



## 2003 EXCELLENCE IN ARCHITECTURE AWARDS

THE BIENNIAL PROGRAM "EXCELLENCE IN ARCHITECTURE" has been recognizing outstanding architectural design by local architects since 1981. For the 2003 awards, projects completed between January 1, 2000 and October 10, 2003—located anywhere in the world—were eligible for consideration. Buildings are judged on national standards by a jury of architects who have been recognized for their contributions to the field. This year's selection process took place in late October in Atlanta, Georgia. Jury members were: Merrill Elam, AIA, principal with Mack Scogin Merrill Elam Architects; Thomas Ventulett, FAIA, chairman of the board of TVS International (winner of the 2002 AIA Firm of the Year Award); and W. Jude LeBlanc, AIA, an educator at Georgia Institute of Technology. After seven hours of deliberation, the jury selected 10 projects worthy of recognition from among the 44 projects entered in the competition.

R. Randall Schumacher, AIA, chair of this year's Excellence in Architecture, organized a gala evening to celebrate the design awards. On November 20, 160 people gathered at the Indiana Roof Ballroom to enjoy live music by Cathy Morris, an excellent dinner, and a program delivered by former NBC newscaster Phil Bremen. Mayor Bart Peterson delivered the keynote address and remarked that architects are a courageous lot, knowing their works stand in the public light for a very long time. Special thanks go to the event sponsor, the Hunt Construction Group, and the large committee of volunteers working behind the scenes.

THE 2003 PATRON AWARD, which recognizes individuals who have made a significant contribution to architecture in Central Indiana, was awarded to John J. Kish, a person who has held many instrumental roles in the development of Indianapolis. He was commissioner of the state's department of administration during construction of the Indiana Government Center and the executive director of the White River State Park Development Commission from 1994 to 1997. Representative of a true patron of architecture, Kish has successfully balanced competing requirements of regulatory agencies, funding sources, and design aspirations to keep teams focused on what is best for the project and the community while ensuring excellence in design. Kish is currently project director for the new Midfield Terminal at Indianapolis International Airport.

THE SILVER AWARD recognizes buildings 25 years of age or older that have made a significant contribution to the architectural scene in Central Indiana. The 2003 award was given to Indianapolis' first city hall, a monument of civic pride completed in December 1910. Designed by the prominent architectural firm Rubush and Hunter, the building is a fine example of the Neoclassical style, popular for public structures of the early 20th century. After city offices moved to the City/County Building in the early 1960s, the Indiana State Museum found a home in this building from 1966 until 2002. Currently the downtown branch of the public library is temporarily located here, scheduled to return to Central Library when its expansion is completed in 2006. While the fate of the old city hall remains uncertain, AIA Indianapolis hopes that the building will find another important function and will remain a key city landmark.