



www.leadingedgecompetition.org

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2006 Leading Edge Student Design Competition winners announced

Hundreds of architecture students from around the world participated in the *Leading Edge Student Design Competition* as part of their 2005-06 education. Administered by New Buildings Institute and sponsored by Southern California Edison, California Energy Commission, Pacific Gas & Electric, Sacramento Municipal Utility District and Owens Corning, the competition challenges students to incorporate principles of energy efficiency and sustainability as a basic standard of building design. First- and Second-Place winners, and their schools, receive monetary awards.

Leading Edge allows students and instructors to explore the use of new materials and strategies for building and the aesthetics and technology of high-performance architecture in a practical, real-world setting. This year's competition provided a unique and exciting design opportunity in conjunction with a large-scale commercial/residential and park development in Southern California. The site was Orange County Great Park, a new master planned community on nearly 5,000 acres formerly occupied by the El Toro Marine Base. Successful entries satisfied the sociological and environmental concerns of the community while addressing advanced energy efficiency and sustainable building issues.

Participants in Challenge 1, representing students above their second year of training, designed a Natural History Museum and Interpretative Center including display spaces, classrooms, staff offices, a gift shop, lobby and outdoor interpretative spaces. First Place was awarded to Jason Conner of CalPoly San Luis Obispo; there was a tie for Second Place between Colby Moeller of the University of Arizona, and the team of Scott Rothi, Chris York and Bryce Sigourney of CalPoly San Luis Obispo. Challenge 2 entrants, first- and second-year students, designed a Park Office and Snack Bar, including staff offices and indoor and outdoor public seating areas, adjacent to a riparian corridor in the Park. First Place went to the team of Michaela Baker and Michael Scott of CalPoly Pomona; Second Place was awarded to Brad Fowers, also of CalPoly Pomona. In addition to the monetary award winners, Merit Citations were given for projects which showed outstanding effort in specific aspects of their design. Recipients were Judhajit Chakraborty of Arizona State University, Cody Lodi of the University of Washington, and Serge Mayer of CalPoly Pomona.

Design Judge Margot McDonald comments, "Architecture students in both challenge categories generated evocative designs that addressed aesthetics, energy AND green design. This type of design thinking is critical to society and the environment if we are to meet the challenges of climate recovery in the decade ahead." The winning approaches presented sophisticated architectural designs and included extensive use of daylighting, natural ventilation, solar shading, passive cooling and use of sustainable materials. Many students incorporated design elements that reflected the aviation history of the site. Judges' comments and photos of all winning entries can be viewed at the competition website, www.leadingedgecompetition.org.

The *Leading Edge Student Design Competition* will again offer an opportunity for architecture students to demonstrate their skills in the areas of sustainable and energy efficient design in the 2007-08 school year.