BIG BOX SPACE TURNED COMMUNITY LIBRARY WINS BEST OF COMPETITION, 2012 LIBRARY INTERIOR DESIGN AWARDS

June 27, 2012, Chicago – IIDA Executive Vice President and CEO Cheryl Durst, Hon. FIIDA, announced the Best of Competition winner for the 2012 Library Interior Design Competition, held by the International Interior Design Association in conjunction with the Library Leadership and Management Association, a division of the American Library Association. This biennial competition honors excellence in library Interior Design, incorporating aesthetics, design creativity, function and satisfaction of the client's objectives. The announcement was made at the ALA Annual Conference, June 24, at the Anaheim Convention Center, California, where all category winners and their clients were celebrated.

Meyer, Scherer & Rockcastle, Ltd. of Minneapolis, Minnesota received the coveted Best of Competition Award for their project, McAllen Public Library, in McAllen, Texas. The Library, a transformation of an abandoned Wal-Mart store, demonstrates the greenest possible use of existing space, and provides a lively community space for the city of McAllen and meeting the city’s goal of creating a highly functional, flexible library of more than 124,000 square feet on a single level. The occupied space is equivalent to nearly 2½ football fields, making this project the largest single story library in the US. The success of the space is apparent in the stats: In the library’s first operating month, user registration increased 23%.
The competition was judged by a panel of leaders in Library Facilities and Interior Design; Charles Forrest, Emory University Libraries; Jim Griffo, IIDA, Gresham Smith & Partners; Dr. Susan E. Parker, UCLA Library; Stacy Reed, IIDA, LEED AP, ID+C, Gensler; Dr. Frederick Schlipf, GSLIS, University of Illinois, Urbana; and Felice L. Silverman, IIDA, Silverman Trykowski Associates.

“The designers took advantage of the benefits of the open space and structure, and by adding natural light, color, vertical and horizontal planes, successfully created intimate zones of functional areas,” said Felice Silverman, IIDA. “Creative color and graphics make way-finding easy to follow.”

Dr. Susan Parker commented on the winner, “The success of the project is in its audacity, ambition, and playfulness in making an abandoned “big box” store work as a library. This space uses color to delineate distinct spaces with their own functionality, which also flow together and are appealing to inhabit.”

In addition to the Best of Competition Winner, seven winners and three honorable mentions were announced earlier from projects submitted throughout North America:

**Academic Libraries, 30,000 SF & Smaller**  
**Firm:** Joel Sanders Architect, New York, NY  
Project: Julian Street Library, Princeton University, NJ

**Academic Libraries, over 30,000 SF**  
**Firm:** Diamond Schmitt Architects / Evans Bertrand Hill Wheeler Architecture Inc. , Toronto, Ontario  
Project: Academic Learning Library, Nipissing University- North Bay, Ontario, Canada

**On the Boards**  
**Firm:** Perkins + Will, Dallas, TX  
Project: Preston Royal Replacement Branch Library, Dallas, TX

**Outstanding Historical Renovation Project**  
**Firm:** Centerbrook Architects and Planners, Centerbrook, CT  
Project: Carnegie Library, Cold Spring Harbor, New York

**Public Libraries, 30,000 SF & Smaller**  
**Firm:** The Freelon Group, Durham, NC  
Project: Anacostia Neighborhood Library, Washington DC

**Public Libraries, over 30,000 SF**  
**Firm:** Meyer, Scherer & Rockcastle, Ltd. (MS&R), Minneapolis, MN  
Project: McAllen Public Library, McAllen, TX

**Single Space**  
**Firm:** Shepley Bulfinch, Boston MA  
Project: Atlanta University Center- Woodruff Library Learning Commons, Atlanta, GA

**Honorable Mentions:**  
**Public Libraries, 30,000 SF & Smaller**  
**Firm:** William Rawn Associates, Architects, Inc., Boston, MA  
Project: Mattapan Branch Boston Public Library, Mattapan, MA
Public Libraries, over 30,000 SF
Firm: Meyer, Scherer & Rockcastle, Ltd. (MS&R), Minneapolis, MN
Project: Ramsey County Roseville Library, Roseville, MN

Single Space
Firm: Gensler, Boston, MA
Project: Boston Public Library: Norman B. Leventhal Map Center, Boston, MA

See photos of all the winning projects. These winning projects are featured on the IIDA website, and will be published in Contract and American Libraries magazines in the coming months.

# # #

About International Interior Design Association
The International Interior Design Association (IIDA) is a professional networking and educational association with more than 12,000 Members practicing worldwide in more than 50 countries. IIDA is committed to enhancing the quality of life through excellence in Interior Design and advancing Interior Design through knowledge, value and community. IIDA advocates for Interior Design excellence; nurtures a global Interior Design community; maintains high educational standards; and supports its Members and the Profession with visionary leadership. For more than 38 years, IIDA has helped reveal new Design talent through a variety of education initiatives and Interior Design/Architecture competitions honoring local talent, including the Interior Design Competition, Global Excellence Awards and HD Product Design Competition. www.iida.org.

About Library Leadership and Management of ALA
The mission of the Library Leadership and Management Association is to encourage and nurture current and future library leaders, and to develop and promote outstanding leadership and management practices. Since its establishment in 1957, LLAMA has been a powerful catalyst in the development of leadership in the library and information science field. Attuned to ever-changing technological, economic, political, and cultural conditions, LLAMA equips library professionals with dynamic tools for building vibrant library services and successful careers. Highlighting all aspects of library management, LLAMA’s sections (special interest groups) offer not only opportunities to connect with people of similar interests, but also to exchange ideas, collaborate on projects, publish research, mentor future leaders, and hone leadership and managerial skills.