



Los Angeles Area
Chamber of Commerce

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 12, 2004

CONTACT: Erin Kettle, (310) 226-3063
erin_kettle@lax.bm.com

CHAMBER RECOGNIZES URBAN DESIGN ACHIEVEMENTS

69th Annual Construction Industry Awards recognize impact of individuals on LA's built environment

Los Angeles, CA – The Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce presents the 69th Annual Construction Industry Awards today, honoring renowned individuals for their contributions to the Los Angeles cityscape. Ray Kappe, Steve Soboroff and the late Paul Williams were presented with Lifetime Achievement Awards, and the LAUSD Facilities Services Division, led by Superintendent Roy Romer, received the Ira Yellin Distinguished Achievement Award at a luncheon at the Omni Los Angeles Hotel in Downtown LA.

Ray Kappe is an internationally recognized and published architect-planner-educator who has been in the architectural practice for 50 years. While his work is considered to be an extension of the early Southern California master architects, he will also leave a lasting mark in the industry as the founder of the Southern California Institute of Architecture (SCI-ARC). Thom Mayne, partner at Morphosis and architect of the new Caltrans headquarters in Downtown LA, presented Kappe with his award.

Steve Soboroff is a real estate executive who has had a significant impact on the Los Angeles landscape. He is a past president of the Recreation and Parks Commission, served as a senior advisor to former Mayor Richard Riordan and spearheaded such projects as the Alameda Corridor and Staples Center. Currently, Soboroff serves as the president of Playa Vista, one of the nation's most significant mixed-use real estate projects. Riordan, who currently serves as California Secretary for Education, was on hand to present the award to Soboroff.

During his career, Paul Williams was a leading architect in the Los Angeles area with over 2,000 residential and public building projects in his repertoire. His style ranged from traditional to modern and some of his best known designs include the LAX Theme Building restaurant, the United Nations building in Paris, and the Fountain

(more)

Coffee Shoppe at The Beverly Hills Hotel. Williams broke barriers in the industry as the first African-American Member and Fellow of the American Institute of Architects (AIA). Karen Hudson, Williams' granddaughter and director of his archives, accepted the award on his behalf from presenter Bob Timme, Dean of the University of Southern California School of Architecture.

The Ira Yellin Distinguished Achievement award is presented to a group whose body of work reflects the values of the late Ira Yellin, combining social, aesthetic and economic goals to improve the built environment and to unite the diverse and dispersed communities of Los Angeles. The LAUSD Facilities Services Division accepted the award for their aggressive plan to build 243 schools to reduce overcrowding throughout the district by 2012. The Honorable Jose Huizar, chair of the LAUSD School Board, presented the award to the team, which in addition to Superintendent Romer included Jim McConnell, J.A. "Guy" Mehula, Jim Delker, and Ron Bagel.

-- ### --

The Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, with 1,400 members, represents the interests of business in LA County. Founded in 1888, the Chamber promotes a prosperous economy and quality of life in the Los Angeles region. For more information visit www.lachamber.org.