



ARIDO ANNOUNCES RECIPIENTS OF 2008 NORMA RUTH RIDLEY SCHOLARSHIP AND HARVEST HOUSE CRAFTSMAN AWARD

Toronto, ON – March 28, 2008 – The Association of Registered Interior Designers of Ontario (ARIDO) presented two students and five interior designers who recently attained their NCIDQ certification with scholarships and awards last night as part of the Association's Annual General Meeting.

In a first-ever tie, the **2008 Norma Ruth Ridley Scholarship** went to two recipients – **Shannon Moschenross**, an interior design student at the International Academy of Design & Technology and **Jessica Graveline** an interior design student at Algonquin College. Each of the two recipients were awarded a \$2,000 scholarship. An honorable mention also goes to Thevaki Ganesharajah an interior design student at Sheridan College.

The Norma Ruth Ridley Scholarship, established in 2005 honours graduating interior design students who display impeccable professionalism and ethics, and who understand the importance of good business practices and professional standards. In separate written and oral evaluations, applicants are judged in five areas: academic achievement, professionalism, community involvement, character and communication. Only one representative from each ARIDO-recognized school may apply for the scholarship. Each participant is chosen by their Program Coordinator to represent their school. This year's competition focused on designing an educational facility and brought forth applicants from seven of the ten schools.

Each applicant was asked to research and develop a space planning program for a community school for young children with special needs, paying close attention to issues of ethics, accessibility and sustainability. Shannon Moschenross and Jessica Graveline shared this year's distinguished honour, with Moschenross excelling in the written portion of the competition and Graveline delivering insightful responses in her oral interview.

Also at last night's event, ARIDO presented cheques to recipients of the inaugural **Harvest House Craftsman Award**. The Award recognizes five interior designers who recently completed their NCIDQ exam and achieved the highest combined examination score in 2007. Each of the five recipients was given a \$1,000 cash award in recognition of this outstanding professional accomplishment.

The five recipients of the 2008 Harvest House Craftsman Award were: **Helena Da Costa, Karen Hohenadel, Lisa Johnson-Poirier, Terry Ann Ledger, and Wayne Swadron.**

"Harvest House created this award with ARIDO to honour this integral professional moment in the careers of interior designers," said Mo Coulter, President of Harvest House Craftsmen. "I am delighted to present these five designers with this award as they embody the same sense of

achievement in quality design that has been the backbone of our company and ARIDO since their inception many years ago.”

ARIDO congratulates Moschenross, Graveline, Da Costa, Hohenadel, Johnson-Poirier, Ledger, and Swadron on their exceptional achievements in their continued commitment to a career in interior design.

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.

-30-

For more information, please contact: Tonia Addison, Communications Manager, ARIDO, taddison@arido.ca or (416) 921-2127 x 227