

**AIA SPARTANBURG ARCHITECTS LAUNCH COMMUNITY SERVICE  
PROGRAM TO BENEFIT GLENDALE COMMUNITY**

*Celebrating South Carolina Community Design in Glendale part of new nationwide “Blueprint for America” program created to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The American Institute of Architects.*

Contact: Dean Trakas  
(828)-859-6006

[bradytrakas@alltell.net](mailto:bradytrakas@alltell.net)

Contact: B.G. Stephens  
(864) 573-8844

[stephensbg@wofford.edu](mailto:stephensbg@wofford.edu)

**For Immediate Release**

**Spartanburg, S.C.** – AIA Spartanburg today was awarded a \$10,000 grant by The American Institute of Architects (AIA) in Washington, D.C. to launch their Celebrating South Carolina Community Design program in Glendale. This initiative is part of a statewide effort to promote quality design and planning in South Carolina cities and towns, in collaboration with the South Carolina Design Arts Partnership. Part of a new nationwide community service program of the AIA titled “Blueprint for America: A Gift to the Nation,” AIA Spartanburg and other AIA components around the state offer Celebrating South Carolina Community Design as a gift to the citizens of South Carolina. The AIA members’ participation is provided at no fee.

The Blueprint for America is the primary program of AIA150, a yearlong observance in 2007 that will mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the AIA. The Blueprint program was created to offer citizens in communities across America an opportunity to celebrate their community heritage, address emerging architectural challenges and trends, and find their voices to help make their vision real for beautiful, safe, and livable communities.

The AIA Spartanburg initiative will work with citizens in Glendale, SC during a community design charrette, scheduled to take place January 25-26, 2007, to develop a master plan for the community. Glendale was selected through a competitive application process and chosen because of the important opportunity Glendale has to become a model for historic communities throughout the state.

“We are excited about the opportunity to bring new life and vitality to Glendale through design” said Dean Trakas, AIA150 Champion representing the Spartanburg Section.

“We applaud AIA Glendale for seizing this opportunity to demonstrate how good design makes a difference,” said national AIA President Kate Schwennsen, FAIA. “The Blueprint for America is primarily about a *vision* of what’s possible for communities. It’s about helping communities see what is possible when architects, mayors and other civic leaders, and fellow

citizens work together to tackle such issues as brownfields, accessibility for the disabled, affordable housing, sprawl, and environmental sustainability,” she added.

The results of the Celebrating South Carolina Community Design charrette in Glendale and other AIA150 efforts from around the state will be presented to the statewide community this spring at the South Carolina Community Design Summit, scheduled to take place April 24-25 at the Clemson University Madren Center. The public is invited to attend. For registration information, call (803) 734-8622. Nationally renowned design experts will be part of the program, including David Downey from AIA’s Center for Communities by Design.

For more information on Celebrating South Carolina Community Design please visit <http://www.southcarolinaarts.com/arts/designcelebrate.shtml>.

- more -

A key requirement of the Blueprint for America initiatives is that they are guided by the AIA’s “Ten Principles for Livable Communities,” which challenge architects to demonstrate how good design is an investment and that well-designed communities attract and benefit residents, businesses, and visitors, and meet the needs of present and future generations alike.

Blueprint for America initiatives will evolve over the next three years and beyond. In 2006 AIA members begin engaging local leaders, defining the issues, and preparing to launch the eventual program. Local AIA component initiatives will be developed in 2007, the anniversary year. In 2008 the AIA national component will compile initiatives and release the national Blueprint for America.

### **Celebrating the Past, Designing the Future**

In 2007 the AIA will celebrate its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The theme is “Celebrating the Past, Designing the Future.” However, the main focus of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary will be the Blueprint for America; a nationwide initiative empowering citizens to share in creating a vision for their communities’ design priorities.

Celebratory events will include National Architecture Week, April 9-14, 2007, in which AIA architects across the country will concurrently host such events as architecture-related lectures, exhibits, K-12 programs, and architecture week proclamation ceremonies. For more information on the contributions of AIA architects and the role of the AIA in helping create the built environment of America over the past 15 decades, visit the AIA Web site [www.aia.org](http://www.aia.org).

### **About the Blueprint for America**

The Blueprint for America is a nationwide initiative through which AIA architects engage with fellow citizens, mayors, other professionals, and local government officials to collaborate on a community service program that addresses a community’s distinct need. Through their state and local components, AIA architects will propose, convene, and participate in initiatives that utilize community engagement, in a collaborative process, and quality design as keys to improving a community’s livability. Blueprint initiatives are a gift to the community from the members of the AIA, and the members’ participation in the initiative is provided at no fee.

### **About The American Institute of Architects**

For almost 150 years, members of The American Institute of Architects have worked with each other and their communities to create more valuable, healthy, secure, and sustainable buildings and cityscapes. AIA members have access to the right people, knowledge, and tools to create better design, and through such resources and access, they help clients and communities make their visions real. [www.aia.org](http://www.aia.org)

**South Carolina Design Arts Partnership**

The SC Design Arts Partnership (SCDAP) is a partnership of the South Carolina Arts Commission, Clemson University College of Architecture, Arts and Humanities, Clemson Institute for Economic and Community Development, Clemson Extension, and Main Street South Carolina. Founded in 1994, its mission is to put quality design to work in South Carolina communities through direct action-oriented problem solving. The partnership uses the resources of Clemson University students to provide design assistance for communities statewide and hosts the annual Mayors Institute, South Carolina's premier design leadership training event. In addition, the partnership has the ability to call on the resources of affiliated professionals in architecture, landscape architecture, community and urban planning, historic preservation and economic development to assist communities as needed.