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**AIA|LA's 2023 Design Awards:
A Night of Reflection, Celebration, and Honoring Architectural Excellence**

LOS ANGELES, November 30, 2023 – The American Institute of Architects, Los Angeles Chapter (AIA|LA) brought together the architectural community for an unforgettable evening at the 2023 AIA|LA Design Awards. Themed "RE," the event provided a unique opportunity for attendees to Reflect, Rewind, Reconsider, and Rejoice in the transformative power of architecture.

As an organization committed to equity, diversity, inclusivity, community, and sustainability values, AIA|LA recognized 39 exceptional projects in both the built and unbuilt categories. Along with the above values, these projects exemplify the proactive fight against climate change through innovative architecture and design solutions.

The historic Los Angeles Theatre set the stage for this extraordinary celebration, creating a backdrop that echoed the rich architectural history of the city. The prestigious venue added an extra layer of significance to an evening dedicated to acknowledging outstanding contributions to the built environment.

Architect Simon Ha, AIA, and future architect Madison Dorsey (she is only 12) took center stage, presenting 20 awards in the Built category of the Design Awards. Their presentation acknowledged excellence, and showcased the evolving landscape of architectural design, with a focus on innovation and sustainability.

President and CEO of Innovative Housing Opportunities Rochelle Mills, and Director of City Planning for the City of Los Angeles, Vince Bertoni, added to the anticipation by presenting 19 awards to unbuilt projects in the NEXT LA category. This segment offered an intriguing glimpse into the future of the built environment and emerging building technologies.

A highlight of the evening was the posthumous presentation of the Gold Medal to the late Earl E. Gales Jr., AICP, founder and chairman of LA-based Jenkins/Gales & Martinez, Inc. As a widely admired role model for minority architects, Gales made significant contributions to the community and played a pivotal role in mentoring students of color. Leslie Sydnor, AIA, President of AIA|LA, presented the Gold Medal to Mr. Gales' son, Ryan Gales, and recognized Earl E. Gales Jr.'s outstanding legacy in advancing architecture and \ positively impacting the lives of thousands of Angelenos.

AIA|LA board members presented additional Board of Directors awards during the ceremony, honoring projects, architects, educators, builders, developers, and community leaders who have demonstrated exceptional leadership and innovation in their respective fields.

After the awards ceremony, the celebration continued with a lively party featuring delicious food, refreshing drinks, and an atmosphere conducive to networking and reconnecting with old friends.

The 2023 AIA|LA Design Awards celebrated architectural achievements and highlighted the industry's commitment to shaping a more inclusive, sustainable, and inspiring future.

Please see the complete list of winners here:

[Design Awards \(Built Projects\)](#)

[NEXT LA \(Unbuilt Projects\)](#)

[Board of Directors Awards](#)