

Projects of Note

School Design Awards Honor Projects Worldwide



by Tracy F. Ostroff

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The designers of educational facilities in Australia and Spain received honors for creating outstanding learning environments in a competition sponsored by *School Construction News*, the Design Share Web site, and C/S Group. The program, which is in its

second year, recognized a total of 62 state-of-the-art elementary, secondary, higher-education, and special-use facilities that promote increased learning through design.

The international panel of jurors included several AIA members: Steven Binger, AIA; Bruce Jilk, AIA; Sharon E. Sutton, FAIA; and Anne Taylor, Assoc. AIA. Binger and Jilk serve on the AIA Committee on Architecture for Education.

“Creativity in the designs of these buildings ran the gamut, from learning environments integrated into the fabric of community, to architectural nuances such as small, Native American-inspired kivas designed for student meditation,” Binger noted on the School Construction News Online Web site.

One of the Honor Award winners, a facility in Mandurah, Australia, by Spowers Architects and Jones Coulter Young Architects, features a learning street and art wall commended because it “blurs the boundaries between faculty and curriculum streams.” Binger noted that a “lengthy planning process” brought together education providers to plan a “flexible, coherent, and united campus” shared by high school and university students. Six student-centered principles established before beginning the design process—including workshops, value management sessions, and a series of public consultation meetings—informed the development of the facility. Among the school’s distinctive features, group discussion rooms are scattered throughout the campus to limit the “ownership” of individual curriculum areas. Also, an indigenous center promotes cross-cultural interaction. Connections to the community are made via zones set aside for development by businesses that want to partner with the school and create ties to the vocational study and workshop facilities.

Another Honor Award winner, the P. Iglesias Educational and Cultural Center in Alcobendas, Spain, by BN Asociados, is both a school and civic center, offering cultural activities for students

The Peel Education and TAFE Campus, Mandurah, Australia, by Spowers Architects and Jones Coulter Young Architects, melds three separate education providers in an environmentally sensitive and egalitarian facility.



The P. Iglesias Educational and Cultural Center, Alcobendas, Spain, by BN Asociados, is an education and civic center. It was praised for its ability to provide services for a heterogeneous public. It is a work of architecture integrated into the context of the local architectural tradition, the judges noted.

and the community in an area of the city that lacked a plan for the development of educational structures. The facility received its electronic equipment through donations from media and telecommunication companies, and musical and theater events at the building contribute to the maintenance funds.

The competition is designed to increase the dialogue about effective school designs that promote education and integrate learning facilities into the communities. A full list of winners and profiles of seven of the facilities are at the School Construction News Web site, www.schoolconstructionnews.com/features/feature.

School Design Round-Up

Don't mess with Texas' SHW Group!

An elementary school designed by **SHW Group**, Dallas, received the Caudill Award, Texas educators' top honor for excellence in public-school architecture. It recognizes a school

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facility for its innovation and contribution to the learning environment. This is the second year in a row that SHW Group has won the award, which is sponsored as part of the Exhibition of School Architecture by the Texas Association of School Administrators and the Texas Association of School Boards. It earned it this year for Roy Lee Walker Elementary School in the McKinney Independent School District, a 68,788-square-foot facility 30 miles north of Dallas that incorporates design features such as daylighting, rainwater harvesting, solar energy, a weather station, a water habitat, natural landscaping, community recycling, and sustainable building materials.

Several other SHW Group educational projects won top design and innovation awards at the exhibition.

Cannon Design wins design award for Illinois education building

The Evanston/Skokie School District 65 Early Childhood and Administrative Education Center received the 2001 American Architecture Award, presented by the Chicago Athenaeum: Museum of Architecture and Design. Cannon Design, Buffalo, planned the 72,500-square-foot facility, which is scheduled for completion in 2002. The building integrates preschool, pre-primary special education, adult education, and district administration and provides a multitude of community services, including early childhood screening, social services, parenting resources, and GED and ESL programs. A second-floor teaching resource center encourages interaction among the faculty. ■■