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ANNIVERSARY  
ISSUE

# SOURCES + DESIGN

PREMIER INDUSTRY PUBLICATION FOR DESIGNERS, ARCHITECTS AND CUSTOM HOMEBUILDERS IN THE WEST NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2005



## Designers' DIGS

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**ABOUT THE COVER**  
The living room of interior designer Gaye Ferrara's Phoenix home. Photograph by Dino Tonn. See page 58.



90

## departments

- 6 WELCOME
- 10 PROFILES  
Meet the Design Professionals Behind Projects in this Issue
- 14 BUSINESS DETAILS  
Winning the Battle for Talent
- 18 ROOM FOR A VIEW  
Historic Tax Rehabilitation Credits

- 22 SWATCHES  
Who's Doing What Where in the Design Industry
- 28 DATEBOOK
- 32 FACES+PLACES
- 34 THE GOODS  
New Products, Goods and Services
- 38 DESIGN FOR ALL  
Phoenix Symphony Hall Becomes More User-Friendly
- 42 TECH LAB  
Protecting Your Passwords
- 46 SHOWROOM PROFILE  
Oliver Walker & Company, Denver, Colorado
- 50 HIDDEN TREASURES  
Clarke & Clarke, Scottsdale, Arizona
- 54 ARTISAN PROFILE  
Oia Glass Sinks, Phoenix, Arizona
- 102 HOT SHOTS  
Paul Berkner, Phoenix, Arizona
- 111 ADVERTISERS' INDEX
- 112 FINAL FOCUS  
An Image by James L. Christy



58

## features

- 58 AT HOME  
Three Designers Face Their Toughest Client: Themselves
- 72 AIA WESTERN MOUNTAIN REGION DESIGN AWARDS
- 82 PROJECT WALK-THROUGH  
Aviano at Desert Ridge Clubhouse
- 90 ARIZONA NORTH CHAPTER ASID DESIGN AWARDS
- 96 MARKET WATCH  
Counter Revolution



50

BY NORA BURBA TRULSSON

**A library** celebrates the Sonoran Desert and nurtures intellectual growth with outdoor reading spaces. An off-the-grid, rammed-earth family home on the Navajo Reservation makes the most of its remote location and its \$30,000 budget. In Texas, a city hall serves as the community's new living room, its materials composed of a high degree of recycled content—even the construction debris was recycled, going to local artists and schools.

While the 19 winning projects in this year's AIA Western Mountain Region Design Awards competition varied in style, scope, size and budget, there seemed to be a common thread of social and environmental accountability among them. Recycling, environmentally friendly design, adaptive reuse and serving the public need seemed to be common denominators in the winning projects, designed by firms from Utah, Wyoming, Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico and Nevada.

The awards were presented in August during the AIA Western



Desert Broom Branch Library/Richard+Bauer, LLC.

## WESTERN MOUNTAIN REGION DESIGN AWARDS

Social and Environmental Accountability Are the Common Threads of the Winning Projects



Quincie Douglas Branch Library/Richard+Bauer, LLC.

Mountain Region convention, held at the historic Arizona Biltmore Resort & Spa in Phoenix. The jury, chaired by Craig Hodgetts, AIA, consisted of other Los Angeles-area architects, including William H. Fain Jr., FAIA, Annie Chu, AIA, and Robert Mangurian.

Winning the highest recognition, the Honor Award, was the Desert Broom Branch Library on the outskirts of suburban Phoenix, designed by Richard + Bauer, LLC, also of Phoenix. The graceful, airy, 15,378-square-foot branch library features a roof form that extends 60 feet out into the natural desert, creating shaded outdoor reading spaces that blend seamlessly with the volumes of the interior spaces. The roof is penetrated by a series of openings, treated with a fritted or colored glass, that create an ever-changing series of colors and patterns throughout the space. The building is sheathed in weathered steel.

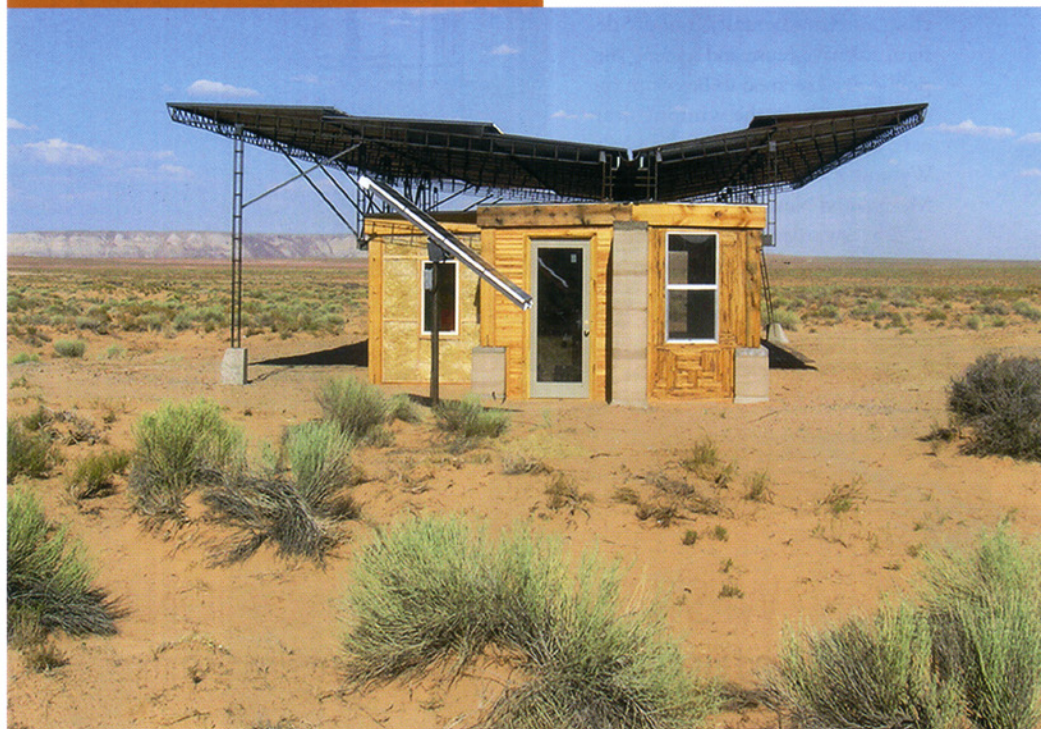
Richard + Bauer, LLC also won a Merit Award for another library facility, the Quincie Douglas Branch Library in Tucson, Arizona. The 10,500-square-foot project was designed to integrate the library building and a future pedestrian bridge into one cohesive form by echoing

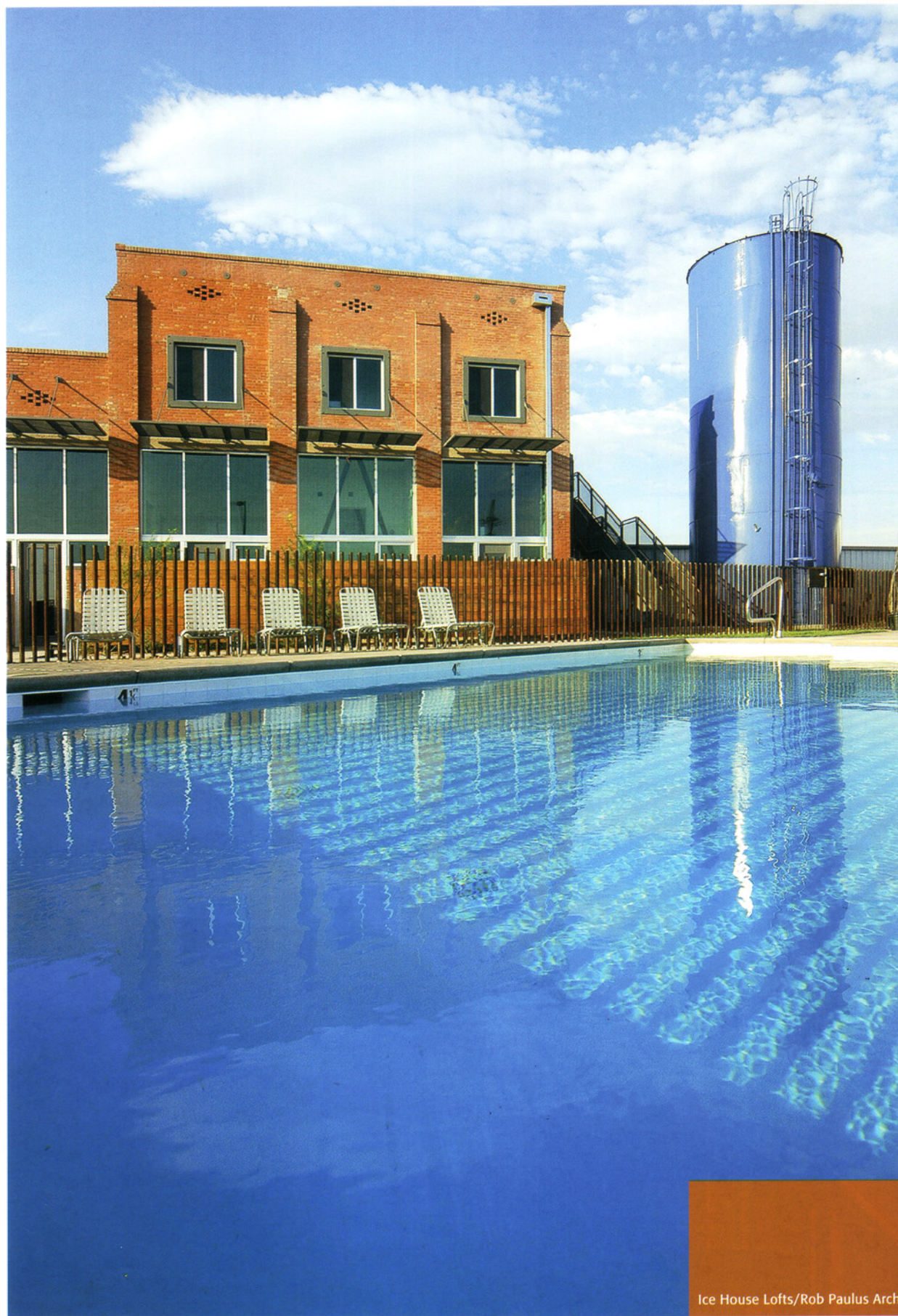
the thrust arc of the bridge with the library's flowing roof form. The roof is lifted toward the north for daylighting, and the interior is marked by an elliptically shaped staff area at the entrance.

Creating a home for a single mother on the remote Navajo reservation near Bluff, Utah was the challenge faced by eight graduate students enrolled in the University of Utah College of Architecture and Planning's DesignBuildBLUFF program, led by Hank Louis, AIA. Inspired by the Rural Studio program established by the late Samuel Mockbee, DesignBuildBLUFF tackles homes and projects for that rural community. The recent home for Rosie Joe and her family won a Merit Award for its off-the-grid design featuring rammed-earth walls and a butterfly roof that channels rainwater into a cistern. The three-bedroom, 1,200-square-foot home had a budget of \$30,000.

Also winning Merit awards was Antoine Predock Architect of Albuquerque, New Mexico for public projects in Austin, Texas and Albany, Georgia. In Austin, the firm designed the 118,000-square-foot Austin City Hall and Public Plaza in

Rosie Joe House/DesignBuildBLUFF





Ice House Lofts/Rob Paulus Architect, Ltd.



Barrio Metalico/  
Rob Paulus Architect, Ltd.

House of Five Dreams/  
Jones Studio Inc

association with Cotera, Kolar, Negrete and Reed of Austin. The city hall, which makes use of a limestone and copper palette, includes a series of outdoor plazas and waterfalls, as well as an amphitheater. The amphitheater is shaded by a trellised structure made of photovoltaic cells, and the building materials were made with a high degree of recycled content, which helped the project also earn a LEED Silver Award. In Albany, the firm designed the 15,000-square-foot Flint RiverQuarium, an attraction that celebrates and interprets the biology, geology and hydrology of southwest Georgia. The building and its exhibits include "Skywater," a chapel-like space for viewing the 100-foot-diameter Blue Hole, an open-air exhibit filled with fish, reptiles and plants. Building materials include limestone blocks that allude to the area's subsurface caves, as well as glass and earth-toned precast concrete formed into a "mountain."

In Tucson, Arizona, Rob Paulus Architect, Ltd. won a Merit Award for the Ice House Lofts project, the conversion of the 1923 Arizona Ice and Cold Storage building into condominium residences. The original building was infused with 48 units,

while a new triangular-shaped building has three units. Located near downtown, the project makes the most of the original exposed brick, concrete, massive wood beams and riveted steel trusses.

A 2,400-square-foot residence in a Jackson, Wyoming aspen grove won Eric Logan, AIA, a Merit Award. Logan, who is an associate with the Jackson firm Carney Architects, created a simple, two-story form, clad with oxidized steel siding and highlighted with cedar-clad projections and a steel visor, all of which blend into the colors of the natural landscape. Main living areas were placed on the second floor, allowing the homeowners, a young couple, to live within the canopy of the trees.

Also winning a Merit Award was the Oakwood Road Church in Ames, Iowa, designed by a team that included Michael Underhill, AIA, a professor of architecture at Arizona State University in Tempe; Laura





Arizona State University East Campus Student Union/Gould Evans Associates

Miller, an professor of architecture at Harvard University; David Heymann, an associate professor of architecture at the University of Texas at Austin; Douglas Brimhall; and Byron Blattel.

Five residential projects, four educational, one hospitality and one community project were recognized

with Citation Awards.

Will Bruder Architects, Ltd. of Phoenix won for Loloma 5, an angular masonry block, metal and glass condominium complex in downtown Scottsdale, Arizona, while Anderson Mason Dale Architects of Denver, Colorado won for The Tube, a small weekend house for

two that cantilevers, tube-like, over the banks of the Arkansas River near Granite, Colorado. Jones Studio, Inc. of Phoenix won for the House of Five Dreams, a residence that's also a private museum in Paradise Valley, Arizona, which contrasts rammed earth below with a floating glass pavilion above. In Tucson, Rob Paulus

Architect, Ltd. won for Barrio Metálico, an urban infill development of nine single-family, loft-style residences detailed with metal, salvaged wood, steel fencing and existing old adobe walls. Stephen Dynia Architects of Jackson, Wyoming won for a residence and guest house complex on a 50-acre site on the Snake River that celebrates densely wooded site and views of the Tetons in the distance.

The educational Citation Award winners were Gould Evans Associates Phoenix for the Arizona State University East Campus Student Union and Phase I of the Biodesign Institute of Arizona State University; Richard + Bauer, Ltd. for the Arabian Branch Library in Phoenix; and Jones Studio, Inc. + Gensler for



The Animal Foundations Campus/  
Tate Snyder Kimsey Architects

Lattie Coor Hall at Arizona State University.

VCBO Architecture of Salt Lake City, Utah won a Citation Award for a hospitality project, the Soldier Hollow Golf Course Clubhouse, while Tate Snyder Kimsey Architects of Las Vegas, Nevada won for The Animal Foundation's regional animal campus, which features an eco-friendly design and innovative presentation of the animals in an attempt to increase their chances for adoption. ■



Arizona State University Biodesign Institute/Gould Evans Associates

Arizona State University Lattie Coor Hall/Jones Studio, Inc. + Gensler

