

Foundation honors North Park row house project

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Hamilton Row, a 16-unit row house project in North Park, has won the first community vision award offered by the San Diego Architectural Foundation and underwritten by the county government to encourage well-designed infill projects that neighborhoods support.

Designed and developed by Allard Jansen, the project was completed in March 2006 after winning unanimous approval from the North Park Planning Committee and its urban design and project review committee.

“It has been a balancing act to preserve the community's architectural diversity and pleasant bungalow neighborhoods, while allowing significant densification,” wrote Elizabeth Studebaker in the nomination application on behalf of North Park Main Street. “The Hamilton Row project is a model for designing (projects) to meet the unique needs of the community.”

Supervisor Ron Roberts proposed the Community Vision Award program, and the Board of Supervisors agreed to set aside \$25,000 annually to give to the winning community. North Park Main Street plans to use the money to plant more street trees.

“We're looking for projects where there's been a cooperative attitude,” Roberts said, “not a political contest that drags on and on.”

He said future development in San Diego will depend on architects, developers and neighborhoods working together to achieve successful infill projects.

“I think we're at the end of one epic and getting into the next one,” he said. “It's going to be infill, not continuing to go farther and farther out where there's less land available for major subdivisions. There still will be some, but we will see more urban building.”

The runners-up in the program were Metro Center, a mixed-use project in City Heights by Price Charities and Metro Villas Housing Partners nominated by the City Heights Community Development Corp.; MXD830, a small mixed-used project in Golden Hill by architect-developer Mike Burnett nominated by the Greater Golden Hill Community Development Corp.; and Auburn Park apartments in Fox Canyon, a section of City Heights, developed by Affirmed Housing Group and nominated by Fox Canyon Neighborhood Association Inc.



Hamilton Row, opened in 2006, was honored for the cooperation involving its builder and the North Park community.

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