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Michigan AIA Chapter Announces Awards

Staff
June 4, 2007
Michigan Contractor and Builder

The Michigan Chapter of the American Institute of Architects held its Annual Celebration of Excellence in Architecture in Plymouth at the Inn at St. John in April. Fourteen projects, including two "green" buildings were honored. The jury, from Chicago, Ill., chaired by Edward Uhler, F.A.I.A., picked the recipients from 79 entries. The buildings are judged anonymously, on their ability to meet the needs of the client in a fresh and creative way.

The "green buildings" are both Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified. The S. T. Dana Building School of Natural Resources & Environment in Ann Arbor was the first LEED-certified building at The University of Michigan. QUINN EVANS | ARCHITECTS (Ann Arbor) led the phase II renovation. The General Motors Lansing Delta Township Assembly Plant near Lansing is the only manufacturing plant in the world to ever receive any level of LEED certification let alone Gold. GHAFARI Associates, L.L.C. of Dearborn was the architect for the General Motors Corporation.

The historic preservation movement in Detroit seems to be finally making some progress. There are two recipients in this year's competition from the city. The Julius Melchers Residence & Carriage House in Detroit's Indian Village by McIntosh Poris Associates, of Birmingham, and The SmithGroup, of Detroit, earned another honor for the Rose and Robert Skillman Branch Library. The house was originally commissioned by painter Gari Melchers for his father, Julius T. Melchers, a sculptor. It was designed by Donaldson and Meier in 1896.

SmithGroup, Inc. has a second honor award on this year's list. The Boll Family YMCA is prominently located in Downtown Detroit.

Three projects come from the education field: Cass Technological High School by TMP / TYJP Joint Venture in Detroit and the A. Alfred Taubman Student Services Center at Lawrence Technological University in Southfield by Harley Ellis Devereaux, of Southfield. The aforementioned Dana Building at The University of Michigan completes the school-related buildings list. All three impressed the jury with their place-making qualities.

Sports facilities, as a building type with their large footprints and complex programs, are not usually the first thing that comes to mind in design award programs, but this year there are two that list Rossetti, of Southfield, as the design architect. Several firms worked together to create Detroit's Ford Field Stadium. The architect of record is the SmithGroup. The design architect for the warehouse portion is Kaplan McLaughlin Diaz,

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of California. Rossetti is solo architect for the Palace of Auburn Hills North Entry Addition. The Palace was designed by Rossetti and received an award in 1988.

The Lear Corporation World Headquarters and Technology Center Complex in Southfield was done by Albert Kahn Associates, Inc., of Detroit, as the architect of record with HKS, Inc. as design consultant. This project rehabilitated a 52-acre brownfield site.

The Steel Award is a subsection of the Building Category and it recognizes the creative use of steel in its design. The Pozios Retail Center in Macomb Township was designed by Constantine George Pappas A.I.A. Architecture/Planning, of Troy. The facility takes advantage of steel's inherent qualities for structure and ornamentation.

The Clifton & Dolores Wharton Center for the Performing Arts on the campus of Michigan State University in East Lansing was singled out for the 25 Year Award as a building that has withstood "the test of time." Harley Ellis Devereaux designed the facility in response to a complex program and challenging site.

Two projects were cited in the Interior Architecture Category. The Ronnisch Construction Group Headquarters in Royal Oak was designed by biddison architecture + design, of Farmington Hills, and the TDR Orthodontists in Birmingham was designed by Victor Saroki & Associates Architects P.C. With the creative use of materials both architects turned bland spaces into elegant working environments.

Victor Saroki & Associates Architects P.C., of Birmingham, is also being singled out for the Architecture Firm Award. This award acknowledges an architecture firm that has consistently produced distinguished architecture for at least 10 years. Living and working in Birmingham has given them the opportunity to design more than 60 buildings there.

JPra, of Farmington Hills, is The Intern Development Program Firm of the Year. This award recognizes firms that make an extra effort to ensure that their participants acquire the knowledge, understanding and skills that will lead to a successful architectural practice.

Several people were also recognized:

Michael A. Marshburn, A.I.A., received the Gold Medal, the highest honor the society can confer. His degree in architecture comes from Miami University in Ohio.

Arthur F. Smith, F.A.I.A., of Harley Ellis Devereaux received the Robert F. Hastings Award for outstanding contributions to the profession.

Irvin J. Poke, A.I.A., received the President's Award for providing outstanding professional service to government, industry or education. He is head of the Chief of the Plan Review Division for the state of Michigan and lives in Lansing.

Tom J. Sherry, A.I.A., is vice president of Design for Hamilton Anderson Associates in Detroit and is the Young Architect of the Year. He graduated from The University of Michigan in 1993.

Two architects were inducted into the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Architects this year in San Antonio, Texas, in May:

James Chaffers, F.A.I.A., is an international practitioner and professor of Architecture at The University of Michigan.

Paul G. Johnson, F.A.I.A., has over 30 years' experience in architecture and construction. He is a member of SmithGroup's Building Technology Studio in Detroit.

The Michigan Architectural Foundation presented two \$4,000 scholarships:

Brittany M. Guercio graduated from The University of Michigan. She plans to attend graduate school at The University of Michigan.

Brian E. Pelloski is in his fourth year at the University of Detroit Mercy and expects to graduate next year.

The American Institute of Architects Michigan, headquartered in the historic Beaubien House across from the Renaissance Center in downtown Detroit, established its awards program to bring to public attention the value and importance of architectural excellence and to recognize those whose notable achievements encourage all to make excellence in architecture the standard.

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