

RIVERA

SAN DIEGO

STYLE ALERT
LUXE
LEATHER

PLUS:
Go Gourmand in La Jolla
Dining on the Fly!
Coronado's Star Foodie
S.D.'s Soaring
Design Scene

*Bad Boy
Aaron Paul
& More!*

TRAVEL
SPECTACULAR!

SKI REPORT
Best of What's New

Glamping
Across Africa

Getting Hip
to Carmel

DERNLUXURY.COM

OCTOBER 2012 \$5

LONG BEACH,
PERMIT NO. 14

In Bloom!

We present a preview to the annual Orchids & Onions Awards.

| By AnnaMaria Stephens |

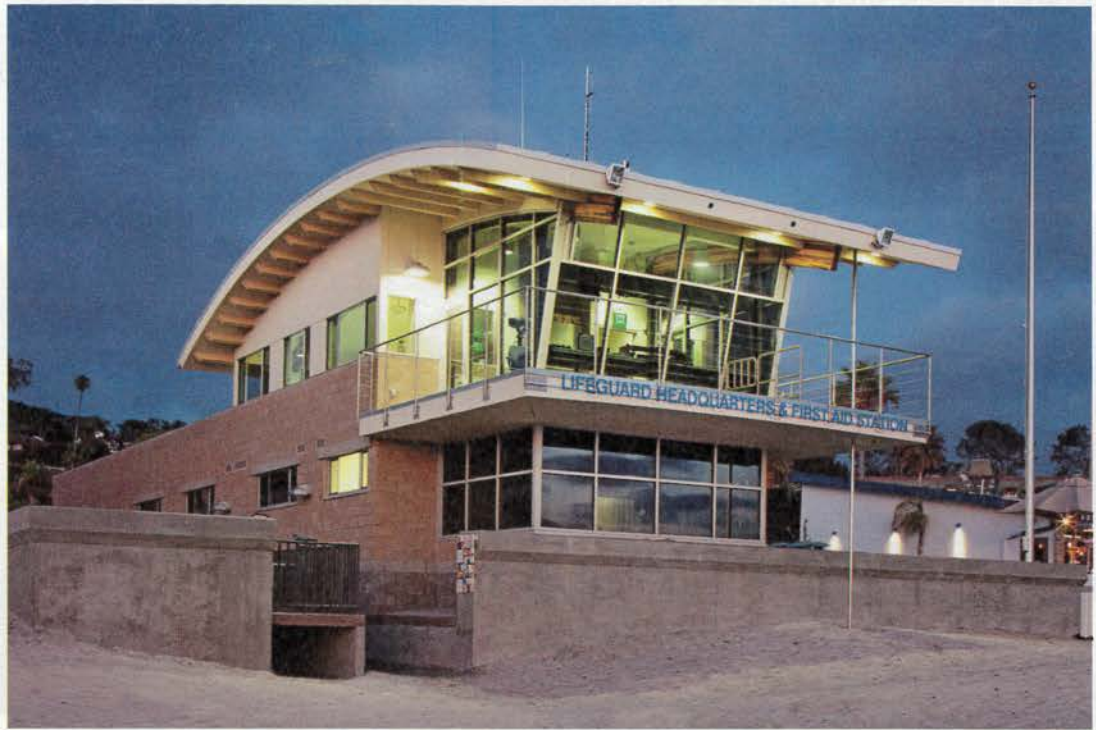
From a lifeguard station to a high-designed state park restroom, San Diego's design scene continues its evolution.

San Diego may have a handful of nationally known design names, but when it comes to the rest of the city's talent, the Orchids & Onions Awards turns the spotlight on those who've helped the local scene grow—and those who've stunk it up.

"We try to engage the public and raise awareness of the value of good design and the importance of avoiding what's bad," explains Leslee Schaffer, executive director of the San Diego Architectural Foundation, which has hosted the annual event since 2006 (orchidsandonions.org).

This year, O&O received 145 viable nominations in several categories, from architecture to sustainable design. While the public can nominate projects and comment on them online, a panel of experts has the final say. "It's daunting for the jury that has to sort through them," says Schaffer.

Some of the nominations are surprising. "Fallen Star," a jaw-dropping public art installation at UCSD, was deemed a stinker, while other less interesting



THE NEW GUARD Clockwise from top: The 17th Street Beach Safety Center in Del Mar by Jeff Katz Architecture; The San Diego County Operations Center by RJC Architects; Snooze in Hillcrest by Public Architecture; Harbor Aquatic Center restroom by Safdie Rabines

projects—we won't name names—got nods for Orchids.

"Beauty is definitely in the eye of the beholder," says interior designer Michael Soriano, a past award winner who is nominated this year for the O.B. bar Sessions Public and has served on the jury. "It's also extremely challenging because San Diego is such a small community that you pretty much know everyone," he adds. "A lot of people think

it's a popularity contest."

It's not. Soriano helped devise a series of "golden rules" to quantify a project's worth more objectively. "Part of our agenda is to award things that will encourage other people to think outside the box," he says.

This year's ceremony, which takes place Oct. 11 at MCASD-La Jolla with "Cooking Guy" Sam Zien as emcee, will feature the usual mix of newcomers and San Diego stalwarts,

like Public Architecture, up for an Orchid for its Snooze restaurant in Hillcrest.

"There are so many passionate and talented people just beginning their practices and making a difference in neighborhoods across town," says Public principal James Brown. "Craft and art and self-sufficiency are important to this new breed. It bodes well for the future of space-making in San Diego."