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documentation and conservation
of buildings, sites and neighborhoods of the
Modern Movement

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**"Docomomo US announces the Inaugural
Modernism in America Awards:
Death Valley National Park's Furnace Creek Visitor
Center, Curating the City: Modern Architecture in
L.A. Website and Peavey Plaza."**

Docomomo US announces the inaugural Modernism in America Award winners: Death Valley National Park's Furnace Creek Visitor Center in California, Curating the City: Modern Architecture in L.A. Website, and Peavey Plaza in Minnesota. The *Modernism in America Awards* is the first national program of its kind to celebrate the projects and the people working to sensitively preserve and rehabilitate significant mid-century modern buildings for continued productive use and to raise public awareness of the ongoing threats to modern architecture and design.

The program seeks to acknowledge the substantial economic and cultural impact such projects had and continue to have on our local communities and to set a standard for how preserving modern architecture can be accomplished. Through the awards program, Docomomo US seeks to bring attention to the many successful local, regional and national projects and thereby elevate an appreciation for the value of modern architecture to our cultural and architectural history. Theodore Prudon FAIA, president of Docomomo US states, "The quality and variety of the nominated projects submitted for the inaugural year of the Docomomo US *Modernism in America Awards* is inspiring and speaks to the increasing interest in the cultural value mid-century modern architecture brings to the United States."

Docomomo US is pleased to announce the winners of the inaugural *Modernism in America Awards*. The juried Awards celebrate the documentation, preservation and re-use of modern buildings, structures and landscapes built in the United States or on U.S. territory. One Award of Excellence was given in each of the three categories: Design, Inventory/Survey, and Advocacy. Five Citations of Merit were selected. Modernism in America prizes will be awarded during the Docomomo US National Symposium March 13-15, 2014 in Houston, Texas.

Design Award of Excellence: Furnace Creek Visitor Center at Death Valley National Park

Original Architects: Cecil Doty, National Park Service; Welton Becket & Associates, San Francisco, CA

Restoration Team: National Park Service, Denver Service Center (Project Manager/Property Owner); Architectural Resources Group, Inc. (Architect); and AMEC Environment & Infrastructure Inc. (Project Management, Engineering, and Landscape Architecture)

The Design Award of Excellence is given for the restoration of Furnace Creek Visitor Center at Death Valley National Park in California. In selecting the project, the jury noted the exemplary attention to detail in the preservation and expansion of the site. “Receiving a million visitors annually, Furnace Creek Visitor Center is an outstanding example of the National Park Service’s “Mission 66” program.” Speaking on behalf of the jury architect James Polshek continued, “With the recent loss of Richard Neutra’s Cyclorama building at Gettysburg and a number of Mission 66 sites lost or in serious need of restoration, we congratulate the team for recognizing the high architectural and historic value of the complex, committing the funding for its preservation and sensitively restoring, adapting and expanding it for continued productive use. The Furnace Creek project demonstrates the capacity of modern buildings to be productive, adaptable and sustainable well into the future.” Built in 1959 by noted Park Service architect Cecil Doty, the buildings were sensitively expanded at the lobby, restrooms and administrative offices. The additions respect the original architecture. Character defining features were preserved and historically significant landscaping was thoughtfully rehabilitated. New pedestrian paving and shade structures were added for visitor accommodation. LEED Gold certification is pending.

Survey Award of Excellence: Curating the City: Modern Architecture in L.A. Website

Team: Los Angeles Conservancy (project lead), Historic Resources Group (data collection facilitators), Architectural Resources Group, Inc. (content), Alan Hess (content), ThinkShout (web development) and YYES (graphic design)

The Survey Award of Excellence is given to the Los Angeles Conservancy for their documentation of modern resources through the Curating the City: Modern Architecture in L.A., (California) Website (www.laconservancy.org/modern). The jury notes the very considerable amount of thoughtful work and financial resources that went into the development of the exceptional visual quality, organization and public access of the website. “The Los Angeles Conservancy is commended for creating such an expansive resource documenting more than 300 historically significant Modern sites throughout Los Angeles County. “ Speaking for the jury James Polshek continues, “Their use of innovative technology, preservation talent, historical knowledge and web design talent to attractively bring together a vast amount of information available to the general public is commended.”



Advocacy Award of Excellence: Peavey Plaza

Original Designers: M. Paul Friedberg + Partners

Advocacy Team: Preservation Alliance of Minnesota (PAM), The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF) and Docomomo US/Minnesota

The Advocacy Award of Excellence is given to the coordinated efforts on behalf of Peavey Plaza in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Designed in 1975, Peavey Plaza is an extension of Minneapolis's renowned Nicollet Mall. In 2011 the city looked to redesign the Plaza, paralleling the renovation of the adjacent Orchestra Hall. A consortium of local and national organizations came together to successfully communicate Peavey Plaza's on-going importance and prevent its demolition. The Board of Directors of Docomomo US is impressed by the well-coordinated collective nature of these efforts; their outreach to a wide audience including local constituents and national interests; and their use of a combination of advocacy tools including the solicitation of *pro bono* design concepts by the plaza's original landscape architect M. Paul Friedberg. "Peavey Plaza is a prime example of one of our most threatened typologies: modern public landscape design," states Docomomo US Director and Awards Committee Chair Jack Pyburn, FAIA. "There are numerous modern urban landscapes across the country that are in a state of neglect, disrepair and threat due to development pressures and lack of broader community understanding of their value and potential. The quality and significance of Peavey Plaza is extremely high and we anticipate this award will serve as a vehicle to support the funding of its rehabilitation and as an example to broaden awareness of and encourage greater support for the preservation of modernist landscape architecture."

Citations of Merit

In addition to the Awards of Excellence, a number of projects in all three categories were recognized with a Citation of Merit.

Design Citation of Merit: The Arboretum (formerly the Garden Grove Community Church)

Restoration team: The Roman Catholic Diocese of Orange (owner), LPA Inc. (architect), Cannon Building (general contractor) Davis Partners/Hager Pacific Properties (construction managers) and Lamprecht archiTEXTural (consulting architect).

The jury awards a Citation of Merit for the restoration of the Arboretum on the Christ Cathedral campus in Garden Grove, California. The jury notes the impressive effort to reinforce and strengthen the original structure, hide new air conditioning systems, while retaining the original design intent. Designed in 1961 by Richard Neutra as a 'drive-in church', the restoration included the development of a new window system to sensitively replicate the original design as well as the rehabilitation of deteriorated fountains and reflection pools, and interior finishes.

Advocacy Citation of Merit: Miami Marine Stadium

The Docomomo US Board of Directors awards a Citation of Merit to the Friends of Miami Marine Stadium in Miami, Florida. The Board of Directors notes the project is an exemplary model of successful advocacy using multiple channels: social media, public events, fundraisers, newsletters,



and collaboration of local boards, preservation groups in addition to public and private partnerships. The Board of Directors notes the organization's funding of an engineering study concluding the stadium could be restored demonstrating an exemplary depth of due diligence in establishing the case for its preservation. Designed in 1963 by Hilario Candela and host to hundreds of boat races and floating concerts, the Miami Marine Stadium was closed after Hurricane Andrew in 1992.

Survey Citation of Merit: North Carolina Modernist Houses, Inc.

The jury awards a Citation of Merit to George Smart the founder and director of the North Carolina Modernist Houses, Inc for their contributions to documenting modern architecture on their website (www.ncmodernist.org). The jury notes the vast amount of information included on the website in addition to the group's ongoing events and programs aimed to promote and document the merits of modernism in North Carolina and beyond.

Design Citation of Merit: Stillman and Huvelle Houses, Litchfield, CT

Restoration team: Joseph Mazzaferro and Kenneth Sena

The jury awards a Citation of Merit to Joseph Mazzaferro and Kenneth Sena for their historically correct restoration of the two homes that introduced modernism to Litchfield, Connecticut: Stillman House I designed by Marcel Breuer in 1950 and The Huvelle House designed by John Johansen in 1953. The jury notes that in addition to repairing structural damage, the owners removed later additions to the Stillman House and returned a removed floating porch and staircase to a Breuer-designed swimming pool. For the Huvelle House, a cantilevered porch and corresponding sun-louver above were also reconstructed following their removal years ago. For both houses, all glass was replaced, interior volumes were returned to scale where changed, and all original design detailing was closely observed. Dr. F. Peter Swanson and Robert Gregson nominated the work.

Design Citation of Merit: Trenton Bath House and Day Camp Pavilions

Restoration team: Farewell Mills Gatsch Architects, LLC – (Project Management, Design, Preservation - now Mills + Schnoering Architects, LLC), Heritage Landscapes (Landscape Architecture), Wu & Associates, Inc. (Restoration Contractor), Mercer County Division of Planning, Susan Solomon, PhD, Keast & Hood Co. (Structural Engineering), Joseph R. Loring & Associates (MEP Engineering), The RBA Group (Civil Engineering), Gilbane (Cost Estimating), De Sapio Construction, Inc. (Contractor - Snack Bar).

The jury awards a Citation of Merit to Mills + Schnoering Architects, LLC for the restoration of the Trenton Bath House and Day Camp Pavilions in Trenton, New Jersey. The jury notes the heroic preservation efforts of the previously threatened site and the sensitivity of the restoration of the 1954-1957 Louis I. Kahn and Anne Tyng design.



About the Juries

The independent design and survey prize jury was chaired by *James Polshek, FAIA*, founding partner of Polshek Partnership Architects and former Dean of the Columbia University School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation. Renowned modern architecture authors, educators and speakers also on the jury included: *Alice Friedman*, the Grace Slack McNeil Professor of the History of American Art at Wellesley College and author of “American Glamour and the Evolution of Modern Architecture”; *Joseph Heathcott*, professor of urban studies and design at The New School in New York; *Donna Robertson, FAIA*, partner of macro design (formerly Robertson McAnulty Architects) and professor of architecture and former Dean of the College of Architecture at the Illinois Institute of Technology; *Marc Treib*, Professor Emeritus of Architecture at the University of California- Berkeley and author of the forthcoming “Landscapes of Modern Architecture: Wright, Mies, Neutra, Aalto, Barragán.”

The advocacy jury was chaired by Jack Pyburn, FAIA, partner of Lord Aeck Sargent and adjunct professor at Georgia Institute of Technology’s College of Architecture. The Docomomo US Board of Directors completed the jury.

About Docomomo US

Docomomo US (which stands for the documentation and conservation of buildings, sites and neighborhoods of the modern movement) was founded in 1995 and is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. It is the committee of Docomomo International in the United States. Docomomo US currently has fifteen regional chapters whose members work to exchange knowledge, stimulate interest, educate the public, and advocate for the appropriate protection and preservation of significant modern buildings, sites, neighborhoods and landscapes in the United States. Nomination information for the 2015 Modernism in America Awards will be available this fall: <http://docomomo-us.org/programs/awards>.

Contact Liz Waytkus for additional images, information and for contact information for all the project winners.

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