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AIA/LOS ANGELES ANNOUNCES AN ALL-STAR PANEL OF JUDGES FOR THE 4TH ANNUAL RESTAURANT DESIGN AWARDS

Los Angeles, CA (July 30, 2008) - AIA/LA (www.aialosangeles.org) is proud to announce the launch of the 4th Annual Restaurant Design Awards (RDAs), a yearly tradition that recognizes and celebrates the best of restaurant design in Los Angeles. This year, AIA/LA has assembled an all-star panel of judges to evaluate the growing number of great submissions.

- **Joachim B. Splichal | Chef & Founder of the Patina Restaurant Group** - Hailed as one of the nation's "Legendary Chefs" by *Bon Appetit*, Joachim Splichal is widely-acknowledged as a contributing force behind the growth of Los Angeles into one of the world's premier dining capitals.
- **David Montalba, AIA | Founder & Principal of Montalba Architects, Inc.** - Recently awarded the 2008 Young Architect Award by the AIA, David Montalba is a rising force in the design world. He won a Restaurant Design Award in 2007 for I Dream of Cake. He also designed Kara's Cupcakes in San Francisco and the sumptuous Monique Lhuillier boutiques in Beverly Hills and Los Angeles.
- **Michael Hodgson | Partner & Creative Director of Ph.D** - The range of AIGA/LA Fellow Award recipient Michael Hodgson's design influence extends from the Westside LA mini-mall to the global think tank. Since establishing Ph.D in 1988, Hodgson has designed visual programs and publications noted for crisp thinking, clear expression and meticulous craft.
- **Margot Dougherty | Senior Writer with Los Angeles Magazine** - *Los Angeles Magazine*, the go-to source for where to eat, where to shop, and what to do in Los Angeles since 1961.

"Dining out in Los Angeles is like going to the theater," says AIA/LA Associate Director Carlo Caccavale. "One expects a show. With the ever-increasing popularity of the RDAs, we wanted to provide our members and the public with exactly that, another

great show of culinary achievement and excellence in design. We've chosen an amazing panel of judges to help us find the very best in the city.”

The RDAs are open to all individuals and practices. AIA/LA invites restaurant owners as well as architects/designers to submit. Eligible projects must be located in Los Angeles or the individual or firm submitting must be located in Los Angeles. Projects are accepted in three main categories: restaurants, cafés/bars, and lounges/nightclubs. Angelenos will also get to join in the fun and are encouraged to vote for their top choices in each category once the nominees are revealed. Jury Winners and People's Choice Award Winners will be announced in the fall and honored at a special awards ceremony.

The call for entries is now available at www.aialosangeles.org. Registration is due by August 22. Submissions are due by September 19. The jury will convene on September 25. The awards ceremony will be held in October.

Major sponsors of the 2008 RDAs are: DMJM Design | AECOM, Gensler, Gruen Associates, Pankow, SHARPE INTERIOR SYSTEMS, INC. - DRYWALL CONTRACTORS, and SNAIDERO USA.

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.

For more information about the RDAs, please contact **Haily Zaki**
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