

Iowa Planning

Newsletter of the Iowa Chapter of the American Planning Association

March 2007



2006 Iowa Awards for Planning

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On November 2, 2006, the Iowa Chapter of the American Planning Association held the 2006 Chapter Awards Program. The Awards Program was held as part of the Chapter's fall "Making Great Communities Happen" conference at the Historic Old Capital on the University of Iowa Campus in Iowa City.

This year all projects and people nominated for awards were reviewed by an independent awards jury of Minnesota APA members, Bill Weber, McCombs Frank Roos Associates; John Shepard, SW Regional Development; Brad Davis, Scott County; Carla Vita, City of Isanti, MN; Suzanne Rhees, URS Corp; Michele McPherson, Mille Lacs County. Based upon the information submitted and the awards criteria the jury selected the following to receive awards:

Planning Excellence Award for Best Practice:

City of Iowa City for their 2006 Iowa City Zoning Ordinance:

To implement a new Comprehensive Plan and improve the development process, Iowa City took on the task of revising its Zoning Code. With the goals of the Comprehensive Plan in mind, the City drafted residential zoning requirements using a two-pronged approach to simultaneously address the need for more affordable housing options while ensuring quality residential neighborhoods that will maintain their value over time. Revisions to commercial development standards will ensure that commercial areas are pedestrian friendly and allow for a mix of residential and commercial to create vibrant, 24-hour places to live, shop, and work. The planning process included substantial public input. Planning staff provided tours of different neighborhoods describing how they evolved over time while under different zoning regulations. The Planning and Zoning Commission held over 30 work sessions reviewing drafts and discussing potential concerns.

Planning Excellence Award for a Grassroots Initiative

Dunbar/Jones for their Edible Sustainable Landscapes:

The Practical Farmers of Iowa and the Community Gardening Coalition/Des Moines Parks and Recreation were awarded funds for its *Digging Deeper Community Food Project* from USDA under the Community Food Security Program that focuses on meeting the food needs of low-income communities. DUNBAR/JONES, donated the largest in-kind

support to this project, with pro bono services going to development of master plans for six *Edible Sustainable Landscape* sites in Des Moines' city center. Tom Dunbar developed and executed the planning collaborative participatory process that carried through to implementation, working with the *Digging Deeper* partners in developing *Edible Sustainable Landscape* sites that would (1) promote the growth of a range of annual and perennial edible plants, including fruit tree orchards; (2) become more sustainable by decreasing paved areas, adding storm water infiltration areas, and



President's Message

President's Message

Eric C. Jensen, AICP

Hello Iowa Planners. I hope you all had a safe and happy holiday season. This is the second edition of our electronic newsletter. I trust that everyone finds it a convenient method for receiving the IAPA newsletter.

I would like to take this opportunity to share some Chapter and National APA news with you all. In November, as President of our Chapter, I attended the APA Leadership Meetings in Fort Worth, Texas. These bi-annual meetings include Chapter Presidents, the APA Board of Directors, AICP Commission, Divisions Council, and Student Representative Council.

The main item of discussion at the Leadership Meetings came from the AICP Commission, which is considering a program for continuing, mandatory education for AICP members. The program would be called Certification Maintenance, and as many of you already know, the proposed program was highlighted in the December 6, 2006, version of Interact. If you did not receive Interact via email, you can log onto the AICP Section of the APA website and download the proposal. Comments were received by the Commission on the proposed program until early January. At the time of the writing of this message, the Commission was revising the proposed program based on comments they received. The Commission plans to distribute the revised proposal to the membership in early February, accept comments on the revised proposal, and make a final decision regarding the program at the Commission meeting prior to the National APA Conference in Philadelphia in April 2007. Chapter Professional Development Officer, Gary Taylor and I submitted comments to the Commission on behalf of IAPA during the first comment period. Our comments were based on the input that we received from IAPA members across the State. We will again submit comments to the Commission during the second comment period. Therefore, I encourage you to look for updates from the Commission and provide any comments that you have to either Gary or myself. You can also provide comments directly to the Commission during the comment period. Look for details on the APA website.

Somewhat related to the Certification Maintenance program, the AICP Commission is in the process of creating new advanced certification programs in areas of planning specialties, such as transportation, historic preservation, and urban design, to name just a few. The first advanced certification program, transportation planning, is expected to be unveiled in the fall of 2007. Details of the program will be developed over the coming months.

Additionally, we learned at the Leadership Meetings that National APA membership has grown to over 41,000 persons, surpassing the goal of 40,000 members by the 2007 National APA conference. The New Professional category has grown especially fast and APA plans to focus future membership recruitment around citizen planners (board and commission members) and academics. APA is also working on an affiliate membership category for members of other professions, such as attorneys, architects, and engineers. Finally, expect a full membership survey from APA during 2007.

Also in November, IAPA hosted our Annual State Planning Conference in Iowa City. The conference was attended by well over 100 professional planners, elected and appointed

National APA membership has grown to over 41,000 persons.

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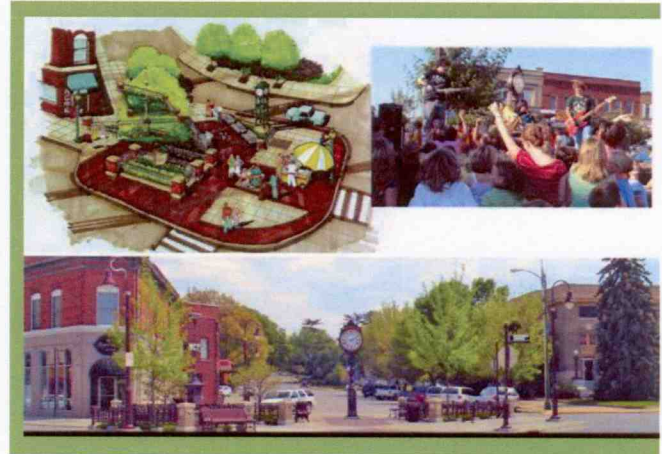
2006 Iowa Planning Awards

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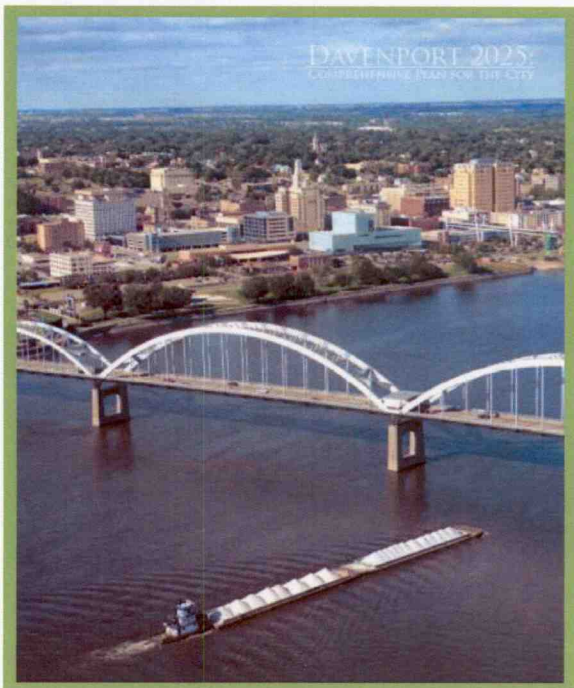
utilizing native plant species; (3) be educational; and (4) change each neighborhood aesthetic to one of hope and a new future.

Planning Excellence Award for Implementation City of Shenandoah/Shenandoah Chamber and Industry Association and RDG Planning and Design for Shenandoah Magic: A Retail Districts Plan:

The Shenandoah Magic Plan combined a rigorous economic and market based approach with a sense of understanding and emotional connection to the heart of the community to address a building vacancy rate that exceeded 20% in the city's historic downtown. In the five years since the plans completion, many buildings in the city's downtown have been restored, new restaurants have opened, a new bank building has replaced a vacant structure, and downtown is alive with people, business, and activity. Most important is a new community spirit that has resonated in completion of other projects throughout the community.



The Daniel Burnham Award for a Comprehensive Plan City of Davenport for the Davenport 2025: Comprehensive Plan for the City:



Davenport 2025, while in many ways a conventional planning tool, is unique in its thoroughness: fifteen topics were extensively studied and reports generated, providing the basis for the Plan's 144 distinct recommendations. Davenport 2025 was the first project of its magnitude that made public engagement and involvement its primary focus. A major force in change in direction and the overall development of the plan was the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee, a diverse group representing a broad base of community interests. Adopted in September, 2005, the recommendations of Davenport 2025 have already been used to help guide controversial land use decisions and increase awareness of good planning citywide.

Central Iowa Architects

Awarded Affordable Housing Grant

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Submitted by: Linda Schemmel, AIA, City of West Des Moines

Central Iowa Architects was awarded a \$10,000 grant by The American Institute of Architects (AIA) to launch an Affordable Housing Initiative for the City of West Des Moines, a program to encourage homeowners to retain the character of their homes within the established neighborhoods of the City. As part of a new nationwide community service program of the AIA titled "Blueprint for America: A Gift to the Nation," Central Iowa Architects offers this initiative as a gift to the community.

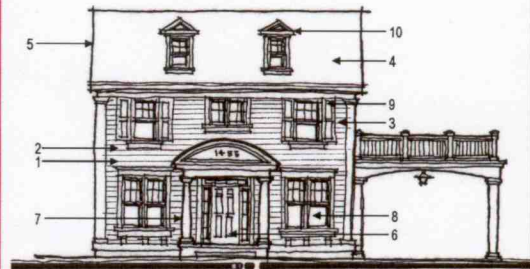
The goal of the initiative is to protect these neighborhoods, which offer a source of affordable housing, along with improving substandard structures and infilling vacant property. The City has asked for help from the design community in identifying the prevalent architectural styles and logical ways to expand and update these older homes.

The first element in this initiative will be a series of discussions within these neighborhoods that will bring together residents, City leaders, City staff, and other members of the community to offer input to a team of design professionals. The design team will then distill the information gathered; start to identify the unique character of each neighborhood; and propose strategies to maintain and enhance these areas. The resulting product of this process will be a series of design guidelines or pattern book for the City and its residents to use as a guide and source of information. Along with the AIA members, members of the Iowa ASLA will be volunteering in this initiative.

Colonial Revival

Characteristics of the style:

1. Box-like massing of one or two stories
2. Façade is generally symmetrically balanced, but can be punctuated with asymmetrical forms
3. Façade is typically clad in lap siding or brick
4. Moderate roof pitches — 6:12 to 8:12
5. Side gables feature tight overhangs
6. Accentuated front door with decorative surround or entry porch
7. Doric or box columns, 8" diameter minimum
8. Windows are double hung and are frequently paired, with multi-pane glazing in top or both sashes
9. Windows can be accompanied by panel shutters
10. Gable dormers placed symmetrically



Colonial Revival

The Colonial Revival style comes from the renewed interest in colonial houses of the Revolutionary War period after the American Centennial. Georgian and Adams architecture are the backbone of this style. It was popular throughout the country during the first half of the 20th century. The massing is usually box shaped and symmetrical with moderately pitched roofs. Gable end roofs are predominant.

Doors and windows

Doors are raised panel with sidelite and transom windows. Windows are vertical double hung with multi-pane glazing in top or both sashes.

Materials

Colonial Revival homes are usually all lap siding or all brick to replicate the original colonial home. Rarely are they used in combination. Roofs are architectural grade asphalt shingles.

Details

Traditional colonial detailing is used around the entrance and windows. Peaked dormers and columned porch entrances are common details for this style. Accent windows are used occasionally above entrances and in gables.



The City is now in the process of scheduling the neighborhood meetings. Central Iowa Architects and the City of West Des Moines are inviting the members of the planning community to join us by volunteering to help with the neighborhood assessment, neighborhood meetings and the content of the pattern book. We plan to start neighborhood assessments in March, and our first neighborhood meeting is scheduled for April 26, the next on May 3 and a third meeting is yet to be scheduled.

If you would like to participate or have questions, please contact:

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For more information on the Affordable Housing Initiative or the AIA 150 program, please visit the AIA Iowa Web site www.aiaiowa.org.

