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*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

**2018 SARAs National Design Awards Celebrated in Miami, FL**

Miami, FL—(Oct. 22, 2018)—The **Society of American Registered Architects** (SARA) presented **66 architectural design awards** to professionals and students from across the U.S. at the gala celebration on October 20, 2018 held at the Perez Art Museum Miami (PAMM). A cocktail reception held in the museum’s Paresky Hall was followed by a two-hour presentation in the museum auditorium where award levels were announced to include 32 “Honor” and 23 “Merit“ awards, as well as 11 awards of “Excellence”- the society’s highest level of award conferred. The 2018 SARA’s winners included 55 professional awards and 11 student recipients representing nine different accredited architecture schools. TheSARAs National Design Awards Program provides an annual opportunity for the Society to recognize members and non-members for design excellence in their work. The **diverse honorees** reflect practices of all sizes and projects of all scales/budgets throughout the U.S. and abroad. This year’s winning projects are situated in 15 states spanning all regions of the country, the District of Columbia and four international locations.

Present at the event were this year’s distinguished jurors **David Stofcik**, executive, Architecture, Master Planning & Urban Design Studio at Walt Disney Imagineering and **Christiaan** **Dinkeloo**, managing principal, CDA Architects. Three remaining jurors were not able to attend, including **Peter Weishar**, professor of themed experience, University of Central Florida State, and chair, Themed Entertainment Association Academic Network, **Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk**, principal, DPZ Partners, and the Malcolm Matheson Distinguished Professor of Architecture, University of Miami, and **David Yocum**, principal, BLDGS, and professor, Georgia Institute of Technology College of Design.

SARA National President, Octavio Santurio, AIA, FARA, welcomed the attendees to the event while SARAsNational Design Awards Committee Chair and President Elect Dennis Dong, AIA, CSI, FARA, was the emcee for the evening. Mr. Santurio presented the 2018 “Int*ernational Award”* to Bernard Zyscovich, FAIA, Founder and CEO of Zyscovich Architects, a Miami-based firm, for their contributions to architecture in the US and abroad. In addition, the 2018 “*Arts in the Community Service Award”* was presented by SARA member Meredyth Santurio-Sager, to ArtCares for Kids and received by Alina Freyre, Special Events Planner for the Miami-based non-profit organization for its outstanding dedication to the community and children with cancer through the use of the arts as a tool for healing.

SARA member and Recorder Walt Geiger, AIA, FARA, PE, and architect Lily Meier, RA, narrated detailed project descriptions during the 90-minute slide presentation. Ms. Santurio-Sager, SARA National Vice President Abby Schwartz, FARA, Assistant Director Beverly Davidson, and Director of Operations Erika Craparo assisted with the program and event planning and execution. Sponsors this year included Woodwork Institute, Luxe Interiors+Design, CAL Lighting, Soprema, and J+J Flooring Group. Catering was provided by Starr Catering Group, Photography by Colette Lau of The Picture Producer LLC, and music by jazz trio Joe Marino, Joseph Enright and Rowan Barcham, from the Frost School of Music, University of Miami. The SARA National Awards Committee has already begun planning for the 2019 SARAs National Design Awards Program to be held in Chicago, Illinois in October, 2019.

*About SARA*

Founded in 1956, SARA is a practitioner-led and governed professional society that includes the participation of architects and industry affiliates in diverse roles within the architectural and design community. SARA stresses a high degree of professional fellowship and mentorship, its credo being "Architect Helping Architect.” For more information: <https://www.sara-national.org>

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