

For Immediate Release

Barton Myers, FAIA receives the 2011 Distinguished Practice Award from the American Institute of Architects California Council

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Barton Myers, FAIA has been honored by the American Institute of Architects, California Council with the 2011 Distinguished Practice Award, one of the AIACC three Council Awards which will be presented at the Awards and Installation Celebration on **November 4, 2010 in Calistoga, California.**

The Distinguished Practice Award recognizes significant contributions and accomplishments by an individual architect in response to the challenges of a specific building type or practice area, acknowledging design excellence, innovations within the design and construction process, and a demonstrated collaborative spirit. This **award given to Barton Myers, FAIA is in recognition of his contribution to Theater Design** and dedicated commitment to the built environment. Other 2011 Council Award honorees include Skidmore, Owings and Merrill, LLP, recipients of the 2011 Firm Award and Edward McCrary, FAIA recipient of the 2011 Lifetime Achievement Award.

Last year, the United States Institute for Theatre Technology (USITT) also honored Barton Myers, FAIA with their third Distinguished Achievement Award in Architecture. The USITT award “honors an individual who has established a meritorious career record in a specific field of expertise in any area of design or technology in the performing arts or entertainment industry”.

It has been a lifelong mission for architect Barton Myers and the practices he established in Toronto and Los Angeles to enhance the vitality of cities through the communal experience of the performing arts. Mr. Myers believes that **“Great cities are often measured by their cultural institutions, and the capacity of these institutions to bring its people together in a single place for a collective transformative experience.** Great public buildings are **‘theaters of memory’**. Throughout history, their storytelling function has been fulfilled through the vision of patrons and the dedication of the architects, craftsmen and artists who created them.”

The impact of innovations of Barton Myers in collaboration with his staff at Barton Myers Associates, theater design consultants, most notably with Richard Pilbrow of Theatre Projects Consultants and Joshua Dachs of Fisher Dachs Associates, as well as scores of engineers and technicians, can be seen in the design of dozens of performing arts complexes completed or being constructed across the globe today.

Barton Myers has honed his design process for performing arts venues over a 45-year career, **focusing on returning theaters towards more beautiful, functional and intimate spaces – a departure from the lifeless caverns of the 1960’s and 70’s and prevailing orthodoxies of post-war modernists.** Developing and refining a set of “first principles” that follows the visitor sequence through a theater, the firm has garnered awards on every level for venues such as the Citadel Theatre in Edmonton, Alberta; the Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts in Cerritos, California, a multi-form theater that transforms into five different performance configurations ranging from a 1,950-seat concert hall to a 900-seat dramatic theater; the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark, New Jersey (NJPAC); the Tempe Center for the Arts in Tempe, Arizona. The firm’s current commission is the Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts in Orlando Florida, which will break ground in 2011 and represents a defining moment in Central Florida’s cultural history.

In addition to scores of awards from peers, clients and constituents including the 2005 Rudy Bruner Award Urban Excellence for New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) in Newark, Barton Myers Associates is recognized for a number of innovations in theater design, including:

- First to return seating to the sidewalls to increase intimacy (Portland Center for the Performing Arts)
- First “courtyard theater” in the United States (Rice Theater, Portland)
- First major “multi-form” theater in the United States. (Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts – called the “most sophisticated theater in the world” by the United States Institute for Theatre Technology (USITT))
- The most advanced transformative acoustical ceiling system in the United States (NJPAC)
- First under-floor theater heating and cooling system in the United States (NJPAC)
- Early proponent of “wood rooms” to enhance intimacy and warmth in the theater. (Citadel Theater, Portland Center for the Performing Arts, Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts, NJPAC, Tempe Center for the Arts)
- Designed one of the few new multi-purpose halls at +/- 2800 seats to have excellent acoustics (NJPAC).
- Pioneered the revival of the lobby as programmed “theater” instead of as residual space between the hall and building envelope
- Advocated the role of the public space in the design of performing arts centers (Portland, NJPAC, Tempe Center for the Arts)
- Elevated the “Back of House” to the same importance as the other components of the theater

Barton Myers, FAIA has been a professor of architecture at UCLA since 1985, and is a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects. Barton Myers Associates (BMA) was founded in Toronto in 1975 as a full-service architecture and planning firm, relocating to Los Angeles in the early 1980's to lead a distinguished team of designers in an urban design competition for Bunker Hill in downtown Los Angeles, and to teach at the UCLA Graduate School of Architecture and Urban Planning. Based in Los Angeles since 1984, Barton Myers Associates is currently working on a broad assortment of commissions for public, private and institutional clients.

BMA is co-lead by long-standing Senior Associates Ryan Ihly, AIA, Peter W. Rutti, AIA, Thomas Schneider, AIA and Lynn Pilon, OAA. These architects share a wealth of experience in the firm's areas of expertise and ensure that every project is executed to BMA's award-winning standards. The responsibility shared by BMA's architectural leadership ensures that Barton Myers is personally involved with every project through all phases of design and construction. Barton Myers has earned an international reputation for excellence in architectural design with project ranging from houses to large urban developments.

The research-based practice of BMA includes pioneering efforts at every scale, including his own industrial, off-the-shelf component House and Studio at Toro Canyon, high-density urban infill projects, the sensitive remodeling of existing buildings, and high-quality cultural institutions throughout the United States and Canada. This broad range of design experience includes significant expertise in the design of state-of-the-art theater and performing arts venues.

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