



2023 AIA CLEVELAND DESIGN AWARDS

RE: List of Winning Projects

For Release after Friday, Nov. 3rd, 2023

Each year, AIA Cleveland recognizes excellence in design by inviting Cleveland-based architecture firms to submit their best work to be reviewed by nationally renowned juries from all over the country.

The 2023 design awards jury chair was Carol Ross Barney, FAIA. Carol is the recipient of the 2023 American Institute of Architects Gold Medal, and has been in the vanguard of civic space design since founding Ross Barney Architects in 1981. Carol has made significant contributions to the built environment, the profession, and architectural education, relentlessly advocating that excellent design is a right, not a privilege. Her body of work, being almost exclusively in the public realm, represents this ethos and occupies a unique place within the panorama of contemporary architecture.

AIA Cleveland was pleased to hold the annual Design Awards celebration, with nearly 500 people in attendance on Friday, November 3rd at the Cleveland Public Auditorium.

There were 6 Categories in this year's Design Awards program:

Student Projects – 26 total project entries

The student design awards program focuses on high quality, innovative design responses. This program allows graduate students to submit their final school project from the past academic semester. Student submissions will be pre-selected by their faculty members and members of the Cleveland design community. Selected student work will then be submitted to the Design Awards program for consideration by the AIA Cleveland Design Awards jury.

Makers – 6 total project entries

To recognize an instance in which the expression of architecture and the craft of making come together. Submissions should illustrate the governing design concept of that building in which the detail is found through the use of a particular material, detail, or technology. Submissions should set themselves apart from the 'norm' with considerations to the concept of the detail, originality of the design, innovative use of materials, execution of the concept through craft, and how it relates to the overall goals of the project.

Unbuilt Projects – 6 total project entries

Recognizes unbuilt projects for their excellence or research on design practice or theory, design competitions, and projects that are not expected to be constructed.

Small Projects – 5 total project entries

This category recognizes small project practitioners for the high quality of their work and to promote excellence in small project design in all types of buildings, restoration, preservation and, adaptive re-use. This category strives to raise public awareness of the value and design excellence that architects bring to a project, despite the limits of size and scope. Projects must be less than 5,000 square feet.

Interior Architecture – 19 total project entries

Impactful building interiors make their mark on the cities, places, and spaces where we live and work. The Interior Architecture category celebrates the most innovative and spectacular interior spaces.

Architecture – 22 total project entries

The Architecture category celebrates the best contemporary architecture regardless of budget, size, style, or type. These projects show the world the range of outstanding work architects create and highlight the many ways buildings and spaces can improve our lives.

22 projects were honored with awards, as follows:

STUDENT CATEGORY

Honorable Mention

Project: Green Hub

KSU Student: Maryam Baharvandi

Professor: Diane Davis Sikora & Reid Coffman

Description:

Green Hub is a visionary project in Chicago's West Loop that focuses on sustainable urban housing. It includes three main elements: planting trees for resilience, creating a green community, and offering adaptable housing to prevent gentrification. This project aims to improve the area's environment, quality of life, and inclusivity.

STUDENT CATEGORY

Honorable Mention

Project: Suspending Volume

KSU Student: Logan Ali

Professor: Matt Hutchinson

Description:

Taking provocation from surrealist artwork, Suspending Volume draws on the unexpected or uncanny to establish an engaging urban intervention for the Cleveland School of Media Arts. A material and tectonic strategy of reveals between the existing volumes and new structure emphasize the effect of suspense. Consequently, the sweeping gesture at ground level allows the surrounding urban fabric to extend under and through the project, and the only perceived interruptions are a series of programmatic "attractor points" relative to the spaces above.

STUDENT CATEGORY

Honorable Mention

Project: The Sacred Oasis

KSU Student: Asmita Dahal

Professor: Charles Frederick

Description:

The project embraces the enchanting magic of water, celebrating its sacredness and significance across cultures. With a focus on the revitalization of the Cuyahoga River, the design integrates green infrastructure and community spaces. Through a serene sanctuary, information center, observation decks, and a wooden boardwalk, visitors will experience the transformative power of water and its enduring importance. The project rekindles the river's lost magic, uniting people with nature in a harmonious and revitalized sanctuary in this sacred oasis.

STUDENT CATEGORY

Honorable Mention

Project: West Loop : Urban Mosaic

KSU Student: Drew Thompson

Professor: Diane Davis-Sikora

Description:

West Loop Urban Mosaic arises in response to contemporary urban development trends. Situated in the West Loop district of Chicago, the project challenges conventional urban design paradigms by harmonizing economic demands, public engagement, and ecological responsibility within the built environment. This innovative paradigm suggests that cities can evolve into harmonious, sustainable environments that benefit both people and the planet.

STUDENT CATEGORY

Honorable Mention

Project: Wynwood Commons

KSU Student: Drew Thompson and Gabriel Firestone

Professor: Greg Stroh

Description:

As Miami's Wynwood neighborhood undergoes rapid transformation with new large-scale development alongside its industrial-chic backdrop, a need arises for a unifying center. The project aims to fill that void, offering a mix of public spaces including art galleries, eateries, performance spaces and boutique shopping. With a focus on integration into the public sphere, the design emphasizes permeability and street-level engagement while celebrating Wynwood's unique cultural legacy.

STUDENT CATEGORY

Merit Award

Project: Circulatory Systems

KSU Student: Kody Kocias

Professor: Thom Stauffer

Description:

The study of Cleveland's urban fabric revealed a new appreciation for the city as an intersection of overlapping places, communities, and features. This project celebrates the city's identity and strengthens the ties and connections that form it. A circulatory hub and network develop from within the city's intersections and tie together community resources, public infrastructure, and features of Cleveland's identity.

STUDENT CATEGORY

Merit Award

Project: Reclamation

KSU Student: Ryan Coberly, Abigael Dobson, and Reihley Littlefield

Professor: Gabriella Carrillo & Zuzana Kubisova

Description:

At the base of Xaltepec Volcano, in Mexico City, Reclamation Park is a 48-acre public space of leisure dedicated to fostering memory and connection to the cultural context. The park combines three zones: water, leisure, and memory. A constructed wetland features three follies that act as pillars of education. Maintained hiking trails, a playground, skatepark, and an amphitheater provide opportunities for informal and community gathering for all ages.

STUDENT CATEGORY

Honor Award

Project: Synapse

KSU Student: Logan Ali and Logan West

Professor: Nick Safley

Description:

Although it's the most frequented space, the egress core receives little attention. Contrary to the assumed understanding of the core as a mere means of circulation, this project reframes the core to spatially support social infrastructures and emphasize collectivity. Not compromising the core's infrastructural efficiencies and means of egress, this project envisions the core as a social condenser where shared amenities serve a transitional housing complex in the Mission District of San Francisco. Arranged within the site as urban objects containing shared social spaces, each core influences the organization of housing blocks and their circulatory network framing large urban rooms.

MAKERS CATEGORY

Honorable Mention

Project: hard(where)

Firm: PATH

Photographer: Matt Hutchinson

Description:

Architectural hardware mediates our everyday interface with buildings and the designs are typically so standardized that our experience with them is nothing exceptional. Hard(where) proposes a series of speculative, playful and empirically designed prototypes that interrupt our typical non-remarkable encounters with common architectural hardware. Reconsidering tactility as a fundamental quality, Hardware leverages contemporary additive and subtractive manufacturing techniques to explore the relationship between ornament, form and function.

MAKERS CATEGORY

Honorable Mention

Project: Kendall Park Studio Portal

Firm: PATH

Photographer: Matt Hutchinson

Description:

Engineered function, subtle detailing and atmospheric qualities make this operable door/window/canopy component both aesthetically fitting and easily operational. The design accommodates many requirements - security, privacy, ease-of-use, and ample daylight. Through carefully considered detailing and fabrication, the large 6'x10' door lifts almost effortlessly into an overhead cantilevered canopy position for access into the interior shop space. It pulls down closed just as easily, sitting comfortably in the context of the vertically striated shop building facade.

MAKERS CATEGORY

Merit Award

Project: San Francisco Entry Assemblage

Firm: PATH

Description:

An entry/security gate designed to fit within a similar language of previously installed domestic components and to work with an existing opening on a mid-century infill house in San Francisco. The design 'slipped' over the front of the house, keeping a thin planar language and allowed for minimal demolition in order to install the gate. Integral lighting, electric strike, security camera, mail slot and house numbers make the thin steel gate thick with function. This component presents itself as an assemblage of many functional and aesthetic elements.

UNBUILT PROJECTS CATEGORY

Honorable Mention

Project: Ohio Rest Stop Concept

Firm: Bowen

Client: OFCC / ODOT

Size: 2,500 sf

Description:

The Ohio Rest Stop Concept reimagines traditional rest stops, combining automotive travel and human scale in meaningful architecture. These structures, scattered across Ohio's highways, blend active and restful elements in their design. Two distinct forms, one open-air and the other solid, create a unique, tactile experience, inviting travelers to pause and find tranquility amidst the constant motion of the road.

SMALL PROJECTS CATEGORY

Honorable Mention

Project: Holbrook Hollows

Firm: AECOM

Client: Geauga Park District

Location: Bainbridge Township, OH

Size: 1,800 sf

Cost: \$1,500,000

Photographer: AECOM and Geauga Park District

Description:

Holbrook Hollows is 131-acre Geauga Park District public property that provides a regionally connected green space and balances environmental conservation with programmed recreational and social amenities by embracing its natural features. The park captures visitors' attention with contextually sensitive and sustainable architectural and landscape features. The event lodge is a simple building that creates a front door to the park and provides a starting point for visitors as they begin their adventure. Those who venture out to play are rewarded with new interactive structures, intimate natural landscapes, dramatic topography, and mature forests and streams.

SMALL PROJECTS CATEGORY

Merit Award

Project: 345 Glass House

Firm: Secoy Architects

Client: Daniel Jensen and Susan Secoy

Location: Berea, OH

Size: 2,560 sf

Cost: \$175,000

Photographer: James Haefner

Description:

The 345 Glass House is in a residential area adjacent to Wallace Lake located within the Cleveland Metroparks, in Berea. The house was designed in the early 1960's by architect Carl Droppers and was constructed in 1965. The house is an excellent example of the International Style of Modern Architecture, constructed of steel and glass. Significant features of the building include steel I-beam columns, 4'x8' rough openings with glass panels on all 4 elevations, a flat roof, and a cantilevered second floor with the living areas overlooking the lake. The original design has recently been meticulously restored and is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

SMALL PROJECTS CATEGORY

Merit Award

Project: Three Gables

Firm: AODK Architecture

Client: The Markey Family

Location: Moreland Hills, OH

Size: 4,593 sf

Cost: \$2,500,000

Photographer: Meghan Siddall

Description:

A home serves many purposes - chiefly amongst them is to provide sanctuary for its inhabitants. These particular inhabitants are dynamic adventurers. With the conception of their new home, they desired a place to come back to. A destination after the destination. A welcoming sanctuary to return to from their journeys. This home is a reminder that, no matter what tomorrow's adventure holds, this sanctuary will always be here for your return.

INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE CATEGORY

Honorable Mention

Project: Fahrenheit

Firm: Vocon

Client: Fahrenheit

Location: Cleveland, OH

Size: 12,850

Cost: Confidential

Photographer: David Joseph, Sam Skelton

Description:

Renowned restaurateur Chef Rocco Whalen partnered with the Design Team to relocate the flagship restaurant Fahrenheit after 22 years, from Cleveland's Tremont neighborhood to the heart of Downtown Cleveland as a symbol of his love and dedication to the city.

The new Fahrenheit design embodies the restaurant's signature name, celebrating the heat, fire, and passion that Chef Rocco Whalen puts into every aspect of his culinary creations. Inspired by the transformative power of fire in both cooking and forging meaningful connections with people and place, the design weaves a captivating narrative that exudes celebration, experience, and surprise.

INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE CATEGORY

Merit Award

Project: The Ohio State University – Arts District

Firm: DLR Group with Robert A.M. Stern Architects

Client: The Ohio State University

Location: Columbus, OH

Size: 195,000 sf

Cost: \$138.2M

Photographer: Kevin G. Reeves

Description:

The Ohio State University, one of the nation's top public universities, seeks to create high-quality learning environments for interaction across all arts disciplines. The team's design of the initial phase of implementation concentrates the Timashev Family Music Building and the Department of Theatre, Film, and Media Arts Building into new sister buildings that share the same architectural DNA. Standing shoulder to shoulder at the threshold between city and campus, the forms greet and engage passersby at OSU's main pedestrian entry.

INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE CATEGORY

Honor Award

Project: Cleveland Foundation

Firm: Vocon

Client: Cleveland Foundation

Location: Cleveland, OH

Size: 50,000 sf

Cost: Confidential

Photographer: David Joseph

Description:

The Cleveland Foundation Headquarters stands as a beacon of community engagement, encompassing 50,000 SF of institutional innovation. Purposefully situated to transcend traditional boundaries, the architecture seamlessly integrates into its surroundings, acting not as a solitary structure but as a urban connection.

Crafted to be more than just a new office, the building is a testament to the Foundation's commitment to philanthropy and community enrichment. Its thoughtful planning and design unfold as a narrative, with spaces dedicated to workshops, meetings, dance, and a community-driven art gallery, all positioned to serve both the Foundation's operational needs and the broader community.

ARCHITECTURE CATEGORY

Honorable Mention

Project: Benedictine High School Atrium + Courtyard + West Wing Renovation

Firm: Horton Harper Architects

Client: Benedictine High School

Location: Cleveland, OH

Size: 13,900 sf

Cost: \$4,100,000

Photographer: Brad Feinknopf

Description:

Founded by Benedictine Monks, St. Andrew's Abbey and Benedictine High have been anchors of the Mount Pleasant neighborhood since 1927. To celebrate the centennial the school has embraced the physical, visual and spiritual connection between them by refocusing the campus upon a new atrium and courtyard. Expanses of glazing instigate views into, out of and through the structure. These transparent surfaces are offset by masonry volumes that stray from the campus's current tapestry of color. However, in solidarity with its surroundings the thin atrium roof plane matches the parapet of one adjacent structure while remaining subservient in height to another.

ARCHITECTURE CATEGORY

Honorable Mention

Project: Ford Nature Center

Firm: DLR Group

Client: Mill Creek MetroParks

Location: Youngstown, OH

Size: 11,650 sf

Cost: \$3,300,000

Photographer: Kevin G. Reeves

Description:

Visitors arriving at the redeveloped Ford Nature Center, occupying a historic stone mansion built in 1913, will experience an eye-opening introduction into all that Mill Creek MetroParks has to offer. With a complete refresh of all exhibits, including the addition of a new 1,500 SF gallery, visitors are oriented to Northeast Ohio's wildlife and vegetation as well as various hiking excursions for which the center may serve as a launching pad. The gallery addition, set into the site's topography, expands the building's size without impacting its historic character. The planted roof terrace over the new gallery nearly conceals its presence from the exterior.

ARCHITECTURE CATEGORY

Merit Award

Project: Great Lakes Cheese Headquarters

Firm: Vocon

Client: Great Lakes Cheese

Location: Hiram, OH

Size: 54,754 sf

Cost: Confidential

Photographer: Feinknopf - Lauren Davis

Description:

Great Lakes Cheese is a premier manufacturer of natural and processed bulk, shredded and sliced cheese. The family business has over 3,000 employees, with its headquarters in Hiram, Ohio. With a focus on equity and human sustainability, the design team strived to create a warm and humble space, inviting to customers. Cultural values are reflected with the careful insertion of the headquarters into the 90-acre campus, within proximity to the factory. The master planning solution integrates the headquarters in such a way as to share outdoor amenities and maintains the critical cultural connection between factory and administrative teams.

ARCHITECTURE CATEGORY

Honor Award

Project: Kanawha County Public Library - Main Library

Firm: HBM Architects

Client: Kanawha County Public Library

Location: Charleston, WV

Size: 80,000 sf

Cost: \$25,160,776

Photographer: Josh Beeman

Description:

The Main Library building, originally designed as a federal courthouse and post office in 1911, was no longer able to evolve with library needs. While planning the addition, the vernacular was studied to develop an expansion reflecting the historic rhythm, scale, and proportions in a contemporary form. The re-imagined library now allows for continual growth supporting library services and materials while becoming a community hub for downtown Charleston. The layout incorporates flexible design, connects adjacent parking via “skywalk” bridge, and balances spaces for library collections; idea lab; tool lending, study rooms; early childhood literacy/play; integrated technology, café, and outdoor plaza.

EMERGING PROFESSIONAL AWARD

Gwendolyn Frank, AIA

PRESIDENTIAL CITATION

Dave Robar, AIA

PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD

Mentor Hospital

By Cleveland Clinic Buildings + Design (In Partnership with Bostwick Design Partnership)