

## The Results are in for Mayor's Architecture Award

By David Anderson



Homeowner Jesse Undlin

Photo David Anderson

On Tuesday December 4th The Orinda City Council awarded the first ever Mayor's Award for Excellence in Architecture to Jesse and Laura Undlin of 40 Barbara Lane. Designed by William Simpson who is also of Orinda, the Undlin's new home won among a pool of fifteen nominees and two other finalists to earn the honor.

Orinda Mayor Steve Glazer, who founded the award during his term this year, said in his statement to a

packed house Tuesday night that he and his panel were "looking for a way to recognize those who have gone the extra mile (in residential design)" and were looking for nominees whose work exemplified an improvement, "not just to their homes but to the whole neighborhood."

The Undlin residence won in large part due to the relationship of their home to the site on which it was constructed (regarded as the most important set of criteria). The second most important was 'Architectural Expression.' This 1,800 square foot multi-level home with shake siding is set back into the hillside effectively utilizing the property in the design of the home. The residence is energy efficient with a radiant floor heating system and a tankless water heater.

Mayor Pro Tem Victoria Smith describes the Undlin residence as a "small but livable home that maximizes the use of the (up sloping) lot," adding that "both the indoor and outdoor living areas are oriented so that they don't infringe on the privacy of the neighbors and the home is appropriately sized for the neighborhood."

Among the other finalists were the Logan residence at 6 Beaconsfield Court designed by Peter Golze of Berkeley and the Bott residence at 1 Dos Posos designed by Jarvis Architects of Oakland. The fifteen nominations exemplified a wide range of residential design including a Colonial Mexican Hacienda, a Mediterranean Style Villa and a modern home described by the designers as "Napa meets South of Market".