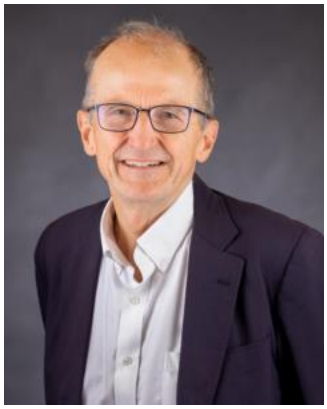
# Design AWARDS

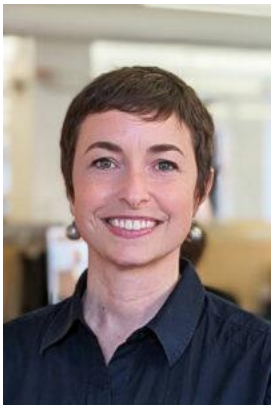
The Design Awards recognize design excellence of built and unbuilt work in Connecticut or in other locations by Connecticut-based firms.

## 2023 Design Awards Jurors

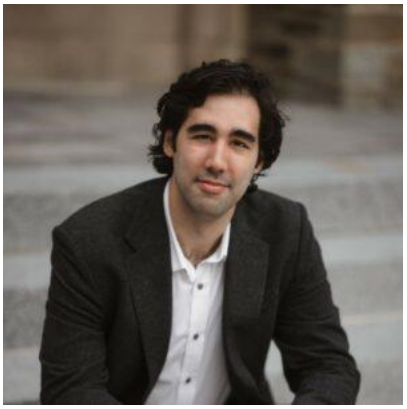
**Grace Kim, FAIA**
Principal
*Schemata Workshop, Inc.*
*Seattle, WA*



**Stephen Schreiber, FAIA**
Professor & Chair
*UMass Amherst, Dept. of Architecture*
*Amherst, MA*



**Ashley Rao, AIA, LEED AP, CPHC**
Associate Principal
*Leers Weinzapfel Associates*
*Boston, MA*



**Thomas Tumelty, RA, AIA, LEED GA**
Associate
*Foster + Partners*
*New York, NY*

# Congratulations 2023 Design Award Winners!

## Adaptive Reuse

## MERIT


**Care Resource | David Scott Parker Architects**
Photography: Durston Saylor

The largest nonprofit, Federally Qualified Health Center serving South Florida's diverse underserved, uninsured communities, Care Resource's history goes back almost 40 years when it emerged out of the ashes of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, bringing optimism and hope to the distraught.

The new structure preserves the organization's mid-century headquarters, which has been a symbol of hope for so many, by building around and above the existing building, expanding its volume and presence, while creatively complying with the new Miami 21 zoning ordinances—one of the first structures in the city to do so.

***Jury comments:*** *This intervention seems to have improved every aspect of the building - urbanistically, accessibility-wise, wayfinding, sustainability. Important facility for the community.*

## MERIT

**Iona University, Kelly Center for Health Sciences | The S/L/A/M Collaborative**
Photography: Jeffrey Totaro

A former 1970s library building has been repurposed as Iona University's Kelly Center for Health Sciences to accommodate its growing nursing, occupational therapy, and mental health counseling programs. The open, transformative design encourages cross-disciplinary collaboration and interprofessional education that is helping address a global shortage of healthcare professionals.

***Jury comments:*** *Thoughtful approach to teaching environment, daylighting, and health/well-being of students. Nice re-use of auditorium space and library.*

# Architecture: Encompassing Art

## MERIT

**Interwoven | Atelier Cho Thompson**
Photography: Martin Seck and Flatiron/23rd Street Partnership

Interwoven is a temporary installation sited on the landmark Flatiron Public Plaza in NYC, where it was visited by over two million passersby during its two month launch. Designed after eighteen months of the pandemic, Interwoven celebrates the joys of intersecting with our community in public space. Inspired by the dynamic geometry of intersections that form the Flatiron Building's shape and America's woven tapestry of cultures, the installation is an unfolding set of parabolic archways that frame iconic views of the city and offer places to rest, play, and gather together.

***Jury comments:*** *Strong, interacting, and engaging public art piece. Appreciate the symbolism of the intersections.*

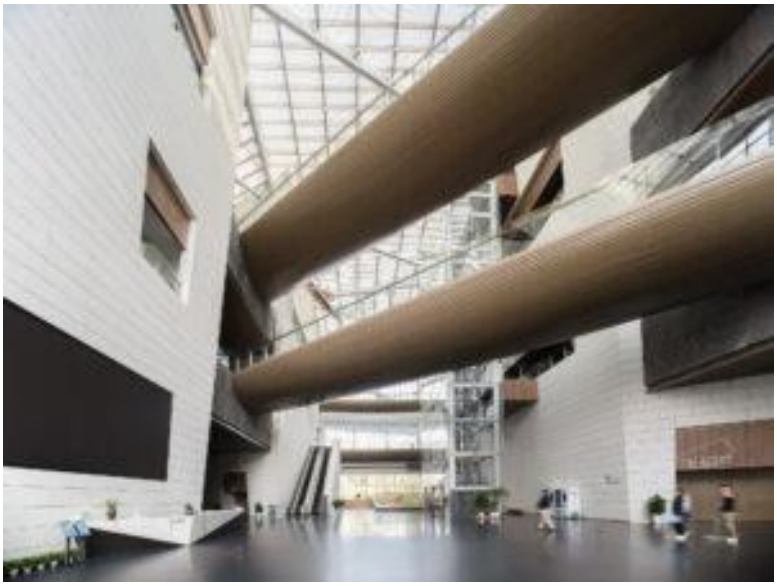
# Commercial, Industrial, Educational, and Multi-Family Residential Design (over 25,000sf)

## EXCELLENCE

**Chengdu Museum of Natural History | Pelli Clarke & Partners**
Photography: Arch Exist Photography

A celebration of Chengdu's modern ethos and historical legacy, the Chengdu Museum of Natural History has transformed the city's landscape and symbolizes its innovative spirit. The museum's dramatic forms embody the process of ancient, subsurface rock breaking apart due to opposing forces of volcanic activity and shifting tectonic plates. The museum is a preeminent institution for science and culture, welcoming visitors from around the

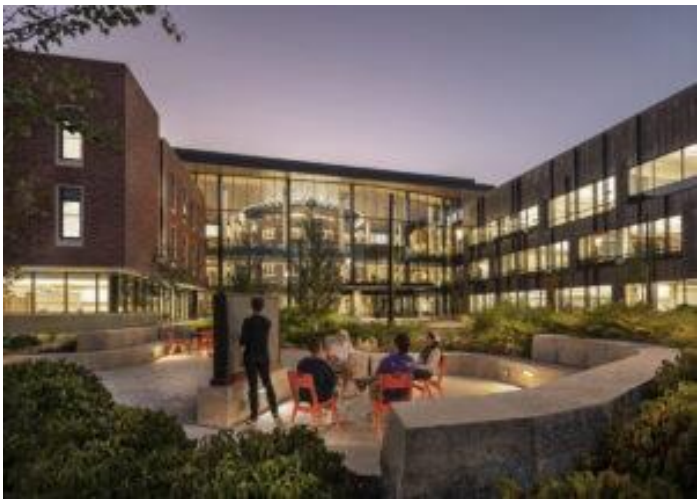
world with expansive exhibits, public spaces, shops, a café, a cinema, state-of-the-art educational facilities, and a verdant landscape that invites gathering, connection and contemplation.



The primary architectural challenge was to create a building that embodies the history and culture of Chengdu, speak to the building function as a natural history museum, and addresses the future of Chengdu as an emerging cultural center with an iconic, timeless architectural expression. The project synthesizes ideas of form and materials; making connections between ideas, innovation and implementation in order to create a responsive architectural solution.

***Jury comments:*** *Striking and imaginative. Poetic use of materials and massing. The green building strategy minimizes environmental impact, improves energy efficiency, and supports the natural environment.*

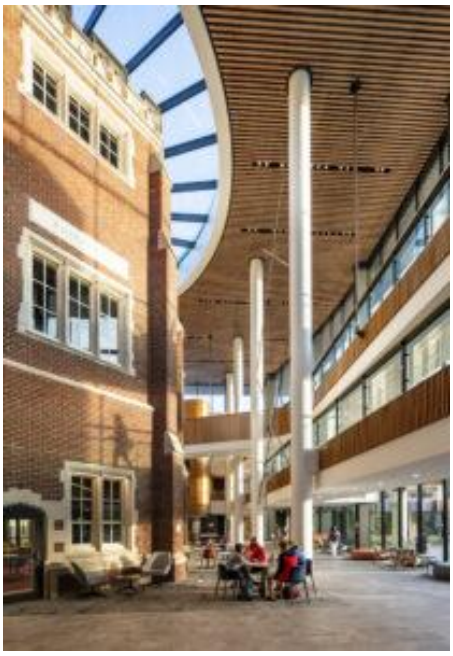
# EXCELLENCE



**Grinnell College, Humanities & Social Studies Center | Page Southerland Page**
Photography: David Sundberg/Esto & AJ Brown/AJ Brown Imaging

The Humanities and Social Studies Center unifies two historic buildings and fifteen departments at a top liberal arts College to create an immersive environment for multi-disciplinary collaboration, active inquiry and “intellectual collisions.” The three-story structure includes 145 faculty offices, 40 technology-rich classrooms, teaching laboratories and specialized learning centers.

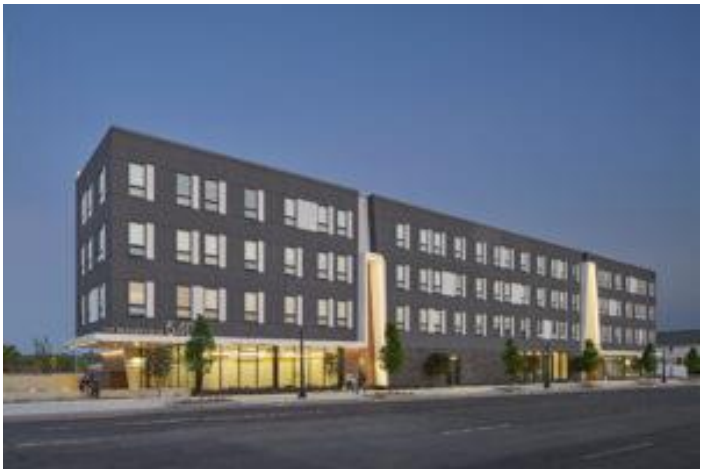
An embodiment of the mid-western prairie’s ecosystem, the building takes cues from the “edge effect” of an ecotone, which is a region of transition between two ecosystems and is exponentially more productive than either ecological community is on its own.



With a goal for carbon neutrality by 2040, the building advances the College's mission with 27% building reuse and a 74% EUI savings compared to the AIA 2030 Baseline. Geothermal heat pump chillers reduce the campus-wide central plant load by 14.2%. The final building performance model showed a savings of $230,000 per year and resulted in a 1.6-year payback period for sustainable design strategies undertaken.

***Jury comments:*** *Thoughtful, comprehensive, and well-executed project.*

# MERIT



**540 New Park | Amenta Emma Architects**
Photography: Robert Benson Photography

A new housing development in West Hartford, 540 New Park, replaces a blighted, abandoned and now-demolished auto parts store and contributes to solving the community's affordable housing shortage. The project, which opened in December 2022, is fully occupied, attesting to the pent-up demand for such housing.

The project, designed for LEED Silver equivalency, is a 52-unit mixed-use, multi-family, multi-generational building in partnership with Trout Brook Realty Advisors, a non-profit developer for the West Hartford Housing Authority (WHHA). The project has been instrumental in helping people realize this former industrial area is a great place to live.

***Jury comments:*** *Simple and efficient while still iconic and elegant.*

# MERIT

**2100 Pennsylvania Avenue | Pelli Clarke & Partners**
Photography: Jeff Goldberg/ESTO

2100 Pennsylvania Avenue is a mixed-use development marking the northern gateway to George Washington University in Washington DC. Recently completed in 2022, this vibrant university-developer collaboration elevates the Foggy Bottom neighborhood with best-in-class office space and an accessible spectrum of community-serving retail and amenities. With a dramatic curved façade, undulating along Pennsylvania Avenue, 21st Street, and I Street, and composed of innovative high-performance curtainwall, the façade unfolds with an uplifting sense of motion like a waving flag. The architecture optimizes the site's unique geometries, offering a welcoming link from the surrounding neighborhood to the building's inspiring interiors.

***Jury comments:*** *Creative and compelling material use integrates exterior and interior atrium spaces.*

# MERIT

**Buckley Elementary School | TSKP Studio**
Photography: Robert Benson Photography

With a projected Energy Use Intensity (EUI) of 18.1, Buckley Elementary School is Connecticut's first Net Zero Energy public school.

Electing to renovate this 1940s school, rather than demolishing and starting from scratch, the project saved an estimated 75% of the embodied carbon compared to new construction. It uses no operational carbon, no fossil fuels, and electricity usage is offset by on-site generation.

The original 55,000 SF building was largely gutted, while 9,000 SF of additions allowed space reconfiguration to meet 21st-century learning goals, including a STEAM center with Project Room, Art, and Science lab.

***Jury comments:*** *Beautifully executed. A real transformation of an existing building and exemplary energy performance. Great that it is Connecticut's first net zero energy public school.*

# MERIT

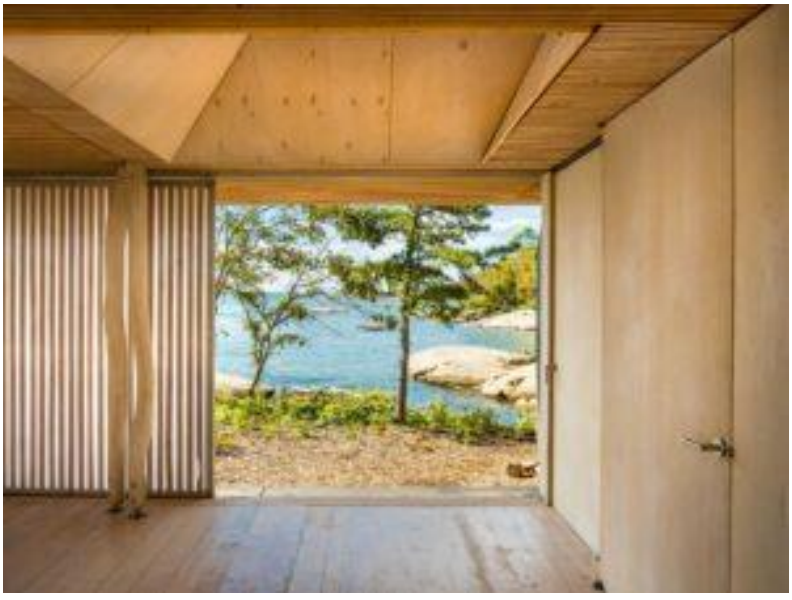
**Casa Blanca Community School | JCJ Architecture**
Photography: Robert Benson Photography

This project is the second school implemented under a groundbreaking arrangement with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, enabling the GRIC to self-fund and gain reimbursement for construction through a lease arrangement. The school was designed to provide a culturally appropriate, uplifting and highly integrated educational environment that addressed broader Community priorities around self-determination social equity, cultural preservation and collective resiliency. The school was designed to support students of all abilities and serves as a broader resource to extended families and the wider Community.

***Jury comments:*** *Dignified work for an underserved community. Strong, beautiful scheme. Important integration of culture and traditions.*

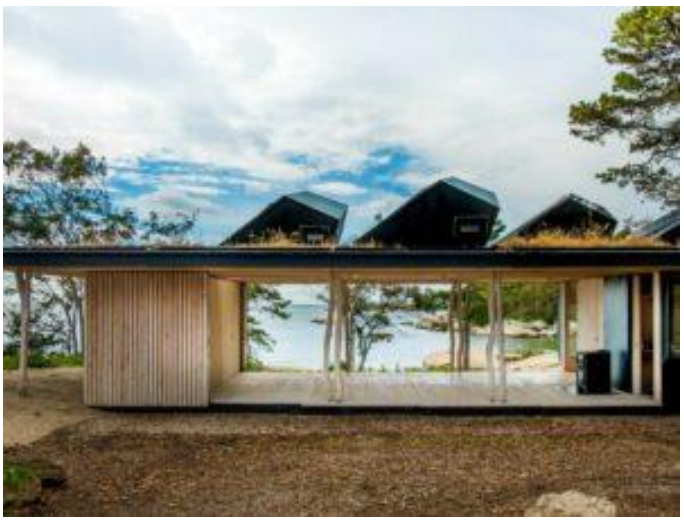
## Commercial, Industrial, Educational, and Multi-Family Residential Design (under 25,000sf)

# EXCELLENCE



**Horse Island Research Station | Gray Organschi Architecture**
Photography: Millie Yoshida

Located 1.5 miles off the coast of Branford, Connecticut, Horse Island is the largest and least developed of the Thimble Island archipelago. Purchased by Yale University in 1972 to serve as a remote oceanographic and environmental research base in the Long Island Sound, the 17-acre, uninhabited island is maintained by the Peabody Museum of Natural History as an ecological field station that is completely isolated from the mainland. While the isolation is a unique advantage to ongoing research, the island lacks all modern infrastructure, requiring any facilities on the island to provide their own energy, water, and waste disposal.



The Research Station utilizes a range of biogenic material sources for its structure and enclosure, including locally sourced Eastern Hemlock for ceiling and door panels, coastal Sassafras trees harvested from the island for structural columns, reclaimed Douglas Fir millwork, and cross-laminated timber panels for the deck and bearing walls. These carbon-storing building materials were paired with four roof-mounted "barnacles" that host critical active and passive building systems, including eight 445W monocrystalline photovoltaic panels, skylights bringing natural light into the teaching pavilion, leeward facing passive ventilation, and rainwater collection. In collaboration with the Yale School of the Environment, the design team installed a planted roof and gabion-reinforced landscapes seeded with native vegetation. This project was completed in 2022.

***Jury comments:*** *Creative, well-sited, ingenious and beautiful use of materials. Wonderful project.*

# MERIT

**Rutgers University, Student Projects Studio | The S/L/A/M Collaborative**
Photography: Jeffrey Totaro

The Bruce and Phyllis Nicholas Student Projects Building is a compact building with major impact. Marking the Phase II launch of the master plan for Rutgers University's School of Engineering, this purpose-built, all-electric facility was a major step for the institution as the first on-campus, net-zero facility that celebrates its students. The more than 1,000 students who join Rutgers University's engineering clubs now have a dedicated, state-of-the-art facility for interdisciplinary collaboration, project and equipment management, and preparation for intercollegiate competition – including Rutgers Formula Racing, Rutgers Solar Car Team, and other student organizations with design, build, and compete objectives.

***Jury comments:*** *Simple industrial materials with a big impact. Beautiful, rigorous project.*

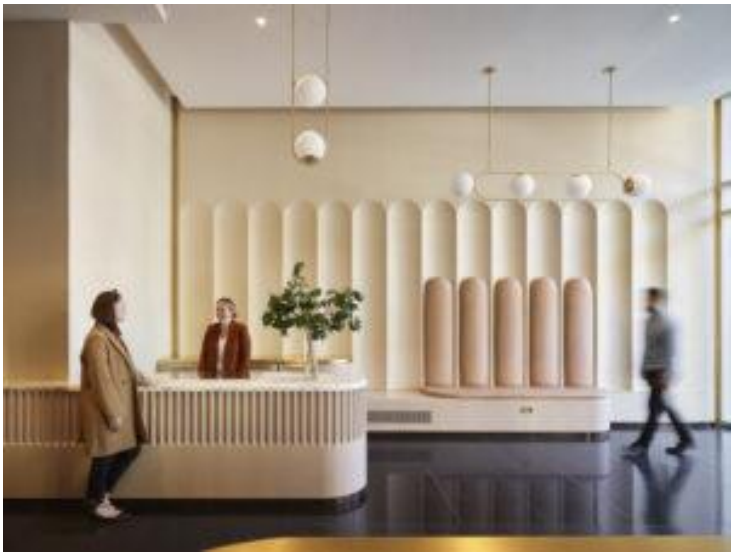
# Interior Architecture

## EXCELLENCE

**Leather Factory Lobby | Atelier Cho Thompson**
Photography: Jared Kuzia

This project to reimagine the shared spaces of the office building at 179 Lincoln was formed around a balance of old and new: we unearthed and amplified the building's rich history while creating spaces that are responsive to the needs of the post-pandemic workplace.

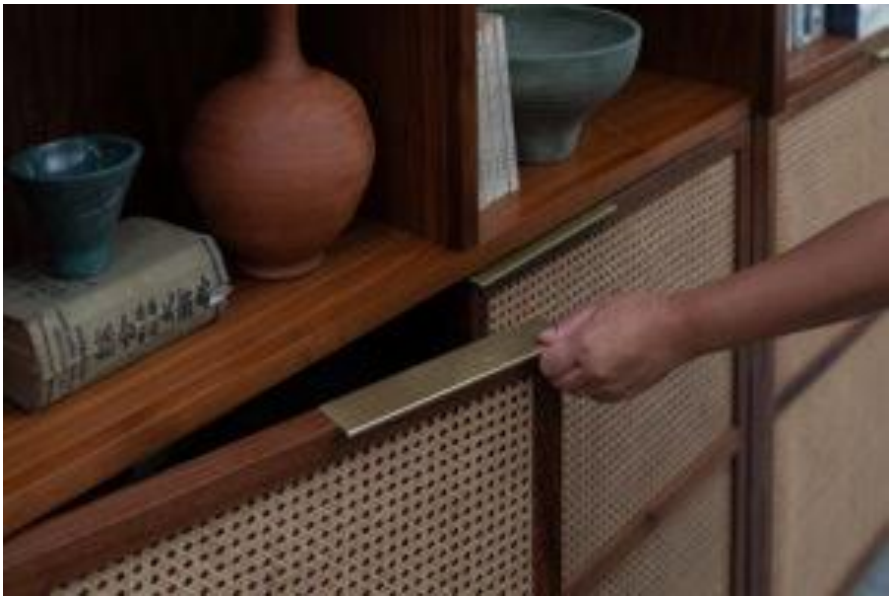
The project creates a layered composition of narratives stretching back to 1899, connecting historic Boston manufacturing to today's office workplaces. This project responds to the changing landscape of office life by offering opportunities that go beyond what we can experience in only working from home. With a hospitality approach, the spaces of the project offer a welcoming and inclusive place to spend time with colleagues.



The project sought out spaces at the margins of the building, from an under-utilized lobby to a dark core to empty pockets on five floors. The spaces now offer a visual and haptic environment that elevates and honors the spirit of the workplace; by connecting us back to the history of this grand building, we experience historic Boston seen through the lens of a future-focused workplace.

***Jury comments:*** *Great integration of original detailing to new interventions. Carefully restored to maintain the historic character of the shoe factory.*

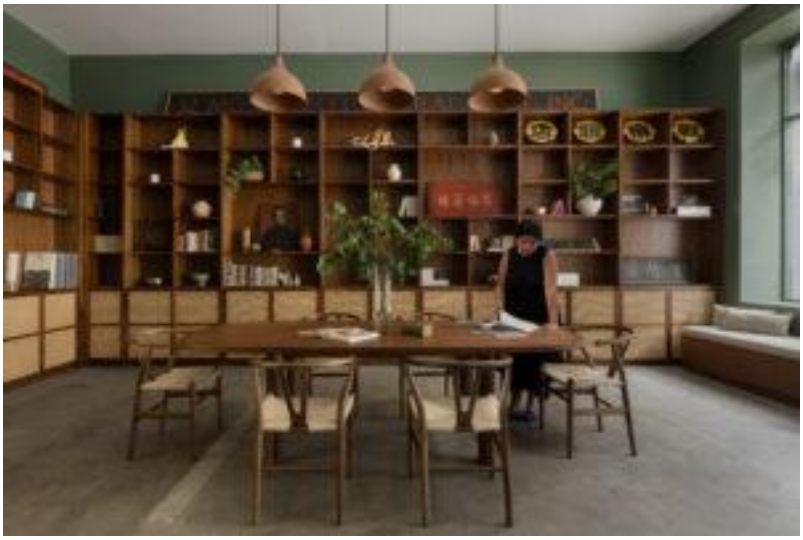
# EXCELLENCE



**MOCA Workshop | Atelier Cho Thompson**
Photography: Samara Vise

Our firm worked closely with the Museum of Chinese in America, located in New York City's Chinatown, to design MOCA Workshop, an innovative neighborhood-integrated museum that bridges community participation and archival research to chronicle the Chinese American experience.

MOCA Workshop is a two-story space made up of a storefront library event space, an oral history studio, workspace for staff, and, most importantly, archival storage for over 85,000 artifacts. Our firm created naming and branding for the space as well as all architectural and interior design.



The public-facing library invites visitors inside to share their family artifacts and stories; the collection grows each day as airmail letters, family photos, and objects are added to the collection. As an object joins the archive, it makes a journey through the Workshop: from a review with the donor and curators at the front communal library table, to the archive counter in the back of the space for analysis and accession, then on to display in the museum or into protected storage in the archive shelves.

***Jury comments:*** *Very interesting community-centered workshop. The program is well-articulated through the design.*

# Residential Design

## COMMENDATION *for Beautiful Consideration of Light, Materials, & Context*

**Nauset Beach House | Gray Organschi Architecture**
Photography: Millie Yoshida

Our clients approached us to help them reimagine a house that one of them had built two decades ago on land owned by his grandfather. We took the original house down to its foundation, saving the floor deck, the roof, and the chimney. The new building extends the original gable with hips on the north and south. The architecture is defined by carving into this form to create lightwells and by adding to it with modern reinterpretations of dormers. The house mediates between its open floor plan providing expansive views to the Atlantic and intimacy formed by occupying diving rooflines reminiscent of local building traditions.

***Jury comments:*** *Interesting re-use and re-interpretation of vernacular materials.*

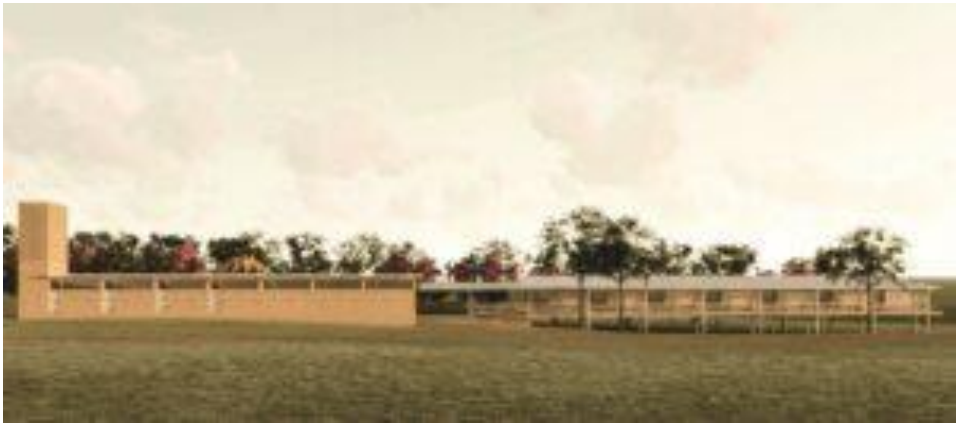
# Unbuilt Design

## MERIT

**1633 Broadway Redevelopment | Pickard Chilton**
The 2023 edition of Metals in Construction magazine's annual competition invited participants to explore the conversion of a large outdated commercial office tower to innovative residential use. Transforming the existing tower to residential use presented the opportunity to reduce the footprint of the building's core infrastructure. However, daylight analysis of the resulting floor plan demonstrated that the tower's center receives inadequate natural daylight for residential use. In addition, significant lease depths of the existing commercial floor plan proved challenging to provide market-appropriate units. The solution strategically carved the floor plates to allow ample natural daylight to reach the building core and the enclosure wall was offset from the perimeter. The resulting layout provides the unique opportunity for each unit to have a spacious exterior balcony.

***Jury comments:*** *Thoughtful analysis of a pressing urban issue. Well-resolved architecturally and a clear prototype. Very important work.*

# MERIT



**Mozambique Preschool | Anibal Bellomio, AIA, NCARB, LEED BD+C; Lucia Venditti; Gabriel Wajnerman**
Sustainability & Renewable Energy: Nicole Michel, LEED AP BD+C ID+C EB-OM
Our proposal for the Mozambique preschool evolved from a combination of parameters, like cost, sustainability, functionality, climate, resource availability, and construction feasibility. We envisioned this building to transcend basic functions to become a community space. First, we placed the building in the N-S direction perpendicular to the breezes to cool it down. Second, the ground floor is kept flat on one level, creating a continuous circulation plane, which is essential for children and handicapped users. Functionally, there are three well-defined areas: the Social Space, the Classrooms, and the Site -hosting activities like outdoors classrooms, community gathering events, and farming areas.

***Jury comments:*** *Beautiful, rigorous. Thoughtful integration of place, local materials/construction, and sustainable design.*