

Redevelopment project takes top award

■ *Bricklight' win based on economic impact, aesthetic quality*

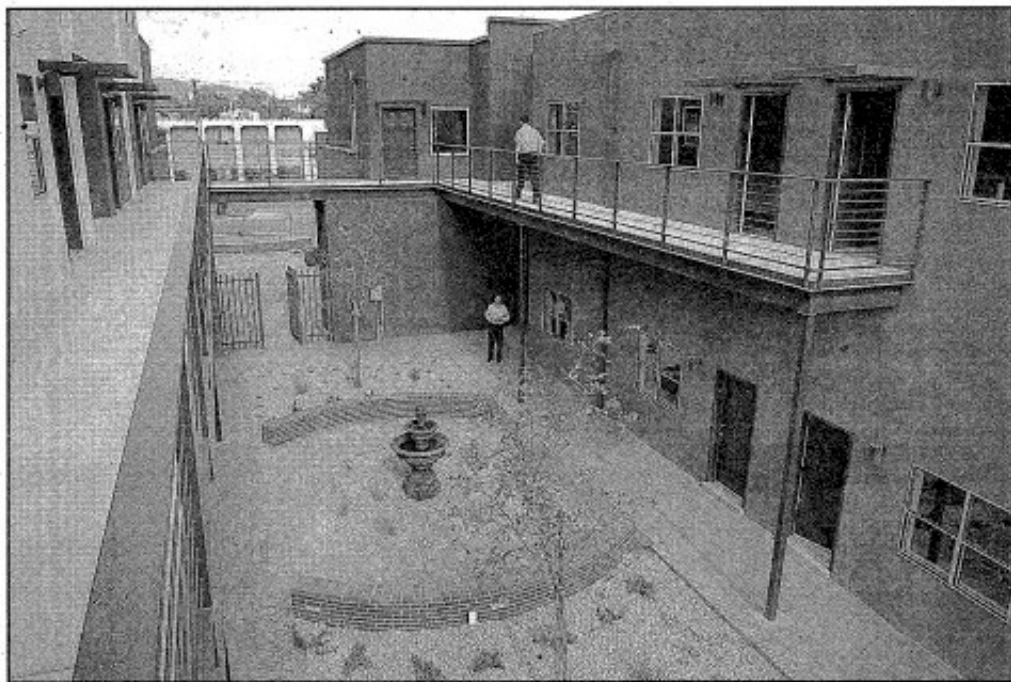
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Bricklight Courtyards, a mixed-used redevelopment project near the University of New Mexico, got the top award at the annual Virtual Tour held last week.

The two- and three-story, 41,900-square-foot project at 115 Harvard SE was recognized with the Award of Excellence from the New Mexico chapter of Certified Commercial Investment Members, a national commercial real estate organization.

Key players in the Bricklight project are the development team of Rich Diller, Kino James, Allen Lewis and Jay Rembe; Mullen Heller Architects and Enterprise Builders. The project, which has 46 apartments and 7,200 square feet of retail space, opened two months ago and is 85 percent leased.

Bricklight won the award based on aesthetic quality,



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Bricklight Courtyards, shown here in June shortly before it opened, was named the metro's top commercial real estate project at the 2008 Virtual Tour.

complexity, economic impact, barriers to overcome and originality. Past winners of the award include the 225,000-square-foot retail phase of ABQ Uptown and the stylish

remake of the former YesterDave's restaurant into the Savoy Bar & Grill in the Northeast Heights.

A record crowd of more than 650 people attended the Virtual Tour, a video

presentation of commercial real estate projects costing at least \$400,000 and built to the point of having finished exteriors as of May 30. The presentation was held Wednesday at the Embassy

Suites.

This year's tour had 74 properties, compared with 86 in 2007 and 83 in 2006. The combined value of the 74 properties is \$228 million, said Chris McKee of Grubb & Ellis New Mexico, chairman of the 36-member 2008 Virtual Tour Committee.

Also participating in last week's tour presentation were CCIM chapter President Debbie Harms of Sun Vista Enterprises and Steve Karman of Wells Fargo Bank. The theme was "New Mexico's Most Popular Tour Game, patterned after the Parker" Brothers board game Monopoly.

The tour traces back to an all-day bus tour in the 1990s. In 2000, it switched to a video presentation that has become more sophisticated each year.

The chapter has no one lined up for the time-consuming job of heading the committee for the 2009 Virtual Tour. Anyone interested in volunteering should call McKee at 880-7020.