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OLSON SUNDBERG KUNDIG ALLEN ARCHITECTS HONORED
WITH THREE AIA SEATTLE AWARDS

Olson Sundberg Kundig Allen was awarded three awards at Monday night's AIA Seattle Honor Awards. The Rolling Huts and Outpost were both given Awards of Merit, while Montecito Residence was awarded an Award of Commendation. Tom Kundig was the lead architect for all three projects.

The Rolling Huts – Award of Merit

Responding to the owner's need for a space to house visiting friends and family, the Rolling Huts aim to be several steps above camping, while remaining simple in their design. Set in a meadow and facing the mountains, each single-room hut is placed so that an inhabitant's gaze is drawn out of the room and towards nature. Informed by the local planning department that cabins would not be approved for the site, the architect hit upon the idea of placing the structures on wheels – effectively making them RVs.

Tom Kundig was the lead architect for the Rolling Huts. Jerry Garcia was the project manager, and Kenny Wilson was a staff architect.

The Jury wrote of the Rolling Huts: "Wit, a playful approach to type, and a willingness to question local idiomatic practice set this project apart. While many regional projects respond to the natural environment with comfort and elegance, these cabins are raw, edgy, unafraid of the challenging aspects of nature. At the same time, the user cannot escape the fact that the buildings impose on the landscape, with their steel wheels and tentative siting. These simple structures engage the spiritual question of our place in the landscape."

The huts form a companion piece to the client's personal retreat – Delta Shelter, designed by Tom Kundig and itself a winner of three AIA Awards (the 2007 National Housing Committee Award, the 2007 Pacific Northwest Pacific Regional Design Honor Award, and a 2006 Seattle Merit Award). It was an Architectural Record Record House in 2006, and a Residential Architect Grand Award 2006.

Outpost – Award of Merit

Set in the remote, high desert landscape of Idaho, Outpost is a studio/workshop and sculpture garden for making and displaying art. One important aspect of the complex is the protected “paradise garden,” which is separated from the wild landscape by concrete block walls. The materials used in the structure, including concrete, car-decking, and plywood, require little or no maintenance, and are capable of withstanding the extreme weather that characterize the desert’s four seasons.

Tom Kundig was the lead architect for Outpost. Steven Rainville was project manager, and Kirsten Murray and Gladys Ly-Au Young were staff architects.

The Jury wrote of Outpost: “The language for this project is simple and well executed, but what sets it apart is its willingness to take on more than being an object. Rather than yielding to a natural temptation to engage too much with the amazing outdoor expanse, the design capture and limits outdoor space and transforms it as a landscape. Despite its small footprint, the projects takes and transforms territory, beyond the boundaries of traditional architecture. The long, linear response, expected in an urban lot, gains strength from its unexpected deployment in the open landscape. The designer deals simply with surface and space, rather than focusing on lines and planes.”

Montecito Residence – Award of Commendation

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 is a house that functions as an umbrella to shield the house from the sun and allows naturally cool offshore breezes to move through the space. The roof harvests rainfall – directing it to a cistern which can be used for irrigation or in case of fire. The house is made of simple, fire resistant materials. Steel will be allowed to oxidize and concrete will be toned to allow the house to blend into the landscape.

Tom Kundig was the lead architect for Montecito Residence. Elizabeth Bianchi Conklin was the project manager, and Huyen Hoang was staff architect.

The Jury wrote of Montecito Residence: “This is the work of a master grammarian. It practices the idiom incredibly well, but then advances that idiom by moving to a new level of investigation. The project moves well beyond the usual regional focus on craft.”

The Jury

The Jury for the AIA Seattle Honor Awards included Jeanne Gang, AIA, principal and founder of Studio Gang, Chicago; Frank Harmon, FAIA, principal and founder of Frank Harmon Architect, Raleigh, NC; and Joshua Prince-Ramus, principal and founder of REX, New York. Previously to starting REZ, Mr. Prince-Ramus was the founding partner of OMA New York, where he designed the Seattle Public Library. The event was moderated by

Daniel Friedman, Ph.D., FAIA, Dean of the University of Washington College of Architecture and Urban Planning.

Olson Sundberg Kundig Allen Architects

Olson Sundberg Kundig Allen Architects began its creative existence with architect Jim Olson, who 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. Today, the firm's work, including museums, academic buildings, exhibit design, interior design, places of worship and residences, often for art collectors, is worldwide.

Together the four principals, Jim Olson, Rick Sundberg, Tom Kundig and Scott Allen, have created an office with an international reputation that is extensively recognized through publications and awards. A monograph of the firm's work, *Olson Sundberg Kundig Allen Architects: Architecture, Art and Craft*, was published by The Monacelli Press in 2003. This was followed by *Art + Architecture: The Ebsworth Collection + Residence*, which highlighted the house designed by Jim Olson for art collector Barney Ebsworth, and *Tom Kundig: Houses*, published by Princeton Architectural Press in 2006. In 2007, on the occasion of the Frye Art Museum's fifty-fifth anniversary, Documentary Media published *The Frye Art Museum: Olson Sundberg Kundig Allen Architects*, highlighting how the firm designed a remodel and significant expansion (completed in 1997) to bring a classic Seattle institution into the present.

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, including at the National Building Museum in Washington, DC. The work 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 Academy Award in Architecture from the American Academy of Arts and Letters and his recognition as an "Emerging Voice" by the Architectural League of New York.

More information on Olson Sundberg Kundig Allen and these three buildings can be found at www.oskaarchitects.com.