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WoodWorks Presents Wood Design Awards at Southeast Wood Solutions Fair

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (March 27, 2008) – WoodWorks Southeast announced the winners of its 2007/08 Wood Design Awards at today’s Wood Solutions Fair in Charlotte. Awards were presented in five categories, including: Engineering, Institutional Wood Design, Commercial Wood Design, Green Building and Interior Beauty of Wood.

“We were very impressed with the quality of submissions,” said Patrick Schleisman, Regional Director of WoodWorks Southeast. “The winning projects exemplified the fundamental value proposition of the WoodWorks program—that wood provides more value in terms of its beauty, design flexibility and environmental attributes, for less cost than other major building materials, all while meeting fire, safety and other code requirements.”

- **Engineering award winner** – Bulla Smith Design Engineering (Charlotte, N.C.)
<http://www.bullasmith.com/>
- **Institutional Wood Design award winner** – Duda/Paine Architects (Durham, N.C.)
<http://www.dudapaine.com/>
- **Commercial Wood Design award winner** – Narmour Wright Creech Architecture (Charlotte, N.C.)
<http://www.narmourwright.com/>
- **Green Building award winner** – Lord, Aeck & Sargent Architecture (Atlanta, Ga)
<http://www.lordaecksargent.com/>
- **Interior Beauty of Wood award winner** – Robert M. Cain, Architect (Atlanta, Ga)
<http://robertmcaain.com>

The Engineering award went to Bulla Smith Design Engineering from Charlotte, N.C. for regularly specifying, designing and building non-residential projects in wood. The firm was recognized for contributing to the selection of wood in various projects, leading the way for future projects in wood and contributing to the creation of innovative wood structures that push the boundaries of conventional wood building.

“While there are many factors which may influence material selection,” said William “Tripp” Bulla, president of Bulla Smith Design Engineering, “perhaps one of the most compelling is the use of a material so generally ‘green’ in nature. We are particularly favorable to engineered wood products produced from farm trees grown in the Southeast near to many of our projects. Such locally sourced, low carbon footprint products should always be a consideration in today’s environment. Wood can be used to bring a level of visual interest to a project that may otherwise be encased in drywall. We have found that wood does not have to be limited to cabins and camps, and can be very effectively utilized in modern architectural projects.”

The Commercial Wood Design award recognizes the creators of commercial projects that push the limits of wood design in industrial buildings, offices, stores, malls, lodges, clubhouses and other public spaces. This honor was awarded to Narmour Wright Creech Architecture for its design of The John James Audubon Lodge at the Sanctuary in Charlotte, N.C.

Atlanta’s Lord, Aeck & Sargent Architecture took home the Green Building award for its work on the Blue Ridge Destination Center in Asheville, N.C., which demonstrates how wood contributes to building high performance by reducing energy use, resource use, pollution and overall environmental impact.

Also out of Atlanta, Robert M. Cain, Architect, earned top honor in the Interior Beauty of Wood category for his design of the Folk Pottery Museum of Northeast Georgia in Sautee-Nacoochee, Ga. This award recognizes the extensive use of wood inside a non-residential structure.

Duda/Paine Architects from Durham, N.C. took home the Institutional Wood Design award for the Duke Integrative Medicine, Duke University Medical Center, which exemplifies wood's strength, beauty, versatility and cost-effectiveness.

“We found in our design process,” explains Turan Duda, AIA, Design Principal for Duda/Paine Architects, “a wonderful correlation between the warm, natural, tactile quality of wood and the mission statement of Duke Integrative Medicine, for a welcoming, nurturing, healing environment.”

The five Wood Design Awards were presented at the Wood Solutions Fair in Charlotte which attracted more than 400 engineers, architects, general contractors, developers and others from the Southeast region. The fair combined topical seminars with trade booths to deliver a comprehensive educational experience for individuals considering or using wood in non-residential structures.

Images of the winning entries are available in the Project Showcase section of the WoodWorks Web site at www.woodworks.org.

About WoodWorks

WoodWorks is an initiative of the Wood Products Council, which is a cooperative venture of all the major wood associations in North America, as well as research organizations and government agencies. For more information, visit www.woodworks.org.

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