

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Robin Clewley
Communications Director, The Miller Hull Partnership
rclewley@millerhull.com
+1 206-254-2045

Miller Hull-Designed Safari Drive Condominiums Wins National Honors

October, 2010 — Designed by the Miller Hull Partnership, Safari Drive Condominiums in Scottsdale, Arizona, recently took home top honors at this year's Builder's Choice Awards. Winning the "Project of the Year" and the award for "Condos-for Sale Grand," the project counters the forces of sprawl by demonstrating just how much one can fit, comfortably and desirably, on a plot of land measuring less than five acres. Furthermore, the development differentiates itself by its innovative and varied unit plan configurations.



"Safari Drive is not only a beautiful piece of architecture, but it sends the right message to the housing industry at the right time," said Boyce Thompson, editorial director of BUILDER magazine. "It demonstrates just how personalized and livable an urban infill, mixed-use project can feel, even with a modest increase in density. The team created a landmark out of an overlooked lot."

High density living conjures ideas of tight urban spaces and foregoing such luxuries as greenery and garages. But life at Safari Drive requires no such sacrifice. The five multi-level buildings are at a human scale, and introduce a viable level of density in the midst of consumptive sprawl. The project in and of itself is a self-sustaining, vibrant mixed-use urban neighborhood. Small commercial functions such as live/work lofts and ground floor retail spaces are mixed among the residential units, creating a shared energy to the public spaces.

Outdoor rooms, shaped and shaded by the enclosing buildings, are the organizing framework for the project. The experience of walking from home to shopping and beyond is not only protected from the intense desert elements, but enriched by a varied sequence of exterior spaces. Circulation is organized within a traditional urban grid, and culminates at the heart of the site in a circular court shared by pedestrians and outdoor dining. This deliberate blending of different activities fosters spontaneity and a rich public life.

Deep shade overhangs, a high-performance thermal exterior, and naturally weathering, locally-manufactured materials all contribute to shielding the development from the desert climate. Native,

The Miller Hull Partnership, LLP

Polson Building
71 Columbia Street – 6th Floor
Seattle, WA 98104

Contact

T: 206.682-6837
F: 206.682-5692
www.millerhull.com



drought-tolerant landscaping is found throughout Safari Drive. A “cool tower” passively cools a public courtyard with a simple, wind-driven technology borrowed from middle-eastern desert vernacular, and provides a visual focus for the project.

Safari Drive has been certified by Scottsdale's Green Building Program for Multi-Family Dwellings. The project is also the recipient of the 2010 National AIA Housing Award; 2010 Merit Award, AIA Arizona; and the 2009 Merit Award, AIA Seattle.

The Miller Hull Partnership specializes in award-winning design for public works buildings that actively engage their communities. Miller Hull’s built work spans a wide range of project types such as condominiums, interpretive, community and nature centers, museums, city halls and public administration buildings, libraries, schools, higher education facilities, mixed use buildings, laboratories, corporate offices and small residences. The Miller Hull Partnership is the recipient of the National Firm Award from the American Institute of Architects.

###