

PHILADELPHIA ARCHITECTS HONORED FOR THEIR WORK HERE AND ABROAD

PHILADELPHIA, PA - April 13, 2010 - Philadelphia-based architects Robert Venturi and Denise Scott Brown are the recipients of this year *Anne d'Harnoncourt Award for Artistic Excellence* presented by the Arts & Business Council of Greater Philadelphia, announces Karen B. Davis, President and CEO of the Council. This recognition is the Council's highest award and is reserved for an individual or group whose body of work has brought positive recognition to the Philadelphia region.

Long-time Philadelphia residents Venturi and Scott Brown will receive this award at the Council's Annual Awards Luncheon on Tuesday, April 27 at the Pennsylvania Convention Center. Last year over 1,500 people attended.

"Robert Venturi and Denise Scott Brown's architectural accomplishments contribute to our Philadelphia cityscape as well as communities throughout the world," says Davis. "We are so proud to recognize them for their work and for serving as architectural ambassadors for Philadelphia to the world."

Venturi and Scott Brown are founders and two of the principles of Venturi Scott Brown and Associates (VSBA). Although their office is on Main Street in Manayunk, they have completed work in England, France, Japan, China and around the US. Their academic clients include many of America's most prestigious colleges and universities as well as Tsinghua University in Beijing.

Locally, VSBA has designed such Philadelphia icons as the 1976 Franklin Court, Welcome Park, the Tree House at the Philadelphia Zoo, and the Christopher Columbus Monument at Penn's Landing. Their projects at the University of Pennsylvania include design of the Vagelos and Clinical Research Building labs, campus master planning, the Perelman Quadrangle campus center precinct, and the AIA National Honor Award-winning renovation of the Fisher Fine Arts Library. In the late 1960s, they led planning efforts to prevent South Street's replacement by an expressway.

VSBA's recent work includes a chapel for The Episcopal Academy's new campus in Newtown Square and the Congregation Beth El Synagogue in Sudbury, PA. Currently, the firm is designing Lenfest Hall, a teaching and student residence building, for the Curtis Institute of Music on Locust Street near Rittenhouse Square.

Since 1958, VSBA has developed its philosophy of architectural design through an exploration of varied contexts, urbanism, iconography, and many different project types -- from city planning to the decorative arts. Nancy Rogo Trainer and Daniel McCoubrey, VSBA principals and long-time collaborators with Bob and Denise, are undertaking the challenge of carrying the firm's creativity and design excellence into the future.

"Often we think of honored artists as people whose works are appreciated and enjoyed in performance halls and galleries," Davis says. "This year we're excited to honor two people whose vision creates art in the actual communities and buildings in which we work, live and at times enjoy traditional art forms." Past recipients of this high award include choreographer Judith Jamison, music producers Kenny Gamble and Leon Huff, and painters Andrew Wyeth and his son Jamie Wyeth.

"Robert Venturi, Denise Scott Brown and all of this year's honorees truly bring the arts alive," says Bill Mills, president of PNC Bank for Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey. "We are pleased to be the presenting

sponsor of the 2010 Awards Luncheon and to continue to expand our PNC Arts Alive program, **our** five-year, \$5 million grants initiative that supports arts organizations in putting forth their best, most original thinking to expand audience participation and engagement. .”

About the Arts & Business Council of Greater Philadelphia

The Arts & Business Council of Greater Philadelphia, an affiliate of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, develops relationships between business and the arts for the mutual benefit of both and in support of the advancement of the Greater Philadelphia Region. For information on registering for the April 27 Awards Luncheon, visit www.artsandbusinessphila.org or call 215.790.3620.