



**For Immediate Release**

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**Houston Mod Announces Preservation Award Winners**

Houston Mod has announced the winners of its first annual preservation awards. The awards are presented to individuals and organizations that further the knowledge, appreciation and preservation of modern architecture and design in Houston and Texas.

The recipients for 2009 include:

Primeway Federal Credit Union for the sensitive renovation of the Heights State Bank building (1962), 3800 Washington Avenue. The building, originally designed by the architects Wilson, Morris, Crain and Anderson, is a concrete and glass pavilion supported by dramatic tree-form cast concrete columns.

The Center Serving Persons with Mental Retardation for preservation of its complex of buildings at 3550 West Dallas Avenue, originally designed in 1966 by noted architects Howard Barnstone and Eugene Aubry. The campus of brick and concrete structures is both bold and intimate. The facility has provided essential social services for over 40 years.

Baker Botts L.L.P. for their partnership and efforts on behalf of The Center to preserve the existing campus to continue to provide important social benefits to Houston.

Exxon/Mobil Corporation for sensitive renovations to the exterior of the Humble Oil Tower, 800 Bell Avenue originally designed by the internationally-known firm of Welton Becket and Associates in 1963. The 44 story building continues to be a landmark in the Houston skyline with its tiers of horizontal aluminum sunshades providing a light, graceful appearance.

Mr. & Mrs. Scott R. Butler for preservation of the house at 4135 Durness Way. The house was designed by Lars Bang in 1955 for Al Schulman. An example of fine mid-century modern design at a residential scale, the house was marketed as a "tear-down" and listed as an economic mis-improvement by HCAD. With

restored systems and cosmetic improvements, the house is now home to a growing young family.

### About Houston Mod

Houston Mod is a nonprofit membership organization dedicated to promoting knowledge and appreciation of modern architecture and design in the Houston area. Houston Mod advocates the preservation of this cultural legacy and seeks support from its members and the general public in achieving this goal. Houston Mod's programs include exchange of information, documentation of cultural resources, lectures, publications, exhibitions, tours, and preservation advocacy. Houston Mod encourages all interested persons to join as members to advocate for the conservation and celebration of the modern design heritage of Houston and Texas. Founded in 2002, the organization has several hundred members and followers and has received critical acclaim in local publications including *Houston Chronicle*, *Houston Press*, *Paper City*, *Tribeza*, *Examiner* and *002 Magazine*. The group has also been noted in noted architectural journals including *Texas Architecture*, *Architectural Record*, and *Atomic Ranch*. More about Houston Mod can be found on the group's web site at [www.HoustonMod.org](http://www.HoustonMod.org)

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