

MERITS

Five Merit Awards across four categories represent the essence of high architectural standards and design — and encouraged lively jury discussions about the role of the architect in pushing the traditions of regional design, respecting the environment, and educating, serving, and leading the public.

Written by A.C. Turman
Photos by Vance Fox

M e r i t



NAKAO RESIDENCE: A TRADITIONAL TAHOE VERNACULAR AMONG THE PINES, EXECUTED MASTERFULLY USING INDIGENOUS MATERIALS

DETAILS: Creating an elegant cabin in the pines, Dennis Zirbel, AIA, worked with his clients to design a casual, year-round vacation home that focuses on entertaining and emphasizes the home's place on the sloping site as an extension of the exterior environment. "An inviting entry reveals itself gradually upon approach, the way a forest reveals itself as one walks through a grouping of trees," Zirbel wrote in his submission material. Using natural colors and indigenous

materials, Zirbel integrated exposed structural details that take their cues from the surrounding trees, mimicking the crisscrossing of pine boughs; chunky historic detailing provides the cabin feel.

JURY COMMENTS: "It's a lovely example of the traditional Tahoe vernacular, masterfully executed ... the presentation is succinct, consistently hitting the mark."