

Winner's Circle

■ **Modern Revival** (Sausalito, CA), Ive Haugeland/Shades of Green Landscape Architecture, shadesofgreenla.com (shown far left) ■ **Midcentury Revival** (Sarasota, FL), Dane Spencer Landscape Architecture, dane-spencer-landscapearchitect.com (shown, left) ■ **Water Treatment Facility as Neighborhood Asset** (New Haven, CT), Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates, mvvainc.com (below) ■ **The Carriage House Garden** (Amherst, MA), Joseph S. R. Volpe Associates, umass.edu/larp/faculty/jvolpe ■ **Remembering Their Effort** (Dallas, TX), Lisa L. Jenkins ■ **Latitude: 41° 24' 39" Longitude: -73° 20' 32"** (Newtown, CT), Billie Cohen, Ltd. Landscape Design Studio, billiecohenltd.com ■ **Pamet Valley** (Truro, MA), Keith LeBlanc Landscape Architecture, kl-la.com ■ **Schain Residence: Applied Sustainability** (Brooklyn, NY), Dinorah M Melendez Architecture & Landscape Design/Todd Haiman Landscape Design, dinorahm-melendez.com, toddhaiman.com ■ **A Subdivision in the Sand** (Amagansett, NY), Dirtworks, PC Landscape Architecture, dirtworks.us ■ **Front Ridge Residence** (Penobscot, ME), Matthew Cunningham Landscape Design, matthewcunningham.com



Suburban Revolution

A competition changes the status quo in residential landscapes

STORY BY DEBRA PRINZING

In the sea of cul-de-sacs and cookie-cutter developments that has come to characterize North America's suburbs, there is a cultural shift under way, one that is making conservation and sustainability an integral part of the everyday suburban residential environment. That shift is precisely what inspired Suburbia Transformed, a provocative competition and exhibition mounted this year by the James Rose Center for Landscape Architectural Research and Design in Ridgewood, New Jersey. The competition, according to the call for entries, aims to recognize "solutions to the ubiquitous small-lot, detached single-family, residential condition in the hope that we may better understand how to transform suburbia."

The 10 residential landscapes honored in the competition—and showcased in a companion exhibition at the Rose Center this past fall—were chosen by jury from among a variety of submissions by garden designers, landscape architects, architects, and homeowners from around the country, and internationally.

The guiding spirit of Suburbia Transformed—and the research center's namesake—is the iconoclastic landscape architect and theorist James Rose (1913–1991), most often remembered as one of the three Harvard students who rebelled against their Beaux Arts training in the 1930s and who helped to usher the profession of landscape architecture into the modern era. "Rose incorporated a conservation ethic into a modern design aesthetic for the residential garden," says Dean Cardasis, the director of the James Rose Center, which is housed in Rose's 1953 residence and has been open to the public since 1993. In Rose's view, successful residential environments are "neither landscape nor architecture, but both; neither indoors, nor outdoors, but both."

Cardasis adds, "the winning projects represent all kinds of different environmental problems." He is also the head of the new graduate program in landscape architecture at Rutgers, the State University

of New Jersey. The designs addressed issues such as shoreline erosion control, storm-water retention, and habitat restoration, and utilized in their solutions recycled and sustainably produced materials and low-water-use plantings.



See the full gallery of the 2010 winners at GARDENDESIGN.COM/SUBURBIA

Among the projects recognized was landscape architect Dane Spencer's exterior revival of a mid-century cinder-block ranch house in Sarasota, Florida. The renovations added solar roof panels, a 3,000-gallon rainwater cistern (disguised as a planter), native plantings, and permeable surfaces. "I wanted to show that all these sustainable solutions are great in and of themselves," Spencer says, "but if they blend in with the surroundings and work with the site, it's more successful."

For his clients in Penobscot, Maine, landscape designer Matthew Cunningham replaced a vast expanse of intensively fertilized lawn with a meadow of native grasses, wildflowers, and clover to achieve greater biodiversity and reduce maintenance and water use. In Sausalito, California, Ive Haugeland of Shades of Green Landscape Architecture removed a dead lawn and replaced it with an attractive pattern of gravel and cast-in-place linear pavers—a modern and permeable surfacing solution that dovetails with both the home's modern architecture and the site's coastal setting.

The success of the first competition has prompted a second one, with the call for entries in spring 2010. "We will continue with the theme Suburbia Transformed," says Cardasis, "because this subject hasn't been fully exploited yet. While many people are doing 'green design,' we feel it is also important to recognize inspiring, sculptural, and artistic experiences in the suburban landscape." For more information visit jamesrosecenter.org. SEE SOURCEBOOK FOR MORE INFORMATION, PAGE 70



COURTESY THE JAMES ROSE CENTER (3)