



ARIDO BESTOWS PRESTIGIOUS HONOURS AND FELLOWS AWARDS

Toronto, ON – March 28, 2008 – The Association of Registered Interior Designers of Ontario (ARIDO) announced the latest additions to its prestigious Honours and Fellows awards program last night as part of the Association's Annual General Meeting. The highest level of recognition bestowed by the Association, three Fellowship Awards and one Honorary membership were handed out to four key industry players during the event.

A Fellow is a present or previous registered ARIDO member whom the Board of Management has deemed as having contributed significantly to the success of the Association. This year a Fellowship was awarded to **Trevor Kruse, Celeste Irvine-Jones** and **David Benitz**, with an Honorary membership going to his wife **Jean Benitz**. Honorary memberships are presented to non-ARIDO members who the Board of Management, in consultation with the Board of Governors, believes have contributed to the greater recognition or betterment of the interior design profession or the applied arts.

Since commencing his career in interior design, **Trevor Kruse** has chaired or served on numerous committees for the Association. He was the President of ARIDO in 1998 and in the following year Kruse served as the Association's official spokesperson on the issue of the Titles Act. In recent years, Kruse has assisted as a liaison to other national associations including NCIDQ and IIDA. Since 1996, Kruse has been ARIDO's liaison to IIDEX/NeoCon Canada, and has been instrumental in the growth of this event as Canada's largest trade show for the built environment. A recipient of numerous awards and recognition in the industry over the years, Kruse most recently became the first Canadian recipient of the IIDA Leaders Award.

Celeste Irvine-Jones also a recipient of a Fellowship Award this year, has been a dedicated ARIDO volunteer. Having served as the Eastern Ontario Chapter President in 2003 and 2004, an Innovation Awards judge at IIDEX/NeoCon Canada and an instructor at Algonquin College, Irvine-Jones is a sought after mentor to recent graduates, promoting both the profession and ARIDO. In addition to offering NCIDQ study sessions to Ottawa Intern members, she has spent countless hours fundraising for worthwhile charities and causes including the Royal Ottawa Hospital, Bruce House and Relay for Life.

David Benitz and **Jean Benitz** received a Fellowship Award and Honorary Membership accordingly. This husband and wife team created a unique database over the course of their career detailing over 300 A-level buildings. This database was designed in conjunction with developing a program to help interior designers analyze the buildings from a tenant's perspective. The pair donated this tremendous resource to Ryerson University in 2004 and now the Benitz Facility Diagnostic Program is used in the Interior Design department's senior year studies.

ARIDO congratulates each of these individuals on joining the Association's group of Honours and Fellows and applauds their remarkable contribution to Ontario's interior design community.

About ARIDO

ARIDO is currently a voluntary professional association for Interior Designers in Ontario. ARIDO's mandate is to serve the interests of both the public and the interior design industry. It does so by registering Interior Designers who voluntarily meet required standards of education, experience and examination. For more information on ARIDO, please visit www.arido.ca.

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