



VOICES AND VISIONS

4th Annual Chrysler Award For Innovation In Design

Mack Scogin & Merrill Elam

When Mack Scogin and Merrill Elam met as undergraduates at Georgia Tech, they did what most talented minds in their chosen field tend to do: discuss architecture. Neither of them, however, could have imagined their conversation would continue over the next 35 years. That is, over 35 years, countless projects, two firms, and one wedding. After working together at Heery and Heery Architects, they opened their Atlanta-based firm of Scogin, Elam and Bray in 1984. A few of the celebrated projects created by the namesake shop include the High Museum at Georgia-Pacific Center, House Chmar, and the Buckhead Branch Library. Recently, the pair was approached to construct a pavilion located in historic downtown Atlanta. Originally conceived as a cultural meeting ground for the visitors of the 1996 Summer Olympics, the open-air pavilion was also seen as a gift to the city of Atlanta itself. "We wanted it to stand as a symbol of the can-do attitude that has permeated Atlanta's civic and business personality. **At its heart lies the notion of the Phoenix rising up from the ashes of the civil war,**" says Scogin. The space of the Pavilion is defined by a "great wooden cloud or canopy that welcomes and shades." At night, interior artificial lights allow the structure to seemingly glow from within. The pair synthesized regional products, such as southern yellow pine, with more sophisticated technological innovations to reflect Atlanta's hybrid of technology and tradition. While never realized, Scogin and Elam believe the Pavilion stands as "an outright, blatant celebration of structure and form, an explosion of emotion and energy."

