



PRESS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

AIA MICHIGAN DESIGN AWARDS ANNOUNCED

May 4, 2015- Detroit, Michigan- The American Institute of Architects Michigan announced that 13 buildings have been singled out for design excellence and will receive their awards at its annual Design Awards celebration on June 5 at the Woodward Garden Theater in Detroit. Dozens of projects were entered in the competition and they were judged by an esteemed jury from Chicago, IL, chaired by David Chasco, FAIA.

The following is a list of the winning projects by category:

BUILDING CATEGORY:

Corporate Headquarters

Grand Rapids, Michigan
Architect: Lott3Metz Architecture
Owner: Withheld
Contractor: Rockford Construction
Photos: Bill Lindhout

Jury Comment: "The architects passionately "re-lived" a decommissioned warehouse creating a "BIG" space full of natural light through the insertion of a deep courtyard and use of a perimeter fritted glass curtain wall. White walls, structure with vast sweeps and expanse of wood to animate circulation and gathering spaces, creates a powerful spatial and material dialogue."

Elm House

Ann Arbor, Michigan
Architect: Warren Samberg Architect
Owner: Warren Samberg
Contractor: Bloom General Contracting
Photos: Gregory Holm and Warren Samberg

Jury Comment: "A small but ambitious, playful house of re-imagined contextural forms, with an interior of simple sustainable materials, honest details and intimate spaces enlivened by natural light."

Mills Pharmacy + Apothecary

Birmingham, Michigan
Architect: PLY Architecture
Project Designer: M1/DTW
Owner: Pierre & Hany Boutrous
Contractor: Tony Amoud & Associates
Photos: Jeffrey Kilmer

Jury Comment: "Pharmacy freshly and innovatively re-invents itself functionally and architecturally as a retail strip infill. Restrained well-defined yet detailed entries of common materials contrasts with large expanses of glass that allow a theatric display of well-crafted contemporary interior cabinetry and colorful pharmacy items."

500 Barton Shore Drive

Ann Arbor, Michigan
Architect: PLY Architecture
Owner: Lesa and Mike Huget
Contractor: By the River Carpentry LLC
Photos: Adam Smith

Jury Comment: "Heroic effort to re-claim mid-century modern house typically demolished. Careful passionate restoration process of the honest 50's expression conveys that sometimes less is more and worth saving!"

Oakland University Human Health Building

Rochester, MI

Architect: SmithGroupJJR

Owner: Oakland University

Contractor: The Christman Company

Photos: Prakash Patel, Jeff Amram, Justin Maconochie & Jason Robinson

Jury Comment: "Building has a profound presence. Its dual performance functions are manifested in distinct and memorable forms, with a soft façade that floats above pilot's and glass planes as it glides across a sloping natural landscape."

Woodward Garden Theater

Detroit, MI

Design Architect: McIntosh Poris Associates

Architect of Record: Quinn Evans Architects

Owner: Woodward SA-ZK, LLC

Contractor: The Monahan Company

Photos: Justin Maconochie & Jeff Garland

Jury Comment: "The beautifully restored historic façade is the elegant centerpiece of a new urban block, barely concealing what lies within. The interior is a memorable raw aesthetic of saved rustic brick planes contrasted with planes of punctured acoustic steel panels. Well-placed retention of historic elements creates a constant visual tension."

INTERIOR CATEGORY:

Lowe Campbell Ewald

Detroit, Michigan

Design Architect: Neumann/Smith Architecture

Owner: Lowe Campbell Ewald

Contractor: Turner Construction Company

Photos: Maconochie Photography

Jury Comment: "The existing warehouse's raw aesthetic merged with the craftsmanship of new design interventions, created a highly creative collaborative work environment of inspiring spaces."

6 Salon (Old Woodward)

Birmingham, Michigan

Architect: PLY Architecture

Project Designer: M1/DTW

Owner: 6 Salon

Contractor: D&S Contractors

Photos: Jeffrey Kilmer

Jury Comment: "An exceptionally elegant design. It's simply plan, minimal but powerful use of well-considered materials and exquisite detailing imbues value and beauty for its users."

UNBUILT PROJECT CATEGORY:

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Robley Rex VA Medical Center

Louisville, Kentucky

Architect: URS | SmithGroup Joint Venture

Design Architect: SmithGroupJJR

Owner: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Jury Comment: "Healing with Honor" is passionately embraced given the unified architectural expression and ease of the plan organization softened by the natural light-filled green environment of the linear spine atrium, all designed at a pedestrian scale to respect the spirit of the Veterans.

Monsanto Conference Center and Executive Team Offices

Chesterfield, Missouri

Architect: SmithGroupJJR

Owner: Monsanto Company

Jury Comment: "The building beautifully and naturally integrates with nature to provide collaborative contemplative and restorative research and administrative environments. The weathered Core-Ten enclosure becomes nature's second skin; we hope they build it exactly as designed!"

LOW BUDGET/SMALL PROJECT CATEGORY:

Playful Horizons Garden of Dreams

First Congregational Church, Battle Creek, MI

Architect: MAde Studio

Owner: Garden of Dreams Daycare, First Congregational Church

Contractor: J&L Manufacturing.

Photos: Adam Smith

Jury Comment: "Inspired use of steel in a most uncommon inventive way. The fabricator is clearly part of the design process. The random shapes inspire children to invent their own creative play."

STEEL AWARD CATEGORY:

U of M Energy Institute—Michigan Memorial Phoenix Laboratory

Ann Arbor, MI

Architect: Lord Aeck Sargent

Owner: University of Michigan

Contractor: De Maria Building Co.

Photos: Curt Clayton

Jury Comment: "Building has a distinctive presence. It clearly celebrates a historical tradition of using steel in an expressive manner, memorable for its form as well as its distinct interiors."

25 YEAR AWARD CATEGORY:

This category is for a distinguished project, executed prior to 1990 and used for at least 25 years for the same purpose for which it was designed. The 25 Year Award honorees are chosen because the original design has made a lasting impact on the design community and continues to be utilized for its intended purpose. While the designs may have undergone updates over the years, the thoughtful, well-designed spaces have stood the test of time and the buildings are just as relevant today as 25 years ago. This year's winner is **The Penobscot Building** by Wirt Rowland with Smith, Hinchman & Grylls currently SmithGroupJJR.

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