



City of Palo Alto
Architectural Review Board Staff Report

Item #2

(ID # 5666)

Report Type: New Business

Meeting Date: 4/2/2015

Summary Title: Discussion Regarding 2015 ARB Awards

Title: 2015 ARB Awards: Initial discussion of the process, timeline and potential awards categories for ARB-recommended and constructed development projects completed from 2010 through mid-2015

From: City Manager

Lead Department: Planning and Community Environment

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Architectural Review Board (ARB) initiate a discussion regarding the 2015 Design Awards, including evaluation criteria and possible awards categories, timeline for awards, and award-eligibility period. The ARB is also requested to discuss how the public may be involved in the process. Staff is generating a list of constructed projects and projects nearing completion, which will be provided at ARB places on April 2, 2015. The ARB is requested to discuss ways to vet the list, including assignments to the current board members to photograph completed projects for discussion at a future ARB public hearing.

Executive Summary

The ARB Bylaws were amended in 2005 to add that the Design Awards program would occur every five years. To prepare for this "kick off" of the 2015 awards, staff is compiling a list of addresses for the ARB's consideration. The list will include ARB-recommended and Director or Council-approved projects for which construction was completed between 2010 and the current day. Additional projects nearing completion by May or June of 2015 can also be considered.

The ARB is requested to consider ways the public can participate in this process. The ARB Bylaws cite the City Hall Lobby as the location to display the awards for one month following the awards proclamation at Council. The ARB may wish to conduct a retreat to whittle down a list of potential winning projects, and target a month for the Council meeting and display. Staff suggests that the awards and display be set early in the fourth quarter of 2015, to allow for project review and preparation time, given that there are only four ARB members at present. In addition, completion of the City Hall lobby is a determinant to how the display might be implemented in the lobby.

Background

Comprehensive Plan Program L-53

The ARB awards program implements the 1998-2010 Palo Alto Comprehensive Plan Program L-53, which states, "Promote awards programs and other forms of public recognition for projects of architectural merit that contribute positively to the community."

ARB Bylaws

The ARB bylaws Article 8, Design Awards, sets forth the following:

- Design Awards for outstanding built projects may be awarded every five years beginning in 2005. Award-winning projects shall be selected from those reviewed by the ARB, and completed since the last awards were made.
- Criteria and number of awards shall be determined by the awarding board.
- Winning projects may be displayed in the City Hall lobby for one month following the presentation of awards. The ARB shall request that the Mayor of the City of Palo Alto issue an appropriate proclamation."

Purpose

The Architectural Review Board (ARB) awards were established to express appreciation for architects' efforts to help create and maintain Palo Alto's unique visual character through their creative and responsive designs of public and private spaces, which contribute to the well-being and healthy environment of our city.

Timing of Awards

The awards were initially presented during "Architecture Month", recognized as such in years past by the Santa Clara Valley Chapter of the AIA (American Institute of Architects). The past three ARB awards were presented in the April or May. While April 2015 is National Landscape Architecture Month, designated by the ALSA to promote the Landscape Architecture profession to students, staff has not discovered whether or not there is a specific month designated as National Architecture Month to promote the profession. This year, the National AIA convention will be held in mid-May. However, the AIA Santa Clara Valley (SCV) Chapter presented its biennial awards in October 2014. New York City also sets "Arch-tober" as a month to focus on architecture. The ARB may wish to consider October 2015 for the awards presentation.

AIA SCV Awards

In October 2014, the AIA (American Institute of Architects) SCV Chapter presented awards to 14 projects, including 4 Honor Awards, 5 Merit Awards, and 5 Citation Awards. Santa Clara Valley architects submit built and unbuilt projects for consideration by the jury and categories for consideration included Architecture, Interior Architecture, Urban Design, Unbuilt, Small Projects, and Emerging Professionals. Projects are judged based on a variety of features, including unique design, originality, extended use

attributes, sustainability, budget, and use of environmental surroundings. The Palo Alto projects named in the 2014 AIA SCV Design Awards were:

- Honor award for Architecture to 2995 Middlefield Road (Hayes Group);
- Honor award for Architecture to 801 Alma Street (Rob Wellington Quigley);
- Merit award for Architecture to Desbard Residence (Bellomo Architects); and
- Citation award for Architecture to The EcoCenter/Sea Scout Building (CAW).

Past ARB Awards

In 1998, awards were given to five projects approved via the ARB process and built prior to mid-1997. In 2005, awards were presented in April 2005 to five projects recommended for approval by the board and constructed between mid-1997 and mid-2004. The five projects selected for the April 2005 awards were: (1) City Parking Structure at 528 High Street, (2) Stanford Medical Center Parking Structure 4 on Pasteur Drive, (3) IDEO Building at 705 Alma Street, (4) Office Building at 2475 Hanover Street, and (5) Bowman International School at 4000 Terman Drive (formerly the Mid-Peninsula Jewish Community Day School). The eligible projects list was comprised of 70 major projects constructed prior to 2005. The criteria the board used in 2005 to select the winning projects were:

- (1) Innovative, creative and authentic,
- (2) Enriches the quality of the built environment in Palo Alto,
- (3) Respectful of its context and the environment,
- (4) Well-built, well-detailed and durable.

The 2010 awards were given in May of that year to ten projects from an eligible list of over 100 projects. The main awards went to: (1) the Opportunity Center at 33 Encina Avenue; (2) Walgreen's at 310 University; (3) four townhomes at 455 Forest; (4) VMWare campus and gymnasium at 3401 Hillview; (5) the Children's Library at 1276 Harriet. The ARB determined the number of awards could be increased to include 'honorable mention' awards for a variety of projects in the categories of lighting, facade renovation, mixed use on El Camino Real, centennial walk design interface, and shopping center site/landscape renovation. The Honorable Mention awards went to: (a) the VTA bus terminal lighting project, (b) the mixed use building at 1795 El Camino Real, (c) the retail/office building at 270 University, (d) the commercial remodel at 335 Bryant, and (e) the Town and Country Center upgrade.

Discussion

Eligible Projects Documentation and Followup

The list of constructed projects will be a starting point toward selection of award winning project. The project list will have addresses grouped into five different areas of the city to allow the four current board members plus staff to conduct site or "drive by" visits of properties prior to the next discussion. Staff suggests boardmembers select an area and take photographs of the sites on the list. Staff can contact past ARB members to assist in both the documentation for ARB discussion and in the selection and write-

ups of award winners. Staff typically contacts the award winners with an official letter, and prepares the proclamation for Council.

City Hall Lobby Display

For the 2010 Design Awards, the ARB members created an introduction page for the City Hall lobby (Attachment A), the Mayor read the proclamation (Attachment B), the ARB members and former ARB members prepared descriptions of why the projects were selected, and display boards prepared by the award winning architectural teams were on display for an entire month. Given that the ground floor renovations at City Hall replaced a key display wall with a glass wall for the community room, the remaining display area appears to be the wall facing the entry doors; however this wall is slated for displays using multiple television screens with rotating displays. Staff has contacted City staff to understand whether these screens might be used to display the award winning projects and will present an update on this aspect at the April 2, 2015 ARB meeting.

Attachments:

- Attachment A: 2010 Awards Introduction (DOC)
- Attachment B: 2010 Proclamation (PDF)

2010 ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD AWARDS

Architecture is all around us, defining and enhancing our dwellings, workplaces and places of recreation. Architects are charged by state law to protect public health, safety and welfare in the areas of seismic safety, universal accessibility, historic preservation, energy and resource, conservation, housing for the homeless and the poor, the integrated environment - the sensitive connections between the built, landscaped, natural and cultural environment.

These display boards show the work of award winning architectural teams and will remain on display through the month of May. Each member of the Architectural Review Board (ARB), along with a recent, former ARB member, has prepared descriptions of why projects were selected as award winners in 2010.

The Architectural Review Board (ARB) bylaws state that ARB awards will be presented every five years. The awards are to express appreciation for designers' efforts to help create and maintain Palo Alto's unique visual character through their creative and responsive designs of public and private spaces, which contribute to the well-being and healthy environment of our city. The last time the ARB presented awards was in 2005, for five projects that were approved and built between 1998 and mid-2004.

On January 21, 2010, the ARB held a retreat to review the ARB-recommended major projects constructed between mid-2004 and end of 2009. Five primary projects and five honorable mention projects were chosen. General criteria the board uses for awards are:

- Innovative, creative and authentic,
- Enriches the quality of the built environment in Palo Alto,
- Respectful of its context and the environment,
- Well-built, well-detailed and durable.

On May 3, 2010 at 5:45, the Mayor of Palo Alto will present these ARB awards to recipients in the Palo Alto City Council Chambers.

**CITY OF PALO ALTO
PROCLAMATION**

Attachment B

2010 ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD DESIGN AWARDS

WHEREAS, architecture is all around us, defining and enhancing our places of recreation, homes, and workplaces; and

WHEREAS, architects are charged by State law to protect public health, safety, and welfare in the areas of seismic safety, universal accessibility, historic preservation, energy and resource conservation, housing for the poor and homeless, and to respect the integrated environment – the sensitive connections between the built, landscaped, natural and cultural environment; and

WHEREAS, the Architectural Review Board Design Awards are presented every five years; and

WHEREAS, the Architectural Review Board reviewed projects for the 2010 awards that were designed after mid-2004 and constructed prior to 2010; and

WHEREAS, the Architectural Review Board selected outstanding projects in order to express appreciation for architects' efforts to create and maintain Palo Alto's unique visual character through their creative and responsive designs of public and private spaces; and

WHEREAS, the Architectural Review Board granted these awards to projects that: 1) are innovative, creative and authentic; 2) enrich the quality of the built environment in Palo Alto; 3) are respectful of the surrounding context and the environment; and 4) are well-built, well-detailed, and durable.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, PATRICK BURT, Mayor of the City of Palo Alto, do hereby express appreciation for the contributions of these architectural firms and their professional design teams to the well-being and healthy environment of our city and present the 2010 Architectural Review Board Design Awards to:

Rob Wellington Quigley, FAIA, the Opportunity Center at 33 Encina Avenue;
Roddy Creedon of Allied Architecture+Design, and WRNS Studio, new Walgreen's building at 310 University;
David Solnick, Architect, four townhouses at 455 Forest;
Bob Giannini of Form 4 Architecture, William McDonough of McDonough and Partners, Siteworks and Studio 5 the VMWare campus and gymnasium at 3401 Hillview; and
Cathleen Malmstrom of Architectural Resources Group, Inc., the Children's Library at 1276 Harriet.

IN ADDITION, I further express appreciation for the contributions of architectural firms receiving Honorable Mention Awards; VBN Architects/Advance Design Consultants, Inc., Hayes Group Architects, and Cottong and Tanaguchi Landscape Architects.

PRESENTED: MAY 2010



Patrick Burt
Patrick Burt
Mayor