



2007 Arido Awards Of Excellence Honor Ontario's Top Interior Designers

Luxury Retail, Nature-Inspired Artistry, Urban Originality and Sustainable Designs Dominate 2007 Gala

The Association of Registered Interior Designers of Ontario (ARIDO) announces the winners of its 23rd annual Awards of Excellence, which were held during a gala dinner Thursday night at the Direct Energy Centre as part of IIDEX/NeoCon Canada (picture bottom left).

The prestigious award program, honoring creativity and professional achievement in the province's interior design industry, recognized 26 entries in 12 different categories. Among the winning entries, there were two Projects of the Year, four Awards of Excellence and twenty-one Awards of Merit.

"We are extremely proud of the achievement and professionalism of Ontario's interior design community," says Peter Grimley, president of ARIDO. "While the awards recognize success on an individual and corporate level, they also serve to build public awareness of the power and effect of good interior design on business to remain competitive in today's economy."

Judged by nine esteemed representatives from business, media and design, each entry was judged on its own merit and on the specific circumstances under which it was completed. In their submissions, entrants were asked to consider existing design elements, budget and project objectives, strategies employed, overall creativity, examples of project results, and sustainability and collaborative elements.

This year's show revealed a shifting emphasis on the re-design of public spaces, as the majority of awards were from commercial and retail-based sectors. The focus on retail was demonstrated by Diego Burdi of burdifilek design who won five awards in total: three Awards of Merit for spectacular luxury retail designs in Holt Renfrew, an Award of Excellence for his work in Capezio as well as the coveted Project of the Year for his design of the retail and tasting areas of Stratus Winery.

Christopher Wright of figure3 scored the other Project of the Year for his dramatic and interactive interpretation of Umbra's new flagship retail location in Toronto.

Indicative of the current commercial building boom, Anna Simone and Elaine Cecconi took an Award of Excellence for their sleek and fashionable Project "X" condominium sales centre.

The final Award of Excellence went to Carol Smith of SGH Design Partners who wowed judges with the subtle branding and natural elements found in the reception area, boardroom and salon of the marketing centre of hair care creator Ojon.