

HONOR AWARDS FOR DESIGN EXCELLENCE PROGRAM / 2008

Jurors' Comments

In this annual BSA design awards program, Massachusetts architects are invited to submit projects throughout the world and architects elsewhere in the world are invited to submit projects built in Massachusetts. This year we had the privilege of reviewing 130 projects in the U.S. and abroad.

Predominant among this year's submissions were medical and educational institutions, the latter of which often presented complex and challenging branding agendas. We saw few single-family homes; also underrepresented were interior, restaurant, retail, and multi-housing projects, particularly those executed on a modest budget. Only some of the projects presented sustainability as a top design- or solution-driver.

In general the project quality was high though many of the submissions lacked real inspirational verve or demonstrated notable innovation. This seemed especially true about interiors. In some instances designers apparently spent the lion's share of their budget on a grand external gesture that did not extend well throughout the rest of the space. While some might argue that Boston's reputation as a design leader is not always evident, the profession in Boston has a powerful and enduring tradition and, as this year's program underscored, there is obviously an abundance of design talent in the region.

Though we found no new style trends upon which to remark, almost all of the work we examined was competently executed, attentive to its users, compatible with both its site and community while being aesthetically appealing. We agreed that by fulfilling these attributes, a building is working well.

We wish to offer a tip for future program entrants: tell us the clearest possible story by using plain language, good images, and simple diagrams. By doing these things you will not only show us your project in its best light but you will make it possible for us to quickly understand your thinking.

In the end, we honored 23 projects, selecting those that best responded to their programs while also succeeding aesthetically and socially; we gravitated toward projects that were contextually sound; and we applauded those magnificent projects that expressed the designer's intent throughout and were rich with thoughtful and consistent details.

Serving as jurors in design awards programs such as this is always an educational opportunity for the jurors and that was certainly the case this time. We wish to express our appreciation to the Boston Society of Architects and to all of the design professionals who submitted work to this program for making this an enriching experience for us. We hope our comments on this program and on the specific projects we have chosen to honor are useful to you as well.

The Jurors

Ned Cramer (*Architect* magazine)

Catherine Fox (*Atlanta Journal Constitution*)

Judith Kinnard FAIA (University of Virginia; Community Planning and Design)

William Menking (*The Architect's Newspaper*).

HONOR AWARDS FOR DESIGN EXCELLENCE

Student Center (Bennington VT)

for Bennington College

designed by Taylor & Burns Architects (Boston)... MLB Construction Services (builder, Malta NY); Reed Hilderbrand Associates (landscape architect, Watertown MA); Kyu Sung Woo Architects (masterplanner, Cambridge MA); Otter Creek Engineering (civil engineer, Rutland VT); Sebesta Blomberg (steam/civil engineer, Woburn MA); The Collaborative Engineers (M/E/P/structural engineer, Boston); Ricca Newmark Design (food-service consultant, Centennial CO); Acentech (acoustics, Cambridge MA); Sally Greene Permit Service (permit consultant, Shrewsbury VT); Vermont Survey and Engineering (surveyor, Montpelier VT)

On the campus of a small liberal arts college with a history of supporting modern architecture, this multi-purpose, barn-like student center invigorates a previously disorganized site that included parking where a sun-warmed terrace now connects the building's interior and exterior...Called a "fusion" project by its designers, this unpretentious structure picks up the Midcentury aesthetic and extends it, providing a contemporary framework for other important campus buildings, helping to integrate the site without calling attention to itself...The public space outside the café is lovely.

~

Private School (Watertown MA)

for Atrium School

designed by Maryann Thompson Architects (Cambridge MA)... Bowdoin Construction Corp. (contractor, Needham MA); Landworks Studio (landscape architect, Boston); Richmond So Engineers (structural engineer, Cambridge MA); Wozney/Barbar Associates (M/E/P/FP engineer, Hanover MA); Gala Simon Associates (civil engineer, Belmont MA); The Green Engineer (sustainability consultant, Acton MA); Schirmer Engineering (code consultant, Framingham MA); Anton Grassl/Esto (photographer, Mamaroneck NY)

This small, private, school-in-a-warehouse represents an unpretentious, direct, consistently detailed, and altogether excellent adaptive reuse project that was executed on a tight budget...The structure retains its commercial feel, incorporating an admirably open floorplan that appears flexible enough to accommodate changes in education trends...There is good surrounding green space and a fabulous canopy in back...With skylights set above every one of the eight variously-scaled classrooms, the entire building resonates with natural daylight that makes the color scheme dynamic...The overall design is clearly oriented toward kids without ever pandering to immature sensibilities or becoming cute...We liked the use of commercial garage doors...The designer applied a rigorous, spare pallet and distributed the lean budget throughout the project, resulting in the creation of multiple warm spaces for kids.

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Elementary School (Stamford CT)

for The Children's School

designed by Maryann Thompson Architects (Cambridge MA)... Viking Construction (contractor, Stamford CT); Richmond So Engineers (structural engineer, Cambridge MA); Van Zelm Heywood & Shadford (M/E/P/FP engineer, West Hartford CT); Redniss & Mead (civil engineer/surveyor, Stamford CT); The Green Roundtable (green/LEED consultant, Cambridge MA); Ingrid Strong (design consultant, Cambridge MA); Schirmer Engineering (code consultant, Framingham MA); Collective Wisdom Corp. (specifications, Weston MA); Construction Consulting Group (owner's representative, Stamford CT); Chuck Choi Architectural Photography (photographer, Brooklyn)

Playfully massed and scaled, this elementary school integrates a community of smaller buildings and reads like a landscape rather than a single object...In accordance with the teaching philosophy of the Montessori schools, the effect is to provide a "one-room schoolhouse" for 120 children...The structure's prominent overlapping rooflines offer visual variety and cantilever over outdoor spaces that extend from each classroom to provide wonderful spots for children...The structure fits well with the surrounding suburban typology...All classrooms have a southern orientation reflecting a passive solar strategy...Smartly, the entire building employs radiant heating that takes advantage of the thick thermal floor mass to extend the season in which alternative heating is not required and acknowledges the inordinate amount of time that this age group spends on the floor...This is spare, mature and intelligent design.

~

Penn Lofts (Quincy MA)

for Touchstone Properties

designed by Merge Architects (Boston)... Touchstone Properties (contractor, Braintree MA); Eva Hankin (structural engineer, Woburn MA); John Horner (photographer, Somerville MA); Silvia Illia (photographer, Somerville MA)

On the footprint of a factory in a neighborhood now zoned for maximum mixed-use density, this dignified multi-housing building uses an understated wood facade to integrate a modern aesthetic into the light-industrial surroundings...Beautiful when illuminated at night, the interplay between the building's variously-sized volumes looks fantastic...We imagined how lovely it might feel to live in this nuanced, finely detailed place; its simple, creative form elevates the neighborhood, bringing functional and visual options to the cityscape, without making others feel impoverished.

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Public Broadcasting Station Headquarters (Brighton MA)
for WGBH

*designed by Polshek Partnership Architects (New York City)...*George B. H. Macomber Co. (pre-construction services, Boston); Turner Construction Co. (construction manager, New York City); LeMessurier Consultants (structural engineer, Cambridge MA); Vanderweil Engineers (M/E/P engineer, Boston); Hargreaves Associates (landscape architect, Cambridge MA); Brandston Partnership (lighting design, New York City); Janson Design Group (acoustics/broadcast architect, New York City); 2x4 Inc. (graphics/signage, New York City); Poulin + Morris (graphics/signage, New York City); The Systems Group (systems integration, Hoboken, NJ); Steven Winter Associates (sustainable design consultant, Norwalk CT); Viridian Energy & Environmental (sustainable design consultant, Norwalk CT); Vanasse Hangen Brustlin (civil engineer/permit consultant, Watertown MA); Haley & Aldrich (geotechnical engineer, Boston); GZA GeoEnvironmental (environmental consultant, Norwood MA); Hughes Associates (life-safety consultant, Marlborough MA); Construction Specifications (specifications, Morganville NJ); Iros Elevator Design Services (vertical transportation, East Rutherford NJ); Ducibella Venter & Santore (security consultant, North Haven CT); Next Step Design (food-service consultant)

This design integrates separately-sited buildings and makes the media-production client's activities visible by floating a two-story crystalline bridge across the street that bisects the two...It is a marvelous and fantastic-looking project that extends over the Massachusetts Turnpike to be viewed by commuters and others heading to Boston...The structure is a glistening, romantic gesture that links form and function...Elegantly detailed, it is a building but it is also an example of fine public art slipped into the urban fabric...We find this environmentally sensitive design evocative of the best of Rem Koolhaas...It excited our imaginations and made us wish we worked there.

~

Michael Driscoll School (Brookline MA)
for the Town of Brookline/Public Schools of Brookline

*designed by Jonathan Levi Architects (Boston)...*A.J. Robicheau Construction Co. (general contractor, Roslindale MA); Garcia, Galuska, Desousa Consulting Engineers (M/E/P engineer, Dartmouth MA); Veitas & Veitas Engineers (structural engineer, Braintree MA); Crabtree McGrath Associates (food-service consultant, Danvers MA)

The designers of this public-school renovation employ architecture, intelligence, and limited other resources to create highly innovative spaces on a very low budget, transforming a basement lunchroom into the institution's central gathering place -- a cafeteria for students by day, and by night a mixed-use after-school community center...Using great economy of means, a single space is carved up into three distinct areas that are delineated by simple, variably-spaced wood screens that provide a sense of nurturing enclosure while keeping the space open to create complete visibility throughout the room...Beautifully scaled, the design features child-

size soffits that serve as light screens over the booths while bringing variety to the ceiling height... The space incorporates a good mixture of materials that makes the building process visible, like a place under construction, providing good lessons for the kids – including the lesson that enormous budgets are not required to make fine architecture.

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Graduate Student Housing at 29 Garden Street (Cambridge MA)
for Harvard Real Estate Services/Harvard University
designed by Jonathan Levi Architects (Boston) with Bergmeyer Associates (Boston)... Bond Brothers (construction manager, Everett MA); Suffolk Construction (construction manager, Boston); Weidlinger Associates (structural engineer, Cambridge MA); Cosentini Associates (M/E/P engineer, Cambridge MA); Richard Burck Associates (landscape architect, Somerville MA); Ricca Newmark Design (food-service consultant, Centennial CO); Lam Partners (lighting consultant, Cambridge MA)

Located in a dense urban neighborhood, this faculty and student residence center is a wonderful example of adaptive reuse... After demolishing the interior of an existing hotel, the designers introduced an innovative space distribution system that relies on double-loaded corridors to support a variety of unit configurations and community spaces throughout the five-level structure... A rooftop garden replaces the hotel parking facility, contributing to the urban ecosystem... Rich with elegant details and dignified interiors, this mixed-use building could easily be used as nonacademic housing... Set back deeply from the street and well-lit, the entrance is warm and welcoming, especially during cold weather... A very strong and clever design that provides modern aesthetics and conveniences inside an historic façade.

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Swamp Hut (Newton MA)
for the Swamp Hut Collaborative
designed, built, and photographed by Moskow Linn Architects and Moskow Design Build (Boston)... McGrath Carpentry Service (framing contractor, Milton MA)

This totemic, creative example of pure architecture is sited in a 10-acre swamp in a suburban community... A central deck connects four 8-ft x 12-ft huts – two for sleeping, one for cleansing, and one for eating... The structures, built with varying degrees of enclosure according to their function, are made of materials that were standard size and carried to the site by hand to minimize waste and disturbance to the ecosystem... It is a modest project whose designer was thoughtful enough to make its energy systems renewable... Designed to be prefabricated, this folly's light touch and close attention to detail are compelling.

~

College of Computer and Information Science & Residence Hall (Boston)
for Northeastern University
designed by William Rawn Associates, Architects (Boston)... Turner Construction Co.
(contractor, Boston); LeMessurier Consultants (structural engineering, Cambridge MA);
Cosentini Associates (M/E/P engineer, Cambridge MA); Pressley Associates (landscape
architect, Cambridge MA); Heitmann & Associates (curtainwall consultant, Chesterfield MO);
Ripman Lighting Consultants (lighting design, Belmont MA)

This iconic midrise – a skyscraper for Boston – announces itself and sustains real presence on the urban skyline... Formally very deft, this multi-part building gracefully combines form with function, bringing academic classrooms, labs and faculty offices together with a 147-bed residence hall... The lovely open V that peeks between and atop the building's vertical parts is an understated, sophisticated authorial mark and its interior spaces are fantastic with gardens that open to the outside... We imagine that this building arrived with welcome, like good news to its community and neighborhood.

AWARDS FOR DESIGN

Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art (Overland Park KS)
for Johnson County Community College
designed by Kyu Sung Woo Architects (Cambridge MA) with Gould Evans Goodman (architect of record, Overland Park KS)... JE Dunn Construction (contractor, Kansas City MO); Walter P. Moor (structural engineer, Kansas City MO); Smith & Boucher M/E/P engineer, Olathe KS); Reed Hilderbrand Associates (landscape architect, Watertown MA); KJWW Engineering Consultants (tech consultant, Des Moines IA); Kaw Valley Engineering (civil engineer, Lenexa KS); Acoustical Design Group (acoustics, Mission KS); Santee Becker (food-service consultant, Mission KS)

Aglow beneath a stunning entrance soffit that doubles as an art installation, this contemporary art museum creates a commuter-campus gateway, bringing urban sensibility to its suburban site... A perforated scrim in the building's atrium creates a delicate interplay between light and shadows... The interior offers a wonderful series of gallery spaces and spatial sequences.

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Housing for the Fisherman of Tyre (Abbassiyeh, Tyre, Lebanon)
for the Association for Development of Rural Areas in South Lebanon and the Fishermen's Cooperative/Al Baqaa Housing Cooperative
designed by Hashim Sarkis Architecture Landscape and Urban Design (Cambridge MA)... Ebco-Bitar Contracting (contractor, Beirut); Mohamed Chahine and Mounir Mabsout (structural engineer, Beirut); Aurora (electro-mechanical engineer, Beirut)

The designer used unpretentious masonry that is indigenous to the region, careful planning and balanced space configuration to create a humane, 80-unit housing project that breaks the existing urban context...Circulation between the public and private areas is elegant, and the structure creates highly prized shade through a series of interlocking geometrical shapes that evoke the site's traditional architecture...The use of color is both striking and wonderful.

~

University Library Services (Cambridge MA)
for Harvard University

*designed by Leers Weinzapfel Associates (building designer, Boston) with Samuel Anderson Architects (interior designer, New York City)...*Jackson Construction (contractor, Boston); Lim Consultants (structural engineer, Cambridge MA); Cosentini Associates (M/E/P engineer, Cambridge MA); Green International Affiliates (civil engineer, Medford MA); Solutions Engineering (code consultant, Westborough MA); Stephen Stimson Associates (landscape architect, Falmouth MA); Acentech (acoustics, Cambridge MA); Kessler McGuiness & Associates (accessibility consultant, Newton MA); Paul Warchol (photographer, New York City)

This urbane modern library is sited in a dense urban neighborhood that consists primarily of traditional New England brick buildings... A very direct design, it does not pander to the existing context but instead is made sensitive through massing, scale and texture... A glass curtainwall and sculpturally shaped skylights combine to provide the interiors with wonderful light and the essence of transparency, as well as a strong visual connection to the street.

~

College Museum of Art (Brunswick ME)
for Bowdoin College

*designed by Machado and Silvetti Associates (Boston)...*Consigli Construction Co. (renovation and new construction contractor, Milford MA); Richmond So Engineers (structural engineer, Watertown MA); Altieri Sebor Wieber (M/E/P/FP engineer, Norwalk CT); Simpson Gumpertz & Heger (waterproofing/building envelope engineers, Waltham MA); Lam Partners (lighting consultant, Cambridge MA); Collective Wisdom (specifications consultant, Weston MA); SYTDesign (civil engineer, Cumberland ME); Carol R. Johnson Associates (landscape architect, Boston); Van Deusen & Associates (elevator design; Boston); Facundo de Zuviria (photographer, Buenos Aires); Blind Dog Photo (photographer, Kittery ME)

This project is an example of a gorgeous renovation and expansion of a Classical building on a college campus where more than 120 other buildings stand...A strong design sensibility and a large budget combined to make the original structure habitable...The designer made an innovative move by detaching the new, transparent entry pavilion from the main building...The interiors are airy and modern, a light contemporary touch within a Classical shell.

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General Aviation Facility/Logan International Airport (East Boston MA)

for Signature Flight Support

designed by Chan Krieger Sieniewicz (Cambridge MA) with Schenkel Shultz Architecture

(associate architect, Orlando FL)...Leopardo Cos. (construction manager, Hoffman Estates IL);

Kraus-Manning Construction Services (client representative, Orlando FL); LeMessurier

Consultants (structural engineer, Cambridge MA); Allen & Major Associates (civil engineer,

Woburn MA); VAV International (ME/FP engineer, Woburn MA); Pyrotech Consultants

(M/E/P/FP engineer, Sandwich MA); Hal Cutler (code consultant, Sudbury MA); Vincent

DiIorio (electrical engineer, Norwood MA); Jacques Whitford (landscape architect, Woburn

MA); Klopfer Martin Design Group (landscape architecture, Cambridge MA); Lam Partners

(lighting designer, Cambridge MA); Christian Phillips Photography (photographer, Boston)

Mahogany walls frame the entrance area that bridges the transition between the exterior and interior of this arrival hall/waiting room for private aircraft passengers at a large international airport...The space uses an industrial vocabulary throughout, including canopies that invoke flight...Formally very strong, with a delightful compositional balance between horizontal and vertical gestures...This waiting room opens to a garden on one side and the aircraft tarmac on the other...It is sensitively scaled, with well-considered details that resolve into a waiting area that softens the sometimes rigorous demands of flight and travel with humanity and comfort.

~

Transportation Center (Bridgeport CT)

for the City of Bridgeport

building design, photography and art glass windscreens by Bertaux + Iwerks Architects

(Boston)...Parsons Brinckerhoff (civil engineer, Boston); Weidlinger Associates (structural

engineer, Cambridge MA); van Zelm Heywood & Shadford (ME/FP engineer, Farmington CT);

Hanscomb, Faithful & Gould (cost estimator, Boston)

This fantastic public infrastructure project cozies into its spot on the waterfront of a city that could use the encouragement of well-designed spaces...The structure, both architecture and public art, engages the street and provides public transportation travelers with multiple points of entry while greatly improving overall pedestrian circulation...All waiting areas are highly visible from the street, and the street can be seen from all waiting areas, creating a sense of comfort and safety for the transit travelers...The industrial vocabulary of this station may elevate an urban waterfront that has suffered from poorly funded interests in a declining economy.

~

World Headquarters for the International Fund for Animal Welfare (Yarmouth Port MA)
for International Fund for Animal Welfare

*designed by designLAB Architects (Boston)...*JK Scanlan Co. (general contractor, Falmouth MA); Stephen Stimson Associates (landscape architect, Falmouth MA); TMP Consulting Engineers (M/E/P engineer, Boston); Daniel A. Ojala P.E., P.L.S. (civil engineer, Yarmouth Port, MA); KVAssociates (owner's representative, Boston); ODEH Engineers (structural engineer, Providence RI); Norfolk Ram (geotechnical engineer, Boston); Sladen Feinstein Integrated Lighting (lighting consultant, Boston); Leslie Saul Associates (furnishings, Boston); Peter Vanderwarker (photographer, West Newton MA)

This building, for which the client and designer are seeking LEED Gold certification, is occupied by a mission-driven organization that required a broad-based strategy for environmentally sound design...Through very smart planning and beautiful finishes, the well-detailed office renovation on a former brownfield site transcends the structure's basic industrial shell...Comprised of three separate volumes that evoke the traditional barn-like structures that are commonly seen across the rural region, the structure offers a beautiful courtyard that opens to the landscape.

CITATIONS FOR DESIGN

Garthwaite Center for Science and Art (Weston MA)
for the Cambridge School of Weston

*designed by Architerra (Boston)...*Consigli Construction (construction manager, Milford MA); Skanska USA (owner's representative, Boston); Energysmiths (environmental consultant, Meriden NH); Souza, True and Partners (structural engineer, Watertown MA); van Zelm Heywood & Shadford (ME/P and energy modeling, Farmington CT); Wastewater Alternatives (wastewater consultant, Plymouth MA); Green International (civil engineer, Westford MA); Andropogon Associates (landscape architect, Philadelphia PA); Haley & Aldrich (geotechnical engineer, Boston); Vermeulens Cost Consultants (cost estimator, Boston); Kalin Associates (specifications, Newton MA); Chuck Choi Photography (Brooklyn NY); Bruce Martin Photography (Natick MA)

This beautiful, simple structure is a great object lesson in sustainability...It is intelligently thought out and sensitively massed among the trees of a heavily wooded campus...Organized as a simple box, the building is vertically fissured and oriented with its main façade facing south.

~

Achilles Project (Boston)

for Michael Krupp, Shaka Ramsay and Michael Leviton

*designed by 3SIX0 Architecture & Design (Providence RI)...*Cafco Construction (general contractor, Boston); Mystic Millwork (fabricator, Norwood MA); Fillion Group (structural engineer, Sharon MA); Hogan McCauley (lighting consultant, Providence RI)

Located in a former warehouse space in a neighborhood of artists, this very versatile commercial space provides tremendous flexibility, transforming from a retail center by day into a restaurant/lounge at night...Ingenious design accompanies an innovative mixed-use program.

~

Veterans Memorial (Boston)
for Northeastern University

designed by bauenstudio (Brighton MA)...Magma Metalworks (metal designer/fabricator, Beverly MA); Roome & Guaracino (structural engineer, Somerville MA); Ledgewood Construction (contractor, Norfolk MA); Pressley Associates (landscape designer, Cambridge MA)

The structure makes good visual use of the dog-tag metaphor to provide commemorative information about fallen soldiers...The site plan is well organized, modest, unassuming but effective...Here, architecture works as an abstraction...This is an appropriate contemporary memorial.

~

Meadow Residence (Edgartown MA)

for private client (who also served as interior designer)

designed by Hutker Architects (Vineyard Haven MA)...Johnson Vineyard Builders (contractor, Vineyard Haven MA); Horiuchi-Solien Landscape Architects (landscape architect, Falmouth MA); Fletcher Cameron Design (kitchen designer/interior designer, Guilford CT); Brian Vanden Brink / Architectural Photographer (Rockport ME); Partenio Productions (photographer, Danbury CT); Jim Fiora Studio (photographer, Branford CT)

This beautiful residence has a detached guest house, art studio, and garage and is sited on an established coastal meadow that is adjacent to historic farmland and a low-lying indigenous landscape...The generous use of glass allows the interiors to engage the courtyard and pool terrace.

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The Landscape Institute of the Arnold Arboretum (Cambridge MA)

for Harvard Real Estate Services/Harvard University

designed by Jonathan Levi Architects (Boston)...Commodore Builders (general contractor, Newton MA); Cosentini Associates (M/E/P engineer, Cambridge MA); Weidlinger Associates (structural engineer, Cambridge MA)

A continuous, organically curved glass partition provides the single innovative design gesture that sustains this entire project, transforming a relatively dark interior space into an open, cheerful environment where people can enjoy working...The designer transformed this space with very little movement...Much planning and care was taken to introduce the maximum amount of daylight into deep interior spaces.

~

Physics, Department of Sciences Engineering, Spectroscopy, and Infrastructure Project
(Cambridge MA)

for Massachusetts Institute of Technology

designed by Payette (Boston) with Imai Keller Moore Architects (associate architect for renovations, Watertown MA)... Richard White Sons (construction manager, Auburndale MA); SEi Companies (M/E/P engineer, Boston); Weidlinger Associates (structural engineer, Cambridge MA)

Finely detailed, this education project gracefully and successfully integrates new construction into an existing building... The well-lit classrooms provide maximum transparency that works together with a system of Shoji screens that enable faculty to adjust windows for preferred levels of privacy and light.

~

Arnell Museum at Canajoharie (Canajoharie NY)

for Arnell Hall Foundation

designed by designLAB architects and Ann Beha Architects (Boston)... Sano-Rubin Construction Co. (general contractor, Albany NY); Diane Forsberg (exhibit designer, Canajoharie NY); Stephen Stimson Associates (landscape architect, Falmouth MA); Exegen Corp. (M/E/P engineer, Watertown MA); Ryan-Biggs Associates (structural engineer, Troy NY); Fisher Marantz Stone (lighting consultant, New York City); Jonathan Hillyer (photographer, Decatur GA)

This new structure houses a museum that honors the early 20th-century light-industrial heritage of the community in which it is sited... We loved the bold signage, reminiscent of iconic signs used to brand buildings of its era, mounted above the museum's entrance... The sawtooth roof design breaks up the building's mass against the skyline... A lovely exterior pool reflects the structure while complementing the renovated historical pool at the building's rear.