

## Mayor's Award for Excellence in Architecture, Landscape, and Environmental Sustainability—Call for Entries

By Andrea A. Firth

The City of Orinda has called for entries for the second annual Mayor's Award for Excellence in local architecture, landscape, and environmental sustainability. "Last year, we received a very positive response to the Mayor's Award in the Architecture category," notes Mayor Victoria Smith, "and we realized that the community really embraced the opportunity to reward great design projects that enhance Orinda."

The Mayor's Award for Excellence will be given to residential projects in four categories: major architecture projects (1,500 square feet or greater); minor architecture projects (interior or exterior renovation); major landscape projects; and development projects that employ environ-

mental sustainability elements. "For the architectural awards, the relationship of a project to its site and surroundings are the primary factors that will be judged," explains Mayor Smith.

"While there are many projects that are gorgeous in and of themselves, in order to maintain the wonderful natural environment of Orinda, we will really be looking to see how the projects fit the topography, maintain privacy for both the homeowner and the neighbors, and contribute to the neighborhood, all while meeting high quality architectural design standards," she adds. Having received entries only in the architectural categories last year, the City hopes residents will consider submitting entries to the landscape and environmental sus-

tainability categories as well. "In landscape we will be looking for the use of native vegetation with a mix of ornamental plantings that enhance the site's natural and man-made features. This is especially important in a drought year," says Smith. "In the environmental sustainability category, we hope to look at projects that use both high and low tech green building techniques," she adds.

Submission requirements and entry applications are available at the city website ([www.cityoforinda.com](http://www.cityoforinda.com)) and at City Hall. The deadline for entries is August 15, 2008. Winner will be announced at the City Council meeting on December 2nd, 2008.