

Judges pick no winner for building prize

By Anne Constable
The New Mexican

The panel judging entries in a contemporary architecture competition for the Santa Fe area has decided none of this year's seven submissions met the contest's criteria and no prize will be awarded.

The Jeff Harnar Award for Contemporary Architecture, which has a cash prize of \$5,000, will be deferred until next year.

Instead of an award ceremony, the Thornburg Charitable Foundation, which sponsors the prize, plans a symposium next month to explore

Please see **PRIZE**, Page C-5

Prize: Judges said none of entries met award's level of excellence

Continued from Page C-1

the meaning of excellence in architecture in public and private life. No date has been set.

After examining and discussing the entries for this year, the judges visited the sites. They concluded that while portions of the projects were appealing and met some of the criteria, none represented the level of excellence the award demanded.

David Miller, a spokesman, said the foundation did not wish to disclose the names of the entrants, whose work represented a range of institutional, commercial and residential projects.

Currently the competition is restricted to projects in Santa Fe County, but the foundation is considering expanding it to all New Mexico. Eventually the award might be open to entries from the region.

The award was presented for the first time in 2007 to former architectural partners Suby Bowden and J.S. Morrow for a residence near Galisteo. The home of Emily Fisher-Landau and Sheldon Landau includes more than 31,000 square feet of buildings, patios and courtyards set on the 3,000-acre Saddleback Ranch.

But the foundation is not seeking only "top-flight, big-money projects," Miller said. The second- and third-place winners in 2007 were a lower-priced infill project and a Santa Fe firehouse.

The judges are looking for architectural diversity including fresh and colorful interpretations of the region's history and culture. Projects must

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demonstrate innovative utilization of materials and technology. And they should show off artistic responses to the challenges posed by the site, client, program and budget.

This year's committee included: Bowden, the 2007 winner; Linda Durham, owner of Linda Durham Contemporary Art; Jackson, Wyo., architect Stephen Dynia; Ricardo Legorreta, a Mexican architect whose work includes the College of Santa Fe Visual Arts Center and the Zocalo condominiums; Christopher Mead, dean of The University of New Mexico College of Fine Arts and professor of architecture and art history; Robert Reck, an architectural and interior design photographer; Paul Stevenson Oles, architect, teacher and visualist; and Harry Teague, Colorado's 2000 Architect of the Year. Architect John A. Padilla is the judges' panel moderator.

The award honors Jeff Harnar, a local architect who died in 2006.

Harnar's projects include the Jean Cocteau Cinema, the second floor of the Elaine Horwitch Gallery, a studio house for David Barbaro and the Santa Fe Children's Museum.

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