

2024 AIA Louisiana Design Award Winners Jury Comments

Honor Award: Tulane University River & Lake Residence Halls, New Orleans, LA EskewDumezRipple

- This project included a 7-story 230,000 square feet residence hall expansion. It is organized around two adjacent wings functioning as separate student residences, but connected by a raised courtyard space. It also includes public, co-study, lounges, lecture hall and office spaces. Judges said the design offers "a rich sense of community, but also offers pluralistic experiences for the many different needs of occupants. The interior material, craft and proportioning are exquisite."

Honor Award: Hotel Klaus in Washington, LA SO Studio

- The 1870 building in disrepair was rehabilitated into a nine-room boutique hotel, transforming a portion into an elegant lobby with historic architecture and large windows. Many original features were preserved, blending its Victorian style with contemporary elegance. The judges were very impressed with the "respectful and refined additions to the building, noting the guest rooms are impeccable." They said the sophistication in balancing the old and new shows how contemporary can respect and celebrate the traditional."

Honor Award: The Syd in New Orleans Workshop WDXL

- This project built a unique suite-style hotel for large groups around a 110-year-old live oak tree on a constrained lot. Visitors enter a courtyard featuring the tree. Rich, bright exterior colors and window groupings are used with lap siding in keeping with the neighborhood. Interior spaces have soaring ceiling heights and four hotel suites oriented to the courtyard. The judges were impressed with how the design embraced the difficulties of the site. They also noted the impressive interior courtyard, contemporary, yet vernacular formal expression, and overall blend with the neighborhood.

Merit Award: Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium: Blue Works project in Houma EskewDumezRipple

- A 25,500 square feet satellite campus was designed to support coastal sustainability research, with labs, classrooms and marine-themed design for public engagement. The building was designed as a "billboard for research" with its 13 feet above grade elevation and integration of surrounding environments. A central atrium connects various spaces, including diverse working environments, across three stories. It integrates with the watershed environment to support its goals of research, education and public engagement. The judges noted the design's attention to resilience and its impressive handling of the nautical interior.

Merit Award: Ecole St. Landry Early Childhood Campus in Sunset, LA SO Studio

- Three classrooms with service spaces added to the French immersion school campus. The classrooms create a village of spaces that blend modern architecture and traditional elements. The 90-degree angle at the entry is carried through some walls for a more dynamic environment, and white windows illuminate the learning environments with natural light. The judges said the project utilized "frugal elegance" in providing good design that has a tremendous impact on many lives. They also noted that it is an expression of the region's French heritage and the materials used in the area.

Merit Award: Mandeville Parks and Recreation Master Plan, Mandeville, LA Waggonner & Ball

- The master plan prioritizes a nature-based approach with connectivity between parks and reconnecting the city's bayous to the lakefront. The planning included public engagement, visioning and development of pilot projects. The judges were impressed with the plan's understanding of resilience and protecting the northshore. They also noted the strong ties in the plan to the area's historic waterways.

Members' Choice Award: Camp Alabama Field House, Choudrant, LA Arch 333 Design/Build Studio of La. Tech University

- This project design was by La. Tech architecture students under teacher Robert Brooks, Jr., AIA. It includes a new games field and field house for a summer camp for children with special needs. They transformed a simple storage need into a playful, energetic hub for field games. The angular structure creates a sense of movement, and reclaimed theater beams, reclaimed steel, and trolleys created movable walls. It provides secure, open storage, along with a restroom and shaded patio.

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