



AIA
Wisconsin

NEWS RELEASE

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Wisconsin Architects Honored for Award-Winning Design

MADISON (April 27, 2016) . . . Eight building projects have been recognized for excellence in architectural design by the 2016 Design Awards program of AIA Wisconsin, the state society of the American Institute of Architects (AIA).

This year's award-winning architecture includes a variety of projects that connect with the landscape, celebrate community, reinvent living space, repurpose existing facilities, and revive a historic home. They demonstrate the power of architecture to positively affect the environments in which we live, work and relax. The eight building projects have been recognized for their innovative design solutions as well as for their attention to detail and creative use of materials. The common thread running through all these award-winning projects is that they were designed by architects who are members of AIA Wisconsin.

A jury of nationally distinguished architects from outside Wisconsin selected the award-winning projects. Members of the 2016 Design Awards jury were Stephen Cavanaugh, AIA, Chicago; Timothy Hickman, AIA, Des Moines; and Enrique Norten, Hon. FAIA, New York/Mexico City.

The four projects and architects selected to receive **Honor Awards** for overall architectural design excellence include:

- **Linear Cabin**, St. Germain, designed by Johnsen Schmaling Architects, Milwaukee – a small family retreat with an abstract and artful quality on top of a wooded bluff overlooking a lake.
- **Redux House**, Whitefish Bay, designed by Johnsen Schmaling Architects, Milwaukee – a dramatic reinvention of a prototypical suburban ranch into an open contemporary dwelling from inside to outside.
- **Lake Michigan Beach Cottage**, Belgium, designed by Ramsey Jones Architects, Milwaukee – a new beach cottage that optimizes the opportunity of its site with structural clarity and simple massing.
- **Guest House Garden Pavilion**, Milwaukee, designed by Vetter Denk Architecture, Milwaukee – a modest and sleek structure of wood and steel that has become a community gathering space and a symbol of urban agriculture.

The four projects and architects selected to receive **Merit Awards** for excellence in particular aspects of architectural design include:

- **WTS Paradigm**, Middleton, designed by Eppstein Uhen Architects, Inc., Madison – an energetic corporate office space in a repurposed industrial building that uses local materials in original ways.
- **Milwaukee Art Museum**, Milwaukee, designed by HGA Architects and Engineers, Milwaukee – a creatively organized new addition with an entrance at the lakefront and the complete renovation of existing gallery space.

- **Mountain House**, Big Sky, Montana, designed by Johnsen Schmaling Architects, Milwaukee – an elegant new home designed to rest on existing foundation walls and shaped by the surrounding landscape.
- **Adelman House Restoration and Pool House Addition**, Fox Point, designed by The Kubala Washatko Architects, Inc., Cedarburg – a comprehensive and sensitive restoration of a historic home with an addition that supports and enhances the original structure.

The 2016 AIA Wisconsin Design Awards were presented to the architects, building owners and contractors at a special awards luncheon on April 27 at the Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center in Madison. The annual Design Awards program represents the highest recognition given for excellence in architectural design by the state's professional society of architects.

The chairs of AIA Wisconsin's 62nd annual Design Awards program are architects Mark Kruser, AIA, Middleton, and Josh Johnson, AIA, Middleton. With over 1,350 individual members, AIA Wisconsin is the state society of the American Institute of Architects, representing architects in private practice, business, industry, government and education. Founded in 1911, AIA Wisconsin is dedicated to advancing architectural design through leadership and advocacy.

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2016 AIA Wisconsin Design Awards
Project Descriptions & Jury Comments

Honor Award

Project: **Linear Cabin**
 St. Germain, Wisconsin
Architect: Johnsen Schmaling Architects
Owner: Matt and Julie Sager
Contractor: J&J Lee Construction Co. Inc.

This small, unassuming family retreat sits atop a steep bluff overlooking Alma Lake in northern Wisconsin. The cabin is organized as a series of three identically sized nearly opaque boxes separated by spatial voids. A continuous thin roof plane spans the entire length of the building. The “storage box” offers space for canoes, tools and logging equipment. The “service box” contains the cabin infrastructure, including entry, kitchen, bathroom, laundry and boiler room. The “sleeping box” houses two bunk rooms. The void between the storage and service boxes is unenclosed, framing views from the clearing toward the lake. The void between the service and sleeping boxes functions as the hearth room, with the center of the cabin anchored by a wood-burning stove. The wide lift-slide glass doors bracketing the hearth room allow for unobstructed views through the building from the outside and into the wooded landscape from within. The project utilizes a palette of regionally sourced materials. The boxes are clad with blackened pine planks. Varnished cedar accentuates the continuous horizontal reveal between the building boxes and the roof plane. With a durable polished dark-grey concrete floor, the interior walls and ceilings are clad in crisply detailed knotty pine.

Jury Comment: “The cabin has an abstract and artful quality without sacrificing function. Careful material choice and detailing reinforce the effect. The rigor of the material palette and massing creates a profound retreat in the woods.”

2016 AIA Wisconsin Design Awards
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Honor Award

Project: **Redux House**
 Whitefish Bay, Wisconsin
Architect: Johnsen Schmaling Architects
Owner: Brian and Julie Demitros
Contractor: Barenz Builders

Located in a small enclave of conventional homes in Whitefish Bay, this project represents a reinvention of a prototypical 1967 suburban ranch into a contemporary dwelling. It illustrates how a dysfunctional house with small disconnected rooms can be reclaimed to comfortably accommodate a young family. While the exterior shell was restored and insulated, the interior was completely gutted and reorganized as a series of interconnected spaces. New large openings between previously separated parts help link together the entire house. The existing Lannon Stone fireplace, once freed from abutting walls, transformed into a visually commanding anchor in the center of the house. The second-floor corridor was opened up to become a mezzanine overlooking the main living hall. Thin continuous wood sheathing follows the slope of the vaulted ceiling above the living hall and accentuates the new connection to the second floor. The kitchen and dining area are consolidated as an open space and connected to the living hall with steps along a built-in credenza. Carefully placed skylights frame views of the sky and bring in natural light, as do a pair of large glass sliding doors that connect to the new backyard patio. A wood deck delineates the outdoor dining space before folding up to form a linear bench with a tall back.

Jury Comment: “The architect dramatically transformed this house from a cellular set of spaces into a continuous experience across two levels and from inside to outside. The open plan has a perfect amount of spatial definition. The surgical insertion of the bent wood surface is a successful detail.”

2016 AIA Wisconsin Design Awards
Project Descriptions & Jury Comments

Honor Award

Project: **Lake Michigan Beach Cottage**
 Belgium, Wisconsin
Architect: Ramsey Jones Architects
Owner: Margaret Martin
Contractor: Lakeshore Carpentry

Situated on the Lake Michigan shore at lake level, this new beach cottage is designed to take full advantage of its unique, but challenging, site. Floodplain constraints and wetland considerations limited options, resulting in decision to demolish an existing “beach shack” and construct a narrow cottage on a new building pad pushed tight to the eastern setback. Arriving via an arcing boardwalk, the central opening through the structure creates a framed view of the immense lake beyond. Wide sliding glass panels on each side of the main living space open to the yards front and back. The narrow width of the cottage and ample openings provide natural daylighting and easy cross ventilation. Clerestory windows wash the Douglas fir ceiling deck in a warm ambient glow of reflected sunlight. The covered central opening separates the main cottage from the screened bunkhouse, offering a quiet getaway for guests as well as a special setting for large dinners at the harvest table. The wooden deck and stone patios expand the exterior space for sunning, lounging or enjoying a sunrise over Lake Michigan, with a sandy beach only 100 feet away. The sound of crashing waves, light reflected off the water onto the ceiling through the clerestory windows and an afternoon breeze passing gently through the massive openings on each side of the cottage all combine to create a truly unique sense of place.

Jury Comment: “This project optimizes the opportunity of its site. The structural clarity and simple massing of this house creates beautiful conditions of light and threshold.”

2016 AIA Wisconsin Design Awards
Project Descriptions & Jury Comments

Honor Award

Project: **Guest House Garden Pavilion**
 Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Architect: Vetter Denk Architecture
Owner: Guest House of Milwaukee
Contractor: Orta Construction

This new pavilion is located in a half-acre urban garden adjacent to a homeless shelter just west of downtown Milwaukee. The modest structure is composed of steel and wood – with special attention paid to the interaction between these two materials. The intentionally exaggerated roof creates a large catchment area, which then directs the water into a cedar-clad cistern used for irrigation. The placement allows for the distribution of the water to the gardens as well as creates a community gathering space. Each year, the pavilion collects 17,220 gallons of storm water within the cistern and adjacent rain gardens and feeds the 60 raised garden beds that are responsible for growing 3,500 pounds of fresh produce. It is an integral component of the shelter’s Urban Agriculture Training Program, which helps residents move on to find related jobs in farming and the food industry. The garden pavilion has become an icon of the urban farm, the homeless shelter and the larger neighborhood.

Jury Comment: “The garden pavilion provides an elegant and clear structural statement that supports its community mission with dignity. This simple economical structure is very carefully proportioned and elegantly detailed. It is inviting, and that befits the pavilion’s social purpose.”

2016 AIA Wisconsin Design Awards
Project Descriptions & Jury Comments

Merit Award

Project: **WTS Paradigm**
 Middleton, Wisconsin
Architect: Eppstein Uhen Architects, Inc.
Owner: WTS Paradigm
Contractor: Ideal Builders

As a new corporate headquarters in Middleton for a vibrant software company, this project repurposed a windowless medical equipment production space into a dynamic work environment – increasing employee engagement and efficiency while accommodating future growth. Reflecting the highly technical and abstract nature of its work, the new office supports collaboration and sharing of information. To represent the company’s experience in the building materials software industry, the workspace features unique and local materials used in original ways. The design solution balances work intensity with social areas to encourage high quality results in an exciting relaxed environment. At the heart of the space is a large central gathering area flexible enough to host company-wide events. It is surrounded with breakout meeting spaces that allow for choice in working environments and provide energy and animation. Simple everyday materials were used to create visual effects and encourage interaction. The interior features barn doors made from old hemlock planks once supporting roofs at the Badger Ammunition Plant and hardware fashioned from steel pipe from Cave of the Mounds. Lighting is used to highlight materials, texture and color and to provide a more theatrical feel.

Jury Comment: “An energetic interior within a simple industrial building, the architect created a non-traditional workplace that offers uplifting choices and enhances the human experience. Color has been used with purpose – in clever and simple ways – to provide a variety of work space options within a new interior landscape.”

2016 AIA Wisconsin Design Awards
Project Descriptions & Jury Comments

Merit Award

Project: **Milwaukee Art Museum**
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Architect: HGA Architects and Engineers
Owner: Milwaukee Art Museum
Contractor: Hunzinger Construction Company

Located on the shoreline of Lake Michigan, this project at the Milwaukee Art Museum involved a new addition with an entrance at the lakefront and the complete renovation of existing permanent galleries. The museum was built in three phases – the original 1955 building, a 1975 addition for the permanent collection and a 2001 expansion with a new main lobby, changing gallery and lecture hall. The new addition grafted onto the 1970s wing takes the form of a cantilever facing the lake, under which an all-glass first floor allows visual transparency between the building and lakefront. It creates a new waterfront entry atrium with a café, lounges and sculpture galleries with water views while allowing for an expansion of the contemporary galleries as well as a new changing gallery. The new addition is clad in darkened stainless steel panels that harmonize with the color of the existing concrete building and reflects the ever changing light of the water and atmosphere with a diffuse matt finish. Deep-set apertures provide views of the lake, city bluffs and newest wing of the museum. The addition also includes new stairs to a rooftop terrace at the level of the downtown bluff top, allowing pedestrians to walk directly onto the roof from the city, view the lake below and then descend the stairs to the lakefront walk. The existing permanent collection galleries were completely renovated, with new gallery partitions and visitor-friendly organization.

Jury Comment: “Understated and functional, the architect creatively organized the new addition to optimize its site and serve as an elegantly simple foil to the existing museum. The new entrance addresses the lakefront simply and calmly.”

2016 AIA Wisconsin Design Awards
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Merit Award

Project: **Mountain House**
 Big Sky, Montana
Architect: Johnsen Schmaling Architects
Owner: Bill and Julie Jarosz
Contractor: Robert Naert Construction, Inc.

Embedded in the foothills of Big Sky, Montana, with panoramic views of the Rocky Mountains, this new house was designed to rest on the existing foundation walls of an old building damaged beyond repair. Shaped by the surrounding landscape, the house seeks a low profile that follows the lines of the site's inclining topography and complements it with a series of flat and gently sloping volumes and planes, creating a roofscape that echoes the mountain ridges in the distance. The entry vestibule links the different parts of the home. Kitchen, dining, bedrooms and laundry are consolidated in a one-story volume that opens up to a long south-facing terrace, with its extended roof overhang protecting the house from the elements. Open stairs connect to the gently rising two-story bar intersecting the base volume and terminate in a small observatory, which penetrates the sloping metal shed roof. Large openings – custom sliding glass doors, windows and pivot doors – frame the views of the alpine scenery. The house is clad in charred cedar boards, using a century-old finishing process that functions as a natural preservative and avoids the use of synthetic sealers or stains. The silver-black of the charred surfaces is contrasted by the smoothness and sheen of clear cedar and the corrugated texture of steel cladding designed to age gracefully over time.

Jury Comment: "Starting from an existing foundation, this house elegantly sculpts intersecting volumes that open to the views of the surrounding landscape. The architecture of the home is artfully scaled and composed. The new house is carefully integrated into the hillside despite the challenges of using the existing foundation."

2016 AIA Wisconsin Design Awards
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Merit Award

Project: **Adelman House Restoration and Pool House Addition**
 Fox Point, Wisconsin
Architect: The Kubala Washatko Architects Inc.
Owner: Craig Adelman
Contractor: John Sauermilch, Jr. General Contractor, Inc.

This project involved a comprehensive restoration of and sensitive addition to a historic Fox Point home designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the house had no major alterations since its original construction in the late 1940s. The extensively researched restoration follows the Historic Preservation Standards established by the Secretary of the Interior. It included replacing the roof, repairing and adding skylights, and reconditioning all windows and doors. A failing radiant heating system was replaced in the concrete floor; and a new geothermal system was installed. Aging and inefficient mechanical systems were replaced with new systems carefully integrated into the historic structure. The pool house addition transforms an undefined open yard into a dynamic rear courtyard with inviting indoor and outdoor spaces. Designed in accordance with National Park Service guidelines, the new addition complements the historic home while clearly being differentiated from the original structure. The swimming pool was added in the approximate location drawn on Wright's original plans.

Jury Comment: "A beautiful and sensitive restoration, with an addition that supports and enhances the original home. The architect's design solution is a model for the creative integration of modern energy efficient mechanical systems into a historic structure."