

25 YEARS AGO...

THE 1982 HARLESTON PARKER MEDAL

The Academy of Arts and Sciences

Kallmann McKinnell & Wood



Photo © 1980 Steve Rosenthal.

1982 HARLESTON PARKER JURY:

W. Easley Hamner FAIA, Chair
Nelson Chen AIA
Otakar Dvorak AIA
Cynthia Howard AIA
Robert Hsiung FAIA
Jon McKee AIA
Bailey Silbert AIA
Colin Smith FAIA
John Sharratt FAIA

The winner of the 2007
Harleston Parker Medal is
the Institute of Contemporary Art,
by Diller Scofidio + Renfro,
with Perry Dean Rogers | Partners.
See page 24.

The Harleston Parker Medal, Boston's most prestigious architecture award, was established in 1921 to recognize "the most beautiful piece of architecture, building, monument, or structure within the limits of the City of Boston or of the Metropolitan Parks District."

Twenty-five years ago, the Parker Medal jury chose to honor the Academy of Arts and Sciences in Cambridge, Massachusetts, commenting:

[The Academy's] building, in the words of Dr. Edwin Land, past president of the Academy, should provide "a place where creative and talented minds will share ideas." On entering the building and experiencing the interior spaces, one is constantly reminded of one of the Vitruvian axioms of architecture—delight.... The Academy of Arts and Sciences is one of those rare buildings in which the architects, engineers, consultants, and contractors have not only responded to their client's need for space but have collaborated to affect the spirit of the user as well. It is a building of intense delight.

The jury's comments also describe the building as "sumptuous and gracious" and note that it creates "an ambiance of elegance and taste." Its bucolic setting and domesticity are a marked and, as *Boston Globe* architecture critic Robert Campbell FAIA has reported, deliberate contrast to the architects' previous commission, Boston City Hall. "The first thing the Academy's leaders did," Campbell wrote in 1992, "was take the architects out to dinner, at which they propounded a single rule: no exposed concrete, inside or out." City Hall brought Kallmann McKinnell & Wood international recognition, but the American Academy ensured the firm's enduring growth and influence. ■