AIA Connecticut
A chapter of the American Institute of Architects

1998 Design Awards

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

JURORS
John Morris Dixon, FAIA; Frank Lupo, AIA; and James Volney righter, FAIA

AWARDS

Island Residence, New England
Centerbrook Architects, Centerbrook, CT

Photographer: Jeff Goldberg, Esto

Jury comments: The building is compact in volume, but open and airy in an envelope that is restrained and expressive simultaneously. The jury was impressed by the clear, striking, memorable siting. The building is innovative. It is consistently beautifully detailed, nicely proportioned, Arts and Crafts in style, yet cleaner. The site is very tight yet the spaces inside work wonderfully within the constraints of the site. There are interesting details, such as the classical fireplace, yet done with unconventional stone work detail. It was done under the hand of someone very much in control and at ease with his abilities.
Jury comments: This is a very innovative concept of the use of a garden mausoleum as the catalyst to define a town green. It introduces mausoleums to a cemetery that previously had just chapels. There is the multicultural aspect to it. The jury enjoyed the initial sketches and the conceptual diagrams. It is very modest scale in it’s detailing: the model and renderings are modest but sensitive. It addresses an issue for many communities, as new cemeteries are not being made. Having the water line run through the project was a nice touch.
Jury comments: *This is a beautifully restrained, sensitively detailed building in a rural vernacular. It juxtaposes two out buildings with the qualities and virtues of out buildings, such as barn framing, mostly flush wood cladding, and the major use of stone. There is clever, sensitive detailing: the utilization of the extended roof to create the porch and the expression of the major timber structure. It is not overpowering but modest, a beautifully proportioned piece. The play barn is very nice. The plans are taut and clean. It is a real joy to find this breath of fresh air, with its understanding of the vernacular as opposed to the high style.*
Jury comments: *This is a melding of historic planning and modern detail. It is an appropriate gateway to the nation’s capitol, Washington, a classical city, evoking classical precedence. It is great to have an airport terminal that has a monumental quality. The terminal is refreshing in that it reinforces the landside rather than the airside theme. The concept of taking off was done at Dulles: here you have arrived. It has the kind of classical order that you associate with Washington, but with light, steel construction in each of the big bays. It has a certain beaux-arts quality to it even though it is a modern building.*
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Class of 1951 Observatory, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY
Roth and Moore Architects, New Haven, CT

Photographer: Robert Benson Photography

Jury comments: An almost utilitarian structure made to seem sculptural; it is built with very light metal in order to avoid mass, which would interfere with the astronomical observations. The position of these buildings is just wonderful. It is a very rational, planned classical building, a melding of a vernacular building with science. The industrial vernacular vocabulary is elevated to a classical tradition.
Jury comments: This is an extraordinary composition of building volumes and open spaces. It is a very strong project from the standpoint of its overall organization and the clarity of its layout of a series of major and minor courts that reinforce the identity of individual elements like the great assembly room and art and dining areas and kitchen off the courts. It has a very strong and consistent formal vocabulary. The urban spaces are very nicely graduated from a kitchen garden to an outdoor classroom and then to an athletic space. It also shows an understanding of how the classroom area could be flexible enough grow and shrink as the student population grows and shrinks. It effectively seems to define a city block and provides protected, clearly identified school spaces.
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CITATIONS

First Church of Christian Scientist, New Haven, CT
Albis Turlington Architects, New Haven, CT

Jury comments: This is an ingenious adaptation of a commercial building. The sanctuary creates a contemplative space with great economy.
Jury comments: The house is tight, quirky, but sensitive. All its eccentricities relate very well to its functions.
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Palazzetti Building, Westport, CT
Roger Ferris & Partners, Westport, CT

Photographer: Michael Moran

Jury comments: *This is a clever solution to remodeling with a clear reading of rational individual elements.*
Jury comments: This is a clean, modern, rational solution effectively connected to an existing structure. The jury admired details such as the steel columns, the treatment of a wall, the relationship of one wall to another, and its early modern fenestration. The light seems effective.
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Olin Arts & Sciences Building, Miss Porter's School, Farmington, CT
Tai Soo Kim Partners, Hartford, CT

Jury comments: It is very effective in bridging traditional forms with the high modern structure to which it is attached. It is an impressive effort to reconcile a traditional campus building with an Ed Barnes modern building. A very strong partee expressed with a strong, symmetrical envelope.
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Duracell World Headquarters, Bethel, CT
Herbert S. Newman & Partners, New Haven, CT

Jury comments: As one gets closer to the project, the brick details increasingly engage the viewer. It utilizes brick mill vernacular in a very interesting way.
Jury comments: It provides a transparency between patient and caregivers, mitigating the typical sterile hospital environment. It demonstrates an innovative way of handling a difficult program so that patient and caregiver have visual contact. There is sensitive detailing in the rooms. It creates a common space has variety; its series of zones doesn’t create a distance between the patient and caregiver but puts them in close proximity. The transparency has been incorporated into the design.