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LOS ANGELES'S ARCHITECTURAL COMMUNITY DESIGNS STUNNING SHELTERS FOR OUTDOOR CATS (IMAGES INCLUDED)

Architects for Animals® "Giving Shelter" Event to Benefit Local Nonprofit FixNation

LOS ANGELES, CALIF (MARCH 14, 2016) – One of Los Angeles' most innovative design events—Architects for Animals® "Giving Shelter" exhibit—returned to the HermanMiller Showroom in Culver City on Thursday, March 10th, 2016. The sold out event was a fundraiser for the LA-based nonprofit FixNation, which provides free spay and neuter services for the city's legions of homeless cats.

Architects for Animals® invited LA's top architecture and design firms to build and donate creative and functional outdoor dwellings for cats. Shelters were displayed at a unique cocktail reception attended by the public, VIPs and media representatives. Kate Benjamin, the co-author of *Catify to Satisfy* and *Catification* (written with Animal Planet cat behaviorist Jackson Galaxy), was also on hand to sign books and host the Hauspanther Style Lounge, featuring stylish cat-centric designs, new products and home décor ideas. Also on display—nearly two dozen community cat food bowls decorated by feline-loving celebrities, including Jay Leno, Betty White, Beau Bridges and Kristin Bauer, which are now available for purchase via an online auction.

Participating design firms this year included Abramson Teiger Architects; CallisonRTKL; DSH // architecture; the team of Formation Association, Arktura, BuroHappold; HOK; Knowhow Shop; Lehrer Architects; Perkins and Will; RNL; Pfeiffer Partners Architects; Standard Architecture | Design; and the team of Warren Office + Schmidt Designs.

The breadth of designs was remarkable. Some of the designs on display incorporated items such as built-in feeding bowls, toy mice, and even an actual fishbowl (complete with fish); others were accompanied by a video showing cats interacting with the shelters, an added touch that really brought the projects to life.

"That was the best part for me, seeing how these incredible shelters can be translated for the real world and utilized by homeless cats," noted one guests. "It really raises awareness about the issue and the need for compassionate programs like those FixNation provides."

"These cat shelters are absolutely remarkable," says FixNation's Executive Director Karn Myers, who co-founded the organization nearly ten years ago with her attorney husband Mark Dodge. "Some of the most talented architects and designers in the city participated, creating innovative shelters that will not only help raise awareness about the plight of homeless cats, but also provide practical and humane solutions that can be implemented throughout our community."

Los Angeles is home to one of the nation's largest populations of homeless cats—an estimated one to three million animals. FixNation is a model for successful Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) initiatives and humane colony management programs across the country.

“Many communities use lethal methods in an attempt to control the population of stray, abandoned and feral cats. Such methods are not only horribly cruel, they simply don’t work,” explains Myers. “We founded FixNation because we believe TNR is a much more effective and compassionate alternative. Our mission is to manage colonies of homeless ‘community cats’ and gradually reduce their number through sterilization programs.”

About FixNation

FixNation is an award-winning Los Angeles-based nonprofit organization that supports Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) programs for homeless cats. The organization provides a free full-time spay/neuter clinic for homeless cats as well as affordable spay/neuter services for pet cats. FixNation’s programs have successfully sterilized more than 125,000 cats to date. For more information, please visit fixnation.org.

About Architects for Animals®

Architects for Animals® plans one-night events benefiting select animal welfare organizations. Participating architecture and design firms as well as individual architects and designers design, build and donate creative outdoor shelters to provide animals with refuge from the elements. Additional details can be found at architectsforanimals.com.

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