AIA Connecticut
A chapter of the American Institute of Architects

1996 Design Awards

Celebrating the accomplishments of Connecticut architects and the excellence of Connecticut architectural projects.

JURORS
W. Kent Cooper, AIA, Cooper Lecky Architects, Washington, D.C.; James Stewart Polshek, FAIA, Polshek and Partners, New York City; Donald Watson, FAIA, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY; and Jane Weinzapfel, FAIA, Leers Weinzapfel Associates, Boston, MA

AWARDS

C.I.A.P. Modernization of Berkeley Heights, Waterbury, CT
John Damico, AIA of John Damico, AIA Architect, Waterbury, CT
(Margot Wormser Citation for Affordable Housing)

Jury comments: This is the hardest kind of project for an architect to do: he dealt with thankless work, but despite the constraints of budget, made this architecture. He used the reorganization of the cross section of the building, the roof lines, new portals and entries, to give the project new life. The architect understood the need for private entrances and created both identity and privacy.
Jury comments: Some of its rooms are complete, very finished. On the exterior, the old building is very important; the new, by coming very close with its iconography, might diminish it; instead it offsets the two contemporary buildings, which box it in. It is urbanistically very intelligent. The city and the architect are to be congratulated for patience and persistence.
Jury Comments: Light and transparent, this has a clarity in its parts and clearly defined connections. At first reading one sees what is added; at the next, what is added in space. This is “didactic” architecture at its best. Its use of a glass floor in a public building is unusual.
Jury Comments: *This is a marvelous renovation. One would think it is a new building. The jury liked the uninhibited canopy and the element of conservancy in the building.*
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The Old State House, Hartford, CT
Jared Edwards, FAIA, Smith Edwards Architects, Hartford, CT

Photographer: Robert Benson

Jury Comments: A winner in the Special Achievement category, this restoration of a historic interior is a lesson in history. The jury liked the idea of picking a moment in history for each room, and then faithfully restoring it. The attention to detail was admirable.
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Kaufmann Residence, Greenwich, CT
Kaehler/Moore Architects, L.L.C., Greenwich, CT

Photographer: Joeb Moore

Jury Comments: This project does what it states: It is site-derived; it grows from the site; it communes with the site. There is play between the stone work and the rest of the house and an extremely confident handling of cubic volumes and stone plants.
Jury Comments: In a very difficult context, the architect resisted the temptation to replicate a Gothic pastiche. The new building is related, but is not slavish to the old. It is a good contemporary building whose independence is attractive. The contemporary detailing is enriching.
Jury Comments: *This is a terrific project in which the original sleeve of the building is clearly expressed as separate from the new interventions. There is a distinct contrast between new and old. With clear planning and simple means, the design moves tell you more about the existing structure than the existing building itself does. The use of materials – wood, steel, glass – is very fresh, and has one clear identity. Its calming influence is welcome and close to perfection.*
Jury Comments: A folly with a powerful exterior shape, this is an “Homage to Asplund.” Its strong exterior and interior forms are congruent.