KATIE HARMS: 2012 AIA YOUNG ARCHITECT
LIGHTEN UP: EVALUATING DAYLIGHT IN DESIGN
BNIM CLEANS HOUSE
THE JURY HAS SPOKEN
BEST OF THE BEST: AIA IOWA AND CSR WINNERS
WINTER 2013 $5.95

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF AIA IOWA

Awards Issue
2012 AIA Iowa & Central States Region Design Awards
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Welcome!

Each year, Iowa Architect presents an Awards Annual dedicated to the projects that embody this spirit across Iowa and the Central States Region. The 2012 AIA Iowa Excellence in Design jury recognized nine projects out of 94 submittals. Biennially, AIA Iowa hosts an Excellence in Sustainable Design awards program, which recognized four projects. This year three of the four winners shared honors across the programs.

We also branch out to recognize the work of our peers in the Central States Region. This year, the jury honored 21 projects. One Iowa project achieved the trifecta—bringing home awards at the state, regional and national levels. We salute the architects, contractors and clients who shared in bringing these projects into the world.

We are also honored to recognize Katie Harms, AIA, recipient of the 2012 Young Architect Award. She consistently works to improve our profession and is an amazing mentor for the next generation of architects entering practice.

Please join us as we congratulate Katie and the 2012 winners.

Design is a plan for arranging elements in such a way as best to accomplish a particular purpose.

—Charles Eames
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Project Credits
Architects and contributors to the projects featured in this issue.

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You & Me & Co., a social house, is a unique project under construction one block south of the Pappajohn Sculpture Park in Des Moines. The project will consist of a bar and grille centered around the idea of an industrial aesthetic with the key design element being the use of shipping containers for construction. Four shipping containers will be cut into the existing one-story building resulting in a two-story building with a mezzanine, providing multiple levels for assembly spaces. The shipping containers will be visible from the interior and exterior, and patrons will pass through them, be by them and stand on them. Set to open early 2013, this is set to be a unique addition to the growing Western Gateway part of downtown.

You & Me & Co.
Des Moines / Knowles Blunck Architecture

Des Moines Municipal Services Center
Des Moines / Knowles Blunck Architecture

The City of Des Moines currently operates its field services from several older and outdated facilities scattered around the city. These services include the departments of Public Works and Parks and Recreation, plus other services such as Engineering, Fleet, Traffic and Transportation, Housing Services maintenance, satellite maintenance facilities, and other service uses. In order to develop interdepartmental teams and cooperation, and to realize all potential organizational efficiencies, these services need to be consolidated and centrally located in a single campus location.

The new 350,000-square-foot facility will create a cohesive campus for the City of Des Moines that can be phased and implemented over a period of many years. Benefits to the city include a realistic long-term facility and space needs, and an improvement in efficiency in delivering City services. The complex will be built using various energy-saving techniques and sustainable materials.
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COMMERICAL NEW CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM
EVALUATING DAYLIGHTING IN DESIGN

How do you quantify daylighting in a building design? Is it the length of time an office space can go without supplemental artificial light? Or is it how far light penetrates into the interior of a room? Or, is it a space’s ability to feel bright even on cloudy days?

All of these factors and more come into play when it comes time to quantify daylighting. And like any design decision, daylighting isn’t plotted and planned in a vacuum. It’s affected by site, massing, orientation and more.

That’s what makes the daylighting analysis in the Custom Plus track of the Commercial New Construction (CNC) program so invaluable to the design process. The CNC program is funded through the energy-efficiency programs of Alliant Energy, Black Hills Energy and MidAmerican Energy Company, and is available to utility customers. Daylighting analysis is a way for design professionals to quantify many intangibles, to help owners, architects and designers put numbers to paper and make rational decisions that have concrete impact on a building’s operation.

IT’S COMPLICATED

What one person defines as daylighting differs from another person—which is why energy modeling and analysis is important. “The most fundamental misunderstanding is that if you have windows, you have daylighting,” says David Eijadi with The Weidt Group, a CNC program administrator.

In fact, says Eijadi, daylighting has several possible technical definitions. It is, of course, mixed up with the idea of a view, but is also thought of in terms of its environmental impact and the impact on people. “It’s meaningful to have metrics and criteria to evaluate daylighting,” he says.

During the daylighting analysis of the Custom Plus track, daylighting is generally considered whether a building meets a threshold for a specific level of illumination for a specific period of time under a specific set of conditions. The analysis also evaluates shading strategies. “To be successful, daylight must also be present without glare,” says Eijadi.

But how much glare is acceptable? What level of daylighting is best? “The definition of good daylight is somewhat subjective, because not everyone’s eyes have the same sensitivity,” says Eijadi. “There are also regional and cultural and age differences. A lot of people have been discussing daylighting criteria for a long time. What the Custom Plus track daylighting analysis provides is reasonably mainstream and uses judgments that participants feel comfortable with.”

LIGHTEN UP

As much as daylight’s impact on the experience of quality in spaces may reflect a personal preference, its impact on energy use is reflected in measurable ways that are not always obvious to designers and owners. “When many people look at the results of the daylighting analysis, it’s the first real objective information they get,” says Eijadi. “They may, from experience, have formed an opinion on what is good, qualitative placement of windows. The CNC program is not trying to influence that. It’s presenting information about energy impact, illumination distribution and sun penetration.”

One of the daylighting criteria and goals of the Custom Plus track daylighting analysis is to show uniformity and deepness of daylight. Uniformity is particularly impactful: The study will reveal glaring patches of sunlight on the floor, or a dark ceiling, and that daylight can be balanced with energy efficiency. “The question we try to answer is at what point in design do you get the most daylight with minimal glare through most of the work hours for the space but not so much that you have a heating or cooling penalty,” says Eijadi. “It’s an energy-centric view of good daylighting.”

And there is a strong, simple case to be made for more consideration of the environmental impact of daylighting: Light from the sun is pure energy, and using light as light is about the most energy-efficient thing you can do. Making light, which can be thought of as densely packed short wavelengths of energy, from loosely packed long wavelengths of heat energy, is—well, to be blunt—really energy-intensive.

“The alternative is to generate power in a power plant, send power to wires, where there are energy losses, then send it into a light fixture, where in the most common cases it is 20 percent efficient,” says Eijadi. “With daylight, we have a highly organized, literally focused form of energy, and we should use it that way. Everything you do with daylighting is probably the single biggest thing you can do to reduce a building’s carbon footprint.”
The earlier the better was the mantra for engineer-owner Design Engineers PC. The earlier they could analyze the decisions they were making for their new building, the better it would be for them for minimizing their carbon footprint. “We as a firm are committed to sustainable design and energy efficiency,” says Dwight Schumm with Design Engineers. “Very high energy savings was a real priority for us. To invest in our own building made a lot of sense, and it’s in line with what we try to do all day every day.”

That meant enrolling in the Custom Plus track of the CNC program. “We were interested to look at some of the energy impacts of our early design decisions, particularly things like the building size, shape and orientation,” says Schumm.

The firm was particularly interested in the impact of the width of the building as it relates to daylighting. “One of the things that gets decided early on is how a building will fit on the site,” says Schumm. “Custom Plus gave us the opportunity to test some of those ideas. We got some really good feedback from the program on that.”

Orientation obviously also impacts daylighting, and Schumm and his team analyzed choices regarding higher floor-to-floor height, as well as the impact of higher window heads and more daylight penetration. “You have to look at the energy benefit but make value judgments based on the added cost,” says Schumm.

Ultimately the firm ended up on good middle ground, with 10-foot ceilings. “It’s great to have an additional piece of information on energy impact,” says Schumm. “Energy numbers are a piece of information, and you have to look at if it will pay back from an energy standpoint and how long that payback will be. It helps if you look at the information and consider it with the aesthetic and financial benefits, too.”

One of the paybacks for Design Engineers has been the LEED Gold certification, with exemplary performance points for energy efficiency. “It was one of the things we were able to achieve by being proactive and planning from the beginning,” says Schumm. “We focused on energy, but not to the exclusion of other things, and pushed it to its limit. We’re proud of that.”

In just a few short years, LEED certification has become a bellwether of sorts as a mark of energy efficiency for new buildings—and LEED Platinum is the pinnacle of that process. LEED certification is never easy, but probably even more so for very large structures with multiple demands and budgetary constraints. But even so, when Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield decided to build a new headquarters in downtown Des Moines, the company set themselves the demanding goal of achieving LEED Gold.

Wellmark knew that working together and sharing insights during the design process would be key—and that included energy modeling through the CNC program. “It is a collaboration between MidAmerican Energy Company and the owner/developer of new facilities,” says Matthew R. Brown, AIA, vice president, property management with Wellmark. “The models provided as part of the program were at no cost to Wellmark and offered valuable insight for strategies that result not only in a rebate of a portion of first costs for specific system strategies, but also ways to reduce the ongoing costs to operate our building.”

During design, Wellmark integrated a number of strategies as part of the building’s plan, including a primary/secondary chilled water system; a total heat recovery system to gather at least 90 percent of the building exhaust air volume; carbon dioxide control of minimum outside air; carbon monoxide control of garage exhaust fans; variable speed drives on chilled water pumps, cooling tower fans and modular chillers; raised floor with under-floor air ventilation; and energy-efficient lighting and envelope designs.

Those systems resulted in a very real impact on the Wellmark bottom line—projected yearly operational savings of $395,297, or a reduction in energy usage by 33.8 percent—as well as a LEED Platinum rating. In addition, says Brown, the company continues to modify its operations to capture additional savings—lower supply air and return air temperatures, 24-hour operation of air handlers, different service hot water loads, for example. “We continuously measure our building’s performance and have since updated the energy model to reflect actual building operating parameters,” says Brown.

Brown, who had previous experience with the CNC program, continues to point to its advantages—for all building owners, big and small. “The Commercial New Construction program is a great program that ... creates building performance models that give the owner and design team valuable insight into how design and equipment strategies will impact the performance of the new facility,” he says. “The program has been an all-around positive experience for me and my teams.”
Over and above her visible talents, Katie consistently looks for ways to improve her profession and mentor young architects.

— Don Thies, Principal, OPN Architects

KATIE HARMS, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP
2012 AIA YOUNG ARCHITECT AWARD WINNER
It's the classic want-to-be-an-architect story: Monticello native Katie Harms spent her childhood drawing house plans, looking through magazines, loving all things design-related and nipping at the heels of her father as he built homes that he had designed himself. That, coupled with her motivation and hard work, has fast-tracked her career. She's already registered and has worked on high-profile projects at OPN Architects in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Those accomplishments aside, what has distinguished Harms of late is a most notable achievement. She received the 2012 AIA Young Architects Award. Created in 1993, the award recognizes individuals who have shown exceptional leadership and made significant contributions to the profession early in their careers. It has been given to an Iowan only two other times—and to a woman, never.

It's an achievement in an already notable career. Harms attended Iowa State University—the single option for architectural higher ed, she says with a laugh: "My parents told me it was the only school I was allowed to go to—they're alumni."

Harms studied hard, became active in all the requisite organizations—CORE, AIAS, Career Day—and spent two semesters in Rome. She passed by job opportunities in Phoenix to take a position at OPN directly out of college and has been there ever since.

But what has most distinguished her practice has been her leadership, nationally and regionally, for others like her—those just beginning their careers. In 2008, while an AIA Central States Region (CSR) associate director, she founded the CSR Emerging Professionals Committee and established the CSR Emerging Professionals Summit.

The annual event gathers associates, students and professionals to discuss career topics such as the Intern Development Program (IDP) and the Architect Registration Exam (ARE). Harms also has served as advocacy director on the AIA National Associates Committee and Executive Board in 2009, a role she used to bring attention to issues such as IDP/ARE timing, titling and student loan deferment. Its role is essential, insists Harms, to provide information, mentoring and education. "It's a long process to obtain your license—five-plus years of schooling, five-plus years of internships and two-plus years of licensing exams," says Harms. "On average, it takes someone 12 years from college graduation to licensure."

In Iowa, she's held various leadership positions—associate representative to the AIA Iowa Board of Directors, AIA Iowa Emerging Professionals chair. She has also presented regionally and nationally on mentoring, a particular passion of hers. She counts her father and OPN Principal Roger Worm as hers, and she intends on being there for others, too. "We have more architects retiring than we have coming into the profession. This committee and what it does is a role model for other emerging professional groups across the nation," says Harms.

It's a lot to juggle—but Harms is up to the task, from committees to construction sites. "I don't know how many people told me I would never become an architect and that it would be a very difficult profession for a woman to be in, that I should look for another career," says Harms. "One of my mentors always tells me to 'let the tree grow' because I'm always wanting to move forward and up in my career, and that all takes time. Work hard and don't forget to have fun along the way."
The AIA recognized the BNIM Office Remodel project with awards at all three levels: State - AIA Excellence in Design Merit, Regional - CSR Excellence in Design Interiors Honor and National - AIA Excellence in Design Honor.

An environment of collaboration and engagement to the surrounding urban core create the fundamental strategies of this project. Located within a former bank lobby on the southeast corner of an active intersection, boundaries to the interior shell include full-height glazing to the north and west, building lobby to the south and a new demising wall to the east.

Designed as an open studio to foster collaboration, the volume of the space was kept open with minimal insertions of partial-height elements to harvest daylight and define programmatic functions. A direct relationship to the existing window module established a rigorous spatial organization of all building components, reinforcing the interior diagram and engaging the public at street level.

The interior part is organized around a central wall that reaches toward the north and south edges of the space. Clad in a continuous rhythm of cork panels for display abilities, this interactive wall creates an edge to the studio environment on the west, and defines an open conference area and kitchen/library/workspace on the east. Shared daylight, acoustics and multiple levels of interaction are vital parts of achieving the spirit of collaboration set forth as the key design objective.
1 building lobby
2 entrance
3 conference room
4 studio
5 storage/library
6 kitchen
7 model shop
The hierarchy of elements is clear and the expression is neatly restrained.

It belongs to its urban context—in that the project works in concert with the international-style buildings that surround and contain it.
They are as much a part of architecture as late-night design sessions, studying for the registration exam and building tours: design award juries. Juries are nothing if not a microcosm of the profession, a reflection of subjective and objective viewpoints, as well as the personalities and preferences of the architects themselves.

But they are something more, too. "Juries are an opportunity to share ideas and recognize achievements," says Kirsten Ring Murray, AIA Principal/Owner of Olson Kundig Architects. "In many ways, they are also the best opportunity for the profession to gain access to publication, to get the word out about the importance and value of design to the larger public. When I participate in a jury, I try to remember that it's about strengthening the message we send to the world—what we are most proud of, and why our work matters."

A decade ago, the jury wasn't held until the convention, which was both a juggling act and intense time crunch. Today, the jury chair selects jury members and organizes a review ahead of time. "We offer guidelines but leave the process up to them, and each jury has different dynamics and different things they're interested in," says Wagner. "It's always interesting to see how they gel and what they focus on."

Murray assembled a group that included a younger colleague and two principals from other firms. From participating in and working on juries, she understands how the dynamics work. "I try to solicit other jurors whose opinions I respect, but who will also have different experiences, backgrounds or opinions, those who might work on projects of a type I have less experience in," Murray says. "I may also look for a range of ages, and include related disciplines like landscape or interiors. It's also great to have a juror or two who bring academic experience and viewpoints."

Whittling down the entries is the next task—a review, followed by a discussion, and then more review and discussion. A jury—by definition led by one person—also needs a person to sort out ideas, ask probing questions about design and process. "I make sure we're looking at projects from different perspectives, including site design, contextual approach, organizational principles, craft and execution, and meaning," says Murray.

In the end, it's about the projects that exceed expectations and innovate, are well executed and make the jury envious, suggests Murray. "We were all impressed by the maturity and range of work in the Iowa submittals," she says. "I am always pleased when the projects submitted allow us to showcase the breadth and depth of the practice."
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EXCELLENCE IN DESIGN
JURY MEMBERS

Jury Chair
Kirsten Ring Murray, AIA
Olson Kundig Architects
Principal/Owner

Robert Miller, FAIA, RAIC, LEED AP
Bohlin Cywinski Jackson
Principal

Dan Wilson, AIA
Olson Kundig Architects
Principal

Anne Schopf, FAIA
Mahlum
Principal

EXCELLENCE IN SUSTAINABLE DESIGN
JURY MEMBERS

Bill Blanski, AIA, LEED AP BD+C
HGA Architects and Engineers
VP & Design Principal

Loren Ahles, FAIA
HGA Architects and Engineers
VP & Design Principal

Rebecca Greco, AIA
HGA Architects and Engineers
VP & National Public | Corporate Practice Group Leader

Leighton Deer, PE, LEED AP
HGA Architects and Engineers
Assoc. VP & Mechanical Engineer
Excellence in Design
HONOR

THE LAKE HOME

DESCRIPTION The homeowners requested that the outdoor space and unbeatable lake view be maintained after an extensive renovation. The upper level contains the kitchen, viewing rooms, master suite and private courtyard. The lower level houses a rec room, guestrooms and outdoor living space. Three generations now utilize the home, a unique space built for family activity.

ARCHITECT PLAN Architecture

LOCATION East Okoboji, IA

SIZE 3000 SF

BUDGET $480,000
DESCRIPTION Learning Along Borders for Living Across Boundaries (LAB4LAB) was developed by UNICEF to address particular education concerns in the most adversely affected post-conflict countries of West Africa. The focus was to create a healthy and safe educational environment that could be integrated with the community. Under the structure are an open-air auditorium, community center, clinic and administrative building.

ARCHITECT Joshua Palmer, Finley Pitt

LOCATION Ganta, Liberia

SIZE 16,000 SF

BUDGET $500,000
EXCELLENCE IN DESIGN
HONOR

CAMPUS RECREATION & WELLNESS CENTER

DESCRIPTION The challenge: To design a new campus recreation and wellness center that emphasized physical fitness as an everyday activity. Taking advantage of daylight, the building comprises a series of transparent interlocking boxes set on a fin-like columnar structural system. It houses athletic swimming and multi-activity spaces, as well as a wellness suite and office space.

ARCHITECT RDG Planning & Design

LOCATION University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA

SIZE 215,000 SF

BUDGET $51.3 million
Excellence in Design
MERIT

BRIGHT GRANDVIEW GOLF COURSE CLUBHOUSE

DESCRIPTION The municipal golf course, built in 1902, was badly in need of a makeover. City officials decided to construct a new clubhouse that would revitalize the neighborhood, become a community center and improve the course’s image. The lower level provides golf cart storage; the main level houses a shop, bar, offices and a dining room that doubles as a community center.

ARCHITECT OPN Architects, Inc.
LOCATION Des Moines, IA
SIZE 12,100 SF
BUDGET $2.23 million
TIFERETH SYNAGOGUE

DESCRIPTION This remodel was a comprehensive renovation of 20,000 square feet of interior space, as well as exterior courtyards and site work. The primary challenge became how to combine worship space with the practical needs of a multipurpose building. A glass panel system provides a screen used to create outdoor spaces, and the courtyard is intended to be a more private outdoor room for the congregation.

ARCHITECT substance
LOCATION Des Moines, IA
SIZE 20,000 SF
BUDGET $2.1 million
EXCELLENCE IN DESIGN

UNI MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION CENTER

DESCRIPTION The Multimodal Transportation Center is a nucleus that revitalizes connections to commuters and creates 280+ parking spaces, bike lockers and on route bus information. Blocks from central campus, residents and visitors can park and access the Panther Shuttle and the Metropolitan Transit Authority routes, which connect to Cedar Falls and Waterloo.

ARCHITECT substance

LOCATION University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, IA

SIZE Parking for 490 vehicles

BUDGET $9.7 million
STATE HYGIENIC LABORATORY

DESCRIPTION: This new laboratory facility provides modern and flexible testing and administration space for a state hygienic agency, while projecting an image of visibility and transparency to the public. Ribbons of windows along the north and south facades break up the long elevations and allow an abundance of natural light into the labs.

ARCHITECT: OPN Architects, Inc.

LOCATION: Coralville, IA

SIZE: 113,000 SF

BUDGET: $37.7 million
Excellence in Design

MERIT

SPRING CREEK SPORTS COMPLEX

DESCRIPTION Concessions and restrooms belie the pride embodied in youth sports facilities, yet this project reflects common values and creates a showcase destination for the community. Material selections provide durability and longevity with burnished block walls, steel posts and beams, and metal roofs. The buildings' opaque walls are topped with translucent panels, offering abundant natural light.

ARCHITECT ASK Studio

LOCATION Altoona, IA

SIZE 2185 SF

BUDGET $410,000
Sustainable Design Award
HISTORIC RENOVATION WITH
SENSITIVE INTEGRATION OF SYSTEMS

WORLD FOOD PRIZE
HALL OF LAUREATES

ARCHITECT  RDG Planning & Design
LOCATION  Des Moines, IA
SIZE  13,155 SF
BUDGET  $19.2 million
Sustainable Design Award
ELEGANT SOLUTION TO A SUSTAINABLE OFFICE BUILDING

IOWA UTILITIES BOARD, OFFICE OF CONSUMER ADVOCATE

ARCHITECT BNIM
LOCATION Des Moines, IA
SIZE 44,640 SF
BUDGET $10.2 million
**UNICEF LAB4LAB PRIMARY & SECONDARY SCHOOL**

**ARCHITECT** Joshua Palmer, Finley Pitt  
**LOCATION** Ganta, Liberia  
**SIZE** 16,000 SF  
**BUDGET** $500,000

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**UNI MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION CENTER**

**ARCHITECT** substance  
**LOCATION** University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, IA  
**SIZE** Parking for 490 vehicles  
**BUDGET** $9.7 million
aia central states region

design awards
A founding partner of Rogers Marvel Architects (RMA) in 1992, Rob Rogers, FAIA, has created institutional and cultural buildings that are civic work. Believing that even a single building is a piece of urban design, his work assertively and elegantly combines urbanism and architecture. Rogers is currently leading the design for SandRidge Energy’s new corporate campus of six buildings and a green plaza in downtown Oklahoma City and a progressive new elementary school for Johns Hopkins School of Education in East Baltimore. A testament to his contribution to an architecture that goes beyond the property line is his firm’s recent win of the competition for President’s Park South, “the Ellipse,” in Washington D.C. and the competition for Constitution Gardens on the National Mall.

Rogers holds a B.A. and a Bachelor in Architecture from Rice University and a Master of Design Studies, with Distinction, from the Harvard Graduate School of Design. He shares his passion for buildings, cityscapes and landscapes by teaching as well as practicing. He is a national Peer for the GSA Design Excellence Program, a regular juror for AIA Awards around the country and serves in numerous state and local professional organizations.

Ronnette is a vibrant designer and energetic member of the New York architecture community. As principal of one of the few woman-owned architecture firms in the country, Riley is passionate about her field and deeply committed to her clients. She is a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects, the Institute of Urban Design and actively engaged in numerous professional organizations. With a Bachelor of Art in Architecture from the University of California at Berkeley and a Master of Architecture from the Graduate School of Design at Harvard University, Riley is licensed in several states and is NCARB certified.

Before founding Ronnette Riley Architect in 1987, Riley spent eight years in the architectural practice of Philip Johnson and John Burgee. She served as Project Architect for the Lipstick Building at 53rd and Third in Manhattan, responsible for design through final construction, and the RepublicBank Center, now the Bank of America in Houston. Prior to joining Johnson/Burgee, Riley worked with several design leaders, including Peter Marino Architects, Voorsanger & Mills, Emilio Ambasz, all in New York, and Fisher-Friedman Associates of California.

Guy Maxwell is a Partner at Ennead Architects and has been with the firm since 1994. For more than ten years, Maxwell has been Project Manager for many of Ennead’s projects with extensive regulatory requirements and has worked widely with the NYC Department of Design and Construction, NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, Art Commission of the City of New York and NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission. Maxwell’s selected projects include New York Hall of Science Expansion in Queens, NY; The Ohio State University, Scott Laboratory in Columbus, OH; Department of Homeless Services, Prevention Assistance and Temporary Housing; New York City Fire Department, Rescue Company 3 in Bronx, NY; and Rose Center for Earth and Space, American Museum of Natural History in Manhattan.

Maxwell received a Master of Architecture from Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation in 1994 and a Bachelor of Science in Architecture from University of Virginia in 1989. He is a member of the American Institute of Architects and is a LEED Accredited Professional. In addition to his professional practice, Maxwell serves on the Board of Directors of the New Jersey Audubon Society and is a Trustee of the Bird-Safe Glass Foundation.
ECHO RIDGE DUPLEXES

DESCRIPTION Recently, the Topeka Housing Authority received one of 12 HUD grants given nationally to incentivize innovative and sustainable design and construction within the low-income housing sector. Designed with a focus on single mothers, the new configuration of duplexes creates a protected and easily supervised communal space for small children. The result is an energetic and optimistic rethinking of a low-income housing typology that promotes sustainable living and a strong sense of community.

ARCHITECT el dorado, inc.

LOCATION Topeka, KS
Excellence in Architecture

HONOR

REEDS SPRING HIGH SCHOOL

DESCRIPTION Providing a new practice gym and support facilities, this addition to an existing high school cleverly considers often-overlooked spaces for a budget of $92 per square foot. The gym is conceived as a simple masonry box with a continuous horizontal slice that provides daylight to the interior. Places of rest after strenuous activity are identified by wood accents that enrich the material palette, while a screen wall of weathering steel adds sculptural quality to the landscape.

ARCHITECT Dake Wells Architecture

LOCATION Reeds Spring, MO
DESCRIPTION A unifying precept of the campus plan and the building design is the development of a pedestrian courtyard that employs the building as a mediator between vehicular activity and the pedestrian campus. Clad in corrugated metal siding that draws from the surrounding rural environment, the laboratories for CNC machining, welding and HVAC instruction occupy the north end of the upper level while classrooms, offices and a student lounge complete the program to the south. This glazed southern half serves as a beacon to the public, appearing as a floating lantern at night.

ARCHITECT INVISION Architecture

LOCATION Peosta, IA

SIZE 54,000 SF

BUDGET $7.9 million
HEAVY METAL

DESCRIPTION Aply named, Heavy Metal is a steel-clad private residence that sits on eight acres of heavily wooded terrain. As an owner of a steel manufacturing facility, the client wished to have his home reflect both his family business and his personal artistic background. The home is a contemporary take on a Miesian courtyard house that commands its context with a layered skin of glass and perforated steel, providing strategic views for the celebrated beauty of its natural setting.

ARCHITECT Hufft Projects

LOCATION Joplin, MO
DESCRIPTION  Light and color are introduced into the structure to make the building a destination. To accentuate colors and provide illumination, the architects installed T8 linear fluorescent lights end-to-end on each cross beam to uplight the ceiling plane. The lighting control system turns on fixtures during peak morning and afternoon hours. During off-peak hours, the system turns off every fourth row of luminaries to save energy.

ARCHITECT  Elliott + Associates Architects

LOCATION  Oklahoma City, OK
DESCRIPTION From the onset of the design process, the architect-builder had to plan the project to allow all adjacent space to remain open throughout construction. During Schematic Design, the architect-builder discovered an underground river within a 1920s culvert running under the north corner of the existing structure. The architect embraced this constraint, allowing historical infrastructure to shape the new expansion into a dynamic form that directly engages a busy intersection emerging from a nearby train overpass.

ARCHITECT el dorado, inc.

LOCATION Kansas City, MO
GIRL SCOUT CAMP PRAIRIE SCHOONER

DESCRIPTION el dorado was hired to design a new trail center that functions as a troop house, a modern restroom and shower facility. The approach identified the assets of the camp, and then leveraged those assets to build on the programmatic expectations of the project. The new building is positioned to provide a continuous drop-off zone along the northern face that directs the girls toward a courtyard space that serves as the entry to both the dining hall and the trail center.

ARCHITECT el dorado, inc.

LOCATION Kansas City, MO
DESCRIPTION 18th Street is the axis to Oklahoma City’s premier arts and science high school. Inspired by the notion that a well-designed apartment can be art, 18th Street Studios provides a lesson in proving that modularity, efficiency and economy can be something inspiring and thought-provoking. Elements of the surrounding brick buildings with flat roofs and large patios are configured into new forms, expressive of today while respectful of the past.

ARCHITECT Fitzsimmons Architects
LOCATION Oklahoma City, OK
TROOST BRIDGE

DESCRIPTION An enhancement team (an architect and an artist) was selected early in the bridge design process to work with engineers to ensure care for the pedestrian experience and to focus on creating a signature bridge within modest budgetary constraints.

ARCHITECT el dorado, inc.

LOCATION Kansas City, MO
Excellence in Architecture
MERIT

KIRKPATRICK OIL HENNESSEY

ARCHITECT Elliott + Associates Architects
LOCATION Hennessey, OK

Excellence in Architecture
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ARCHITECT LWPB Architecture
LOCATION Oklahoma, OK
EXECUTIVE OFFICE

DESCRIPTION With a modest budget and short timeframe, much of the existing fabric was left in place and helped inform other design elements. The space is long, narrow and low, so the design focused on creating a sense of motion and exaggeration of existing proportions. Long lines, elegant curves, floating and distorted planes are the result, balanced with subtle repetition. The floor-to-ceiling glass planes between low steel joists blur the sense of volume, continuously changing them as one moves through the space.

ARCHITECT Fitzsimmons Architects
LOCATION Oklahoma City, OK
DESCRIPTION The goal of this project was to renovate a nondescript 1950s warehouse into offices that reflect the personality of the client, an HVAC equipment and service company. The firm created a showroom where normally concealed mechanical equipment—ducts, grilles, copper pipe, louvers—is revealed and celebrated. Products are proudly displayed and treated like sculpture, and public spaces become unique and memorable for visitors.

ARCHITECT Elliott + Associates Architects

LOCATION Des Moines, IA
DESCRIPTION This apartment for a filmmaker reinterprets the use of poché to support Baroque theatricality and proposes a cinematic architecture of sequences and points of view. Min | Day conceived the living space as a pseudo-exterior, pushing private and utilitarian spaces behind a large wall of oak veneer – the inner façade of the unit. Above this is a private roof deck accessed from stairs in the compressed space of the poché.

ARCHITECT Min | Day

LOCATION Omaha, NE
STACEY'S PROM, BRIDAL & LINGERIE

ARCHITECT INVISION Architecture
LOCATION Urbandale, IA
GUARDIAN PARKING

DESCRIPTION To meet the needs of building tenants for protected parking in the urban environment, the client opted for a central parking area for several buildings as opposed to separate parking lots. Covered parking is viewed as an added amenity in Oklahoma primarily due to weather concerns. The design solution was to provide the protected parking and pedestrian areas while maintaining visual openness for security of users.

ARCHITECT Fitzsimmons Architects

LOCATION Oklahoma, OK
HONOR

STUDENT RECREATION CENTER

DESCRIPTION Funded by a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency combined with a self-imposed student activity fee, this new student recreation center for Missouri State University-West Plains provides much-needed multipurpose recreation space for students and faculty. In addition, the facility serves as a community safe room capable of withstanding an EF-5 tornado.

ARCHITECT Dake Wells Architecture

LOCATION West Plains, MO
PRINCIPAL RIVERWALK
PAVILION & PUMP STATION

DESCRIPTION Construction is underway for a pair of public buildings on a prominent site along the Des Moines River; both are part of the new Principal Riverwalk. The north building is a 2,200-square-foot café pavilion. The south building is a pump station. It is nearly identical in size to the pavilion, but with a skin that remains closed, containing pumps, generators and other mechanical paraphernalia with no public access.

ARCHITECT substance

LOCATION Des Moines, IA
GALVESTON FIRE STATION #4

DESCRIPTION The building itself can transform from a relaxing atmosphere into a rescue command center in the case of a hurricane or flood. In the same way that pile dwellings are raised above the earth to protect the structure from storm and flood damage, the FireBeach House elevates the living quarters above the utility bays.

ARCHITECT Kevin Augustyn, Assoc. AIA, HDR Architecture, Inc.

LOCATION Galveston, TX
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Architect: PLAN Architecture
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Location: Ganta, Liberia
Architects: Joshua Palmer & Finley Pitt
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