design excellence within our region should

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ENCITRA - VISUALIZE CHANGE

Encitra, Inc., is a Santa Cruz-based firm specializing in collaborative visualization technology. Encitra recently announced plans to develop an immersive 3D model of the City of San Jose's proposed Automated Transit Network (ATN) system.

Encitra's virtual model will focus on the area where the ATN network will link Mineta San Jose International Airport with long term parking, light rail, VTA bus and rail lines, as well as other proposed mass transit options. The model will include an ATN loop connecting with the high-speed rail link at the Diridon Station.

Founded in 2008 by a group of transportation planners and computer scientists, Encitra's visualization technology was used in late 2009 to create a 3D virtual model of Uppsala, Sweden, where a proposed personal rapid transportation system was integrated into Uppsala's historic transportation center.

Unlike typical 3D fly-through videos, Encitra's technology is immersive and truly interactive, encouraging viewers to move freely throughout the model. This allows city planners, architects, real estate developers, transportation agencies and other stakeholders to visualize how new developments would affect and integrate with existing structures and modes of transportation by viewing them as they would appear in the City's virtual model.

The virtual model of a sector of San Jose, to be unveiled at "Podcar City: San Jose, Innovating Sustainable Communities," October 27-29, will include architectural renderings of existing and proposed buildings and landmarks plus the proposed ATN system, complete with stations, vehicles and related infrastructure.

For more information, contact Encitra CEO Darrell Musick at (831) 818-0656 or visit <http://www.encitra.com>.



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