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NY ASLA Honors Serivam Gardens' Collaborators with a 2012 Design Award for its Gardens and Urban Farm

At the 2012 American Society of Landscape Architects Design Awards Exhibition, Robin Key Landscape Architects, Enterprise Community Partners, Fordham Bedford Housing Corporation and OCV Architects were recognized for their collaboration on the gardens at Serivam.

New York, NY, April 4, 2012 – Last night at the 2012 NY ASLA Design Awards, Robin Key Landscape Architects (RKL), Enterprise Community Partners (Enterprise), Fordham Bedford Housing Corporation (FBHC) and OCV Architects (OCV) received an Honor Award in Collaborative Design for their work at Serivam Gardens, an affordable senior housing project in the Bronx. The New York Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) and the Horticultural Society of New York presented the 2012 Design Awards with an exhibition and ceremony honoring this year's winners in the areas of landscape architecture, design, and planning.

The gardens at Serivam Gardens were one of 12 pilot projects organized by *desigNYC*, a nonprofit whose mission is to improve the lives of New Yorkers through the power of design. RKL worked closely with OCV, the community at Serivam and the project developers to craft the 19,000 square foot grounds and 7,500 square foot rooftop into a series of accessible outdoor spaces that feature gathering areas, an intergenerational garden and urban farm with underlying sustainability and educational features.

Serivam Gardens is located on the Campus of Mount Saint Ursula, an all-girls Catholic high school, and offers a much needed breed of housing in New York City – quality, affordable senior housing that allows for independent living with the kinds of amenities and services geared toward their needs. OCV provided architectural services for the design and construction of the complex.

The award presented last night recognizes the growing interest and emphasis on grassroots community development. There to receive the award were Robin Key and Gareth Mahon of RKL and Esther Yang, Enterprise Rose Architectural Fellow working on the developer end. Awards, were presented by James Russell, architecture critic for *Bloomberg* and author of *The Agile City: Well-being and Wealth in an Era of Climate Change*.

In a speech to a packed exhibition room at the Horticultural Society, Mr. Russell felt that we are "entering an Olmstedian era of city beautification," referring in one breath to Fredrick Law Olmsted, co-designer of New York City's Central and Prospect Parks, and the City Beautiful movement at the turn of the last century, two pivotal forces in the development of cities and city planning.

In addition to honoring award winners, last night's event kicked off the celebration of April as Landscape Architecture Month. The exhibition of winning projects will be ongoing at the Horticultural Society through May 2, 2012.



About OCV Architects

Oaklander, Coogan & Vitto Architects, P.C. is a versatile, award-winning architectural firm serving the New York Metropolitan area for over 30 years. OCV's body of work ranges from affordable and special needs housing to high-end private residences, from gut rehabs and historic preservation to innovative new construction. Having produced over 1,000 units of residential housing, the firm regularly partners with urban housing authorities and development groups to create sustainable, attractive residences within restrictive budgets. As a member of the U.S. Green Building Council, OCV strives to bring to each design respect for a project's site, setting, history and culture, while making every effort to build responsibly and sustainably. For more on OCV please visit <http://www.ocvarch.com>.

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