



Construction Industry Round Table

FOR: THE ACE MENTOR PROGRAM

CONTACT: Pamela Mullender
President, ACE Mentor Program
203-323-0020

FOR: THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY ROUND TABLE

CONTACT: Mark Casso
202-466-6777

Bruce Ross Associates Inc.
Media: Bruce Ross
212-768-1155

ASPIRING HIGH SCHOOL DESIGNERS AND BUILDERS FACE STIFF COMPETITION IN NATIONAL DESIGN CONTEST

Event Sponsored by Construction Industry Round Table
and ACE Mentor Program

WASHINGTON, D.C. – June 2, 2011 – Three teams of high school students from New York, Maryland, and California participating in the Architecture, Engineering and Construction (ACE) Mentor Program faced off in front of construction and design industry CEOs at the finals of the 2011 Construction Industry Round Table-ACE National Design Competition.

This year's design contest was the stiffest in the competition's five-year history. A record 37 teams from 21 ACE affiliates (chapters) stretching from Providence, Rhode Island to Honolulu submitted entries in one of three project categories – an "ideal" school, a health clinic, and a military retirement village.

A Frederick, Maryland team repeated its first place win from 2008. The winning project, located in Baltimore and called Serenity Health Care, incorporates design strategies to help calm patients at the treatment clinic. A very green-oriented redesign of their Mountain View High School earned students on a Palo Alto, California team second place. Third place went to a New York City team with an innovative military retirement community situated in Waco, TX.

ACE Mentor Program of America
400 Main Street, Suite 600 • Stamford, CT 06901
203-323-0020 • 203-323-0032 • www.acementor.org

Student teams met many hours on their own outside the regular 15-session ACE program. ACE recruits 1,800 architects, engineers and construction professionals across the nation to mentor 8,000 high school students in an after school program that teaches them about the design and construction industry.

“Students in the National Design Competition impressed our members with their dedication and talent,” said Mark Casso, CIRT president. “In many ways, the competition reminds CIRT members why they first entered the industry, renewing their enthusiasm for their own work.”

According to ACE president and CEO Pamela Mullender, the competition is an annual highlight for ACE. “It affords the best teams from across the country an opportunity to test themselves against each other,” she said.

The three finalist teams were invited to Washington, DC to present their projects to a jury of seven top building industry leaders attending the CIRT spring conference in early May. Juror Linda Figg, CEO of Figg Engineering Group and 2011 CIRT chair, lavished high praise on the students and their projects.

“The National Design Competition demonstrates the incredible talent, creativity and passion of students who will design and construct tomorrow’s built environment,” she said. “It is inspiring to see the knowledge they gained from this experience.”

The champion team earned a \$3,000 prize for its affiliate, and the second- and third-place teams took home \$2,000 and \$1,000, respectively.

Winning Projects

Eight students from five different Frederick, Maryland high schools, all in their second year of the ACE program, made up the first-place team. Savannah Krause, a senior at Urbana High School, organized the team’s work flow in her capacity as project manager. The team selected Malini Nambiar, a Tuscaroa High School senior, to present their project at the competition.

The Frederick team’s Serenity Health Clinic is a 35,000-square-foot, three-story structure which the students estimated would qualify for a LEED Gold rating. To ease patients’ anxieties, the interior space uses warm, calming colors and is filled with art works by local artists. The waiting rooms have both interactive and passive entertainment options such as computer games and music stations.

Second-place winners were the Peninsula Team 1 in Palo Alto, California, part of the San Francisco Bay Area ACE Affiliate. This same team, but comprised of different students, earned second-place honors in the 2008 competition.

The seven team members all attend Mountain View High School near Palo Alto. With the exception of Joseph Chang, a senior who presented the team’s project to the competition jury, all team members were first-timers in the ACE program.

The Palo Alto students’ project was a total re-conception of their high school. The campus centerpiece is the academic wing with 34 classrooms. The inspiration for its

design and eco-friendly features came from trees and nature. The structure's tiered roofs are glass so that natural light will fill classrooms and are slanted toward the building's center in order to capture rainwater which is diverted to cisterns and recycled for toilets and irrigation.

Team 8 of the Greater New York City ACE Affiliate took third place. Seven of the ten students on the team had been part of the team that placed first in the 2008 National Design Competition. They named their military retirement village Aquila Villa. Shanna Ramsmooj, a senior at the High School for Construction Trade, Engineering and Architecture, explained in her presentation to the jury that *aquila* is Latin for eagle. The eagle symbolizes all branches of the military. The shape of the eagle also inspired the design of the project's master plan. Situated in the eagle's head is commercial space. Both wings are set aside for residences, and common space is located in the bird's torso.

Runners-Up

Competition runners-up in each of the three design categories received cash prizes -- \$500 for 1st runner-up and \$250 for 2nd runner-up.

In the ideal school design category, Team 5 from Nashville and Team 1 from Chicago were the 1st and 2nd runners-up, respectively. The Washington-Lee High School Team from the ACE Washington, DC affiliate and the Greater Bridgeport team from the ACE Connecticut affiliate were named 1st and 2nd runners-up in the military retirement village design challenge. For their designs of a health clinic, New Haven Team 1 from the ACE Connecticut Affiliate claimed 1st runner-up, and the Southwest High School Team from San Diego took 2nd runner-up.

ACE Rhode Island received a special award given to a non-winning team for the Best Presentation Boards. This team won \$250 for its "Quonset Military Retirement Village" boards.

About the ACE Mentor Program

The ACE Mentor Program was founded in 1995 by the principals of leading design and construction firms. Its mission is to engage, excite and enlighten high school students to careers in the integrated construction industry through mentoring; and, provide a mechanism for their continued advancement in the industry through scholarships and grants. ACE's 72 affiliates in 36 states organize 1,800 mentors to deliver a 15-session after school program to almost 8,000 students.

About the Construction Industry Round Table

The Construction Industry Round Table (CIRT) is exclusively composed of approximately 100 CEOs from the leading architectural, engineering and construction firms doing business in the United States. CIRT is the only organization positioned to express in a singular voice the views of the richly diverse and dynamic design/construction community. First organized in 1987 as the Construction Industry President's Forum, the Forum has since been incorporated as a not-for-profit association with the mission "to be a leading force for positive change in the

design/construction industry while helping members improve the overall performance of their individual companies."

###

Photo Caption: (l to r) Charlie H. Thornton, Chairman/Founder of ACE, along with the presenters for the three winning teams; Joseph Chang (Peninsula Team 1 Palo Alto, CA), Malini Nambiar (Frederick, MD), and Shanna Ramsmooj (Team 8 New York, NY). Followed by Mark Casso, CIRT President.