

ANOTHER ARCHITECTURAL AWARD FOR THE ARBORETUM

By Staff

Congratulations to the Architecture and Renovations Committee of the Christ Cathedral campus for winning its fifth design award for the Arboretum project. The team lead by Robert Neal, a member of this important committee and a Managing Partner with Hager Pacific Properties, has once again been selected for their outstanding work. The 2014 American Institute of Architects Orange County Design Awards panel has given the Arboretum the "Honor" award. This award is an acknowledgment of excellence in design. The winning of this honor comes on the heels of the 2013 victory in which the Arboretum was given the President's Award by the Orange County Chapter of the AIA.

There were 60 applicants this year, with a variety of different entrants. Submissions ranged from hotels to single family residences. To be given this prize is a mark of distinction for the Christ Cathedral campus and brings with it a level of prestige.



The rich history already contained on these grounds helped solidify the Arboretum's victory this year. The Arboretum, designed by Richard Neutra has a certain nostalgic quality recalling a simpler time. James Wirick, AIA, and lead architect on the project said, "I was so pleased to be involved in restoring this incredible building designed by architectural luminary Richard Neutra." The work of Neutra is admired locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. The Church is now receiving appropriate recognition for guaranteeing this remarkable building is available for future architects to enjoy and study, in addition to being a spiritual home for a thriving catholic community.

Michael Folonis, a judge for this year's AIA award remarked on the diocese unique commitment to the restoration of the Arboretum, "...these awards really belong to our clients. Aanother client would have torn the buildings down and put up office buildings or apartments. Another client would have said, 'Nnice buildings, but too costly to upgrade.and down they come. ' Another client could have said, 'let's paint and carpet and call it a day.' This client said, 'let's start anew and build a place for the Catholics of Orange County to congregate and celebrate.'"

