Over 200 Birmingham architects and other industry professionals gathered June 16, 2005 at the Hugh Kaul Children’s Zoo to celebrate their efforts and accomplishments at the annual AIA Design Awards Gala.

Keynote speaker Carol Ross Barney, FAIA, of Ross Barney + Jankowski Architects in Chicago, recipient of the 2005 AIA Thomas Jefferson Award for public architecture, shared her experiences in design process of the recently-completed Oklahoma City Federal Building and the Tuscaloosa Courthouse. The evening culminated with the Design Awards, a recognition and celebration of the best work from Birmingham area architects as judged by a jury of four professionals: Bruce Lindsey, Department Head of Auburn University’s School of Architecture, Frank Flury, visiting professor with the Auburn University Rural Studio program, Seab Tuck, FAIA, of Tuck-Hinton Architects in Nashville, and Karim Shamsi-Basha, co-owner and Director of Photography for Portico Magazine.

The jurors selected 8 awards from a record-setting 39 entries. Honor Awards were given to Williams Blackstock Architects for the V&W Warehouse renovation and design of their own office; and to Giattina Fisher Aycock Architects Inc. for their design of the Children’s Hospital Parking Deck and Data Center. Merit Awards were given to Krumdieck A+I Design for the addition to Barber Companies Corporate Headquarters; Taylor Dawson & Associates for the Musselwhite Farmhouse; Giattina Fisher Aycock Architects Inc. for the First Commercial Bank in crestline; and to HKW for their design of both Vulcan Park and the Boy Scouts of America Volunteer Resource Center & Eagle Scout Tribute.

The top honor this year went to the Homewood Middle School, designed by Giattina Fisher Aycock.

The gala gives us architects a chance, at least for one evening, to set aside the deadlines, the budgets and the myriad distractions, to celebrate what drew us to architecture as a profession, quality design of our community. They also provide us with an opportunity to promote awareness outside the profession to the importance of design excellence. On behalf of the Birmingham Chapter of the AIA, thank you to everyone who participated in this year’s Design Awards and Gala.

Thank you,
Trevor Matchett, AIA
2005 Design Awards Survey

1. Did you enter this year’s AIA Birmingham Design Awards? If not, please explain what, if anything would encourage you to do so in the future.


3. How would you rate the execution of the following elements of this year’s banquet? using a scale of 1–10 (1 = poor, 10 = excellent)?
   ___ date (Thurs. mid-June)
   ___ Emailed invitations/reminder
   ___ Venue
   ___ Cuisine
   ___ Seating arrangement
   ___ Keynote speaker
   ___ Publicity
   ___ Awards submittal format
   ___ Representation of awards submittals
   ___ Awards presentation
   other

4. Using the list of elements in question 3, place a star next to the items you consider most important to the event’s success (up to 3 items). Place an X next to the items you consider least important to the success (up to 3 items).

5. Did you bring a guest to the banquet whose background is non-architectural? If yes, how would you rate their experience at the event (1–10)?

6. If you did not attend the event, please explain what if anything, would encourage you to do so in the future.

7. Do you believe that a daytime seminar is better venue for architectural speakers, allowing the Awards Banquet to focus on Birmingham architecture (with no keynote speaker)? If not, explain.

8. Please offer any suggestions you may have for next year’s event:
   speaker
   venue
   date/time of year
   award categories/format
   other
NEW BENEFIT for AIA MEMBERS

Great news!! The Historic Tutwiler Hotel has partnered with AIA Birmingham and now will offer special discounted rates for all AIA members. The Tutwiler has welcomed guests for nearly 100 years. If you have clients from out of town who need a place to stay, let them experience the warmth and grace of Southern hospitality in downtown Birmingham. ($99 regular room rate vs. 185.00 or $129.00 suite room rate vs. $179.00)

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2003 International Building Code

The Alabama State Board of Health has adopted the 2003 International Building code for use in reviewing building plans for health care facilities. Effective July 25, 2005, newly submitted projects shall comply with the new building code. The Ala. Dept. of Public Health licenses and regulated health care facilities statewide. Submission of plans and specifications is required for buildings occupied as hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, ambulatory surgery centers, dialysis centers, abortion centers, rehabilitation centers, cerebral palsy centers and impatient hospices. This code adoption is included among amendments to licensure rule Chapter 420–5–22, “Submission of Plans and Specifications for Health Care Facilities.”

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