

McShane's Home Delivery

Casa Morelos, Casa Maravilla Take CISCO Award

BY SAIQA MALIK

With a reputation for exceptional talent who complete daunting construction tasks since opening in 1984, McShane Construction Company doesn't need awards to prove itself to current and future clients.

That being said, they're always nice to have.

The Casa Morelos and Casa Maravilla project is one of the most recent examples of that commitment to excellence and was recognized as such by CISCO (Construction Industry Service Corporation), which named it Project of the Year in Residential Construction for 2010. The honor was part of CISCO's 2010 Pride in Construction Award Program.

"We take on challenging tasks because we can provide the necessary expertise," said McShane Construction Company Executive Vice President Mark T. Tritschler.

The feeling of accomplishment is never complete without mentioning the obstacles encountered, and this project was no exception. One of the foremost challenges was the access to the site since there was an existing building between the construction site and the path to deliverables.

"It was like building in the city's downtown due to the tight site considerations," Tritschler stated. "The transportation of materials to the site was not easy but we found the way around it."

A \$25.2 million, two building development located in Chicago's Pilsen neighborhood is an admirable model of today's architectural innovation. Casa Morelos includes 45 units of affordable housing apartments at 2015 S. Morgan Street, while Casa Maravilla's 73 senior-living units are located at 2021 S. Morgan Street.

The installation of geothermal heating in the Casa Maravilla building was another major piece of the project, as a part of



Pilsen's Casa Morelos affordable housing complex completed by McShane Construction Company.

McShane's unwavering 'green' building effort and in compliance with the Chicago Green Homes Program.

"We always encourage the people we work with to think 'green' as a part of being good citizens," said Tritschler, adding that the geothermal aspects of the project set it apart in both energy efficiency and design.

"Geothermal technology provides cost effective heating and cooling, and with the continued increase in energy costs, the savings can be substantial," said Megan Brody, Senior Marketing Communications Coordinator of The McShane Companies. "We are seeing long-term owners, such as the Resurrection Project, incorporating these systems into new and renovated buildings."

Tritschler also mentioned that due to financial consideration in a senior community it is important to build cost effective structures. Since the rents at Casa Morelos will incorporate the utility bills, those costs will go down over time with the use of geothermal technology, ultimately resulting in a lower operating expenditure.

The Resurrection Project, a community-based nonprofit, is the owner of both residential complexes.

"The client believed in our work and gave us a second project," Tritschler said, referring to Casa Morelos after the

completion of Casa Maravilla. "We all like to be appreciated, so the award from CISCO is a great compliment to our team. They did a tremendous job."

In addition to the award, the project team received a strong endorsement from Guacolda Reyes, the Vice President for Community Development at The Resurrection Project.

"We are very impressed with the work McShane has done and the attention they have paid to our request," Reyes said. "They finished the project on time and within budget, which is very important. They did everything the right way and the results are just phenomenal."

The Resurrection Project is serving as the owner's representative for the Instituto Health Science Career Academy and recently tapped McShane Construction for the completion of this new charter school assignment. The construction for this unique secondary school, located in Chicago's Pilsen neighborhood, recently broke ground with Governor Pat Quinn, Senator Richard Durbin, State Senate Tony Munoz, State Representative Edward Acevedo, Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle and Alderman Daniel Solis, among others, in attendance. The educational facility will support students seeking careers in the healthcare and science industries.