

AIA'S COMMITTEE ON DESIGN PROVIDES DESIGN AWARDS JURORS

by Steven C. Yesner, AIA

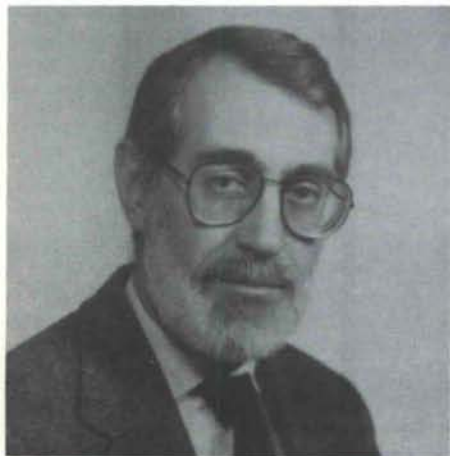
The American Institute of Architects/National Committee on Design was created in 1969 as an outgrowth of the Committee on Aesthetics formed in 1964. The purpose of the committee is to study the issues of design relative to continuity of the urban complex, the role a building plays in the city and in relationship to other buildings, and the maintenance of visual order in the human environment.

The committee is directed by an appointed chairperson and vice-chairperson, three steering group appointees, and a staff director, whose task is to chart the issues to be studied by the committee each year. An appointed commissioner serves as liaison between the committee and the AIA/National Board of Directors. This year's commissioner is Western Mountain Region Director, Jess Holmes, AIA, of Albuquerque.

This year, the New Mexico Society of Architects Design Awards will be juried by three members of the Awards Task Group. With this distinguished jury, representing a cosmopolitan and analytically trained point of view, NMSA expects the New Mexico architects will be enthusiastic about submitting their projects for review, exhibition and discussion. All submitted projects will be exhibited at the Design Conference.

The Jury:

LAURIE OLIN, ASLA, is Partner and Principal of Hanna/Olin, Ltd. environmental design and planning. He has served on design award juries for the National AIA Design Awards, the National Waterfront Center Competition, the City Visions Competition for the Foundation of Architecture, and the Prince



The distinguished jury, members of the Awards Task Group, are all from Pennsylvania. From left to right: Laurie Olin, ASLA; Peter Bohlin, FAIA; Charles Dagit, Jr., FAIA.

The committee holds three general meetings each year, attended by the nearly 100 active (appointed) members of the committee, but the meetings are also open to the AIA's 53,000 members:

"Search for America," examining 18th, 19th and 20th century American building design, will be the subject of the next meeting to be held November 4-6 in Los Angeles, featuring lectures by Vincent Scully, Thomas Heinz, William Westfall and Frank Gehry.

"Synthesis: Architecture/Design/Craftsmanship" will be the subject of a special overseas conference to be held in Helsinki, September 4-7, 1989.

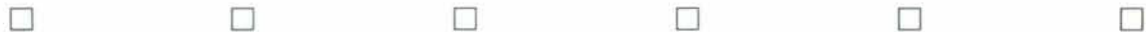
Other activities conducted by the Committee on Design include a Competitions Task Group which is attempting to define guidelines for government-sponsored, architect-developer team competitions, and an Awards Task Group which provides jurors for AIA component design competitions.

of Wales Prize for Urban Design, and is currently Landscape Architect Jury Chairperson for the American Academy in Rome. An accomplished author, lecturer and exhibitor, Mr. Olin has received many fellowships, as well as design awards from the American Society of Landscape Architects and from *Progressive Architecture*. He is also currently a trustee of the American Academy in Rome and a member of the Policy Panel for the National Endowment for the Arts.

PETER BOHLIN, FAIA, is Principal-in-Charge of Design for Bohlin Powell Larkin Cywinski Architects and a past chairperson of the Committee on Design. He has served as Design Critic at Carnegie Mellon University, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, the University of Pennsylvania, Kansas State University and the University of Maryland, where he was honored as Distinguished Professor of Architecture. His firm has been recognized with more than 75 regional and national design awards from the American Institute of Architects, U.S. Departments of Energy and HUD, the International Solar Energy Society, the Building Stone Institute and the American Wood Council. Mr. Bohlin is also a member of the Pennsylvania Society of Architectural Historians.

CHARLES DAGIT, JR., FAIA, is Partner-in-Charge of Dagit/Saylor architects. He has previously served the Committee on Design as a member of the Steering Group and as chairperson of the Awards Task Group. The recipient of several traveling fellowships, Mr. Dagit has been Adjunct Associate

Professor at the Temple University School of Architecture and Engineering, and Visiting Professor at the University of Pennsylvania Department of Architecture, and is currently Professor of Architecture at Drexel University. He is also an active civic leader.



AIA members may join the Committee on Design as Corresponding members for an annual fee of \$20.00. Corresponding members receive information on these conferences and the

committee's work. Contact Michael Cohn at AIA/National, 1735 New York Ave. NW, Washington DC, 02006, or call (202)626-7366.

SPIRITED SANTERA TO HOST CONFERENCE SPOUSES

A Visit with Monica Sosaya Halford

by Steven C. Yesner, AIA

Santa Fe artisan Monica Halford never lacks for inspiration. For the past 20 years, she has painted, sculpted and molded *retablos* (2-dimensional religious figures), *reredoses* (altar screens) with multiple *retablos* and *bultos* (3-dimensional and relief figures) of nearly every saint imaginable. And not just on boards or sheetmetal, but on windows, doors, walls, furniture, tiles and tapestries, even trees.

Ms. Halford will show her work and speak to the spouses and guests of the 1988 Santa Fe Design Conference attendees and exhibitors on Saturday, November 5.

The Making of a Saint Maker

Halford's New Mexican family heritage and upbringing in Santa Fe, like that of most Hispanic families, was rooted in traditional Catholic faith and devotion to the saints. "We grew up with *santos*," she says, "they were like part of the family."

Although she took lessons with Jozef Bakos, one of the famed "Cinco Pintores", while in high school, and later studied at the California College of Arts and Crafts, Halford did not set out to be a *santera*. But after a visiting friend asked to buy a *retablo* of San Pasqual she had made for her kitchen from childhood memories, she began sketching and studying early *retablos* in museums, churches and books, and developing her own style and techniques in earnest.

Today Halford's work receives major recognition in publications and exhibits devoted to American crafts, as well as private collections. Her *retablos* and needlepoint tapestries can be found in Constance Stapleton's book, *Crafts of America*, the Albuquerque Museum and Museum of New Mexico, the Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary, area businesses and the annual Spanish Market in Santa Fe, where she has won prizes for her doors, paintings on tin, and reverse glass paintings.

She can talk at length and tell many anecdotes about the lives and significance of the saints she has researched. And friends who travel tell her new stories of saints from around the world.

"I always thought Santa Barbara was the patron saint of lightning and thunder; then I heard she was the patron saint of architects, too," relates Halford, whose husband is an architect. "It had something to do with a tower her father had built to



Monica Sosaya Halford with courtyard *retablo* at her Santa Fe studio. Photo by Marian Love.

imprison her, which was destroyed by lightning after her death, creating work for the architects. And Saint Thomas, the apostle, is always pictured with a scroll, which I now paint as a roll of blueprints.

Halford's *retablos* are known for their subtle colors reminiscent of antiques, and for their gentle humor and earthy beauty. She also collects *dichos* (parables) which she incorporates into the borders of her work. Says Halford, "I want my *retablos* to comfort those who buy them whether they believe in the saint or not."

A raffle of donated items, a luncheon and wine-and-cheese social are also scheduled.