

## MEMBER NEWS

Rehabilitation of an Apartment Asset” and the top honor of “Best Multifamily Community of the Year.” Other awards included “Best Garden Rental Apartment Community, Secondary Market,” for **Centergate Celebration** in Orlando; “Best Mid-Rise Rental Apartment,” for **The Ellington** in DC; and “Best For-Sale Multifamily Community: 15 units per acre or less,” for **The Garlands of Barrington** in Barrington, Illinois. • A kitchen remodeling project by **Bruce Wentworth, AIA**, of **Wentworth, Inc.** was featured on the cover of the May 2005 issue of **HOME** magazine. • Corporate Affiliate **Zuczek Lindstrom Lighting Associates** has been honored with an IIDA Section Award for commendable achievement in lighting design at the local level from the Illuminating Engineering Society of North America (IESNA) for the lighting design of **Chapin Hall**, a historic performance venue on the campus of Williams College in Williamstown, Massachusetts.

--by Michael Tardif

## Museum Project Gains Momentum with Racki's Pro Bono Design

A design concept prepared *pro bono* by **Reena Racki Associates** for a proposed **African Burial Ground International Memorial Museum** in Lower Manhattan played an important role in advancing federal legislation introduced by **Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton** on April 28 that brings the museum one step closer to reality. **Congressman Charles Rangel (D-NY)** also plans to introduce a companion bill in the House. According to **John Arbogast** of the U.S. State Department, “The design concept served as an invaluable illustration of the kind of museum facility that could be built at the site. . . and will continue to play a key role in advancing the project.”



Design concept for the African Burial Ground International Memorial Museum by Reena Racki Associates. Note the spiral form and adjacent bridge that evoke the compressed spines of the deceased and the Akan proverb of Sankofa.

The museum is to be constructed above and adjacent to the site of the **African Burial Ground National Historic Landmark** at 290 Broadway, which holds the remains of over 20,000 enslaved Africans and African Americans from the colonial era. The bill introduced by Senator Clinton describes the African Burial Ground as “unlike any other anthropological and symbolic site in the United States or the world.” The findings of an archeological dig conducted on the site in connection with the construction of an adjacent federal office building—during which the remains of 300 people were removed, studied, and later reinterred—support the claim. Forty-five percent of the remains were those of children under the age of 12 who died from compression of the spine from carrying heavy loads. Many of the graves contained symbolic images of *Sankofa*, a powerful pictographic representation of the West African Akan proverb, “We must go back and reclaim our past so we can move forward; so we understand why and how we came to be who we are today.” The proverb is commonly depicted in drawings, textiles, and sculpture as a bird flying forward, but looking backward.

The **Reena Racki Associates** team sought to memorialize the site’s history in the design concept that they developed in an intensive two-week design charrette. Members of the design team included **Reena Racki, AIA**, interns **Lael Taylor**, **Melanie Morales**, and **Jana Vandegoot**, and volunteer **Michael Ezban**. Architectural photographer **Robert Lautman** cleared his schedule and offered his services *pro bono* to photograph the model in his studio so that a poster and postcard could be printed in time for the reinterment ceremony held last October in New York, which increased awareness and generated public support for the proposed museum.

--M.T.

## CORPORATE AFFILIATE

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