

Ward + Blake's Work Displayed at Green Conference in Athens

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*Jackson Architects' Work Displayed at Green Conference in Athens
Wyoming projects by Ward + Blake featured at AIA Continental Europe event*



Jackson, Wyoming – Some innovative Wyoming buildings were among the earth-friendly architecture on display in Athens, Greece, last week when Tom Ward and Mitch Blake of Jackson-based Ward + Blake Architects attended the International Conference and Chapter Meeting of AIA Continental Europe in Athens, April 10-14, 2008. Titled “Athens: Ecology + Environment + Architecture,” the conference brought together Greek, European and U.S. architects and architecture students with a focus on inspiring architects to practice in an environmentally conscious way.

Among the distinguished speakers at the conference were “green skyscrapers” architect Ken Yeang; “landscape healer” landscape designer Julie Bargmann of DIRT Studio in Charlottesville, Virginia; Greek architect Alexandros Tombazis; and “BedZed London zero-emissions development” director Benjamin Gill of BioRegional.

Participating architects were invited to submit green buildings designed and/or built by AIACE members using a variety of energy-saving and eco-conscious materials and technologies. Conference literature notes that buildings—the products of architects—are responsible for 40 percent of energy consumption and 70 percent of CO2 emissions globally. The conference hoped to send architects home “to reconsider the way we practice

architecture: each in our own office, each in our own country; all combined, in a new environmentally conscious way.”

Ward + Blake projects on display in Athens included the TK Pad, a seismically stable rammed earth residence with interior design by EK Reedy Interiors in Jackson; the environmentally friendly headquarters of the Nature Conservancy in Lander, Wyoming, the Warshaw residence in Jackson with interior design by EK Reedy, and the mixed-use Shervin Building in downtown Jackson, which incorporates a second-floor sod roof.

Ward + Blake’s use of a “New West” architectural vocabulary epitomizes the growing Western Modernism movement. The firm’s residential and commercial designs capture the authentic independent spirit of the West while taking regional design in a fresh and modern direction. The firm is known for its award-winning eco-friendly innovations. For additional information call 307.733.6867.

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