



AIA New England Regional Council

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release, 21 October 2017

Contact: Bonnie Kastel, Executive Director, AIANH (603) 501-1881

Photos of the award winners are on the AIA New England website: www.aianewengland.org.

Hi-Res photos available from the AIA New Hampshire office, bkastel@aianh.org or Carolyn Isaak, AIA New England Executive Director, c.isaak@aianewengland.org.

New England Region of the American Institute of Architects 2017 Design Awards Winners

Portsmouth, NH – Seven Honor Awards, six Merit Awards, and twelve Citation Awards were announced October 20 for the 2017 AIA New England Regional Design Awards (American Institute of Architects New England Region), hosted this year by AIA New Hampshire at 3S Artspace in Portsmouth, NH. 275 entries were submitted for consideration. Submissions to the competition were accepted from New England firms for projects located anywhere in the world, and from firms outside New England for buildings located in the region. Architecture firms from Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, and Vermont were among the winners. Winning projects are represented in all six New England states; others are located in Philadelphia, PA; Cleveland, OH; Missoula, MT; Bridgehampton, NY; Sarasota FL; Galway, Ireland; and the Misungwi District of Tanzania.

The jury consisted of chair, Sameer Kumar, AIA, LEED AP, Director of Enclosure Design at SHoP, New York; Rashida Ng, Chair of Architecture Dept. and Assoc. Professor at Temple University; and, Mark Sanderson AIA, Principal, DIGSAU, Philadelphia. The jury started with a matrix of characteristics they might judge by, but that was quickly put aside in favor of discussion of what was really important about each project. Issues that came up again and again were: does the project demonstrate its sense of purpose, does it read at a depth of scales, and does it show restraint – control of the particular architectural language in use? Another major determining factor was how the project told its story – those that were clear about the problem, how it was solved and that articulated the solution process were much more legible. The question of style did come up and the jury grappled with what their style bias might be. In the end they decided that, irrespective of style or beauty, the recognized projects all exhibited some aspect of practice that is important today – they solved a problem in a way that either advanced technology, design thinking or a way of practicing.

HONOR AWARDS

The Fencade, Missoula, MT

Hisel Flynn Architects, Ltd., Arlington, MA – Design Architect

Moretti Architecture, Missoula, MT – Architect of Record

Jury Comments: *This was a big hit with all of us jurors. Starting from the need for a fence, to the use of*

reclaimed wood, to the creating of a humane street frontage, and finally accommodating a community service, a bus stop, is perfect on so many levels. The secondary references, like the fact that this is meant for a company that sells recycled material or the choice of riffing off the form of barns which too are storage spaces, adds more layers to the meaning that this inventive project creates. We commend the design team for seeing beyond the obvious and returning to this project and the community with more than what was asked.

Firehouse 12 Addition, New Haven, CT

Gray Organschi Architecture, New Haven, CT

Jury Comments: This is a great example of renovation of an older building, which is subtle on the outside but rich on the inside. We were intrigued by the beautifully inventive building section. The use of mass timber, the ambitiousness of the sculptural stair, the use of skylights, each of these are masterful strokes within a highly constrained site. We believe this project exemplifies the best of craft, problem solving and space making.

Gustafson Center, Southern New Hampshire University

Perry Dean Rogers Partners Architects, Boston, MA

Jury Comments: The jury appreciated the clarity of the architectural idea and the skill by which it has been materialized. We know how difficult it is to operate within the constraints of university budgets. This project seems to have pushed these limits to create spaces that go beyond defined program. The soaring exterior room enclosed by the slatted screen is impressive in its vision... it is such moves that separates great architecture from everything else.

Memorial Church, Cambridge, Massachusetts

Payette, Boston, MA

Jury Comments: The jury found this to be an exemplary historic preservation project with a high level of skill and control. We loved the way it knits together new and old in an effective and sensitive way. We can only imagine how complex it must be to conceal all the new infrastructure in the old sanctuary while preserving its beauty. The lowering of the ground plane to provide access and light to the lower level spaces is extremely effective and successful move. What better way to extend a building than to rediscover spaces that already exist within it!

Asian Art Study Center at the Ringling Museum of Art, Sarasota, Florida

Machado Silvetti, Boston, MA

Jury Comments: The jury appreciated how this addition was clearly positioned in contrast to the existing building. The deep involvement and care of the team with the craft of making of the façade is the perfect counterpoint to the starkness of the form. The ease with which the project uses bold color, both inside and outside, adds to a masterful but restrained palette of architectural moves. The project touches upon so many issues surrounding contextuality while it chooses to create a very distinct "other".

Milembe Secondary School Science Labs, Misungwi District, Tanzania

Scattergood Design, Portland, ME

Jury Comments: The jury found this to be first and foremost, a very handsome piece of architecture, skillfully assembled with respect for its immediate environment. A well-integrated use of passive systems

and local materials help control the costs, both initial and recurring. Above all, the social purpose of the project and the care that the design team brought to it is highly commended. We would like to acknowledge the diversity in practice and the contexts in which we choose to build.

Wellesley Residence, Wellesley, MA

GO Logic, Belfast, ME

Jury Comments: The simple forms and crisp detailing on the interior are a delight to observe however, we found that the strongest aspect of this project is in its strategy to deal with the car garage. This project really takes on the challenge of addressing the typical suburban garage and the non-pedestrian friendly arrival it imposes on the house. The successful achievement of a highly energy efficient, eclectic and livable home sets this project apart from several of its peers. This project proves for us that genius can emerge out of and live in the commonplace everyday life.

MERIT AWARDS

Biosciences Research Building, Galway, Ireland Payette, Boston, MA – Design Architect

Reddy Architecture and Urbanism, Dublin, Ireland – Architect of Record

Jury comments: What we loved about this building the most is how well it performs at multiple scales. While it is simple formally, it has layers of detail that comes into view as one gets closer to the project. It is also very ambitious in how it pushes the envelope of “green design”, without leaving behind other aspects of good architecture. The clarity in developing programmatic differences based on energy use is one of the several features that make this a very good example of a truly integrated building.

Chilmark House, Chilmark, MA

Gray Organschi Architecture, New Haven, CT with Aaron Schiller, New York, NY

Jury Comments: We appreciate the way the house engages the site on all sides; its placement also reduces the scale of very large house. Dramatic contrast between dark wood of exterior and lightness of the interior. Interesting interpretation of a traditional form and appreciate the way the scale is reduced on approach.

Penobscot Bay Island Community Collaborations, Multiple islands, Penobscot Bay, Maine

McLeod Kredell Architects, Middlebury, VT

Jury Comments: Another project with a strong sense of community development and collaboration. This is a project that unfolded over 5 years, a collaboration between a firm, students and different communities working together. We recognize it for both, its process working within some serious constraints on remote island sites and the inventive forms that were its results.

Scituate Town Library, Scituate, MA

Oudens Ello Architecture, Boston, MA

Jury Comments: This is another example of a difficult transformation of an older building, executed sensitively and skillfully. We found that the section tells the story of how the renovation transforms the user experience while respecting the character of the existing building. This project transcends the question of style and returns to the community a warm and enriched community space.

Grove House, Bridgehampton, New York

Roger Ferris + Partners, Westport, CT

Jury Comments: *The jury appreciated the restraint and economy of expression on this project. We had a lot of discussion about the site response... but the project shines as a free-standing object in a field. The simplest, the most minimal expressions are the most difficult to achieve and this project exemplifies a high level of skill in that regard. It is exquisitely detailed.*

SGI New England Buddhist Center, Brookline, MA

Touloukian Touloukian Inc, Boston, MA

Jury Comments: *We loved both the challenge that this project took on and the solution that was achieved. The transformation of the “Darth Vader building” into a brightly lit, comfortable space through the use of existing skylights but new finishes is impressive. It is finely tuned for a community interested in contemplation and quiet.... This project proposes an innovative model for engaging with the emerging architectural community, which we appreciate.*

Boston Public Library, East Boston Branch, Boston, MA

William Rawn Associates, Architects, Inc., Boston, MA

Jury Comments: *We saw this as a project that successfully created a “diverse community under one roof”... the big idea being the roof. The use of lenticular trusses and overall restraint ensures that the main architectural ideas shine and create a well-lit, inviting space.*

South Water Street Revisited, Edgartown Village Historic District, MA

Patrick Ahearn Architect LLC, Boston, MA

Jury Comments: *We found this addition to a historic house was an excellent interpretation of the traditional. The addition retains the scale on the street, which is appreciated. It feels like a very livable, inviting and warm home.*

The Cleveland Clinic, Taussig Cancer Center, Cleveland, OH

William Rawn Associates, Architects, Inc., Boston, MA – Design Architect

Stantec Architecture, Cleveland, OH – Architect of Record

Jury Comments: *We appreciated the thoughtful approach to a set of dehumanizing experiences. The “perimeter for the patients” concept suggests a design that is less about the form and more about the experience – in particular the infusion rooms along the exterior is great. It is refreshing to see the emphasis on natural light as an orienting feature, which is unusual for hospitals.*

Woodshed, Pomfret, VT

Birdseye Design, Richmond, VT

Jury Comments: *We really liked how this house is sited sideways along the hill. It may sound a bit counter-intuitive but it really works well in this case. The interior shots were the most unexpected... playful and a contrast to the relatively austere exterior. A well assembled set of ideas!*

CITATION AWARDS

Boston Public Library, Johnson Building Transformation, Boston, MA

William Rawn Associates, Architects, Inc., Boston, MA

Jury Comments: *Projects involving Reconditioning or rehabilitating of an existing building are specially challenging owing to a greater set of constraints imposed by existing conditions. The jury was impressed by the successful attempt to creating an inclusive community space, an “Urban Room” by connecting the street with the central reading spaces within the library and allowing substantial visual and physical access across the street face.*

Gap Cove House, Rockport, MA

Ruhl Walker Architects, Boston, MA

Jury Comments: *The main story here is the resiliency move: taking the existing and lifting it up! Such a simple but strong idea! Most impressive is the “found” space below is a wonderful space, a beach cave!*

Health Yoga Life, Cambridge, MA

BOS|UA, Boston, MA

Jury Comments: *This is a little gem of a project... We loved how the knotty pine element is a façade, a space divider and furniture, all at the same time. The success at getting so much out of a simple, economical move is inspiring.*

Bayside Anchor Apartments, Portland, ME

Kaplan Thompson Architects, Portland, ME

Jury Comments: *This was one of the most hotly debated projects among the jury! We appreciate the taking on and successfully executing the challenge of Passive House in an affordable housing project. We also get that Passive House lends itself to a box, though it was hard to get over the green!*

House on an Island, Great Cranberry Island, ME

Elliott + Elliott architecture, Blue Hill, ME

Jury Comments: *We were impressed by how humble and livable this house is... That courtyard, created by moving the porch away from the living space, is remarkable. The resulting outdoor deck is both private and intimate.*

Mixed Metals, Philadelphia, PA

ISA, Cambridge, MA

Jury Comments: *Another project that generated a lot of discussion! We really liked how the main street façade, in spite of being in metal, successfully achieves a residential feel at an urban scale. We also like how, in contrast, the other façade, which is on a smaller street, breaks down into smaller masses offering differentiation to individual houses. We appreciate the boldness of material use though we were conflicted about the use of multiple materials on the same plane.*

Rajen Kilachand Center for Integrated Life Sciences & Engineering, Boston, MA

Payette, Boston, MA

Jury Comments: *There are interesting moves here both at a detail level as well as an urban level. It is a*

successful example of what could have been a relatively stark, glassy volume but has been rendered urbane and humane through the careful use of formal and material choices like the earthy fins, small notches, a plaza etc. The decision to bring the copper from the neighboring building to the entrance is really nice.

The STAR Outdoor Classroom, Northfield, VT

Norwich University 802 Lab, Norwich, VT

Jury Comments: We commend this project based on the exemplary fact that it brought together three generations of architects together: past students (professionals), current students and future students.

Photos of the award winners are on the AIA New England website: www.aianewengland.org.