The new use for this adaptive re-use project is a working artist’s studio and retail space. The client’s goals were to create a collaborative environment where multiple artists could work together and share in the energy of the creative process, the creation of a space that had an urban loft-like feel, and its development to accommodate the growth of the business over five to ten years. These informed the choice of the historic Quonset hut in Guilford for the studio and space.

The space itself has become synonymous with the client and her work. The handrail for the loft, designed by the architect, incorporates the artist’s glass panels. The design solution offers a variety of spaces for the artists to work and display and allows for visual continuity with a kit-of-parts strategy for the fixtures and furnishings.

Jury Comments: This is a wonderful adaptive reuse project to accommodate an art glass artist’s studio. The architect and client worked together to select the site; the design concept and business evolved together. The architect was influential in the evolution of the business and in improving the property for the landlord. Because of the design of the detailing for the handrail to the second story loft, the artist developed a new product line of architectural installations that include art glass tile. This product line has added to a dramatic, four fold increase in the development of the artist’s business. At the same time, the design vastly improved the space for the landlord and has made this Quonset hut, with its vaulted roof and second floor, a more marketable space. This project exemplified the spirit of the Business Award program.
The renovation of the Interstate + Lakeland Lumber’s original 1922 millwork shop was designed to create a space that both celebrated the company’s rich history and displayed products like pieces of art. The respectful reuse of the millwork shop’s original brick and timber frame construction and the display of the family’s original antique woodworking tools and vintage photographs have succeeded in preserving a sense of authenticity to the company’s heritage, while creating a one of a kind showroom.

Jury comments: This adaptive reuse project transformed a non-descript building into a unique showplace, which speaks both to the business and to the building’s history. There was significant work done to the exterior, using the product of the showroom: the client had objects to be displayed, and the architect was able to reach this goal in the optimum way. There was a high degree of client satisfaction in dialogue with the architect.
A 36,000 square foot renovation project that turned an existing Pitkin Street, East Hartford building into a cutting edge technology center, the Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology, Inc. (CCAT) was designed around the concept of a high-tech, open space environment conducive to communication, cooperation and innovation. The architectural design team created for CCAT and its subtenants a unique and practical work facility that promotes those ideas, the design contributing significantly to the building’s success and business growth as a shared space facility.

Jury comments: Special notice was taken of this project, an incubator project whose design has to do with the sharing of space. The design has promulgated the success of this interesting idea of shared space.