CNU HONORS DESIGN SOLUTIONS TO WALKABILITY, CLIMATE CHANGE, SOCIAL EQUITY

TOP HONORS TO REDESIGN OF BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY AND VILLAGE PLANNING IN SOUTH AFRICA

Seattle, Washington: On Friday, The Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU) announced the winners of its annual Charter Awards, given for excellence in architectural, landscape, urban, and regional design that helps build more equitable, sustainable, connected, healthy, and prosperous communities.

CNU recognized sixteen professional and student design projects across the United States and in Mexico, Spain, and South Africa. The awards were announced at a ceremony culminating CNU’s annual Congress, a 4-day event that brings together as many as 2,000 people to discuss, debate, engage, and advance the principals of New Urbanism.

Regarded as the preeminent award for excellence in urban design, the CNU Charter Awards have honored a select number of winners and honorable mentions since 2002.

This year, the professional grand prize went to William Rawn Associates’ transformation of the inward-facing Boston Public Library into an open, inviting community resource. The student grand prize was awarded to the Ubuntu in Umbumbulu village planning project in eThekwini Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa; a student architecture project from the Urban Design Studio of Andrews University, initiated by Wandile Mthiyane and prepared by him and his eleven international classmates, under the supervision of Professors Andrew von Maur and Troy Homenchuk.

Fourteen other projects were also recognized for addressing challenges such as affordable housing, rising sea levels, community disruption by major highways, and small-scale interventions to quickly make major roads more walkable.

“These are designs that have a very real impact on people's lives,” said Lynn Richards, President and CEO of CNU. “They demonstrate the value and flexibility of New Urbanist principles to combatting important challenges, from climate change to the fragmentation of communities.”

CNU convenes a Charter Awards jury of distinguished designers, architects, planners and scholars who review entries and select winners. Applicants are judged on the extent to which they fulfill and advance the principles of the Charter of the New Urbanism, which defines the essential qualities of outstanding buildings and urban places. (more)
“The ideals of the Charter could be found at all scales [of the submissions],” said Stephanie Bothwell, chair of the Charter Awards Committee. “These ideals were not so much expressed in grand gestures but more in the designers’ efforts to be gracious neighbors, responsible caretakers, prudent resource managers, and careful observers. They had tried to allow the ordinary to become extraordinary.”

Through 25 years of advocacy, the Congress for the New Urbanism has advocated for reinvestment in walkable cities and towns. As Americans both young and old demand walkable lifestyles, the market for sustainable and equitable places is growing in every region. Through our projects, innovative tools, events, membership and programs, we empower people to deliver those places. CNU is a 501(c)3 with offices in Chicago, IL and Washington, DC.

See next page for a complete list of projects. Photos available on request.
List of the 2017 Charter Awards

Grand Prize:
Free to all | Central Library Transformation
Community-oriented redesign for brutalist landmark building
Boston, Massachusetts
William Rawn Associates

Student Grand Prize: Ubuntu in Umbumbulu
Renewing hope from house to village
eThekwini Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa
Andrews University, School of Architecture & Interior Design
(Student Project)

Blue Water Workforce & Affordable Housing
Innovative design for affordable housing
Tavernier Key, Florida
DPZ Partners

Guide to Placemaking for Mobility
Reclaiming streets for people
Boston, Massachusetts
Stantec

Westside Atlanta
Revitalization rooted in place
Atlanta, Georgia
Thadani Architects + Urbanists

Building Durable Wealth
Redeveloping in-city freeway corridors
Providence, Rhode Island
The University of Notre Dame Graduate Urban Design Studio (Student Project)

Guadalupe Hirian: A New Town for Hondarribia
New town of timeless urbanism
Hondarribia, Spain
University of Miami (Student Project)

Envision Broadway Demonstration Project
Playful, tactical interventions for walkability
Nashville, Tennessee
Metro Nashville Planning Department

Keeping History Above Water
Harnessing civil engineering for preservation against climate change
Newport, Rhode Island.
Union Studio Architecture & Community Design

Plan NoBe
Building on local assets for resilience
Miami Beach, Florida
Dover, Kohl & Partners
Parsons Alley
Building on the past, looking to the future
Duluth, Georgia
Kronberg Wall Architects

Plaza La Reina
A timeless and artful building
Los Angeles, California
Moule & Polyzoizes, Architects and Urbanists

San Cristobal City Hall Renovation
Grand new plaza highlights history
San Cristobal, Chiapas, Mexico
C Cubica Arquitectos

Small Town Tactics
Test-driving a road diet
Avon, CO
Design Workshop

St. Joseph’s Redevelopment
Harmony of old and new is gift to city
Oakland, California
Van Meter Williams Pollack, LLP

The Storefront Theater
Artist’s innovation makes Main Street a town square
Lyons, Nebraska
Matthew Mazzotta

Please embargo until 11:59 PM ET, May 5, 2017
For press credentials to cover the award ceremony in Seattle, or further information, contact:
Lisa Schames, Congress for the New Urbanism
lschamess@cnu.org

# # #