

Ledner receives Medal of Honor at AIA LA Design Conference in Destin

Architects travelled to Destin, Florida to participate in the 2009 AIA Louisiana Design Conference events in August. Highlights of the event were the awarding of the Medal of Honor; the announcement of winners of the annual design competition, and the conference Monday night beach party at the beautiful San Destin Golf & Beach Resort in Destin, Florida. The event also included a trade show with some 48 vendors displaying the latest in architectural products and tools.

Albert Charles Ledner, AIA – Emeritus receives prestigious Medal of Honor

Albert Charles Ledner, AIA – Emeritus, received the prestigious Medal of Honor from the Louisiana chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA LA) at its Design Conference Honors Luncheon in San Destin, Florida on August 4. The Medal of Honor is given by AIA Louisiana in recognition for outstanding service in the field of architecture and to the community.

Ledner graduated from Tulane University School of Architecture in 1948. He worked for Buford Pickens upon graduation and then



MEDAL OF HONOR... Albert C. Ledner, at right, receives Medal of Honor from E. Ean McNaughton, FAIA, During the conference's honors luncheon.

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E.W. "Will" Tregre, AIA

Tregre to lead AIA LA new Executive Committee

E.W. "Will" Tregre, AIA, will assume the presidency of the AIA Louisiana Board of Directors on January 1, 2010.

Tregre, of New Orleans, previously served as First Vice President/President-Elect. Stephen Maher, AIA, of the Baton Rouge firm Ritter Maher Architects, LLC, was elected as First Vice President/President-Elect.

Other officers elected at the meeting include William "Bill" Gary, AIA, of the Shreveport firm William L. Gary, APAC, as Vice

President – District A; David Cronrath, AIA, of Baton Rouge & LSU College of Art and Design, as Vice President – District B; Mark F. Stielper, AIA, of the Lafayette firm MBSB Group, as Vice President – District C; Norbert L. Langlinais, AIA, of the Lafayette firm D&B Architecture, as Secretary/Treasurer. Past President Christian R. Elbersson, AIA, of the Shreveport firm Somdal Associates is also a member of the Executive Committee.

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Medal of Honor

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went to Taliesin in the fall of 1948. He was offered a chance to stay there on a scholarship offer by Frank Lloyd Wright, but opted to return to New Orleans. In 1950 he returned to New Orleans where his first completed project, the Goldate residence, was published nationally in *House Beautiful* in July 1952. The Goldate residence was both modern and revolutionary in a city still dominated by traditional Beaux Arts practice. Ledner said, "I couldn't resist the chance of doing my first house. So I came back in December of '48 and...that's it. Things developed from there. One of the interesting things is, I've never been able to try to repeat myself. My whole approach has been relating the house to the client. And each client differs and so the house differs."

Ledner's accomplishments include over 100 projects, with most being located in the greater New Orleans area and have been a positive contribution to the state of Louisiana. Of the projects located outside of Louisiana, his design of buildings for the National Maritime Union (NMU) led to projects from San Francisco to San Juan, culminating in his designs for the National Headquarters building for the NMU, the Seaman's Training School and Dormitory and the Joseph Curran Annex Building (now the Maritime Hotel), all located in New York City. The profile of the union and visibility of modern maritime commerce's progress were critically advanced by Ledner's acclaimed projects.

Outside of his prolific practice, Ledner maintained a relationship with Tulane University, teaching design as well as participating in lectures and symposia on modern architecture. In addition, his activities included chairing a publication for AIA New Orleans entitled "A Guide to New Orleans Architecture." Published in 1974, the guide remains a critical resource to all interested in the architectural heritage of New Orleans.

Patron Award

Louisiana Architecture Foundation's Patron of Architecture Award

The Make It Right Foundation (MIR) received the Louisiana Architecture Foundation's Patron of Architecture Award on August 4 for its role in being a catalyst for redevelopment of the Lower 9th Ward in New Orleans and for its focus on sustainable design.

Chris Elbersen, president

of the American Institute of Architects, Louisiana chapter, presented the award to Tom Darden, executive director of the Make It Right Foundation at the AIA Louisiana Design Conference Honor Awards ceremony, held in SanDestin, Florida.

The Patron of Architecture



AIA Louisiana President Chris Elbersen presents the Patron Award to Tom Darden, representing the Make It Right Foundation.

Award recognizes non-architect individuals, corporations, organizations and groups whose good works have encouraged, fostered or promoted public understanding and appreciation of quality in Louisiana architecture.

In December 2006, actor Brad Pitt convened a group of experts in New Orleans to brainstorm building sustainable and affordable housing on a large scale to help families in need in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. That group became the Make It Right Foundation (MIR) in 2007, with the goal of becoming a catalyst for redevelopment of the Lower 9th Ward. To that end, MIR committed to building a neighborhood of 150 safe and healthy homes inspired by Cradle to Cradle™ thinking, with an emphasis on high-quality design that preserved the culture of the community.

By December 2009, one hundred Lower 9th Ward families will once again be homeowners. They will be living in their old neighborhood, but in the largest concentration of energy-efficient, disaster-resilient, LEED Platinum homes designed by

world-renowned architects. At a construction cost of \$150,000 a house, these New Orleans families will be living in what the US Green Building Council has determined is the 'greenest development of single family homes in America.'

In his letter of support for the project and Make It Right's nomination, William A. McDonough, FAIA, F. Int. RIBA, wrote "I cannot think of an organization more deserving of recognition for its role as a patron of art and architecture. Especially given the program's framework of design in the support of community. What a gift to the community, the state, and the nation."

MIR's drive to build quality homes affordably has also resulted in innovations, including a MIR-designed wall section that uses less material, cuts costs and is stronger than conventional wall sections. MIR also has a patent pending on a storm water management system that uses pervious concrete and creates zero runoff. The City of New Orleans has contracted with MIR to redo two streets using this system.