

MULTI-HOUSING NEWS

Finalists Selected for the Second Annual Design Excellence Awards Presented by Multi-Housing News

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By Erika Schnitzer, Associate Editor

The finalists have been chosen for MHN's Second Annual Design Excellence Awards. Projects were chosen based on a number of criteria, including overall composition, functionality, aesthetics, special attributes and sustainable elements, if applicable.

The panel was comprised of five industry professionals, including Darin Schoolmeester, AIA, LEED AP and principal at MVE & Partners in Irvine, Calif.; Susan Slotkis, Allied Member ASID, author of "Foundations of Interior Design" and adjunct assistant professor at F.I.T. in New York; and Bruce Englebaugh, AIA, partner at Minno & Wasko in Lambertville, N.J. Joining them were Christine Hunter, AIA, LEED AP and a principal at Magnusson Architecture and Planning PC in New York and Jonathan Baron, Allied Member ASID and principal of New York-based Baron Design Inc.

A number of trends were observed during the judging process—many of which the finalists embraced—including the importance of putting developments into the context of their environments, as well as the value of innovation and the impact developments have on their surrounding neighborhoods.

"I am pleased that many entries considered affordable, approachable and thoughtful designs for seniors and moderate-income residents," notes Slotkis. "Many of the entries that did consider these issues came up with some innovative and community-minded solutions."

Almaden Apartments

San Jose, CA

Developer/Builder: MacFarlane Costa Housing Partners & **Las Palmas Foundation**

Architect: Maple Dell + McClelland Architects

Interior Designer: Inside Matters

