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AWARD-WINNING ARCHITECTURAL FIRM LEVERAGES THE POWER OF HISTORICAL PRESERVATION AND ADAPTIVE REUSE DURING AN ECONOMIC SLOWDOWN

The Architectural Team earns prestigious industry awards for new residential redevelopments

Chelsea, MA, December 30, 2009 - The Architectural Team (TAT), a Boston-based firm known for its innovative approach to historic preservation and adaptive reuse—in addition to a diverse portfolio of high-end mixed use, residential, commercial, hospitality, recreation, healthcare and academia projects—was recently honored with several industry awards for the historical conversion and redevelopment of two former Massachusetts' state mental hospital sites for its client AvalonBay Communities, Inc. The multi-family residential properties, Avalon Danvers and Avalon at Lexington Hills, received recognition by the Builders Association of Greater Boston, the Multifamily Executive Magazine, and the National Association of Home Builders.

"We're honored to be lauded for our work in preserving the architectural integrity of historic properties. And we value our partnership with the developer, AvalonBay, in helping them turn what could otherwise be considered real estate headaches into sustainable and livable communities that brings about visual harmony to a haunted past," remarks Robert Verrier, founding principal and managing partner of TAT.

Avalon Danvers, a 433-unit residential property, involved the renovation of the historic Kirkbride building, which provided a stylistic template of Victorian-Gothic architecture to guide the construction of the new building's contemporary, yet understated design. The building serves as a unifying element of TAT's master plan, and the focal point for the organization of 11 new buildings, which define new landscape open spaces and brings historic context into balance on the site.

Avalon Danvers recently won a 2009 PRISM Award for *Best Rental Community "Silver"* from the Builders Association of Greater Boston; the *2009 Project of the Year in the Adaptive Reuse category* in the MFE Awards (Multifamily Executive magazine), and was also a finalist in the '*Best Community Site Plan*' category of the National Association of Home Builders Pillars of the Industry Awards.

Avalon at Lexington Hills, 387-unit residential property, involved redeveloping two historic buildings—a theatre, which now serves as the clubhouse/leasing center and is the focal point and hub for social activity of the community, and the former main hospital building. The TAT master plan arranges 10 new buildings formally

around these historic structures creating a diverse and unique neighborhood of lawns, gardens, and tree-lined streets - a pattern reminiscent of the original hospital campus.

Avalon at Lexington Hills recently won a *2009 PRISM Award for Best Rental Community "Gold"* from the Builders Association of Greater Boston, and was a finalist in the '*Best Clubhouse*' category of the National Association of Home Builders Pillars of the Industry Awards.

TAT has a long record of industry recognitions for its respectful approach to preserving historic buildings. This work stands as a testament to the firm's commitment to partner with its clients to revitalize under-utilized and often abandoned properties, while retaining the design elements that ranks the structure as historically and architecturally significant. While adaptive reuse is not a new trend, it is one that continues to provide economically viable solutions for developers who would otherwise have high-barriers of entry with new construction projects.

"TAT is well-positioned to continue its work in historical renovation and conversion design, which has successfully enabled the firm to sustain itself, and retain its design staff despite a lingering economic slowdown," adds Verrier.

Next year will mark TAT's 40th anniversary. Over the past four decades, they have been recognized as a leading firm for design excellence in historical preservation and adaptive reuse on projects throughout Massachusetts, in addition to its redevelopment and new construction portfolio. For more detailed information about The Architectural Team, and its award-winning properties, please visit www.architecturalteam.com.

About The Architectural Team

Founded in 1971, The Architectural Team, Inc. (TAT) is a 50-person architectural firm that has successfully grown through its design excellence and commitment to responsive and collaborative client relationships. TAT has developed a portfolio of distinctive design solutions, which includes a broad range of building types and programs, and has earned the firm more than 75 awards for design excellence. These include the new construction of large urban mixed-use developments, residential, commercial, hospitality, recreational, and academic facilities, as well as a national reputation in the area of historic preservation and adaptive reuse. Located on the water on Admiral's Hill in Chelsea, Massachusetts, The Architectural Team's office occupies the restored historic Commandant's House originally built in the 1840s, on the grounds of the former Chelsea Naval Hospital site. For more information please go to www.architecturalteam.com.

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