

# AIA DESIGN PERSPECTIVES

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DESIGN AWARDS 2009

AIA EASTERN OKLAHOMA

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## S-C-O-O-O-R-E!!

As I contemplate the excellent quality of the architecture represented in these pages, I am reminded that a successful architect is very much like an elite athlete. You may not think that if you see an architect in a skimpy bathing suit. However, the similarities otherwise bear consideration. For success in architecture as in professional athletics, one must have discipline, focus, a willingness to learn and improve from mistakes, a goal-setting and goal-achieving mentality, and a commitment to years of hard work to reach optimum performance. And then there is the competitiveness. That quality is burned like a flaming brand into our souls in architecture school, and it is forever imprinted in the DNA of many of us (yet not so much in others). Make no mistake, an architect without a fierce competitive nature simply will not survive, or at least will not thrive. So, if the practice of architecture is the intellectual and artistic equivalent of athletic pursuits, then architecture design award programs are our playoffs, our Super Bowl, our Olympics.

This booklet is our tribute to the winners in the 2009 architecture design "playoffs" in our area. These are our competitions to select those among us who have produced, in the opinion of various panels of prominent visiting architects, the most relevant and representative architecture of this era and place. We cover design award winners from the local AIA Eastern Oklahoma chapter (our first bi-annual program), the state AIA Oklahoma chapter, and the regional AIA Central States chapter. We also cover landscape architecture design award winners from the ASLA Oklahoma chapter.

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Thumbing through these pages should squelch any notions that great architecture is found only at the two coasts. We have plenty of talent in our city, state and region, and have for many decades.

What's more, the quality of work in our Midwestern zone has been steadily strengthening, to the extent that much national press and accolades have been given to a slew of architects from the plains region to a level never before seen. We now have a permanent seat at the adult's table.

It is our hope this is the first of many annual publications to celebrate great architectural achievements in Oklahoma and Midwest America in the years to come. So, as you enjoy the excellent work found in these pages, lift your beer can of choice, let out a primal scream, do a chest slam with your couch buddies, and celebrate the winners of our games. For our victors, the competition was grueling, the hours and years of preparations painful, and the success so sweet.

BRIAN L. FREESE, AIA

