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Firmness, Commodity, and Delight - these are the terms used by the Roman architect, Vitruvius, to describe the characteristics that any successful architecture should embody. Firmness: a building should be solid and built to last; Commodity: a building must function and support the use for which it was intended—a house, a temple, a palace should all be designed to meet their users’ needs or desires; and Delight: a building should be beautiful, pleasing to the eye and an asset for its community.

For almost 50 years, members of the Potomac Valley Chapter of the American Institute of Architects have designed and been involved with the construction of countless buildings that have shaped and, in many cases, defined our communities. Their buildings have demonstrated firmness and commodity, providing their owners and users with soundly constructed environments that are highly suited to living, working, and learning. But these buildings also generate delight through the spaces they create, the materials they employ, and the beauty of their forms and facades.

Introduction

It is the delight that architecture creates that we celebrate in these pages. The Potomac Valley Chapter has assembled a collection of buildings that have been judged to be the best our members have designed in recent years, representing local and national American Institute of Architects award winners from 1999-2003. The projects range in size from small residential additions to schools and places of worship, as well as regional plans for cities. What they have in common is a sensitivity to their owners’ needs, the location where they will be built, and a respect for the people and communities they will serve. Each project reflects the multiple challenges that all architects deal with: function, materiality, constructability, budget, and the ability to make all of these factors come together in an aesthetically coherent and pleasing design, often resulting in unexpected and refreshingly surprising buildings.

Architecture, in its best endeavors, gives meaning to construction. We invite you to enjoy and explore this collection of the best work of our chapter’s members. We expect that this will be the first of many future collections of the work of the architects of the Potomac Valley Chapter.

Board of Directors, Potomac Valley Chapter
American Institute of Architects
Martin Shocket Residence

LOCATION
Chevy Chase, Maryland

ARCHITECT
McInturff Architects

CLIENT
Martin Shocket

TEAM
Principal-In-Charge: Mark McInturff, FAIA
Project Architect: Peter Noonan, AIA

CONSULTANTS
Structural: Neubauer Consulting Engineers
Contractor: Acadia Contractors, Inc.

A one room, 1920's former photographer's studio has been renovated to link with an existing house on the site. The design opens up the connection between the two buildings, giving the resulting family room seen here a Modern aesthetic that contrasts and complements the existing house.

2002 AIA National Design Award

Photos by Julia Heine
"Every square inch has been thought through in this remarkable transformation of a single, characterless room."
Howard University: LeDroit Park
Revitalization Initiative

LOCATION
Washington, D.C.

ARCHITECT
Sorg and Architects, P.C.

CLIENT
Howard University
Fannie Mae Corporation

TEAM
Principal-In-Charge: Suman Sorg, AIA

CONSULTANTS
Concord Partners

Contractor: Clyde McHenry Construction, Inc. and Essex Construction, LLC

Established in 1873, LeDroit Park, a National Historic Landmark District, was developed as a gated, Whites-only community at the edge of downtown Washington, D.C. Located adjacent to a historically African American university, the neighborhood became, in time, home to Black professors, intellectuals, artists, and professionals. After World War II, however, it went into severe decline.
Each part of the Revitalization Initiative relied on history as a unifying theme. Located in an area rich in African-American culture, historical figures and historical events, the Revitalization Initiative took the threads of the past and reworked them to create a newly revitalized community fabric to celebrate the pioneering, visionary, and heroic spirit of its past and, at the same time, created a solid foundation for its future development.

This project represents a key turning point in re-awakening the historic district around Howard University.
Charlottesville Commercial Corridor Study

LOCATION
Charlottesville, Virginia

ARCHITECT
Torti-Gallas and Partners-CHK

TEAM
Principal-In-Charge: Neal I. Payton, AIA
Project Manager: Elizabeth J. Hesler
Project Team: Michael Nicolaus, AIA,
Lawrence V. Antoine, Jr. AIA, AICP
Theresa Coolahan, Julia Koslow,
Elizabeth Bester, Grant Epstein

CONSULTANTS
Renderer: Chris Johnson
Market Research: Robert Charles Lesser & Co.
Landscape Architect: Land Planning and Design Associates

2002 AIA National Design
“This project in Charlottesville, Virginia, illustrated ideas for redesigning commercial areas of the city and opened the eyes of residents and officials to a number of new possibilities.”
An appropriate assemblage of materials, spaces and references that say what this building is...there's no guesswork. One understands upon entering and traversing throughout, that this is a place of worship. The architect here has very sensitively achieved the program and created a visually stimulating building.
"What struck the jury most about this project was the contrast between the before and after photographs. This is one of the most dramatic renovations we have seen. The spaces are all very well proportioned, and the clean lines and use of materials is very appropriate for a school focusing on technology."

LOCATION
Centreville, Maryland

ARCHITECT
Grimm & Parker Architects

CLIENT
Queen Anne's County Public Schools

DESIGN TEAM
Principal: Steve Parker, AIA
Managing Principal: Melanie Hennigen, AIA
Project Manager: Rick Morrison, AIA
Project Architect: Paul Klee

Contractor: Donohue Construction Company

2003 AIA-PV Honor Award
Wagner Residence

LOCATION
Brookmont, Maryland

ARCHITECT
Bennett Frank McCarthy Architects, Inc.
William Bechhoefer, FAIA, Associate Architect

CLIENT
Ira & Marcia Wagner

DESIGN TEAM
Larry Frank, AIA
Mark Bombaugh
Susan Darley

CONSULTANTS
Structural: SDG.
Contractor: E.H. Johnstone Builder

The exterior of this shingle style building, although subdued in its treatment, is a well thought out combination of the old and the new. Although larger than it first appears, the careful use of a steep site cleverly conceals four levels of space behind thoughtfully designed elevations. The clean details, both inside and out, add to the atmosphere of a building that provides for a light and airy home.
"The graceful simplicity of this project is what stood out from the rest of the entries. The use of materials, lighting, and geometry all reinforce the strong concept of the interior space."

LOCATION
Alexandria, Virginia

ARCHITECT
Wiencek + Associates Architects + Planners

CLIENT

DESIGN TEAM
Scott Knudson
Shala Awan
Wale Olusegun

CONSULTANTS
MEP: J.B. Wyble & Associates, PA., Consulting Engineers
Contractor: The Korth Companies

2003 AIA·PV Merit Award
Barcroft Sports & Fitness Center

LOCATION
Arlington, Virginia

ARCHITECT
Bowie Gridley Architects

CLIENT
Arlington County, Virginia

DESIGN TEAM
Principal-In-Charge: William C. Gridley, FAIA
Project Manager: Richard S. Salopek, AIA

CONSULTANTS
Structural: McMullan Associates
MEP: Potomac Energy Group
Civil: VIDA, Inc.

Contractor: S. B. Construction

“A playful solution to what could have been a very institutional building. Creative uses of light, materials, colors and height have provided a very inviting building and series of spaces that one enjoys while working out. The plan, while simple, provides the perfect complement to the aesthetics that the architect created. This is a building that lends itself to relieving stress as one enjoys its comforts.”

2003 AIA·PV Merit Award
We are a species that seeks shelter. Sure, some of our hardier types do quite well out in the elements for short durations. We've all read about amazing feats of survival against the forces of nature. By and large though, we need to create environments that protect and nurture us. These take many forms: clothing, umbrellas, tents, bus stops, vehicles and most importantly, buildings. We, our children, our parents, spend most of our lives living, learning, working, praying, and being cared for in the many diverse building types that fit within that broad and often misused term, architecture. As architects we take our role in helping to create the built environment very seriously. Increasingly, buildings must do more than simply provide shelter. A well-designed building can help sustain the environment, improve production in the workplace, and increase the capacity to learn. These are not idle boasts. Scientific studies are now available to support previous anecdotal evidence.

The Architects of the American Institute of Architects Potomac Valley Chapter are working very hard to continue to improve the quality of our built environment. We now have continuing education requirements as part of our professional license renewal. We team with owners, contractors, developers, engineers, and specialists to avail ourselves of the highest and best thinking to deliver buildings that provide warmth, comfort, performance, economy, and beauty.

**Architecture**

Beauty is an often overlooked attribute of architecture. Louis Kahn said, "Every time a student walks past a really urgent, expressive piece of architecture that belongs to his college, it can help reassure him that he does have that mind, does have that soul ."

R. Buckminster Fuller, an architect, engineer, and scientist stated, "When I'm working on a problem, I never think about beauty. I think only how to solve the problem. But when I have finished, if the solution is not beautiful, I know it is wrong."

The buildings featured in this magazine exemplify the best that we architects have to offer. There are examples of residences, places of worship, commercial, retail, schools, recreation and others. It's a nice mix. These are the kind of buildings that touch our lives every day. If they offer a small retreat against the pressures of everyday life or some small angle of repose, they have made a contribution. Confronted by daily challenges, be it terrorism alerts, traffic congestion, or weather extremes, people are looking for ways to feel protected and comfortable in their surroundings. Our buildings can answer that call. In their own way they all adhere to this notion, again from Louis Kahn, "A great building must begin with the unmeasurable, must go through measurable means when it is being designed and in the end must be unmeasurable ."

Larry Frank, AIA-PV President

Michael Poness, AIA-PV President-Elect

Melanie Hennigen, AIA-PV Treasurer
Fontina Grille

LOCATION
Rockville, Maryland

ARCHITECT
Rosenberg A+I, P.C.

CLIENT
Carrie & Dominic D’Antona

DESIGN TEAM
Principal-In-Charge: Scott P. Rosenberg, AIA
Project Manager: Michelle West, ASID
Project Team: Lanna Meeks, Jim Maleady, Cara Paglia

CONSULTANTS
Structural: Tim Sibol, Skarda & Associates
MEP: Sam Kalra, DJK & Associates
Contractor: John Capoccia, Hardy Construction

Chicago Botanical Gardens
Comfort Station

LOCATION
Chicago, Illinois

ARCHITECTS
Shinberg Levinas Architectural Design LLC

CLIENT
Chicago Botanical Gardens

CONSULTANTS
Landscape Architects: Oehme van Sweden & Associates
Lighting: D. Gilmore Lighting Design

Contractor: Brown & Associates

AIA·PV Awards of Excellence

Photos by Michelle West

Photos by Oehme, van Sweden, Richard Feller, Shinberg/Levinas
Kahn Kriesberg Residence

LOCATION
Potomac, Maryland

ARCHITECT
Wiedermann Architects

CLIENT
Martha Kahn, Simeon Kriesburg

DESIGN TEAM
Principal-In-Charge: Gregory C. Wiedermann, AIA
Project Architect: David P. Conrad, AIA

CONSULTANTS
Structron Engineering
Rowan's Landscape Company, Inc
Courthouse Kitchens, Inc.

Contractor: West Wing Builders

Mitche Un House

LOCATION
Bethesda, Maryland

ARCHITECT
Brenneman & Pageenstecher, Inc.

CLIENT
Gerard & Germana Mitchell

DESIGN TEAM
Principal-In-Charge: Dean Brenneman, AIA
Michael Ulrich, Mark Anderson

Contractor: Brenneman & Pageenstecher, Inc.

Photos by Hoachlander Davis Photography
Neuralstem Headquarters

LOCATION
Gaithersburg, Maryland

ARCHITECT
DNC Architects, Inc.

CLIENT
Neuralstem

DESIGN TEAM
Principal-In-Charge: Jef Fuller
Project Manager/Designer: Susan Malamud
Project Team: Anthony Consoli, Joy Kraus, Jen Whalen

CONSULTANTS
Structural: SK&A Engineers
MEP: META Engineers

Contractor: Whiting-Turner

St. David's Episcopal Church

LOCATION
Ashburn, Virginia

ARCHITECT
Ukeman / Architects LLC

CLIENT
St. David's Episcopal Church

DESIGN TEAM
Principal-In-Charge: Gregory Ukeman, AIA

CONSULTANTS
Structural: JGK Structural Engineers PA
MEP: Energy Applications Inc.

Contractor: Kfoury Construction Group

AIA·PV Awards of Excellence

Photos by Eric Taylor

Photos by Prakash Patel
Brookeville Woolen Mill
Workers House

LOCATION
Brookeville Maryland

ARCHITECT
Miche Booz Architects

CLIENT
Jack & Carol Bufton

TEAM
Miche Booz, AIA
Le Pham

CONSULTANTS
Neubauer Consulting Engineers

Contractor: Oak Grove Resolution Co.

Fresh Fields P Street

LOCATION
Washington, DC

ARCHITECT
Mushinsky Voelzke Associates/MV+A

CLIENT
Fresh Fields

DESIGN TEAM
James Voelzke, AIA
Mark Wesselink, AIA
Emmanuel Midingi, AIA
Bob Voelker, John Lee, David Zimmerman

CONSULTANTS
SK&A Engineers
Clive Samuels and Associates

Contractor: L.F. Jennings

AIA·PV Awards of Excellence

Photos by David Hartge

Photos by Dan Cunningham
Metro Escalator Canopy

LOCATION
Washington, DC

ARCHITECT
Shorieh Talaat Architects

CLIENT
Washington Area Metro Authority

DESIGN TEAM
Shorieh Talaat, AIA
Adriana Magalini, International Associate AIA

Woodland Drive Residence

LOCATION
Washington, DC

ARCHITECT
Studio 27 Architecture PLLC

CLIENT
Lynn Anderson and Gary Pettitt

DESIGN TEAM
John K. Burke, AIA
R. Todd Ray, AIA
Raymond Curtis

CONSULTANTS
Structural: Ehlart Bryan
MEP: Metropolitan Engineering

Contractor: Kingston Construction

AIA·PV Awards of Excellence

Photos by Ken Wyner, John Babineau, & John Burke
Madison/Cosmos/Tayloe Complex

LOCATION
Washington, DC

ARCHITECT
Einhorn Yafee Prescott

CLIENT
General Services Administration

TEAM
Einhorn Yafee Prescott, Architecture & Engineering, PC.

CONSULTANTS
Oak Grove Design
Margot Wilson, Interior Design
FDE Structural

Capital View Bungalows

LOCATION
Kensington, Maryland

ARCHITECT
GTM Architects, Inc.

DESIGN TEAM
Principal-In-Charge: George T. Myers, AIA

CONSULTANTS
Structural: Radwan Associates, Inc.
Civil: Witmer Associates
Contractor: Joseph Alfandry, Design Homes

AIA·PV Awards of Excellence

Photos by GTM Architects, Inc.

Photos by Joe Romeo Photography
Ward Studio

LOCATION
Chevy Chase, Maryland

ARCHITECT
Suzane Reatig Architecture

CLIENT
Ira & Marcia Wagner

DESIGN TEAM
Suzane Reatig, FAIA

CONSULTANTS
Structural: MGV Consulting.
Contractor: Vima Craft

---

Studio: Michael Belisle Design

LOCATION
Bethesda, Maryland

ARCHITECT
Michael Belisle Design

CLIENT
Michael Belisle Design

DESIGN TEAM
Michael Belisle, AIA

CONSULTANTS
Art: Elyse Harrison
Neon: Kraft Studio
Finishes: Peter Rublee Gallery
Contractor: Michael Belisle, AIA

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AIA·PV Awards of Excellence

Photos by Robert Lautman

Photos by Hoachlander - Davis Photography
Creating and shaping environments is the essence of architecture. While space is intangible, the elements that create space come from the material world in which we live. As the pace of construction and population growth have increased, greater demands have been placed on the natural world and its resources to supply both the raw materials as well as the energy required to create the buildings we use and the homes we inhabit.

It has become increasingly evident that there are finite limits to the resources people have taken for granted. Architects must now understand not only the spatial and functional requirements of the buildings we design; we must also construct them in ways that utilize materials that are renewable and replaceable. Buildings must also be oriented optimally to take advantage of natural light while reducing energy requirements to heat, cool, and ventilate them. Additionally, interdisciplinary research in neurobiology and architecture is beginning to reveal connections between space and light and perception and well-being.

Sustainable Communities

On a larger scale, the emergence of New Urbanism and the creation of new towns and transit-oriented developments are emulating the classic city shaping of the past. Homes that require less land, share public green space and communities that allow people to walk to school, work, and shopping are reducing the need for fossil fuels while reintroducing the feeling of close-knit neighborhoods.

In many ways we are at the beginning of a revolution. We are simultaneously rediscovering the wisdom that guided the way buildings and cities were created before the advent of industrial society as well as possessing the technology and scientific understanding to profoundly affect the physical world. All of these developments have made the practice of architecture increasingly challenging and complex.

It is the goal of the Potomac Valley Chapter of the American Institute of Architects to support and encourage our members to practice and implement Sustainable Design in all its facets and ramifications. This will be accomplished through a structured program of lectures and seminars, as well as recognizing and awarding architecture that reflects design which best incorporates sustainable principles, materials, and techniques. We know that the way we shape our buildings and communities will shape our future.

Richard S. Rosen, AIA
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