

## News Briefs

### WACA Hosts Successful Construction Excellence Awards Show

On May 15, the Wall And Ceiling Alliance (WACA) hosted this year's Construction Excellence Awards (CEA) event at the Hilton Hotel in Concord, CA. Over two hundred guests gathered in the Hilton's Golden Gate Park Ballroom to recognize the extremely high degree of craftsmanship of the projects chosen by this year's judges. The judging panel consisted of two AIA judges and an industry drywall expert (with over 32 years of experience) who evaluated and visited the projects, and scored them on their level of quality and craftsmanship.



One of the biggest award events in Northern California's construction industry, the CEA recognizes the achievements of contractor members that have performed exceptional drywall and plaster work in Northern California. Presented by the Wall And Ceiling Alliance (WACA) association, the dinner awards show highlights contractors extraordinary skills and showcases the industry's top wall and ceiling projects.

The award categories varied to recognize the wide range of talents and expertise required for each specialization. From commercial interior to historical restoration exterior, to EIFS and ceilings, project entries demonstrated the impressive abilities of the people who spent months, or years, creating them. At the awards ceremony, two big-screens played a video presentation of each winning project to highlight recipients' work before winners accepted their crystal award.

View the 13 winners and 4 projects of the year below to keep up with the latest accomplishments in the industry. See the photos of this fun evening by visiting WACA's photo gallery on their website at: [www.wallandceilingalliance.org/](http://www.wallandceilingalliance.org/)

#### Award Recipients

1. Residential Exterior - Henley & Company
2. Residential Interior - Raymond-Northern California, Inc.
3. Retail Exterior - Anning-Johnson Company
4. Retail Interior- Anning-Johnson Company
5. Commercial Exterior - Brady Company/Central California, Inc.
6. Commercial Interior - California Drywall Co.
7. Institutional Exterior - Ironwood Commercial Builders, Inc.
8. Institutional Interior - O'Donnell Plastering, Inc.
9. Historical Exterior - Anning-Johnson Company
10. Historical Interior - Patrick J. Ruane, Inc.

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## Renzo Piano to Design San Ramon City Center at Bishop Ranch

Sunset Development Company (SDC), developer, owner and manager of Bishop Ranch, has engaged world-renowned architect Renzo Piano to design the Plaza District portion of the entitled City Center project in San Ramon.

City Center will include, retail, office, residential and hospitality elements. The first phase of the project will be a 350,000 sq-ft retail component. The plan calls for a movie theatre, a variety of dining options, first class retail and community services. The project will have approximately 70 tenants upon opening, which is planned for late 2016. Subsequent phases include 479 residential units, a 169 room hotel and four new office buildings totaling 800,000 sq-ft.

"We are delighted that Renzo Piano agreed to design City Center. The design and execution of the project will set it apart from other mixed-use developments," says Alexander Mehran Jr., president and Chief Operating Officer of Sunset Development Company. "It will provide a needed and vital combination of amenities for Bishop Ranch customers, the community of San Ramon and the entire region."

SDC will be presenting its most recent plans for City Center at a public meeting of the San Ramon City Council on Tuesday, June 10, at the Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center, 10550 Albion Road in San Ramon. The public is invited to attend the meeting, which begins at 7 pm.

Piano's firm, Renzo Piano Building Workshop (RPBW), has designed numerous projects around the world including The New York Times building in New York City; Central St. Giles Court and London Bridge Tower in London; and the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park, completed in 2008.

"City Center will begin the next chapter in the broadening scope of lifestyle opportunities at Bishop Ranch – an environment which will combine the energy and amenities of living in a major city with the advantages of suburban



living," adds Mehran. "Our goal is to build a beautifully designed, enduring neighborhood for the entire region."

Selected by TIME in 2006 as one of the 100 most influential people in the world, Renzo Piano has received numerous awards and recognitions, including: the Golden Compass Award in Milan (1981), the Royal Gold Medal at the RIBA in London (1989), the Kyoto Prize in Kyoto, Japan (1990), the Neutral Prize in Pomona, California (1991), the Goodwill Ambassador of UNESCO (1994), the Praemium Imperiale in Tokyo, Japan (1995), the Erasmus Prize in Amsterdam (1995), the Pritzker Architecture Prize at the White House in Washington (1998), the Leone d'oro alla carriera in Venice (2000), the Gold Medal of Italian architecture in Milan (2003), the Gold Medal AIA in Washington, (2008) and the Sonning Prize in Copenhagen (2009).

"The project is entirely conceived around a generous piazza surrounded by six pavilions of varying sizes," says Renzo Piano. "All of the pavilions have a direct relation to the piazza and each of them contributes to animate it."

Piano says the Piazza is a social hub. He says the idea is to have three generations of people walking around, finding their place, meeting people. To achieve that, an open-air theatre is designed for concerts, outdoor projections or any type of civic event or meeting. Nature is present in both the form of a grove and adjacent clearing with a significant number of trees as well as a water mirror and

greenscape equipped with a playground for kids. During the winter season an ice skating rink will be installed.

"The City Center is a porous, permeable urban architectural composition. Inside is open and oriented to the piazza, and with the same force and conviction, the outside is open to its surrounds," says Antonio Belvedere, partner at RPBW. "A good presence of restaurants, café terraces and shopping opportunities together with culture, music and nature will create a true authentic vitalized City Center for San Ramon."

City Center is designed by Renzo Piano Building Workshop in collaboration with the San Francisco based firm of BCV Architects.

#### About Bishop Ranch

Established in 1978 by Sunset Development Company, Bishop Ranch is a 585-acre mixed-use business community comprised of 10 million sq-ft. More than 600 of the world's leading companies, innovative startups, and medical and dental practitioners make their home in the thriving professional business community of Bishop Ranch. The recipient of many awards including The Urban Land Institute's Award for Excellence, Bishop Ranch is home to many Global 2000 companies, including AT&T, Chevron, General Electric, Toyota, Bank of the West and Wells Fargo. For more information on the area, visit: [www.bishopranch.com](http://www.bishopranch.com)

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11. EIFS - KHS&S
12. Green Building - J&J Acoustics, Inc.
13. Ceilings - KHS&S

### Project of the Year

Interior Under 500K - California Drywall, Inc.  
Exterior Under 500K - Anning-Johnson Company  
Interior Over 500K - Patrick J. Ruane, Inc.  
Exterior Over 500K - Brady Company/Central California, Inc.

If you're a union wall and ceiling contractor, and have performed a job in Northern California, we encourage you to submit your project for a CEA award. For more information, contact the Wall and Ceiling Alliance at (925) 600-0475 or visit: [www.wallandceilingalliance.org/](http://www.wallandceilingalliance.org/)

## Feature Story

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### About Renzo Piano Building Workshop

The Renzo Piano Building Workshop (RPBW) is an international architectural practice with offices in Paris, Genoa and New York City. The Workshop is led by 14 partners, including founder and Pritzker Prize laureate, architect Renzo Piano. For more information, visit: [www.rpbw.com/](http://www.rpbw.com/)

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