



Balboa Park's Botanical Building restoration won an Orchid for historic preservation. **K.C. ALFRED / U-T FILE**



The Leila restaurant in North Park received an interior design award. **JAMES TRAN**



Lou Lou's Jungle Room at the Lafayette Hotel won an interior design award. **KIMBERLY MOTOS**



Mirador/Acesso in Tijuana was the recipient of two Orchid awards. **SAN DIEGO ARCHITECTURAL FOUNDATION**



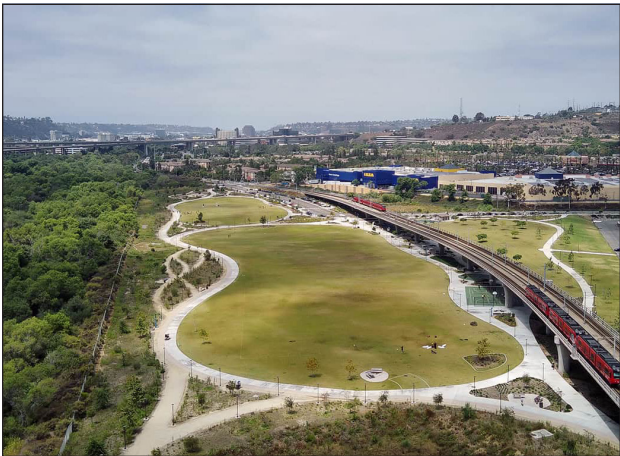
The Scottish Rite Masonic Center got an Onion for public architecture. **SAN DIEGO ARCHITECTURAL FOUNDATION**



The Royal of Rancho Peñasquitos expansion was awarded an Onion. **SAN DIEGO ARCHITECTURAL FOUNDATION**



The Exchange Pavilion at Balboa Park won an Orchid for public art. **ALEJANDRO TAMAYO / U-T FILE**



The Mission Valley River Park won a landscape architecture award in the Orchids and Onions. **SCHMIDT DESIGN GROUP**



Plans for San Diego Museum of Art's new west wing got an Onion for historic preservation. **FOSTER + PARTNERS**

## AWARDS

From Page 1

Espinosa, Carolina Gómez, Rodolfo Argot/ TOROLAB.

This Baja California government project creates a space in the busy city for contemplation as it overlooks Tijuana's largest body of freshwater. A juror said the design encourages visitors to look out over the community. "This is a place in the city of Tijuana that addresses a great need in terms of its social impact," they said. "It sits in a barrio that once was one of the most dangerous neighborhoods of Tijuana and has brought great life to the community."

**SCOTTISH RITE MASONIC CENTER OF SAN DIEGO** (ONION FOR PUBLIC ARCHITECTURE)  
**Address:** 1561 Camino del Rio South, San Diego.  
**Owner/developer:** Scottish Rite Lodge

The nominator of this project said they felt like the designer aimed to create a classical style building but greatly missed the mark.

**LEILA** (ORCHID FOR INTERIOR DESIGN)  
**Address:** 3956 30th St., San Diego.  
**Owner/developer:** CH Projects.  
**Architect/Designer:** CH Projects Department of Interior.

This Moroccan-inspired restaurant impressed jurors with its cobbled stone streets, starry sky roof, intricate millwork and more. "It has a mysterious presence as you walk along the street and approach it," a juror wrote. "You have no idea what to expect inside. When you enter, all five of your senses are exposed to stimuli and the journey begins."

**LOU LOU'S JUNGLE ROOM AT THE LAFAYETTE HOTEL** (ORCHID FOR INTERIOR DESIGN)  
**Address:** 2225 El Cajon Blvd., San Diego.  
**Owner/developer:** CH Projects.

**Architect/designer:** Post Company.

Lou Lou's is a New York-style jazz nightclub inside the Lafayette Hotel, which won Orchid awards last year for historic preservation and architectural lighting. A juror said: "They painstakingly refurbished the iron-cast band shell, and it is exquisite, and the sound is amazing especially for live music. It is just the perfect supper club and live music venue."

**THE ROYAL OF RANCHO PEÑASQUITOS APARTMENT EXPANSION** (ONION FOR PRIVATE ARCHITECTURE)  
**Address:** 9822 Paseo Montalban.  
**Owner/developer:** F&F Income Properties.

This is an expansion of an existing apartment building in Rancho Peñasquitos that the nominator said had "no flair or imagination."

**SDSU MISSION VALLEY RIVER PARK** (ORCHID FOR LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE)  
**Address:** 1 Stadium Way, San Diego.  
**Owner/developer:** San Diego State University.  
**Civil engineer:** PDC Bowman.  
**Landscape architect:** Schmidt Design Group.

This park was praised by jurors for transforming one of the largest parking lots in the West to a mixed-use community with 80 acres of public space. "On land that might just have been considered 'leftover' they have created an incredible place," a juror said, "for people to play, relax, walk ... really do about anything they want in some much needed open space."

**PLANS TO CHANGE THE SDMA WEST WING** (ONION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION)  
**Address:** 1450 El Prado, San Diego.  
**Owner/developer:** San Diego Museum of Art.  
Jurors did not like an idea to renovate the western wing of the San Diego Museum of Art where the Panama 66 restaurant is.



The remodeled Tecolote Shores South playground earned an Orchid for landscape architecture. **K.C. ALFRED / U-T FILE**

The revamp plan actually won a top prize last month during San Diego Design Week, receiving the Signature Project Design Award for Museum Renovation. The nominator felt differently, arguing the aging 1960s western wing had historic value.

**TECOLOTE SHORES SOUTH PLAYGROUND** (ORCHID FOR LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE)  
**Address:** 1344 E Mission Bay Drive, San Diego.  
**Owner/developer:** City of San Diego.  
**Architect/designer:** Schmidt Design Group.

This upgraded playground was designed so children of all abilities could play together. Features include a wheelchair-accessible carousel, inclusive swings, rockers, towers, and a zipline. It also has quiet nooks and sensory-rich elements, including a sound garden. It recently made the news for its restroom becoming a finalist for a Cintas competition for America's best public restroom (winners still haven't been announced).

**EXCHANGE PAVILION** (ORCHID FOR PUBLIC ART)  
**Address:** 1450 El Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego.  
**Owner/developer:** World Design Capital 2024.  
**Architect/designer:** Heleo Architecture + Design / Daniel Ruanova Studio.  
The largest public art of the World Design Capital event last summer was celebrated by jurors for its

efforts to connect San Diego and Tijuana. "The correct execution of the idea was achieved," a juror said.

**TEXT/TILE** (ORCHID FOR PUBLIC ART)  
**Address:** 12911 Pacific Place, San Diego.  
**Owner/developer:** City of San Diego Cultural Affairs.  
**Architect/designer:** Janelle Iglesias.

This artwork at the Pacific Highlands Ranch Library features tile letters in three languages that are tied to the region: English, Spanish and Kumeyaay. A juror said they found the spot inspiring. "So much like you search for knowledge in the library," a juror said, "you are also searching for it outside in a different and highly creative way."

**BAJO EL MISMO SOL / UNDER THE SAME SUN** (ORCHID FOR PUBLIC ART)  
**Address:** Beyer Blvd Station Trolley Station.  
**Owner/developer:** City of San Diego Cultural Affairs.  
**Architect/designer:** Janelle Iglesias.

This public art is off of Cypress Drive leading to a trolley station in San Ysidro. The artist said the meaning of the piece should be open to interpretation. A juror said: "It is simple and subtle the way the sun casts the message in this portal and creates a very artful moment. It highlights our shared community space of San Diego/Tijuana, the two languages, the one line we go back and forth across. But still – the same sun."

**HOTEL DEL CORONADO** (ORCHID FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION)  
**Address:** 1500 Orange Ave., Coronado.  
**Owner/developer:** BRE Hotels & Resorts.  
**Architect/designer:** Heritage Architecture & Planning.  
The much-celebrated Hotel del Coronado wins another award in this competition for historic preservation. "The minute we started touring the hotel I realized this was next level," a juror said. "I was expecting a 'clean up and polish' approach and what we received was careful, painstaking forensic work to uncover details and bring things back to life we had never seen or known about."

**BALBOA PARK BOTANICAL BUILDING RESTORATION** (ORCHID FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION)  
**Address:** 1549 El Prado, San Diego.  
**Owner/developer:** City of San Diego.  
**Architect of record:** Platt/Whitelaw Architects.  
**Landscape architect:** Estrada Land Planning.  
**Historic architect:** Milford Wayne Donaldson.  
**Horticulturist:** Waterwise Gardener.

**Bridging documents architect:** RNT Architects.  
**Bridging documents landscape architect:** Spurlock Landscape Architects.

The renovation of Balboa Park's Botanical Building has won several awards in the past year, and this is just one more feather in its cap. "I don't know what I expected but wow. They took it to a whole different level," a juror said. "To be able to visit something that I consider the 'lungs' of the city and see them so lively and healthy — its vital for us."

**INNATO** (PEOPLE'S CHOICE ORCHID AWARD)  
**Address:** Fray Justo Sierra 9043, Tijuana.  
**Owner/developer:** Hospitalidad Urbana by David Cohen.

**Architect/designer:** Tony Haro.  
This new building in downtown Tijuana features a Japanese speakeasy, a Spanish tapas space and a Baja/Mediterranean kitchen. The People's Choice award was decided by online voting on the architectural foundation's website.

For a complete list of winners, go to [sarchitecture.org/programs/orchids-onions/2025-winners](https://sarchitecture.org/programs/orchids-onions/2025-winners).



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