

2008 Building From The Best Awards

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Innovative Projects Win Building from the Best Awards

TUCSON, Arizona – The Sonoran Institute has named seven design, development and building projects in Pima County as its 2008 Building from the Best award winners. The honors are presented biennially to celebrate and encourage projects that respect the natural environment and the character of the area's communities.

Superior living and working environments, efficient uses of resources, and preservation of the Sonoran Desert's natural and cultural heritage are among qualities the award categories recognize. Category winners represent a variety of business, public and private projects in Tucson and surrounding communities.

"Building from the Best Awards salute innovative and responsible architects, builders, owners and developers who are making our community a better place to live," said Luther Propst, executive director of the Sonoran Institute. "The awards are intended to encourage a higher level of quality development by showcasing creative and inspirational projects."

This is the third presentation of Building from the Best awards since the program began as a joint venture between the Institute and the City of Tucson. The 2008 awards event will be March 8 at Loews Ventana Canyon Resort. The evening will begin at 5:30 pm with a cocktail reception and a silent auction. For more information on the event and to purchase tickets, call Jessica Ristow at the Sonoran Institute, (520) 290-0828, or visit www.sonoran.org.

Since 1990, the nonprofit, Tucson-based Sonoran Institute has inspired and enabled community decisions and public policies that respect the land and people of western North America. The Institute helps communities conserve and restore natural and cultural assets and manage growth and change through collaboration, civil dialogue, sound information, and big-picture thinking.

Category and Winning Projects Descriptions

Category: Urban Infill Development

Award Winning Project: Mercado District at Menlo Park, Tucson, by Rio Development Company

Award Criteria:

- Vacant land development within a built environment
- Within the urban core or town center of Marana, Sahuarita, South Tucson, Tucson or Oro Valley
- Must reflect existing neighborhood development patterns

Rio Development Company's focus is the design and construction of neighborhoods that correspond and support – both architecturally and ecologically – the surrounding environment. For more information on Mercado District at Menlo Park, go to www.mercadodistrict.com . . .