



AIA New York State
An Organization of The American Institute of Architects

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SENATOR SUZI OPPENHEIMER NAMED AIANYS LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR

The American Institute of Architects New York State (AIANYS) has named Senator Suzi Oppenheimer as its “2010 Legislator of the Year.” The award recognizes outstanding contributions in advancing the legislative priorities of AIANYS. Senator Oppenheimer is receiving the award for her sponsorship of the Smart Growth Initiative, which was recently signed into law.

In announcing the award, Edward C. Farrell, Executive Director of AIANYS noted, “Senator Oppenheimer has demonstrated proven leadership in securing the enactment of this critical legislation, which was a legislative priority of AIA New York State. The use of existing infrastructure for new development is in line with AIA’s strategy for sustainable design and construction. We commend her for her dedication and are honored to present her with this award.”

“It’s an honor to be recognized with this award from the American Institute of Architects of New York State,” said Senator Oppenheimer. “I applaud their efforts to encourage sustainable design and look forward to continuing to work with them on other important issues.”

The new law, the Smart Growth Public Infrastructure Policy Act, establishes smart growth criteria in state law, requires several state agencies to create Smart Growth Advisory Committees that would evaluate public infrastructure investments based on the smart growth criteria, and requires such infrastructure investments, to the extent practicable, to meet the criteria.

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Stuart Markowitz, AIA, President of AIA Westchester/Mid-Hudson added, “We are proud that Senator Oppenheimer has taken the lead on this important issue. Westchester and the Hudson Valley will benefit from economic development occurring as the result of sound, sustainable, planning.” The Westchester/Mid-Hudson AIA Chapter has been in existence since 1936 and has 579 members.

The Legislator of the Year Award was established in 1977 to recognize outstanding legislative contributions to the profession and the practice of architecture by a New York State Legislator. The Legislator of the Year has demonstrated leadership and an active role in advancing the legislative priorities of AIANYS. The last legislator from Westchester to receive this award was former Senator John Flynn in 1979.

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Founded in 1931, AIA New York State, has a statewide membership of 6,800 members in 13 chapters and speaks for the interests of all registered architects in New York State. Its parent organization, The **American Institute of Architects** (AIA), is a nationwide, 83,000 member based organization (www.aianys.org).

The primary functions of AIA New York State are public awareness to increase the public's general knowledge and awareness of architecture and the role architects play in the built and planned environment; and government affairs to monitor state legislative and regulatory activities to promote and enhance the profession of architecture, those who practice, and to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the public it serves.