

AQUAtecture... Works in Water Exhibit Raises Over \$2,000 for the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation

Sizeler Thompson Brown Architects hosted a reception, unveiling a special creative exhibit. *"AQUAtecture - Works in Water"* as part of this year's *Art for Arts' Sake* celebration. The exhibit, on display in the STBA lobby, featured unique interpretations of 'water related' art pieces, including fountains, created by firm architects and staff.

This is the fourth year STBA has created a special thematic exhibition in conjunction with *Art for Arts' Sake*.

"We challenged the members of the firm to create artworks inspired by water," says I William Sizeler, founder of the firm. "These art pieces were auctioned by silent bid Saturday evening during *Art for Arts' Sake*," he notes, "and, as a socially conscious firm, we will donate funds received to the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation to benefit the Save Our Coast and Save Our Lake initiatives."

STBA had more than 30 entries included in the 'Works in Water' exhibition. Artists who submitted fountains were provided with a mini submersible pump around which to construct their art.

"This year's exhibit, 'AQUAtecture - Works in Water', honored the 25th anniversary of the 1984 New Orleans World's Fair whose theme was "The World of Rivers: Fresh Water as a Source of Life," says Thomas Brown, AIA, firm principal, who helped develop the concept for this year's competition.

Each year a team of volunteers - from interns to principals - meet to decide an exhibition theme, plan the logistics, and coordinate the event. "It's a collaborative effort," Brown notes, 'that brings us closer as a firm.'

This year's entries were whimsical, practical, abstract and conceptual 'water' interpretations that utilize woodworking, metal, lighting, plants, and natural elements. Many are also 'green,' employing recycled, natural and energy-saving materials as well as 'found' objects.

"Our annual *Art for Arts' Sake* exhibit allows us to showcase the talents of STBA staff, promotes our firm's design culture and allows the public to see architects as visual artists," says Brian Faucheux, AIA, LEED AP, firm principal who coordinated the exhibit. "For one night, we transform our building lobby into an art gallery - complete with live music, food/beverages and the unveiling of new work."

The Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation will use the funds raised by the exhibit to further the group's mission, says Anne Rheams, Executive Director. "We are launching a new campaign - 'Enjoy Our Lake' -- that will help create public venues and access to the restored water bodies and other natural areas in the basin."