



For Immediate Release

**MONTEREY BAY CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
CELEBRATES ITS 46TH ANNUAL SAND CASTLE CONTEST**

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (October 19, 2007) For 46 years the American Institute of Architects Monterey Bay Chapter has sponsored an annual sand castle contest. Several years ago the city of Carmel began co-sponsoring the event, and the contest is now titled the Carmel-by-the Sea and Monterey Bay AIA Sand Castle Contest. Christie Miller, Community Service Director for Carmel by the Sea stated, "This event has continually grown over the years and is fun for the entire family. Some entrants are the third generation to be participating in this event."



The event is held on a Sunday every year in September or October, depending on the low tide schedule. This year's event was held September 23rd and drew more than 200 entrants from many California communities. Every year has a different theme. This year's theme was "Carmel-Chamber of Secrets" and was a take-off on the Harry Potter movie themes and characters. Many creative ideas were expressed in the sand castle structures, from sea monsters to witches, and puppies to tombs, all were very impressive, according to observers. Sand castle builders arrived at 7:00 a.m. to begin building their respective structures. Awards were given by the judges at 1:00 p.m. with media coverage on site. Several categories were awarded, including "Bribery of the Sand Castle Officials," as well as "Best Newcomer award" and the "Judges Favorite".

Brian Congleton, AIA, Past President of the Monterey Bay AIA and co-chair of the event stated, "This is a great venue for the public to increase their awareness of architecture. We recruit local architects to assist in judging the sand castles as well as the city council members who join us. Artistic expression is encouraged, as is having fun!"



Please contact AIA Monterey Bay for more information at aiamontereybay.org.

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