Monticello receives stewardship award

THE Thomas Jefferson Foundation’s preservation and restoration work at Monticello has been recognized by the Institute of Classical Architecture & Classical America.

The Foundation was presented the 2010 Arthur Ross Award in the category of Stewardship on May 3 at ICA&CA’s awards ceremony and dinner in New York.

The Arthur Ross Awards were established in 1982 by Classical America’s chairman of the board, Arthur Ross, and its president, Henry Hope Reed, to recognize and celebrate excellence in the classical tradition. From the beginning, the awards have recognized the achievements and contributions of architects, painters, sculptors, artisans, landscape designers, educators, publishers, patrons, and others dedicated to preserving and advancing the classical tradition, especially in the United States.

Each year, ICA&CA’s Arthur Ross Jury selects five recipients for awards from among 10 categories. Receiving 2010 awards in addition to Monticello were Historical Concepts of Peachtree City, Ga., for Architecture; Fondation de Coubertin/Saint-Jacques Artisans Workshops of Saint-Rémy-lès-Cheverueuse, France, and Chicago for Artsmanship; Sanchez & Maddux of Palm Beach, Fla., for Landscape Architecture; and Boyd Reath of New York for Painting/Mural Painting.

Additionally, a special Board of Directors Honor was presented to Calder Loth of Richmond, the recently retired senior architectural historian at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

The Arthur Ross Award for Stewardship recognizes the preservation, upkeep, and maintenance of an existing entity over time. Monticello’s entry for the award included an overview of all restoration and preservation work undertaken by the Thomas Jefferson Foundation since its purchase of the property in 1923 plus detailed accounts of major projects, such as the replacement of Monticello’s roof (1991–92), the installation of Jefferson’s Venetian porches (1998–99), and the restoration of the North Dependencies’ original stone walls (2003–07).

“This award is not only a great honor, it is a tribute to the many, many dedicated people who have worked so hard over the years to preserve, protect, and restore Jefferson’s truly unique creation,” said TJF President Leslie Greene Bowman.

Recent recipients of the Arthur Ross Award for Stewardship have been the Biltmore Estate of Asheville, N.C., in 2005, the Central Park Conservancy of New York in 2006, the New York-based World Monuments Fund in 2007, and the Committee to Save the City of Charleston, S.C., in 2008.

The Institute of Classical Architecture & Classical America was established in 2002 through the merger of two organizations founded in 1991 and 1968, respectively. It is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing the classical tradition in architecture, urbanism, and their allied arts though education, publication, and advocacy. Based in New York, the ICA&CA has 14 chapters located across the country.