



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

....AND THE NOMINEES FOR THE RDAS ARE....
*The American Institute of Architects/Los Angeles (AIA/LA) Announces
the 2007 Restaurant Design Awards Finalists and Opens
Voting for the People's Choice Award*



Blue Velvet by TAG Front Architects
Photo: Eric Axene



Pinkberry Koreatown by Young Lee Design
Photo: Nick Vaccaro



The Edison by Kelly Architects
Photo: Jack Coyier

Los Angeles, CA (October 2, 2007) - As the AIA/LA's Restaurant Design Awards (RDAs) honoring excellence in restaurant design enters into its third year, the competition only continues to gain momentum. Faced with more submissions than ever, the jury panel deliberated for several hours before coming to a decision and nominating fourteen finalists: 6 in the Restaurant Category, 6 in the Café/Bar category, and 2 in the Lounge/Nightclub Category.

This year the distinguished jury panel included: leading architect and interior designer **Josh Schweitzer** of Schweitzer BIM; acclaimed graphic designer **Hillary Jaye** of Sussman/Prejza & Company, Inc.; chef and restaurateur extraordinaire **Nancy Silverton**; and Publisher of *FORM Magazine* **Ann Gray, FAIA**. Taking into consideration that the esteemed jury of design luminaries may see things through different eyes, the AIA/Los Angeles is once again offering a People's Choice Award and calling on all Angelenos to take a look at the finalists and vote for their favorite nosh spots, watering holes, and preferred places to see and be seen. The jury winners of the 2007 RDAs and the popular recipient of the second annual People's Choice Award will be announced and honored at the RDAs Ceremony on Thursday, October 25, 2007 to be hosted by Poliform at their West Hollywood Showroom.

"We were really surprised by the variety of smart and thoughtful designs," said **Hillary Jaye** of Sussman/Prejza & Company, Inc.

“In the café/bar category, small spaces meant the designers had to really focus their message. I was impressed by their skill in creating such a strong design impact without big budgets,” added *FORM* Publisher **Ann Gray**.

Chef and restaurateur **Nancy Silverton** brought a unique perspective to the panel. Having always appreciated the importance of design in the restaurant space, Silverton was particularly impressed by the timelessness of some of the submissions. “Good design remains good design, no matter how many times one experiences the space.”

While architect and designer **Josh Schweitzer** of Schweitzer BIM jokingly said that he’d never go to a restaurant designed by an architect, he admitted that “the submissions this year presented some really nicely thought-out spaces that were memorable, inviting and alluring.”

The 14 finalists include:

RESTAURANT CATEGORY

Blue Velvet (designed by TAG Front Architects)
BOA Santa Monica (designed by TAG Front Architects)
Craft (designed by Bentel & Bentel Architects)
Red Seven by Wolfgang Puck (designed by Project Designs NYC)
Rustic Canyon Wine Bar + Seasonal Kitchen (designed by The Cinnamon Nest)
Tanzore (designed by AkarStudios)

CAFÉ/BAR CATEGORY

I Dream of Cake (designed by Montalba Architects, Inc.)
Intelligentsia (designed by Bestor Architecture)
Kara’s Cupcakes/Scott Street (designed by Montalba Architects, Inc.)
Lou Wine Bar (designed by Bestor Architecture)
Peach House (designed by Make Architecture)
Pinkberry Koreatown (designed by Young Lee Design)

LOUNGE/NIGHTCLUB CATEGORY

Omega (designed by Preen Inc.)
The Edison (design by Kelly Architects)

Members of the public can go online to www.aialosangeles.org to cast their vote for the People's Choice Award. The deadline for voting is Monday, October 22nd at noon.

About AIA/LA and the RDAs

The American Institute of Architects (AIA) is the voice of the architecture profession, dedicated to serving and empowering its members through advocacy, educational and outreach programs as well as educating the public on the value and importance of architecture. AIA/Los Angeles is a not-for-profit professional membership association. The Restaurant Design Awards (RDAs) honor excellence in restaurant design. The competition is open to all individuals and practices (both restaurant owners and architects/designers) for projects located in the greater Los Angeles area or projects outside of LA done by LA-based architects/designers. Submissions are accepted in three main categories: restaurants and café/bar and lounge/nightclub.

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