



AIA San Antonio

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 11, 2010

MEDIA CONTACT:

Ken Slavin

210-736-0856

210-313-0597 (cell)

THREE SAN ANTONIO ARCHITECTS NAMED TO AIA COLLEGE OF FELLOWS

SAN ANTONIO – The American Institute of Architects (AIA) elevated three San Antonio members to its prestigious College of Fellows, an honor awarded to members who have made contributions of national significance to the profession.

Diane Hays, AIA, Albert “Irby” Hightower, AIA, and Sue Ann Pemberton-Haugh, AIA, are among 14 Texas architects selected this year. Texas had the third highest number of inductees in the nation – behind only California and New York.

The new fellows, who are entitled to use the designation “FAIA” following their names, will be invested in the College of Fellows on June 11 during the 2010 AIA National Convention and Design Expo in Miami.

DIANE HAYS, FAIA

Hays, a successful practitioner, educator and long-time member of the AIA San Antonio Board of Directors, was a key player in achieving the 2001 accreditation of the University of Texas at San Antonio’s College of Architecture, which is now the fastest

growing architecture and interior design program in the country and the second largest program in Texas.

The program recruits students from South Texas and Mexico, deliberately tearing down barriers and building a gateway that reveals possibilities to these future architects, many of them first-generation college attendees, that would have been unattainable just one generation ago.

Hays is respected in academia and the architecture profession for her fierce commitment to her students and her ability to integrate “real world” architectural experience into her curriculum. She provides a strong support system and an expansive vision to complement traditional teaching. She has brought practicing architects and students together in several innovative ways through the creation of a design lecture series, a student mock jury and an endowed scholarship fund.

She recently completed work with her students at Raymond Russell Park in north Bexar County. This innovative design/build studio provided her students with a real-world project opportunity without competing with local design firms by undertaking “service” projects that have no design budget.

ALBERT “IRBY” HIGHTOWER, JR., FAIA

Hightower, founding principal of Alamo Architects, is co-chair of the 22-member San Antonio River Oversight Committee which is responsible for providing a community perspective on the planning, design, project management, construction and funding of the San Antonio River Improvements Project. His leadership has been crucial to the transformation and 13-mile extension of the San Antonio River, restoring its ecosystem,

creating public space and shaping urban development in the city's core.

The Oversight Committee's work on the project with local elected and public officials, the business community, and other stakeholders, was instrumental in garnering broad-based support for the project, resulting in the successful approval by voters in 2008 of an extension of a tax committing an additional \$125 million to the project.

Hightower believes that this initiative's most enduring legacy will be that the creation of great public spaces should always be an integral part of this kind of vast infrastructure project. He also believes it has cemented the idea that architects, whether as volunteers or design team leaders, are uniquely qualified to deliver this result.

SUE ANN PEMBERTON-HAUGH, FAIA

An architect with nearly 30 years of experience, Pemberton-Haugh is president of Mainstreet Architects Inc., which specializes in historic preservation and provides consultation to projects around the state, including the recently completed design standards for Paris, Texas. She is writing or has published design guidelines for six Texas communities and has achieved six National Register of Historic Places designations.

As both practitioner and educator, Pemberton-Haugh relates the world of academia to the creativity of practice – and vice-versa.

Among her many achievements, she introduced the first historic preservation studies into the curriculum of the UTSA College of Architecture and founded its

nationally recognized, award-winning Historic American Buildings Survey curriculum. She also founded the Norogachi Field School, a summer design/build studio in a remote village in the Sierra Tarahumara of Northern Mexico, where students study centuries-old adobe construction and lead the community in building projects. And she was appointed to the national AIA Historic American Building Survey (HABS) Coordinating Committee to work with representatives of the Library of Congress and the National Park Service to secure the documentation of American's historic building stock.

The Texas Society of Architects awarded her the 2009 Edward J. Romieneic Award for outstanding educational achievement – the highest recognition given to an educator by the AIA in Texas.

ABOUT THE AIA COLLEGE OF FELLOWS

Out of a membership of more than 81,000, there are only about 2,600 AIA members distinguished with the honor of fellowship. It is conferred on architects with at least 10 years of membership in the AIA who have made significant contributions in the following areas: the aesthetic, scientific, training and practical efficiency of the profession; the standards of architectural education, training and practice; the building industry through leadership in the AIA and other related professional organizations; advancement of living standards of people through an improved environment; and to society through significant public service.