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The pursuit of beauty is one of architecture’s highest callings, and one reason why many of us have dedicated ourselves to the profession. Defining and creating beauty, however, can be an elusive task. The architectural process has many varied and potential pitfalls, but after all that a project must undergo to come to fruition, obtaining recognition by a jury of your peers can be equally challenging.

The world places many demands on its architects, and the rewards we earn are not always substantial. In this environment it is important that we take time to recognize the excellence for which we, as members of AIA, collectively strive.

The fifty-one year old archive of the Design Excellence Awards program is a living history of our chapter’s view of the world, our take on current industry trends, and a reflection of our social priorities and our corresponding design responses over time. This year AIA Chicago adds forty-one new winners to its storied history of Design Excellence Awards, and I can safely say that the winning does not come easy. The process of executing any good project requires an enlightened owner, a rigorous architectural and engineering team and a deftly managed construction crew, but even the benefit of such a team does not guarantee a successful or award-winning outcome. The process of executing a project worthy of excellence is far less tangible. This special edition is our yearly testament to the extreme dedication and art of those few projects and the teams behind them that reach the level we deem excellent.

The teams that define architectural beauty for us each year are our design award juries. They are selected to be diverse geographically and ethnically, as well as by gender and design backgrounds. This year’s juries were no exception. They worked hard, endured lengthy deliberation, and in the end selected a fine set of projects that represent the best thought and design recently accomplished in Chicago. I thank each of them for their dedication to the art of design and for their imprint on the legacy of this award program.

Our award program this year recognizes our best local architects, but is also meant to be a tribute to the fine architecture in Chicago being done by architects living outside of our city. For the first time, beginning this year, the Design Excellence program is open to them. It is the goal of AIA Chicago to recognize all the great work in the city and to have that greatness become the new threshold for excellence in design. Another new feature of this year’s awards is the addition of the Urban Design Award. This award will rotate with the Sustainable Design Award and Unbuilt Design Award, on a yearly basis, or as demand and circumstances dictate.

One last change to our program was to extend the eligibility timeframe for projects. Our hope is that these changes will invigorate and expand the potential for this program in future years.

Chicago architects are producing some of the nation’s finest work, and I hope this issue is an adequate tribute to their accomplishments. This year’s Design Excellence Award winners constitute the finest work in our city, accomplished through the hard work of many owners, contractors, and architects with the able assistance of their engineers, consultants and photographers. I hope you will join me in congratulating all of this year’s Design Excellence Award winners.

Thank you.

Peter Schlossman, AIA
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The Distinguished Building Award was established 51 years ago to recognize significant achievements in the planning, design and execution of recent building projects. Projects are eligible if they were completed between January 1, 2001, and May 1, 2006.

111 S. Wacker
Chicago, IL

Architect – Goettsch Partners
Client – The John Buck Company
Contractor – Bovis Lend Lease
Consultants – Magnuson Klemencic Associates (Structural); Hill Mechanical (HVAC Design-Build); Gibson Electric (Electrical Design-Build); Consentini Lighting (Lighting Design)

The pedestrian experience exposes the multi-faceted aspects of the 53-story, 1.5 million-square-foot office tower design: the functional requirements of the parking ramp; the transparency of the lobby enclosure that reveals the marble walls; the 80-foot column spacing that allows the building to seemingly hover above the lobby; and the steel-and-glass curtain wall above. The design of the lobby evolved out of the need to incorporate a parking ramp to bring cars from the street to the third floor. Jurors were impressed by the innovative enclosure. “They have taken the inside and brought it outside. The transparency of the base is second to none,” commented a juror. Based on its sustainable design initiatives, 111 S. Wacker was certified LEED-CS Gold in 2005.
Passenger Terminal Complex, Suvarnabhumi Airport
Bangkok, Thailand

Honor Award

Architect – Murphy/Jahn
Assoc. Architect/Engineer – ACT Consultants Co., Ltd.
Client – New Bangkok International Airport Co., Ltd.
Contractor – ITO Joint Venture (Italian-Thai Development; Takenaka Corp., Obayashi Corp.)
Consultants – TAMS Consultants/Earth Tech (Special Systems); John A. Martin & Associates, Inc. (Design Engineers); Martin/Martin, Inc. (Steel Superstructure); Werner Sobek Ingenieure GmbH (Steel Work/Façade); Flack + Kurtz Consulting Engineers (Mechanical/Electrical/Plumbing); Transsolar Energietechnik GmbH (Climate and Environmental); Yann Kersalé, AIK Expeditions Lumière (Lighting Designer); BNP Associates, Inc. (Baggage Consultant)

"Does it say 'Gateway to Thailand'? – Yes," commented one juror. "Leafy roof forms protect you from the sun and it provides a beautiful way to get from one end of the space to the other." Another juror said, "This project innovates. The designers have taken something and made it unexpected. It inserts a garden into the program that is interpreted as poetic." A large roof trellis structure placed over the complex of functionally separate buildings unifies the site and provides the predominant architectural image as approached from the landside. Designed to accommodate future growth of the terminal pavilion, the trellis shades the structures below from direct sunlight, thereby reducing mechanical loads. Outdoor spaces between the buildings are also shaded by the roof trellis and provide landscaped courtyards, useful for pedestrians and a visual amenity for the passengers in the terminal above.
Kresge Foundation Headquarters
Troy, MI

Honor Award
Architect – Valerio Dewalt Train
Associate Architect – Farr Associates
Client – The Kresge Foundation
Contractor – JM Olson Corporation
Consultant – Robert Darvas Associates

The beautifully scaled and detailed addition is designed to integrate into a seamless whole. The addition to these 19th century farm buildings connects the natural and the manmade and is a model of sustainable design for the nonprofit organizations that apply for Kresge challenge grants. The jury said “traditional modernism intersects and coalesces with a farm house and its natural landscape. It is on such an intimate scale – so controlled, so beautiful, like interlocking panels.”
This residence reflects the rugged terrain of the High Sonoran desert in Scottsdale, Arizona. Concrete walls blend with the earth; steel beams reflect the power and color of nearby rock outcroppings. Interior spaces seamlessly transition to exterior decks that function as canopies. Photovoltaic cells are suspended in the cantilevers to screen the interior from the desert sun while creating electricity to power the home. The jury said “It is kind of raw, which is appropriate to its desert setting. The photovoltaics are deployed elegantly—the first time I’ve ever seen that.”
Virginia Beach Convention Center
Virginia Beach, VA

Citation of Merit
Architect – Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP
Associate Architect – Clark-Nexsen (Civil, Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing)
Client – City of Virginia Beach
Contractor – Turner Construction Company
Consultants – Shen Milsom & Wilke, Inc. (Acoustical, Telecommunications); The Office of James Burnett (Landscape Design); Calori & Vanden-Eynden, Ltd. (Graphic Design); Kroll Security Services Group (Security Systems); Cini-Little International (Food Services); PHA Lighting Design (Special Lighting); HH Angus & Associates (Vertical Transportation)

The design expresses the past, present and future of the region, evoking imagery reflective of the region's nautical environment: lighthouses, salt marshes, naval vessels and the 21st century jets that fly overhead. The building integrates indoor and outdoor spaces, juxtaposing natural elements with technological innovations in structure, systems and light sources. One juror said, "The project is rigorous, thoughtful, exuberant, exciting; very inviting and democratic – it encourages you to go into it."

838 W. Webster
Chicago, IL

Citation of Merit
Architect – DeStefano and Partners, Ltd.
Client – withheld
Contractor – Goldberg General Contracting
Consultants – Building Engineer Systems (MEP); Charter Sills (Lighting Consultant); Rubinos & Mesia Engineers, Inc. (Structural Engineers)

This townhouse, recognized by jurors as a "creative, sensitive urban infill project," reconciles the practical demands for a city house on a busy urban street with the kind of fluid, open planning characteristic of the case study houses of the 60's and 70's. While making a bold public statement to the street, the house is actually inwardly focused around a courtyard with all major spaces on the ground floor opening directly onto the central outdoor space. The house's materiality marries both brick and painted metal and this mix of indigenously urban materials was noticed by the jurors. One juror noted, "There is an interesting creative juxtaposition and reinterpretation of familiar materials and abstract forms. It has an interesting play of coloration." Another juror said, "The building relates well to its environment through material and scale."
Highlight Munich Business Towers
Munich, Germany

Citation of Merit

Architect – Murphy/Jahn
Client – Bürozentrum Parkstadt München-Schwabing KG
Contractor – Strabag KG
Consultants – Werner Sobek Ingenieure GmbH (Structural/Facades); Transsolar Energietechnik GmbH (Climate and Environmental Concept); ENCO Energie-Consulting (Mechanical/Electrical/Plumbing);
Peter Walker & Partners, Prof. Rainer Schmidt (Landscape Architect); L-Plan Lichtplanung (Lighting);
Yann Kersalé, AK Expedition Lumière (Lighting Art)

The project consists of two towers that are shifted against each other and two base buildings. The two towers are connected by bridges, intended as “clip-on elements” that can be added or taken away wherever needed. The single-layer façade re-examines the nature of the high-rise enclosure, particularly addressing shading, daylighting, natural ventilation, increased vision and visual control of the tower facades. The typical façade module consists of a narrow, operable window behind vertical panels of stainless steel and a glass portion of high-performance, triple-glazed and insulating glass. A selective interior shade reduces vision and daylight. One juror described the towers as “an incredible project. This project looks at things that American office buildings aren’t looking at. There is a clear conceptual idea that’s carried through in the details.”

IIT S.R. Crown Hall Exterior Restoration
Chicago, IL

Citation of Merit

Architect – Kreuck + Sexton Architects
Preservation Architect – McClier (now known as Austin/AECOM)
Client – Illinois Institute of Technology College of Architecture
Contractor – Clune Construction
Consultants – Atelier Ten (Environmental); Transolar (Environmental); Horvath Reich CDC (Curtain Wall Consultant); Cotter Consulting (Project Management)

Completed by Mies van der Rohe in 1956, S.R. Crown Hall is home to the Illinois Institute of Technology College of Architecture. After fifty years of continuous use, Crown Hall had undergone deterioration. Additionally, several historically inaccurate and functionally inappropriate renovations to the building envelope had compromised its integrity. The restoration of the exterior consisted of removing and replacing steel corroded beyond repair, sandblasting the steel frame, application of a three-coat epoxy paint, and installing new glass that meets the current code and restores the building’s original balance between translucency and transparency. The jury recognized that, “It goes beyond technical skill to renovate that building. This building is extremely rigorous in the concept and the details. In restoration, it must emulate what Mies would have done.”
Adlai E. Stevenson High School Addition
Lincolnshire, IL

Citation of Merit
Architect – OWP/P
Client – Adlai E. Stevenson High School District 125
Contractor – Gilbane Construction
Consultants – OWP/P (Structural Engineering)

The new entrance is a symbol of academic pride and brings an iconic element to this ever-evolving building. Five different floor levels meet in an atrium that is flooded by daylight through clerestory windows, providing meeting space for clubs and college and career events. Past the atrium, the music addition supports the school’s mission to provide quality programs and promote small learning communities. The addition also enables the return to the full complement of highly-regarded community arts programs. The jury said “This building has a brightness usually not seen in public schools. It’s optimistic, a place that encourages the coming together of different people for different reasons. It has a wonderful relationship three-dimensionally.”

Courtyard Translucens House
Dallas, TX

Citation of Merit
Architect of Record – Nagle Hartray Danker Kagan McKay Penney Architects
Client – Dan and Gail Cook
General Contractor – Thos. S. Byrne General Contractors
Consultants – Graef, Anhalt, Schloemer, & Associates (Structural Engineer); WMA Consulting Engineers (Mechanical Engineer)

The house is set back from the street and wraps around a courtyard with a lap pool. Major art will be displayed in the 24 x 60 foot, two-story living room that overlooks the courtyard. The structure is framed in white painted steel with white aluminum panels and clear and translucent glass infill. The jury said “This inwardly focused house is both lovely and calm. It is all about the courtyard. The strong conceptual expression is rigorously followed through.”
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Wilson Residence
Pound Ridge, NY

Citation of Merit
Architect – Dirk Denison Architects
Client – Charles and Kerry Wilson
General Contractor – DPC Builders
Consultants – Evens & Associates (Structural Engineer); Bibbo Associates, (Civil Engineer)

The house is idealized as two horizontal lines spanning between natural outcroppings, and the sliding alignment of the wood bar over the stone expresses a degree of motion. The cross-axial orientation allows for views to the east of a forest, and to the west of a lake. On the east side, the timber structure is pulled out of the main volume, tying it spatially and materially to the forest. The jury commented, “Playfulness in shadow is created by structural armature.”

Dempster Street Station Restoration & Adaptive Reuse Project
Skokie, IL

Special Recognition
Architect – Antunovich Associates Architects
Client – The Taxman Corporation; Terraco, Inc.; Village of Skokie
Contractor – Master Hand Contractors, Inc.
Consultants – Ciorba Group, Inc. (Civil Engineer); Getty, White & Mason (Structural Engineer)

Designed by architect Arthur U. Gerber (1878-1960) and built in 1925 by railroad tycoon Samuel Insull, the Dempster Street Station served the Elevated and North Shore Rail Lines until the demise of the North Shore Line in 1963. The demolition of the station was imminent, with a new bus terminal project planned for the site. In an effort to save the station, the architect teamed with local developers to move the structure 120 feet, restore it to its original appearance and adapt it to retail use. The station was moved in one piece by saw-cutting the concrete foundations, building a temporary steel frame, jacking up the structure and rolling it across railroad tracks to its new foundations. Following original construction documents and period photographs, the building exterior was faithfully restored. Interior brick partitions were salvaged to rebuild losses in the outside wall, missing windows and storefronts were reconstructed using salvage lumber, layers of paint were stripped from the brick, the Ludowici clay tile roof was rebuilt with new tiles from the original manufacturer, new globe lights were made to match the original, and original paint colors were restored.
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Crate and Barrel, Oakbrook Homestore
Oak Brook, IL

Special Recognition
Architect – Crate and Barrel – Architecture Dept., Jacques Verlinden
Associate Architect – Heather Machicao, Teng & Assoc.
Client – Crate and Barrel
Contractor – Crane Construction
Consultants – M E Engineers (M/E/P & FP Engineers);
David Fisher & Associates (Structural Engineers);
Douglas Hoerr Landscape Architecture

Crate and Barrel, Beverly Hills Homestore
Beverly Hills, CA

Special Recognition
Architect – Crate and Barrel – Architecture Dept., Jacques Verlinden
Assoc. Architect – Claudia Ross, NBBJ Retail Concepts (Interior); Field Paoli Architects (Exterior)
Client – Crate and Barrel
Contractor – The Beck Group (Interior); W.E. O’Neill (Exterior)
Consultants – M E Engineers (M/E/P & FP Engineers);
Cary Kopczynski & Company (Interior – Structural Engineers); KPFF (Exterior – Structural Engineers);
Douglas Hoerr Landscape Architecture

Jurors lauded the architect’s ability to adapt the brand concept to site specific locations. Jurors agreed that each building was “well-adjusted and site specific. Even textures are rethought depending on the location. They are siblings; each one has a familiarity but is unique.” The Crate and Barrel homestores recognized for maximizing the Crate and Barrel brand identity employ common features: glass curtain walls showcase merchandise; defined entrances facilitate the flow of customers; and the conscientious shifting of scale and density creates pedestrian-friendly experiences.

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Special Recognition
Architect – Skidmore Owings and Merrill
Client – Manulife Financial
Associate Architect – Stull & Lee Architects
General Contractor – Clark/Suffolk Construction
Consultants – Cambridge Systematics (Traffic); Haley & Aldrich (Geotechnical); ISS Integrated Security Solutions (Security); McNamara/Salvia Inc. (Structural Engineering); R. G. Vanderweil Engineers, LLP (Mechanical Engineering); Rowan William Davies & Irvin (Wind Tunnel Testing); Sasaki Associates (Interior Design, Landscape); Shiner & Associates (Acoustics); Fisher Marantz Stone (Lighting)

This 480,000-square-foot office building is a LEED-certified company headquarters. At the base of the building, the clear glass wall is set back to expose columns clad in linen-textured stainless steel. The clear glass double wall has a naturally ventilated interstitial cavity and is highly energy efficient. From the roof garden to the use of low-emitting materials and adhesives, the building is environmentally sensitive.
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The Interior Architecture Award was established over 22 years ago to promote interior architecture as a unique profession by recognizing outstanding projects. For award purposes, interior architecture is defined as the space within a building envelope, including design of lighting, finishes and furnishings. The jury reviewed a wide range of projects completed between January 1, 2001, and May 1, 2006.

Offices of David Woodhouse Architects
Chicago, IL

Honor Award
Architect – David Woodhouse Architects LLC
Client – David Woodhouse Architects LLC
General Contractor – David Woodhouse Architects LLC

On the sixth floor of an old factory building, the architects tried to create a workplace for themselves that would be a daily call to concentrate on the architectural fundamentals: structure, materiality, order, light and community. The shared tables and workspace encourage collaborative interaction and flatten hierarchy. Two sets of homasote panels rotate to provide pin-up walls and the flexibility of various degrees of spatial separation for spaces at each end. One juror described the space as “so simple and restrained.” Another juror appreciated the “innovative alignment of workspace. By pulling the tables back and forth, everyone gets a U-shaped space.”
Located in a newly constructed office tower in downtown Chicago, the new, 250,000-square-foot global headquarters for Hyatt incorporates a seven-story atrium space that serves as the project's centerpiece, not only connecting floors, but introducing public client zones on every level. These areas, tied together by a cascading glass stair, serve as satellites to the main reception volume located on the 12th floor. The public zones are expressed as wood boxes cantilevering into the atrium. The main reception area located in the middle of the stack receives visitors into a two-story, walnut-paneled space. The entire public space is designed with a careful study of shapes, materials and vistas. Nakashima and Bertoia influenced the choice in amorphous furniture pieces, which offset the straight-edged architecture. This ambiguous dynamic produces a monumentality that does not compromise the human scale. One juror said "The staircase improves the quality of space and the experience." Another juror commented "The design is restrained. Most architects wouldn't be able to leave it at that."
The biggest obstacle for this project was finding a way to keep the client's products organized along with anticipating needed storage for new items, while attaining the look of simplicity. The solution was adding storage units to each workstation as well as wardrobes that merge with the design at the end of each workstation. The truck pit, a unique element, was incorporated as a multi-purpose room for fashion shows, training, yoga, etc. The employee kitchen overlooks the truck pit creating a space separate from the office world. The conference rooms have portable walls between each room, providing flexibility for the client's unique needs. The walls can be pulled down providing privacy for meetings or opened to create a multi-purpose space, perfect for internal fashion shows. Jurors found the space both “spatially innovative and reserved.”
Kresge Foundation Headquarters
Troy, MI

Honor Award

Associate Architect – Farr Associates
Client – The Kresge Foundation
Contractor – JM Olsen Corporation
Consultants – Robert Darvis Associates

The Kresge Foundation headquarters consists of three elements: restoration of a landmark, 19th-century farmhouse complex; integration of a modern office building addition; and development of a sustainable strategy for the entire complex. The challenge was to create a visually integrated whole from these three disparate objectives. Conceptually, the restored farmhouse buildings sit high above the landscape, floating on a sea of grasses. In contrast, the new building, with two-thirds of its area below grade, is embedded in the restored prairie, a part of the landscape. The interior incorporates a number of sustainable strategies which are integrated into the whole, including a light harvesting system, energy-saving system controls, and raised-floor air distribution. The building has been submitted for a Platinum LEED Certification. "It is very clean and understated with simple detailing," one juror remarked. Another juror said, "The palette works very well with the surroundings. It is cohesive and consistent with the exterior building. Every move has been well-considered."
It would be amazing to work in that space," exclaimed one juror. The reception area of this Chicago architectural firm's office sets the tone for the entire space, introducing the firm's modern aesthetic with a full-glass enclosure and ultra-clear doors that slide on a stainless steel support. The offices are located on the top floor of Daniel Burnham's historic Railway Exchange Building. The office plan emphasizes clear organization, unity and openness, providing a work environment that is both inspirational and productive.

The design of the space responds to the building's main design features: 7-foot-diameter windows on the east and south sides and the central atrium skylight. The open-planned studio is fitted with low, linear workstations that allow for clear views to the windows and skylight while also providing privacy. The corner space was intentionally designed as an in-house library and conference room instead of a private office, allowing all employees to use the space and enjoy the views.
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IBM Innovation Center
Chicago, IL

Citation of Merit

Architect – Gensler
Client – IBM
Contractor – Pepper Construction
Consultants – BLM Engineers (Electrical); Environmental Systems Design (Mechanical Engineer)

To foster employee collaboration, designers drew upon natural and technological networks as inspiration for the design of IBM’s new 126,000-square-foot Hyatt Center offices. The key was in creating a place that people would want to inhabit—a place that speaks to change, innovation, and a collaborative spirit. Standing in stark contrast to rigidly orthogonal cubicles that are aligned with the building geometry, the curvilinear Town Centers and Executive Briefing Center dominate the design. Changing color and graphics highlight two key cultural points: IBM is based on connections and is a global company. Jurors appreciated the “consistency of detail and sparseness of treatment.” One juror liked how the architect “provided a variety of experiences within that space.”
Mayer Brown Rowe & Maw Office Relocation
Chicago, IL

Citation of Merit
Architect – Powell/Kleinschmidt Inc.
Client – Mayer Brown Rowe & Maw
Contractor – Clune Construction
Consultants – Development Resources Inc. (Project Manager); Environmental Systems Design (MEP/FP Engineer); Halvorson and Partners (Structural Engineers); Shen Milsom & Wilke (Engineers AV Consultant); Charter Sills (Lighting); Environmental Systems Design/Kraft Kennedy Lesser (IT Consultants); Kroll (Security Systems)

After an audit of their former headquarters and an analysis of trends in law firm design, the project team identified the facility requirements critical to the future success of Mayer Brown Rowe & Maw. The new space is composed of ten repeating floors and two amenity floors totaling 400,000 square feet. The architect provided significant impact on how the building performs for a global law firm, including identifying an efficient building module, perimeter column spacing, and elimination of corner offices. Key office features include flexible work zones, collaboration space, and a conference center complex designed for present and future needs. Jurors liked the “character of the law library” and the “sense of style in the conference room.” Another juror commended the architects on their “elegant interpretation of the floor plan.”

Randolph Street Commuter Station
Chicago, IL

Citation of Merit
Architect – Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP (Interior Design)
Associate Architect – Teng + Associates, Inc. (Architect of Record for Project)
Client – Metra
Contractor – John Burns Construction Company
Consultants – Shah Engineering, Inc. (Structural Engineers); Schuler Shook (Lighting)

For years, Metra’s Randolph Street Commuter Station was best known for its dark and unheated concourses and near-dilapidated condition. The station held the potential to be more than the end-of-the-line for two commuter railroads. The architect sought to create a renovation that filled the station with light, color and quality finishes that would turn the terminus into a gateway to the Loop. The renovation overcame the underground station’s inherent darkness with vastly improved artificial lighting. In addition, the concourse’s low and uneven ceilings – the results of structural elements of the active roadway above – were made into undulating, well-lit, wave-like forms, giving a sense of space and motion. One juror said, “It is a very cool space. It’s about circulation – being fluid – it allows people to move quickly and efficiently.”

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The E-Suite at Chicago’s Museum of Science and Industry is an electronic classroom that enables remote learning and dialogue with distant sites. To facilitate this unique experience, the firm designed a reception room, electronic classroom and various educational and technical support spaces. The classroom space was designed as a neutral gray box to eliminate visual distractions. Flexibility to accommodate a variety of classroom configurations was essential. Teleconference cameras and two plasma display monitors travel on aluminum “festoons” mounted on overhead tracks. The first curriculum to use E-Suites is “Live from the Heart,” a program that gives students a virtual visit to an actual hospital operating theater during open-heart surgery. Students have live, two-way visual and audio communications with the surgical team. One juror described the E-Suite as a “really simple space with great potential for transformation.”
Originally completed in 1927 and known as the Jewelers Building, 35 East Wacker Drive sits prominently along the Chicago River. The building had undergone routine maintenance but experienced little in long-term enhancements. The owner wanted to restore the building’s classic design elements and provide an updated infrastructure. The renovation included the lobby, main entrance and storefronts. The main entry was taken down to structural steel and rebuilt, and the storefronts were returned to their original historic proportions. The storefronts, lobby ceilings, lighting, and the interior and exterior of the elevator cars were restored to what is believed to be their original design. The security desk was relocated from its central location in order to re-establish the lobby’s original volume. By referring to the building’s original marketing brochure and a small section of intact cornices, the architects restored the gilded cornice and column capitals and recreated the ornamental, painted, coffered ceiling. “Well done,” commented a juror.
Perspective Charter School  
Chicago, IL

Citation of Merit

Architect – Perkins+Will
Client – Perspectives Charter School
Contractor – Levine Construction, Inc.
Consultants – TGRWA Engineers; WMA Engineers; Site Design Group

Perspectives Charter School is a 300-student, grade 6-12, public school in Chicago's South Loop. The school is organized around the central “living room,” a flexible two-story volume used as the cafeteria, the main assembly hall and the central social space. The living room lets light in from the clerestories above; around it, single-loaded corridors feed the classrooms and link the other main spaces, the library and the entry.

The strategy for the interior was to use paint to add visual interest and variety and to reinforce the school’s mission while maintaining a tight budget. The school logo, The Eye, highlights the entry. The bilingual graphics in the living room, taken from the school’s mission statement, and the multicultural symbols in the library enliven the spaces and celebrate diversity within the school. Jurors liked the “interesting graphics collaboration.”

838 W Webster  
Chicago, IL

Citation of Merit

Architect – DeStefano and Partners, Ltd.
Client – withheld
Contractor – Goldberg General Contracting
Consultants – Building Engineer Systems (MEP); Charter Sills (Lighting)

While making a bold public statement to the street, this “extraordinarily elegant” house is actually inwardly focused around a courtyard with all major spaces on the ground floor opening directly onto the central outdoor space. Inside, the defining space of the house is its double-height living room, which is defined by two towers – the stair on the south and fireplace on the north. Through careful planning and layering of materials, the house provides visual and acoustic privacy while providing fluid, unconfined space and access to the outdoors. The day lighting of the house is such that artificial lighting is seldom necessary during the day. One juror described the house as “simple and tight with nice detailing.”
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Urban Guest House
Chicago, IL

Citation of Merit
Architect – Tjaden+Architects+AIA
Client – Wayne F. Tjaden, AIA
Contractor – South Chicago Workforce Consultants – Architectural Consulting Engineers

Needing storage space and guest accommodations for his recently purchased live/work space, the owner purchased space on the floor directly below him. Diagonal walls separate both the main level and the inserted mezzanine into two zones – principal living space and support space. Full-height areas at the foyer and at the window allow the mezzanine to float in the tall space and the diagonal walls create forced perspectives which alter the perception of this 470-square-foot guest apartment. A platform at the window conceals ductwork, acts as a step in the stairway and provides additional seating space as well as extra guest sleeping on a single-size air mattress. A headboard and desk on the mezzanine do double duty as railings. Jurors liked the “details and creative use of small space.”

Carus House
Peru, IL

Citation of Merit
Architect – Brininstool + Lynch, Ltd.
Client – Paul and Tammi Carus
Contractor – American Bilco Consultants – Sheffee Luiken & Associates (Structural Engineers)

This “well-planned” house incorporates a characteristic program for a family of five. However, visual and tactile elements interconnect and resolve each room’s function in a way that gives the project an uncommon sensibility. Materials used on the exterior are expressed within the interior to emphasize the interrelationship between indoor and outdoor space, and reinforce a holistic approach to the exterior envelope and the layout of interior space. The main living area, with floor-to-ceiling glazing, faces south to benefit from passive solar energy, and helps supplement a radiant heating system imbedded in the ground concrete floors. Its windows all offer articulated views across the landscaped yard to open vistas, and further integrate the interior to the exterior.
Metropolitan Capital Bank
Chicago, IL

Special Recognition

Architect – OWP/P
Client – Metropolitan Capital Bank
Contractor – Bulley & Andrews as sub-contractor to OWP/P Design/Build

Metropolitan Capital Bank is an adaptive reuse of the 92-year old Tree Studio, on the National Register of Historic Places and a City of Chicago Landmark. The project design scope incorporates custom-designed elements including hanging pendant fixtures, area rugs, and furniture. Respecting the past history of the space, which was previously used as a residential studio, this new “financial studio” is designed in a clean, modern approach to contrast respectfully with the historic surroundings. Vertical and horizontal linearity echo the space’s Arts & Crafts provenance. The rich, warm tones of contrasting medium and dark walnut finishes and four fireplaces create an inviting, comfortable atmosphere for the bank’s clients and staff, all delivered through designer-led Design/Build under scrutiny. The jurors agreed the space was “artfully updated.” One juror praised how “the light pendants modulate between two different eras.”
Divine Detail Awards

By Lara Brown

The Divine Detail Award essentially honors architectural ingenuity. A jury seeks the results of a firm’s fundamental architectural theory or design concept in their use of a particular material, detail or building technology. Execution must express the idea as a whole. Similar to other awards, only projects completed between January 1, 2001, and May 1, 2006 are eligible.

200 W. Madison Winter Garden
Chicago, IL

Honor Award

Architect - Powell/Kleinschmidt Inc
Client - Tishman Speyer Properties
Contractor - Turner Construction
Consultants - Environmental Systems Design (MEP/FP Engineer); Thornton Thomasseti (Structural Engineer); Israel Berger & Assoc. (Curtain Wall Engineer); George Sexton & Assoc. (Lighting); Daniel Weinbach & Partners (Landscape Architect)

The new, expanded entry lobby enclosure was designed to be spacious and transparent, providing an inviting public plaza in an urban setting. The glass wall owes its transparency to the unusually large laminated glass panels of low-iron glass that are point-supported on four routulles per glass unit. The outrigger support arms for the glass, the tubular steel skeletal superstructure, glass roof, and carefully integrated lighting and sprinkler systems provide minimal profiles and maximum transparency. In addition to Louise Nevelson’s sculpture, “Dawn Shadows,” the winter garden features two bamboo forests. Jurors were impressed by the “modest, minimal framing,” and credited the project with “revitalizing the plaza with an elegant, convincing program that incorporates lighting, sculpture, and the urban landscape.”
Jurors declared this space "exquisite" and "so well done" and praised the effective use of white. Existing in an all-white color palette, the featured element of this minimalist boutique is a lacquered, reflective floor and ceiling with recessed light fixtures. This unique lighting method prevents direct spot light, creating an even, ambient light environment.
A vine wall assembly shrouds a small glass and masonry pavilion at the Lincoln Park Zoo. A west-facing, windowed curtain wall offers passive ventilation and panoramic views of the site. Riverbank Grape (Vitis riparia), native to the upper Midwest, grows 25-feet high on a steel lattice set six feet in front of the glass to help blend the building into its natural surroundings. The roof’s water runoff trickles down the vines into a drainage basin – a narrow, cobblestone-covered planting bed – to provide sustenance. The vine offers seasonal, textural change by shading the harsh summer sun and admitting winter daylight when exfoliated. It also mitigates reflective glass in a bird flyway. Jurors described the program as “very modest, efficient and innovative.” “The whole thing works,” commented one juror.
Sullivan Center Cornice Reconstruction
Chicago, IL

**Honor Award**

Architect – Mccler (now known as Austin/AECOM)
Client – Joseph Freed and Associates
Contractor – Mark 1 Restoration Company
Consultants – GFRC Inc. (Cornice Fabricator);
Tim Samuelson (Historian); Conservation of Sculpture and Objects Studio and Eisentrager Studio (Sculptors)

Jurors applauded the “heroic effort and great investigative work,” by the design team that worked to reconstruct the cornice and colonnade of Louis Sullivan’s Carson Pirie Scott & Company Building (1899-1903) that was removed in 1948.

After exhaustive historic research, only minimal documentation of the original cornice was discovered. Particularly daunting was trying to determine the design of the original Sullivan ornament as no historic fabric had survived. In order to develop the ornament for the restoration, the architects added to their design team a historian who is an expert on Louis Sullivan’s work and a group of sculptors. The ornament design was developed using historic photos, other existing ornament found on the building as well as fragments from other Sullivan buildings. The stunning result returns one of Sullivan’s most significant works back to its original state.
Mod-u-lator Scrim, Hyde Park Bank
Chicago, IL

Citation of Merit

Architect – Florian Architects, Ltd.
Client – Hyde Park Bank & Trust Company
Contractor – Power Construction Company, LLC
Consultants – Schuler & Shook (Lighting); Engineering Studio (MEP/FP); Thornton Thomassetti (SE);
The Grillo Group (Graphic Designer); Thoma/Wright (Color/Material/Furniture Consultant); Shen Milsom & Wilke (Acoustical Engineer)

One juror noted that “The modern insertions are transparent enough that they don’t cut up the volume but they still give privacy.” The Mod-u-lator Scrim is a complex assembly of metal and glass that modulates daylight, privacy, and views within an historic banking hall. The project goal was to create a fresh, customer-friendly atmosphere that complements rather than obscures the historic grandeur of the existing banking hall. The design solution is a bold, elegant juxtaposition of contemporary forms and materials to the monumental scale and ornate surfaces of the restored 1928 banking hall. Stainless steel mesh stretched on a frame is cantilevered from 2” diameter stainless poles. These poles simultaneously brace panes of patterned glass held off the floor on 2” diameter stainless tops. Poles are secured to concrete by stainless steel sleeves.
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Urban Design Awards

By Lara Brown

inaugurated in 2006, the Urban Design Award recognizes distinguished achievements that involve the role of the architect in urban design; city, suburban, or campus planning; and community development. Jurors reviewed projects consisting of individual projects, planned developments, places, design elements, and programs that contribute to the quality of urban development. Since many urban design projects are never completed in the traditional sense, incomplete projects or ongoing programs may be recognized if a significant portion has been completed, implemented, or adopted by a local jurisdiction. Projects are eligible if they were implemented between January 1, 2001, and May 1, 2006.

Mexicantown Master Plan, Mercado and Plaza
Detroit, MI

Honor Award

Architect – Teng & Associates
Client – Hamilton Anderson Associates
Contractor – Anzaldua/Garrison – A Joint Venture

The Mexicantown neighborhood along Bagley Avenue was severed into east and west when an interstate was built in 1968. While the west thrives, the east struggles to survive. The master plan provides the east with a framework that will create a new physical and symbolic center for all of Mexicantown. The plan fosters economic development in the community as a means of eliminating blight, creating skilled positions for residents, and providing opportunities for small business entrepreneurs. The plan is being implemented in three phases. One juror remarked, “It clearly had community involvement.” Another juror added, “The plan is holistic and reflective of best practices.”
**A place for one: A space for many**  
Chicago, IL

*Citation of Merit*
Architect – 4240 Architecture  
Client – Urban-Open: A competition for Chicago’s Legacy of Sustainable Communities

Each year the Bethany Brethren congregation can meet to design and create the look and feel of the play space, gardens, and pavilions. The architect’s goal was to strike a balance between limiting the amount of work required to change the place while maximizing the perceptual effect of those changes. The neighborhood living room is symbolically held by a pair of hands in the form of two folded plane pavilions. The fingerlike structure of these pavilions will be permanently positioned and the spaces between these vertical structural elements, the surfaces, will be determined by the community each year. The jurors liked that the project represented a grassroots effort. One juror remarked, “[it’s a] positive view of the future for the neighborhood.” Another juror complimented the “innovative idea of a park that can change.”

**Heping Master Plan**  
Tianjin, People’s Republic of China

*Citation of Merit*
Architect – Perkins+Will  
Associated Architect – Tianjin Real Estate Appraise Survey & Design Institute  
Client – Asiaresources, Real Estate Development Company  
Consultant – Tianjin Real Estate Appraise Survey & Design Institute

The master plan for a new residential district in Tianjin, China proposes an alternative strategy to the isolated base-tower strategy common to most high-rise residential developments. A multi-level base structure provides new public green spaces, pedestrian routes and adds street-level retail and community uses within an existing dense urban condition. The base element retail along with the community center under the green roofs provides street activation and helps stitch the building into the surrounding retail activity. Jurors found the plan, “very elegant. It creates a terrain in an urban environment.”

**Glow**  
Pittsburgh, PA

*Special Recognition*
Architect – 4240 Architecture  
Consultant – Thornton Thomassetti Group, Comptek Structural Composites  
Client – River Life Task Force

This project in the developing riverfront district posits a (re)connection across the genesis of the Ohio River in Pittsburgh, in the form of a new stand-alone Carbon Fiber Reinforced Polymer (FRP) Pedestrian Bridge. The design employs an innovative composite material, with an extremely lightweight structure and surface, manufactured as layers of FRP. Within these layers a luminescent pigment is included which emits a subtle glow each evening. This glow combines with the dramatically slender clear span. One juror commented, “The span is amazing – it almost doesn’t seem possible.”
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