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Media Contacts: Adam Abdalla
Susan Grant Lewin Associates
212-947-4557
adam@susangrantlewin.com

OLSON SUNDBERG KUNDIG ALLEN HONORED WITH TWO 2008 REGIONAL ARCHITECTURE AWARDS FROM AIA NORTHWEST AND PACIFIC REGION

Montecito Residence and Outpost, designed by Tom Kundig, FAIA of Olson Sundberg Kundig Allen, received Honor and Merit awards for architectural excellence at the AIA Northwest & Pacific Region Annual Conference held in Honolulu, Hawaii earlier this month. Montecito Residence received an Honor Award, and Outpost received an Award of Merit.

Montecito Residence is a single-family home set in the fire-prone Toro Canyon. The owners wanted a house that minimized its use of scarce natural resources and recognized the challenging environmental conditions of the area. The design solution was to create a house that could harvest the climatic conditions which make the site so dangerous – the sun and the wind. The project team included Tom Kundig, FAIA, Elizabeth Bianchi Conklin and Huyen Hoang.

The jury commented: "Superbly crafted, the Montecito Residence is powerful architecture that is grounded to the site and speaks to the sky and views. Situated in an area prone to wild fires, the architect has used simple materials such as oxidized steel and toned concrete to blend into the landscape."

Set in the remote and harsh high desert landscape of Idaho, **Outpost** is an artist live/work studio and sculpture garden for making and displaying art. An important aspect of the complex is the protected "paradise garden," which is separated from the wild landscape by thick masonry walls. The materials used in the structure, including concrete block, car-decking, and plywood, require little or no maintenance, and are capable of withstanding the extreme weather that characterize the desert's four seasons. The project team included Tom Kundig, FAIA, Kirsten Murray, AIA, Steven Rainville, AIA and Gladys Ly-Au Young.

The jury commented: Utilizing a durable and readily available construction material, this residence, designed with great boldness and simplicity, holds its own in its remote environment. The garden walls protect the attached sculpture garden from high winds, adding to the horizontality and in keeping with the gentle undulation of the land."

Olson Sundberg Kundig Allen Architects began its creative existence with architect Jim Olson, whose work in the late 1960s explored the relationship between dwellings and the landscape they inhabit in the Northwest. Olson started the firm based on some simple ideas: that buildings can serve as a bridge between nature, culture and people, and that inspiring surroundings have a positive effect on people's lives. Rick Sundberg joined the firm in 1975, and its commitment to urbanism and civic life became evident as they began designing and developing modern urban buildings in and around Seattle's national historic districts Pike Place Market and Pioneer Square.

The addition of partners Scott Allen and Tom Kundig has taken the firm to another level of creative exploration, and helped it grow into an office with a national reputation. In 2008, Alan Maskin and Kirsten Murray were named partners, continuing the evolution of the firm and furthering its commitment to the experience around architecture, articulated in exhibit design, interiors, and the connections to urban and rural landscapes.

The firm now numbers over 85 employees. Olson Sundberg Kundig Allen's work, including museums, academic buildings, exhibit design, interior design, places of worship and residences, often for art collectors, is now worldwide. The office combines the capacity of a large firm with the intensity of a small one. The firm's commitment to vigorous, critical design review sessions has infused its designers with a shared sense of commitment to every project.

The partners lecture extensively on design, regularly serve as university studio critics, and are board members for civic institutions and jury awards programs. The firm's award-winning work has been widely exhibited in North America, has been published extensively, including in the New York Times Magazine, Architectural Digest, and Architectural Record, and has been featured numerous times on the covers of books and magazines. Among the firm's accolades are National and Regional design awards from the American Institute of Architects, American Architecture Awards from the Chicago Athenaeum, and Tom Kundig's National Design Award from the Smithsonian Cooper-Hewitt, and his Academy Award in Architecture from the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

The **2008 Regional Architecture Awards** for architectural excellence were presented at the AIA Northwest & Pacific Region Annual Conference held in Honolulu, Hawaii earlier this month. The Northwest & Pacific Region of the AIA is the largest and most diverse of all the AIA regions; it includes Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Alaska, Hawaii, Guam, Hong Kong and Japan.

The ultimate goal of the awards program is to raise the standards of architectural design excellence by both the architectural community and the public. This year's winners are a wide-ranging group that not only surpasses the prerequisites but raises the bar for architectural standards. Jurors for the competition were: Peter Q. Bohlin, FAIA, partner of Bohlin | Cywinski | Jackson; Cameron Sinclair, Executive Director and Co-founder of Architecture for Humanity; Dean Sakamoto, Director of Exhibitions at Yale University's School of Architecture; John M. Hara, FAIA, independent practice devoted to design that continues to re-define Hawaiian architectural traditions; and Johnpaul Jones, FAIA, founding partner of the Seattle-based Jones and Jones Architects and Landscape Architects.

All awarded projects can be found on-line at the AIA Northwest and Pacific Region website at <http://aianwpr.org/RDAwinners08.html>