

Showcase Winners Highlight RPA Member Ingenuity

Story by Mike Flenniken

Advanced Radiant Design, Inc. took home three of the five first-place awards in the Radiant Professional Alliance's System Design Showcase Competition, whose winners were announced at the RPA's Annual Membership Meeting and Conference in Chicago.

The Stone Ridge, N.Y.-based company won the top prize in the Commercial, Residential and Snow/Ice Melting categories, with SolarLogic (Santa Fe, N.M.) claiming the other two first-place awards, in Radiant Innovation and Radiant Cooling. Additionally, Cardinal Heating and Cooling (Sun Prairie, Wis.) won second place in Residential and Snow/Ice Melting, while second place in Commercial went to Vertex Mechanical, Inc. (Stevens, Pa.).

"We consider it a distinct honor to have won these awards in the System Showcase," said John Abularrage, owner of Advanced Radiant Design, Inc. "This type of national recognition further inspires the great team here at Advanced Radiant Design to reach even higher in every aspect of creating the very best radiant systems. I hope it inspires others in the industry to do the same. I encourage all RPA members to participate in next years System Showcase."

A panel of industry experts screened all of the entries and selected the winners, which also will be presented in Radiant Living magazine. The winners were announced at a Sept. 18 reception.

In taking home first place in the Commercial category, Advanced Radiant Design, Inc. created a true "zen" system in the Won Buddhist Retreat Center in Claverack, N.Y. The company designed and installed a climate panel radiant system and incorporated ground source water-to-water geothermal heat pumps with a modulating-condensing boiler backup. The system also provides domestic hot water and cooling. The company's Residential project was completed on the Olive Bridge Project in Olive Bridge, N.Y., and the Snow/Ice Melting entry was for the Sterling Forest Project in Sterling Forest, N.Y.

SolarLogic won both of its first-place awards for projects related to the Los Alamos County Administration Building. The company used solar collectors for both heating and cooling, using a combined 26 solar collectors and four zones of radiant backed up by a condensing boiler. Originally operated by three different control manufacturers, SolarLogic updated the controls with its proprietary single, Web-based system handling all disciplines.

"Here at SolarLogic we have been working since 2008 to develop, test and then introduce our SolarLogic Integrated Controller (SLIC) to the hydronic heating market," said SolarLogic LLC CEO Fred Milder, PhD. "After less than one year in the market, to have a prestigious organization like the RPA, under the auspices of IAPMO, recognize our work, and in particular the innovative aspects in system design, total system control and in Night Sky Radiant Cooling, is truly an honor. I am thrilled for all of the personnel here at Solar Logic who have helped make this happen."

Opposite page: Advanced Radiant Design, Inc. received several first place awards including first place "Residential" for the Olive Bridge project pictured here.

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ADVANCED RADIANT
DESIGN, INC



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Right: Advanced Radiant Design received first place "Commercial" for the Won Buddhist Retreat Center.

Below: Advanced Radiant Design's project at Olive Bridge won first-place in the Residential category.

Bottom: The Snow/Ice Melting first place winner was also awarded to Advanced Radiant Design for its Sterling Forest Project.

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ADVANCED RADIANT DESIGN, INC

Lower right: RPA board member Randy Knapp presents an award to John Abularrage from Advanced Radiant Design.

PHOTO BY JEFF ORTIZ



Cardinal Heating and Cooling took home second place in the Residential category for its work on the Harris Residence, in which a system was installed that consists of a basement in-floor zone, radiant in-floor zones in the living space and a hydronic fan coil. An air-to-air exchanger was used with a hydronic pre-heater coil during cold-air temperature conditions, and domestic water is also heated through the modulating-condensing boiler.

Cardinal Heating and Cooling also won second place in the Snow/Ice Melting category for work performed on the Holoubek Residence, where a hydronic snow melt system was installed with a Tekmar control system that features slab sensors for



maintaining the temperature in the driveway. The Weil McClain boiler is dedicated to snow melt only and is filled with a mixture of 50 percent glycol and 50 percent distilled water. They also added a set of closely spaced Ts on the return side of the system for future solar thermal tie-in.

For its second-place award in the Commercial category, Vertex Mechanical, Inc. installed a system in the East Dunmore Project, a building that is a combined local government office and road maintenance facility. The garage, equipment storage and wash areas are heated using a radiant panel and are supplied by two water-to-water heat pumps. The office area and meeting rooms are heated and cooled with two split-system water-to-air heat pumps. The entire system is brought together by the Taco iWorx system and may be controlled locally and over the Internet by an iWorx LC12 control interface.

RPA Director of Technical Services Michael Geagan applauded the quality of the entries and encouraged more people to participate in next year's competition.

"Given the construction climate in America today, it was nice to see the excellent entries and quality of work being done by the women and men of the RPA," he said. "The RPA is proud to offer the world's only radiant and green technologies competition, and we look forward to even greater participation next year." 📷



Above: SolarLogic won first place in both the Innovation and Radiant Cooling categories for their Los Alamos County Administration Building project.

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Top left: Knapp presents an award to Claudia Pavel from SolarLogic.

Left: A look at the ultra-modern design of the System Design Showcase award.

PHOTOS BY JEFF ORTIZ