

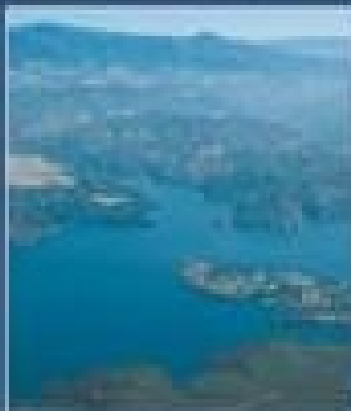
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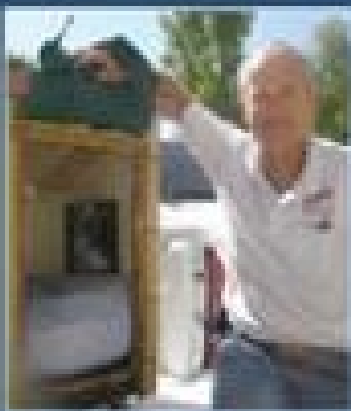
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BIG ON BARKITECTURE

by Wendy Thompson
 Staff Writer

Get familiar with the word “barkitecture” — it’s now the politically correct term for a state-of-the-art doghouse.

Big on barkitecture

The “Big Dogs” in the building industry these days are hip to recycling. Celebrating that theme, in conjunction with Santa Barbara’s annual Big Dog Parade, the first American Institute of Architects Barkitecture Design Competition and silent auction received some creative and diverse entries.

The competition was sponsored by the Santa Barbara Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. “The use of recycled materials is what made it interesting,” said Damon Gregory of Santa Ynez, Construction Academy teacher at Santa Barbara City College and a board member of the American Institute of Architects and Contractors Association.

“All of the entries were very individual; none were the same at all. All the materials that our team used were from construction leftovers or scrap piles completely,” said Gregory. Santa Barbara AIA members were paired with members of the Santa Barbara Contractors Association to create the “green” doghouses that were displayed at the annual Big Dog Parade in Santa Barbara June 7, as well as the following week, June 13-14, at the Built Green Expo and Conference at City College. The doghouses were sold through a silent auction to raise money for local charities. The six teams were: Conceptual Motion and Cunningham-Parris Construction, Inc., RPM Robert Peale Mehl Architect and Allen Associates, Cearnal Andrulaitus Architecture Interior Design and Sky Line Construction, Harrison Design Associates and KM Custom Builders Inc., Neuman Mendro Andrulaitus Architects and Weidl Construction,



Holly Betancourt, Shannon Scott, Shari Eynon and Ria Bacigalupa of Shannon Scott Design; Rob Mehl of RPM Architects; and John Mathews of Allen Associates pose with Rob’s dog Indy in front of the winning “Big Doghouse” Barkitecture competition entry. Indy didn’t even whine when it was donated to charity. - Photo courtesy of Shannon Scott Design



Robert Peale Mehl Architect and Allen Associates’s entry had a fung shui touch —the Japanese symbol for “Friend” hangs outside their barkitecture entry, which won overall design in all three categories at the AIA Barkitecture competition. - Photo by Juliet Crowder

and the Design/Build SBCC Student Team, which consisted of teachers at Santa Barbara City College in the construction academy and several students.

Los Olivos Architect Rob Mehl’s design featured radiused corners to accommodate the curled position of a dog lying down. Other design features included a sod roof with a serpentine slope to deflect run-off, and a slatted floor for air circulation made from Brazilian hardwood scraps.

Shannon Scott Design contributed, too, with interior design aspects including a framed photo of Indy’s

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“family,” a dog bed made out of old jeans, and a sign with the Japanese symbol for “Friend.” John Mathews of Allen Associates added many more “green” touches during construction — a “growler” window made from a recycled beer growler, a set of old castors from Neilsen’s Lumber’s junk bin, and a roof built from bender board remnants, which are made out of recycled plastic — for double-whammy recycling at its best. Their team’s doghouse also featured recycled old oak flooring, recycled screws and hardware, and siding made from bamboo, a very fast-growing renewable resource. Hayward Lumber of Goleta donated Forest Stewardship Council-certified lumber for the frame. The exterior was finished with water-soy-based sealer and the interior with low-volatile compound paint.

Associate director of AIA Santa Barbara Chapter Juliet Crowder, who works for Phillips Metsch Sweeney Moore Architects, said, “most people walking by the display at the Big Dog Parade said that they were nicer than their own house! Hopefully, these will be purchased for more money in the future, they have a lot of work in them!” Winners will be “officially” announced during Architectural Appreciation Week, and then displayed on AIA flags on State Street in Santa Barbara the week of July 7-18.

The silent auction raised \$1,120 and will be donated to the Dog Adoption Welfare Group (DAWG), the Teddy Bear Cancer Foundation, The Breast Cancer Resource Center, and the Architectural Foundation of Santa Barbara. One doghouse is still for sale. Tallying votes was not done by counting wagging tails but by human judges on the basis of use of recycled materials, design creativity and quality of craftsmanship. The overall design competition winner in all three categories was the RPM/Allen Associates team.

The judges’ comments were, “The family picture is a nice touch! Also liked the recycled denim bedding.” Best use of recycled materials went to Design/Build/SBCC, for “Ingenious water-bowl filling feature!”

The design creativity award went to Neuman Mendro Andrulaitis Architects/Weidl Construction, and the judges comments were, “Sculptural quality is great. “Provides roost for the cat, too!”

The quality craftsmanship award went to Harrison Design Associates for the “best use of natural light.” Honorable mentions went to Cearnal Andrulaitis Architecture/Skye Line, “Solartoonish! Straight out of toontown! Like the clerestory and the PV system!” and Conceptual Motion/Cunningham Parris Construction Inc, with the comment, “Dog silhouette gets doggy brownie points! Can double as a stunt ramp for the kids. Seems cozy!”

What better way to test your building skills and recycling knowledge to the utmost but by creating a recycled architectural wonder for man’s best friend? And support local charities to boot? Woof. You may view their many projects and get further information by visiting <http://shannonscotttdesign.com>.