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Long day ends with short list for courtyard housing contest

The city picks the best of 257 home designs intended to pull families to dense neighborhoods

POSTED: 06:00 AM PST Friday, November 16, 2007
BY ALISON RYAN

(This is a corrected version of a story that originally ran in the Friday, Nov. 16 issue of the Daily Journal of Commerce newspaper).

Jurors for the city of [Portland's Courtyard Housing Design Competition](#) had their work cut out for them.

The competition, which asked designers to come up with courtyard-oriented schemes that would appeal to families, pulled in 257 entries from 15 countries and 35 states.

The jury – an architect-landscape architect-developer-design expert mix – started fighting for their favorites at 7:15 Wednesday morning.

And in a second-floor room in the 1900 Building Wednesday night, people packed in to hear the results.

Top honors in the inner Portland infill lot category went to Santa Barbara's Keith Rivera and Kristin Anderson for their arrangement of shared paved and green spaces, private patios and porches, and six two- and-three-bedroom residences. Second place went to a solution by Lucas Posada, Kai Yonezawa, Peter Keyes and Tyler Nishitani of Portland and Eugene. Seattleites Steven Bull, Dan Rusler and James Steel's work took third. The honorable mention went to Donald Rattner, Andrew Friedman, Nathaniel Brooks, Krystof Nowak, and Catherine Popple of New York.

Emory Baldwin, Shirley Tomita, Masumi Saito, Lara Normand, Jocelyn Freiling, Shawna Sherman and Clara Berridge of Seattle won the outer east Portland infill site category. In second was Matthew Goyke, Rhonda Goyke, Steven Gangwes, Morris Onishi and Ethan Levine of Honolulu. The work of Portlanders Steven Dangermond and Christopher Keane was third. Jerome Burgos and Matthew Priest of New York took an honorable mention.

"I would like to talk to some of you guys afterward for the ideas that I am definitely going to steal," juror Michael Pyatok, a California architect, said.

Successful entries, the jury said, focused on density, flexible and usable open spaces, and neighborhood context.

"You don't need to know how to put four dwellings onto 50 by 100 lots," juror Cynthia Girling, a landscape architecture professor from the University of British Columbia, said. "I think you already know how to do that."

Winners also recognized, jurors said, that the competition was intended to create spaces for families – with an eye on the younger members of families especially. Entries that showed open courtyard spaces as a "slab" of green or gray, juror Clare Cooper Marcus said, missed the point.

"That didn't wow me unless some concern had gone into what was going to happen there," she said.

The competition, conceived in 2006, asked designers for innovative ideas for courtyard housing, a style deemed more attractive to families with children than stacked condos without open spaces would be.

"Portland has an incredible track record for urban design and urban planning," juror David Miller of Miller Hull Partnership said, "and I think this program is another example of that national leadership."

And the solutions that entrants came up with, jurors said, translate to other cities with an

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What's Driving Real Estate

November Forum hosted by [Portland Business Alliance](#), Nov. 14, 7:30 - 9:45 a.m.

influx of infill lots and people.

"Density is a reality we have on our planet, no matter you live," juror Loren Waxman, a Portland developer, said.

All 257 entries are posted at www.courtyardhousing.org for people's choice award voting.

Winners will also be displayed at 1900 S.W. Fourth Ave.

"So many great ideas," said city planner Bill Cunningham, "and the majority of them are not in this room."

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