



For Immediate Release

American Institute of Architects, California Council Announces Slate of Events throughout 2007 to Celebrate the AIA's 150th Anniversary

Video Podcasts, Building Preservation among Statewide Activities to Highlight Anniversary Year

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (March 5, 2007) In the spirit of celebrating architecture, the value of design, history and architects, The American Institute of Architects, California Council (AIACC) is promoting a number of events and activities across the state throughout 2007 which distinguish past, present and future accomplishments of architects.

The AIACC and 11 of its chapters recently received grants (the most of any individual state) from The American Institute of Architects' (AIA) "Blueprint for America," a program that focuses on empowering citizens to share in creating a vision for design priorities in communities across the country.

The AIACC, with more than 10,000 professional architects and allied professionals in California, is continuing the community-based focus with its chapters taking the local lead.

For example, a "Blueprint" grant for The AIACC's San Francisco's chapter will allow local architects to educate and engage the community about design, architecture, preservation and sustainability issues by crafting specific walking tours for visitors to discover the city's most compelling structures, assisted by video and audio Podcasts.

The AIACC's Monterey Bay chapter is involved in creating a guide of historic buildings in the region.

While preservation is a key component of the Blueprint grants, other chapters will embark on design efforts. The AIACC's San Diego chapter grant allows the local component to participate in the city's enhancement and revitalization project for the downtown C Street corridor, contributing design expertise for the city.

In addition to these activities, The AIACC will be producing sesquicentennial events in conjunction with other partners, including government officials and California's Division of the State Architect.

These activities not only address localized problems with valuable solutions, they engage the community in continuing a dialogue on several issues, including sustainability, the value of design, historical context, seismic safety, disabled accessibility, population growth, and accompanying legislation.

"This celebration is one that is woven through many diverse and important disciplines for architects, builders, and historians, but especially for all Californians," said Pamela M. Touschner, AIA, president of The AIACC.

For more information on The AIACC's region-specific events and programs throughout 2007, please visit www.aiacc.org/150.

###

About American Institute of Architects, California Council

The AIACC represents the interests of 10,000 architects and allied professionals in California. Founded in 1944, The AIACC's mission supports architects in their endeavor to improve the quality of life for all Californians by creating more livable communities, sustainable designs and quality work environments. Today The AIACC is the largest component of the national AIA organization. For more information, visit www.aiacc.org

About the Blueprint for America

The Blueprint for America is a nationwide initiative through which The AIA architects engage with fellow citizens, mayors, other professionals, and local government officials to collaborate on a community service program that addresses a community's distinct need. Through their state and local components, AIA architects will convene and participate in initiatives that emphasize community involvement and which will focus on quality design as keys to improving a community's livability. Blueprint initiatives are a gift to the community from the members of The AIA, and the members' participation in the initiative is provided at no fee.