Seven snag land-use awards

The New Jersey District Council of the Urban Land Institute (ULI-NNJ) honored Jerry Fitzgerald English Esq., Robert Antonicello, the Cogswell Realty Group, the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission (NJMC), New Jersey Transit (NJT), Newark Public Schools and Michael Graves, FAIA, for displaying excellence in regards to smart land use. The winners were honored Dec. 11 at an awards banquet at the Heldrich Center in New Brunswick, N.J.

Educator of the Year, Jerry Fitzgerald English Esq: English of Summit, N.J., was recognized because she has been a dedicated adjunct professor at the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) in Newark, N.J., for well over 20 years, teaching an innovative graduate course in environmental problem-solving.

Robert Antonicello, Public Official of the Year: Antonicello of Jersey City, N.J., was recognized for his outstanding work as executive director of the state’s oldest and largest municipal redevelopment agency, the Jersey City Redevelopment Agency (JCPRA).

Project of the Year, Eleven80 in Newark: Eleven80 in Newark is a 35-story former Art Deco office building that was converted in 2007 by Cogswell Realty Group into the first market-rate housing in downtown Newark in more than 40 years. The completely renovated landmark building now features 316 upscale rental homes.

New Jersey Meadowlands Commission (NJMC), Special Recognition for Public Policy: The NJMC was honored for its educational initiatives as the zoning and planning agency for a 30.4-square-mile area along the Hackensack River covering parts of 14 municipalities in Bergen and Hudson Counties.

New Jersey Transit (NJT) - Hudson-Bergen Light Rail, Special Recognition for Infrastructure: The NJT Hudson-Bergen Light Rail is one of the largest public works projects ever built in New Jersey and connects the cities of Bayonne, Jersey City, Hoboken, Weehawken, Union City and North Bergen.

First Avenue School in Newark, Special Recognition for Sustainable Development: Newark’s First Avenue School was recognized in the Sustainable Development category for its sustainable design. The school features a state-of-the-art auditorium, cafeteria with a cooking kitchen, instrumental and choral music room, humanities room, technology lab, media center, community health center, science labs, art room equipped with a kiln and gym with girls’ and boys’ locker rooms and showers, as well as an underground parking garage for staff.

Award for Lifetime Achievement, Michael Graves, FAIA: Michael Graves of Princeton, N.J., was honored for being in the forefront of architectural design since he founded his practice in Princeton in 1964. He is an influential theorist as well as a diversified and prolific designer. Since the early 1980s, his work has directly influenced the transformation of urban architecture from the abstraction of commercial modernism toward an interest in context.