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Santa Barbara, Calif. – An assemble of attached homes reminiscent of an European village received top honors at the 43rd annual Golden Nugget Awards, the nation’s longest-running program aimed to recognize the best architectural design and land use planning for residential, commercial and industrial projects.

Las Palmas Viejas – a 12-unit infill project – was named a Gold Nugget Grand Award winner for best attached housing project under 18 units per acre for sale. The prize was awarded during a June 22 black tie gala at the Pacific Coast Builders Convention (PCBC) at the Moscone Center in San Francisco.

Las Palmas Viejas was completed in May by Santa Barbara-based SBC Builders Inc., a firm whose president is a former partner in Kinko's and who formerly owned the development company that built over five million square feet of retail space for Kinko’s prior to its acquisition by FedEx.

“To be chosen from the hundreds of entries across 14 Western states is a terrific honor and serves as a reminder that outstanding design, architecture, and execution are the ingredients that produce something special like Las Palmas Viejas” said Bob Burns, president of SBC Builders Inc.

In selecting Las Palmas Viejas for the award, Golden Nugget judges noted, “This project pulls off the sort of charming, European village sensibility that many with far fewer site constraints have tried- and failed- to achieve.”

Designed by ON Design Architects of Santa Barbara, Las Palmas Viejas was patterned after the Spanish villages Mr. Burns often visited when working as a consultant in Spain. The development exudes fine detail including hand-wrought iron, Mediterranean tiles, light fixtures from Morocco, and whimsical chimney tops that mimic agave plants. Photographs and project detail can be viewed at www.sbcbuilders.com.

In addition to the PCBC Grand Award, Las Palmas Viejas was awarded the 2006 Award of Merit for Outstanding Planning by the Central Coast Chapter of the American Planning Association.

Founded in 1963, the Golden Nugget competition is sponsored by PCBC and BUILDER magazine. The competition is open to builders, architects and developers in 14 Western states and – new for 2006 – open to all international entries. The awards recognize the real estate world's most distinguished architectural and planning achievements.

Known upon its inception as “Best In The West,” the Golden Nugget competition is not a marketing competition, but a contest that weighs the aesthetic merit, innovation and effectiveness in design and planning of a development. Gold Nugget winners share one common denominator: excellence and innovation in addressing complex design/build issues.

Gold Nugget judges are renowned for integrity and diversity. Panels always include some of the finest architects, planners and builders in the industry. Nationally recognized marketing and market research consultants, publishers and senior editors complete the roster each year, ensuring fair attention and analysis for each entrant.

SBC Builders Inc. is managed by Bob Burns, the former president of Kinko’s Construction, the firm that built and developed over 1,000 Kinko’s stores around the globe from the late 1980s to the early 2000s.

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