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Congress For New Urbanism (CNU) Announces Norfolk's East Beach Community Selected To Receive One Of Its Prestigious 2011 CNU Charter Awards

The Awards Honor a Diverse Set of Projects Highlighting Best New Urbanist Practices

Norfolk, VA: As anticipation builds for this year's CNU19 conference, the winners for the 11th annual CNU Charter Awards have been announced. From a crowded field of over 100 entries from around the world, the jury has recognized seven professional projects and two academic submissions for excellence in urbanism. All of the recognized projects, including an additional nine honorable mentions, will be feted June 2nd at the 19th annual Congress for the New Urbanism in Madison, Wisconsin.

“A Charter Award is the highest honor that a project can receive within the new urbanist community,” says Rock Bell, general manager of East Beach. “This award is a testament to the vision and tenacity of those within the city of Norfolk and the Norfolk Redevelopment and Housing Authority who believed in East Beach from the beginning, working tirelessly to see it come to fruition. More importantly, we are the only recipient of a 2011 CNU award in Virginia.”

In light of the great recession's slow recovery, nearly all of the projects selected for honors showcase sensitivity to the economics of the times. Many of the award-winning projects highlight an unprecedented level of coordination between all levels of community stakeholders, acknowledging the complexity of the issues a majority of localities currently face. By remaining dedicated to proven development principles in building quality, mixed-use neighborhoods, and advancing reforms in codes and other city policies, the Charter Awards recipients show how new urbanists are meeting today's challenges by emphasizing quality of life, safety and sustainability in their communities.

The CNU awards are awarded to projects that exemplify the highest standards of master planning and implementation. Previous project winners include *I'on* (Charleston), *Harbor Town* (Memphis) and *Baldwin Park* (Orlando). Norfolk's 2005 “A Pattern Book for Norfolk Neighborhoods” also won one of these prestigious award.

Mirroring the diversity of this year's entrants, winning projects focus on locations from

San Francisco to a college campus in San Antonio to a port city in Haiti. The winners are rewarded for embodying the 27 principles of livability and sustainability that form the core of the Charter for New Urbanism (cnu.org/charter). Winners also respond to principles in a companion to the Charter, the Canons of Sustainable Architecture and Urbanism (cnu.org/canons).

“The strongest projects this year were very sophisticated about design, policy and sustainability, yet very modest and pragmatic in their solutions,” says this year’s Jury Chair Elizabeth Moule, co-founder of CNU and principal of Moule Polyzoïdes in Pasadena, California. “With the current state of the economy and the need to embrace the frugality of sustainability, projects that use limited resources towards ambitious goals will most relevant to solving the problems of today and tomorrow. And as always, we continue to encourage the marriage between high design, careful craft and critical policy objectives.”

The winning projects are a testament to the adaptability of New Urbanist fundamentals to an extraordinary range of contexts and concerns. The June 2nd ceremony at the 19th annual Congress for the New Urbanism represents the best of these principles moving forward. Project descriptions and images of this year’s winners can be found at cnu.org/awards.

East Beach. A simple life on the Chesapeake Bay.

East Beach, named one of the top five sustainable land developments in the United States, is situated on 100 acres along the Chesapeake Bay in Norfolk. Site of the 2011 *Coastal Living* Ultimate Beach House, the neighborhood is surrounded by water and fashioned after classic Southeastern seaboard coastal villages. The master plan for this \$500 million development includes 700 residences, neighborhood restaurants, boutique shops, a Bay Front Club and offices. Public space, walking paths and bay front greens enhance the vistas and create open spaces for the beachfront community. Boating, fishing and water sports of all types are steps away from the neighborhood. The neighborhood was named Community of the Year in 2008 and 2006, and its beach was named one of the top restored beaches in America in 2007. East Beach is a unique initiative between the developers, East Beach Company LLC, the City of Norfolk and Norfolk Redevelopment & Housing Authority. Visit eastbeachnorfolk.com for more information or call 757-333-6650.

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