



Press Release

For Immediate Release

Announcing the 2006 Design and Preservation Awardees

(May 25, 2006 - Middletown) It is with great pleasure that we announce the decision by the Middletown Design Review and Preservation Board to bestow the 2006 Preservation Award to Forbidden City and 2006 Design Award to Nikita's Bistro and Bar at 1:00pm, Thursday, May 25, 2006 at 335 Main Street.

Forbidden City at 335 Main Street is the creation of Eric Leong, Michael Zhoa, and Kevin Zhao. This project is a combination of the old and new, ideally representing the spirit of this award. The historic 3-story Guy Rice Building, built in 1930, is a beautiful example of renaissance revival architecture, with large arched windows on the second floor. The second floor is being renovated for future use, possibly as an art gallery or business offices.

Nikita's Bistro and Bar at 484 Main Street is the recipient of the 2006 Design Award. Michael Oliveras and Rebecca Oliveras of O2 Design helped create this playful and sleek design for the owner William Longo. Located on the first floor of the Caulkins & Post Building, this historic building was built in 1895, and has classically detailed cornice and storefront. Maureen Longo, Gary Didato, Andrea Malon and Jeff Rabuffo are also credited with this unique establishment.

The Annual Design and Preservation Awards are annually bestowed on distinguished projects whose design and/or preservation effort have given new meaning to their communities through preservation of our architectural and cultural heritage. These efforts include citizen attempts to save and maintain important landmarks; companies and craftsmen whose work restores the richness of the past; and the vision of public officials who support preservation projects and legislation in their communities who help the City of Middletown understand the value of design and preservation.

Past recipients of the Annual Design and Preservation Awards have included the General Mansfield House, the Camp Stearns House, the Liberty Commons, Wadsworth Mansion, Inn at Middletown and Middletown Police Station.

The Design Review and Preservation Board is an advisory board that consists of nine appointed members that carry out the following for the city: drafted and maintains the Design Review guidelines; reviews all designs for exterior renovation to historic structures throughout the city; new construction in business zones; reviews all signage applications in the city; makes recommendations considering their appropriateness to the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Redevelopment Agency; makes recommendations concerning the demolition of any historic structure or any structure in a historic district.

For more information, please contact:

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