

## **AIA NEW HAMPSHIRE**

### **PRESS RELEASE**

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## **AIA NEW HAMPSHIRE ANNOUNCES ANNUAL EXCELLENCE IN ARCHITECTURE AWARDS**

Manchester, NH — Eleven awards for Excellence in Architecture were announced at the New Hampshire Chapter of the American Institute of Architects' 26th Annual Awards Banquet at the New Hampshire Institute of Art, January 15.

Three projects received Honor Awards. Two were given to **Lavallee Brensinger Architects of Manchester, NH**, for the **Windham High School** and the **Pondside III Residence Hall at Keene State College**. Newman Architects of New Haven, CT, were the design architects for the Keene State project.

**UK Architects of Hanover, NH**, received an Honor Award for **the Hanover Co-op Community Market**.

Four architectural firms won Merit Awards, **AG Architects of Dover, NH**, for the **Burning Bridge Sound Studio in Boston, MA**; **Dennis Mires P.A., The Architects, Manchester, NH**, for the Lowell St. addition and renovations to the **NH Institute of Art, Manchester, NH**; **UK Architects** for the **Monadnock Mills No 2 & No. 6 in Claremont, NH**; and **O'Neil Pennoyer Architects of Groton, MA** for the **Nubanusit Neighborhood Co-Housing and Farm in Peterborough, NH**.

Three projects received special mention: **JSA Inc, Architects and Planners of Portsmouth, NH**, for the **Southeast Residential Community (SERC), University of NH, Durham**; **TMS Architects of Portsmouth, NH**, for **Phillips Exeter Academy Faculty Housing, Exeter, NH**; and **Albert Righter & Tittmann Architects, Inc., of Boston, MA** for a residence at Squam Lake.

Special Mention was also given to Jonathan Hallé AIA and Jason Lacombe AIA of **Warrenstreet Architects, Concord, NH**, in the Unbuilt Architecture Category.

### **Honor Awards**

An **Honor Award** went to the **Lyme Road Hanover Co-op Community Food Market**, in **Hanover**, designed by **UK Architects PC** of Hanover. The construction manager was Trumbull Nelson and the landscape was designed by ORW Landscape Architects.

This 5,500 SF store on Lyme Road in Hanover not only markets groceries, but also serves as a gathering place for the surrounding neighborhood and expresses its owners' support for local

economies and sustainability. Plazas off both the street and parking lot entrances provide ample space for exterior retailing, outdoor eating, and community events.

The wood-frame structure is clad in fiber-cement siding, panels, and wood trim. A storefront system topped with Kalwall panels allows diffuse light into the depths of the store. An exposed post and beam structure of parallel-strand lumber dominates the main hall.

The highlight of the sustainable effort is the geo-thermal system that reduces the building's energy costs by about 50%. Daylight harvesters measure the amount of light from the skylights and windows and dim the electric lighting as needed. The site is dotted with water retention areas that clean and reduce the amount of run-off leaving the site by about 50%.

*Jury Comments: The jury notes a thoughtful and well-resolved solution at multiple levels, beginning with the programming, successful response to a challenging set of site design requirements, and successful interior space organization. The architect specifies a beautiful use of materials externally and an interesting interior material palette & color choice as well. A clever structural system enriches this project. The architect has achieved a commendable air sealing success. We imagine the luminous clerestory is an attractive (and well conceived) landmark at the roundabout.*

An **Honor Award** went to the new **Windham High School, Windham, NH**, which opened in September 2009, designed by **Lavallee Brensinger Architects, Manchester, NH**. Harvey Construction were the construction managers.

When the Pelham-Windham School District retained Lavallee Brensinger Architects to design their new high school, they had already invested two years into their project, and had to abandon an earlier design that was over budget and too inflexible to be reconfigured. Their work began with a comprehensive reprogramming to reduce the size of the facility yet retaining all program areas and actually adding features to the project. The building footprint had to fit within the prior site plan, which had already begun construction. The schedule had to be accelerated to meet the District's commitment to bring the high school students home from a neighboring district.

The design incorporates a variety of sustainable elements, including: locally sourced materials as feasible; low/no VOC adhesives, sealants, and paints; daylighting strategies; occupancy sensors; heating systems that utilize high-efficiency oil boilers and energy reclaim systems; demand control ventilation in the auditorium; and a variety of water management components.

The school is a light-filled environment full of unique and exciting spaces, stimulating students to challenge the status quo, and elevate their goals for achievement. The open main street, which anchors all academic wings, and the public assembly spaces invite students and teachers to connect, socialize, and grow in a very non-institutional environment.

*Jury Comments: An interesting formal arrangement brought the jury's attention to this school. The building exhibits a particularly successful treatment of interior spaces, achieving a variety of moods. A "main street" organizational concept appears particularly well-conceived. Daylighting appears well executed and appropriately prioritized. Finally, the architects seem to have achieved this success*

*under particularly adverse circumstances. This project could equally receive an award for having changed horses in midstream without having fallen off.*

A second **Honor Award** was given for the **Pondside III Residence Hall at Keene State College**, Keene, NH. **Lavallee Brensinger Architects** were the project architects and **Newman Architects of New Haven, CT**, were the design architects. The construction manager was the MacMillin Company.

This unique residence hall sets a new standard for student life on the campus of Keene State College, fostering a sense of community and environmental responsibility among students. The LEED Silver Certified building promotes sustainable design through the use of selected materials and finishes as well as in design features such as dual flush toilets, electronic window sensors, and bicycle racks.

Common spaces are highlighted by distinctive colors and materials, designed to encourage interaction among the residents. Natural light is abundant throughout the building, through glass walls that allow spaces to be viewed from within the building and from outside, further encouraging students to socialize and work together. Suites, with small kitchens and spacious bedrooms, offer private space and small group areas.

Situated on the edge of campus, natural materials and colors complement and mirror the building's environmental context, emphasizing this important new structure at Keene State College.

*Jury Comments: The clever integration of modern and vernacular is commendable. Jury notes a beautiful use of exterior materials. A well-resolved plan, clustering bedrooms with hierarchical aggregation successfully supports student community. Jury notes this building's interesting siting — the bending of the building enlivens the exterior spaces. There is a well conceived entry sequence and position of the main stairway so as to encourage it as the primary vertical access conduit (rather than the elevator, positioned away and to one side).*

## **Merit Awards**

A **Merit Award** was given for the **Burning Bridge Sound Studio in Boston, MA**, designed by **AG Architects, Dover, NH**. The construction manager was Adams Point Contracting, Inc.

The Burning Bridge Sound Studio in Boston is a mix of classical building, acoustical performance, lighting accents, and contemporary design. The program combined functional sound studios and isolation booths with a lounge for entertaining and impressing clients. A high ceiling space with tall, arched windows on the exterior and cast iron columns inside set the stage for an open design that expresses the original building and simultaneously lets daylight permeate throughout with clerestory windows atop walls. Balancing openness with acoustic sound transmission and reverberation needs required careful design techniques, proper selection of materials, and quality craftsmanship in construction. The image created impresses clients, starting with the LED lit entry awards wall, flowing to the ice black/aluminum bar with rainbow pendant lighting, and extending through the ribbed glass Studio doors into the high performance sound studios. The design draws you into each space with a sense of anticipation, much like the creation of a sound recording.

*Jury Comments: This simple, restrained and clear material palette, within an existing historic fabric retains the sense of the really beautiful, old building.*

The **Lowell St. additions and renovations to the NH Institute of Art in Manchester** designed by **Dennis Mires PA, The Architects of Manchester**, also received a **Merit Award**. Construction managers were Milestone Engineering & Construction, Inc.

This project saved Manchester's historic, first high school building by moving it forward on the site over a new basement, restoring it, and constructing a new connector and six story addition. The completed mixed-use project provides 11 classrooms and studios, 54 dormitory beds, faculty offices and support spaces. The solution employs many sustainable strategies including reusing the embodied energy of the historic building; providing a high performance envelope; using daylighting, shading and glazing to advantage; employing a geothermal heating and cooling energy source; using rainwater harvesting for toilet flushing; employing a photovoltaic array on the sunshades to provide a portion of the electrical needs; no VOC materials; and locally produced materials. This effort expects to result in a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold certification for this downtown property.

*Jury Comments: "Jury appreciates this project as an exciting marriage of existing and new. Jury commends the effort to save and reposition the existing brick building and commends the resourceful efforts to capture rainwater."*

A **Merit Award** was given to **Monadnock Mills No 2 & No. 6, Claremont, NH**, designed by **UK Architects PC, Hanover, NH**. Construction managers were ReArch Company LLC

This project consists of two mill buildings that were built in 1853 and 1912, respectively. The structure of the early mill is "one of the best examples of a medium-scale, pitched-roof, trap-door-monitor brick textile mill in New England." The rehabilitated mill accommodates a hotel on the lower three levels and offices on the upper three levels. The project utilized Federal Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits.

The building was condemned by the structural engineer at the project's inception, due to degradation of the lowermost brick wall, rotting timbers and decking. The building's north side borders the Sugar River, and parts of the exterior wall are submerged in the river.

Architectural interventions were sympathetically planned, employing contemporary design features that distinguish the new from the old, while respecting the vocabulary of the mill aesthetic. The interior spaces highlight the original brick and exposed timbers with new double-hung windows throughout.

*Jury Comments: Jury commends this delightfully well-executed renovation of a worthy building in a wonderful location. We applaud the restraint and sensitivity with which the new insertions were executed.*

A **Merit Award for Residential Design** went to the **Nubanusit Neighborhood & Farm in Peterborough, NH**, designed by **O'Neil Pennoyer Architects of Groton, MA**. Construction managers were Bruss Construction Inc. and the landscape architect was Brown Sardina Strata Design.

This planned community for 29 families has been built on four acres of a 114-acre parcel of land that includes woods, river frontage, and a Community Supported Agricultural (CSA) organic farm. The houses, all with front porches, are clustered around shared entry spaces that encourage social interaction. Each unit is also orientated outwards to cultivated or natural landscapes that provide views and insure outdoor privacy. A village green at the center of the neighborhood is highlighted by a Common House that offers optional communal dining, informal gathering, studio space, and childcare.

A village-like density reminiscent of older European settlements was achieved by strategically placing cars in garages located at the periphery of the neighborhood.

Conceived to establish a new standard for environmental sustainability, one of the housing prototypes is LEED platinum certified, the highest level obtainable. High-quality building envelopes throughout enabled a centralized, wood pellet heat plant to efficiently serve the community.

*Jury Comments: Beautifully developed community design. Admirable commitment to principles of sustainability.*

Three firms received **Special Mentions**. The first is for the **Southeast Residential Community (SERC)** dorms at the **University of New Hampshire in Durham**, designed by **JSA Inc.** of **Portsmouth, NH**. Harvey Construction was the contractor; Halvorson Design Partnership were the landscape architects.

JSA developed a phased residential master plan for 1,450 new beds on 15 acres in the southeast quadrant of the University of New Hampshire campus. In order to facilitate phased construction, and to keep the scale with the surrounding context, the final plan proposed a series of six buildings clustered around various sized courtyards and outdoor activity areas. Phase I included the construction of the first three buildings (728 beds).

Each building contains a variety of student room prototypes, including multi-room suites, double-doubles and singles. This variety allows the University a great deal of flexibility and gives students a variety of housing experiences. Social and study lounges are organized to have prominent views of the pedestrian promenade linking the SERC to the heart of the campus.

The University requires buildings be built of highly durable and easily maintained materials. An enhanced thermal envelope was provided at all exterior walls. All student rooms employ fan coil units controlled by a campus building automation system, which permits the university energy office to setback the space temperature, based on occupancy sensors. The building ventilation systems utilize an enthalpy recovery wheel to recover energy from the building exhaust air and utilize it to preheat and humidify the building ventilation air in the winter months, as well as pre-cool and dehumidify the ventilation in the summer months. Occupancy sensors also control lighting in all common lounges, laundry rooms, and bathrooms. The landscape design employs all native species and requires no irrigation.

*Jury Comments: Jury makes this Special Mention for well-executed site organization of a complex*

*grouping of buildings.*

**TMS Architects of Portsmouth, NH**, received a **Special Mention for** three new homes in the **Phillips Exeter Academy Faculty Housing** in **Exeter, NH**. Contractors were Bruss Construction for the Valhouli House and Grainger Observatory and HW DeVries for the Forbes House. The landscape architect was Holzaepfel Design.

These homes were added in 2008 to the O'Neil Court Neighborhood faculty housing, complementing the four faculty homes already in the neighborhood and designed by TMS in 2004. The three homes needed to comply with Phillips Exeter's Environmental Mission Statement that "PEA must be committed to stewardship of the environment...and value, protect, preserve and replenish natural resources."

The three new residences achieved Gold LEED certification by reducing utility energy consumption by 50% and eliminating the use of fossil fuels for heating by using geo-thermal energy through wells drilled up to 220 feet below the surface. They also incorporated local building materials and native plants in the landscaping, recycled the majority of the construction waste, and installed a rain garden to capture runoff from hard surfaces such as roofs or driveways.

LEED certification services for Phillips Exeter Academy were provided by the Jordan Institute, a non-profit organization working to implement significant climate change solutions in New Hampshire by reducing energy use in buildings.

*Jury Comments: Clever use of modern materials in contextual forms. Strong sense of community.*

Another **Special Mention** was for a **New England Mountaintop House** near **Squam Lake, NH**, designed by **Albert, Righter & Tittmann Architects, Inc., Boston, MA**. The contractor was Dean Anderson.

In designing this New England Mountaintop House, the architects strove for a form that responded to the hill, a style that echoed the long tradition of New Hampshire camps, and a layout welcoming to family, friends, and guests.

The house is set on a shoulder of a hill high enough to get spectacular views, but still below the tree line of the hilltop. The eaves of the strong-hipped roof are pulled low with a dramatically wide overhang. The open plan and the compact roof downplay the size of the house. The flowing roof line, which bulges out to meet the entry column, is one of the house's defining features.

Passive solar design elements include the substantial overhangs and cross-ventilation, which reduce heat gain in summer and eliminate the need for air-conditioning. The house uses local materials, and the exterior is sheathed in unpainted, naturally weathering materials.

*Jury Comments: Successful integration of house with landscape. Excellent use of passive solar and local materials.*

A **Special Mention for Unbuilt Architecture** was given for the **Tenny Mountain Cabin** by Jonathan Hallé AIA and Jason LaCombe AIA of **Warrenstreet Architects of Concord, NH**. Projects entered in this category were for designs of any unbuilt project, including purely theoretical projects

and unbuilt client-sponsored projects (buildings, interiors, transportation infrastructure, monuments, etc.). The intent is to invite unbuilt work by practicing design professionals, design educators, and design students from New Hampshire.

The project was a year-round slopeside retreat with a low-impact, flexible, modular design. It is sensitive to the environment, connected to nature and equipped for adventure. Inspired some fire watch towers near the site, this project seeks to redefine the idea of a “cabin in the woods” and connect guests to nature in a new and exciting way. A tower concept captures the views of the valley from tree height yet allows people to ski or bike to the front door.

*Jury Comments:*

*This design is clever and thought provoking. It gives a new twist to an old idea and would drive an interesting experience.*

Jurors for the 2010 AIANH Excellence in Architecture Awards Program were: **Stephen Schreiber FAIA**, Professor and Program Director, Architecture + Design, University of Massachusetts at Amherst; **Bruce Coldham AIA**, Coldham and Hartman Architects, Amherst, MA; and **Martha Montgomery AIA**, Montgomery Ark, Williamstown, MA.

#### **People's Choice Awards**

Two Peoples' Choice Awards were also distributed, the result of a ballot vote conducted during the AIANH Awards Submissions Exhibit at the New Hampshire Institute of Art, December 7-January 15 and as the result of an online voting system. The winners are the Bigelow House designed by **Daniel V. Scully Architects in Keene, NH** for residential, and the **Gilford Community Church and Youth Center** in Gilford, NH designed by **Stewart Associates Architects, Laconia, NH**.

AIANH instituted the Excellence in Architecture Awards Program in 1983 for the purpose of providing public and professional recognition for architectural projects of design excellence. This year, projects completed since 1999 were eligible for submission. Each entry was judged on the following criteria: overall design excellence including aesthetics, clarity, creativity, appropriate functionality, sustainability, building performance, and appropriateness with regard to fulfilling the client's program.

**AIA New Hampshire** is the state component of the national professional association headquartered in Washington, DC, representing 80,000 U.S. registered architects. AIANH has over 200 architect members, a majority of the architects in the state; 48 Associate members, and 90 Professional Affiliate members.

For more information and photos of the winning projects, go to [www.aianh.org](http://www.aianh.org).