

2008 AWARDS GALA

By Katherine Thornhill, ASID

Katherine Alford, Maria Benson, owners of Nyla Simone; Dr. Tyrone Benson, Dr. Terry Alford, and Katherine Thornhill, ASID,



"Lively and glamorous" describes the 2008 Awards Gala event held at the Hyatt Regency Gainey Ranch, Scottsdale, on September 13, 2008. 240 attendees arrived for a delicious dinner sprinkled with announcements of chapter awards, presidential citations, and design competition winners. The design competition committee (thank you to Robyn Randall, Colleen Heldenbrand, and Karen Mandarin) gathered and tended 80 entries in 25 categories which were juried by the Texas Gulf Coast Chapter, ASID.

A variety of presenters shared the podium to announce recipients. Design competition awards were sprinkled around Chapter awards (see page 10) and presidential citations. Winners were escorted to and from the stage by the lively music of the live band "Snake Eyes" which gave the event an "Academy Awards feeling" according to many attendees.

Contemporary centerpieces designed by Design One International provided everyone with a take-home portion - a party favor of fresh tropical flowers! In response to requests for an 'after party' option guests were invited to dance for another hour to the music of the "Snake Eyes" after the program.

Congratulations to Sandra Kush (and her committee Kristi Ludenia and Don Nottingham) for an excellent job in organizing the event. Sandra's attention to detail, complete organization, professionalism and positive attitude created a fun and interesting evening.

Presidential citations (see page 9) recognize 'those volunteers who went above and beyond, with courage and grace, to contribute to the year's work' President Katherine Thornhill explained. Linda Kolesar, and Ernesto Garcia, graciously assisted with the presidential citations.

Heartfelt appreciation goes to our many generous sponsors, without whom our event could not take place. (see page 9)

Special thanks to Arizona Home and Design Magazine whose November/December issue will feature the design competition winners.

Thank you to those members and guests who were able to join us for this celebration of design.