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TADAO ANDO

An Island Between
Earth and Sky

RESIDENTIAL SECTION
Kitchen & Bath Portfolio

The American Institute of Architects Announces the 2006 Housing and HUD Awards for Design Excellence

Who needs air-conditioning, especially in these energy-conscious times, when you can keep a home cool with solar shades—or design a house to maximize cross ventilation? This notion was shared by many of the architects whose residential projects were recognized in this year's awards program. Since 2000, the AIA's Housing Committee Knowledge Community has lauded the most innovative single- and multifamily housing. Partnering with the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development, it also recognizes excellence in community design and accessibility. *James Murdock*

AIA HOUSING COMMITTEE AWARD: SINGLE-FAMILY CUSTOM

Project: *Kessler Residence*
Location: *Chevy Chase, Md.*
Architect: *Robert M. Gurney, FAIA, Architect*
Client: *Lewis and Tamara Kessler*

In a neighborhood full of older houses, the Kessler Residence successfully weighs the balance between nostalgia and Modernism. Its front elevation features a colonnaded porch, simple fenestration, and a steeply pitched roof—conventional elements, to be sure, but ones that are executed in an unadorned, contemporary manner. At the rear of the property, by contrast, flat rooflines and horizontal massing predominate. On this south-facing side of the building, generous amounts of glazing provide views of a narrow, 75-foot-long lap pool, while translucent panels provide privacy from the house next door.



Project: *The Coconut House*
Location: *Los Angeles*
Architect: *Lee & Mundwiler Architects*
Client: *Brenda Bergman*

The Coconut House, similar to its namesake fruit, is clad with dark fiber core panels covered in a wooden veneer—but this hard shell conceals a sumptuous, white-walled interior. The main entry sits to the western side of the property, away from the street, while opposite, a small courtyard punctuates the eastern elevation. Windows surrounding the courtyard allow daylight to penetrate throughout the building.



Project: *Avis Ranch*
Location: *Clyde Park, Mont.*
Architect: *Fernau and Hartman Architects*
Client: *Anne and Greg Avis*

This ranch includes seven buildings split into two clusters: the main house, garage, and a con-

verted granary comprising one; guest quarters, a barn, and stables, the other. All but two of these buildings were renovated or adapted for new uses—meeting the client's goals of respecting the land and recycling, just as any good farmer would (see page 118).



Project: *slot house*
Location: *Brooklyn, N.Y.*
Architect: *norooof architects*
Client: *Margarita McGrath and Scott Oliver*

In an age of teardowns and sprawl, Margarita McGrath and Scott Oliver, AIA, pursued a more sensitive strategy in renovating their own residence. Rather than fell a 60-foot-tall maple, which would have freed precious space in the front garden of a 25-by-80-foot lot in a crowded urban neighborhood, the pair chose to save the tree and make it the organizing element of their project. To provide new views of the tree from inside the house, the architects cut a vertical slot



into the front elevation. The partial demolition of this wall revealed an internal skeleton of cedar boards and brick, materials that the architects echoed in their choices for the new construction.

Project: *Tower House*
Location: *Chicago*
Architect: *Frederick Phillips and Associates*
Client: *Frederick Phillips, FAIA*

The skyline of Chicago, the city that gave rise to the skyscraper, inspired the organization of rooms and circulation within this four-story residence. A terrace and living spaces occupy the top two floors, with the best views, while bedrooms and a garage take up the lowest floors. A separate stair tower, made of concrete block that contrasts with the steel-clad house, connects all levels.



AIA HOUSING COMMITTEE AWARD: MULTIFAMILY CUSTOM



Project: University of Washington—Nordheim Court
Location: Seattle
Architect: Mithun
Client: Lorig Associates

Nordheim Court provides affordable housing for 460 students at the University of

Washington. A storm-water-retention pond and an existing stand of trees anchor the complex's southwest edge, while an underground parking garage frees space above for landscaped courtyards where the dorm residents can socialize.



Project: Metro Hollywood Mixed-Use
Location: Los Angeles
Architect: Kanner Architects, with McCormack Baron Salazar
Client: Lyle Parks, Jr.

Mass transit is still relatively new to Los Angeles, as is high-density housing. But the Metro-Hollywood apartment building—which also includes retail and child-care components—proves that the two make an excellent pairing. Heavy steel framing was used for the building's structure, which sits atop a subway station, so to stay within budget Kanner Architects used painted plaster instead of a more costly material for exterior cladding.



Project: K Lofts
Location: San Diego
Architect: Jonathan Segal, FAIA
Client: Jonathan Segal, FAIA

K Lofts, a nine-unit affordable apartment complex, takes its name from a Circle K convenience store that previously

occupied the site. More than just the name survived, though, as Jonathan Segal, FAIA, incorporated the original building into new construction. This feat of recycling lowered overall development costs, but one would never suspect it, given the project's fresh look.



Project: Contemporaine at 516 North Wells
Location: Chicago
Architect: Perkins+Will
Client: CMK Development

A celebration of glass, concrete, and cantilevered massing, Contemporaine at 516 Wells is not your father's condo building. The tower's four-story podium contains retail and parking, made fully visible, along with the building's structural-steel braces, thanks to liberal glazing. Above it rise 11 floors containing a total of 28 condominiums, each featuring cantilevered balconies and views of Chicago's downtown skyscrap-



ers, located south of this site in a former warehouse district. With its mix of bold forms and varying scales, Contemporaine energizes both the streetscape and the skyline.

Project: Orange Grove
Location: West Hollywood, Calif.
Architect: Pugh + Scarpa
Client: Urban Environments, LA

In a Los Angeles neighborhood populated by Craftsman bungalows and dingbats, a term that Reyner Banham popularized in reference to Southern California's peculiar strain of cheaply built facade-focused apartments, Orange Grove looks like neither. If anything, this five-unit building shares more in common with Los Angeles's primary business: film and television production. Along the building's most-visible elevations, boxy projections frame the rooms within like television screens; glazed roll-up doors provide CinemaScope-like views of an internal court and passages.



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Residential News

AIA HOUSING COMMITTEE AWARD: INNOVATION IN HOUSING DESIGN



Project: *Solar Umbrella*
Location: *Venice, Calif.*
Architect: *Pugh + Scarpa*
Client: *Angela Brook and Lawrence Scarpa*

With a nod to Paul Rudolph, architect Lawrence Scarpa used a canopy to shield an addition to his own bungalow. This "solar umbrella" reduces heat gain, while photovoltaic panels applied along the southern exposure generate enough electricity to power the entire house, making this residence "energy neutral."



Project: *The Modern Modular*
Location: *Multiple locations*
Architect: *Resolution: 4 Architecture*

Mass customization is the key to success for computer maker

Dell. Why not apply the same concept to prefabricated housing? With this idea, and a flair for Modernism, Resolution: 4 Architecture designed modules that clients configure according to their individual tastes.

AIA HOUSING COMMITTEE AWARD: COMMUNITY DESIGN

Project: *Live/Work Artists' Housing*
Location: *Mount Rainier, Md.*
Architect: *Hammel, Green and Abrahamson, with The Pan Group*
Client: *Artspace Projects*

This 44-unit apartment complex, developed to be the first phase

of an arts and culture district on Route 1 in Maryland, provides low-cost housing for artists. Each of the 18 different unit types features open, loftlike floor plans. Two common rooms and a workshop provide extra space for residents to collaborate and exhibit their work.



HUD AWARDS: MIXED-USE/MIXED-INCOME



Project: *Esther Short Commons*
Location: *Vancouver, Wash.*
Architect: *William Wilson Architects*
Client: *Vancouver Housing Authority*

The architect incorporated a 20,000-square-foot farmer's market into the ground floor of Esther Commons, using garage doors to maintain a direct connection between this space and the street. Nearly all of the 160 apartments above receive direct sunlight and feature views of a park or a river nearby.



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