

PRESS RELEASES

New Orleans architectural firms win big in AIA LA Design Awards

A jury of nationally recognized architects awarded three Honor Awards and five Merit Awards from 72 entries in the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Louisiana 2021 Design Awards. The awards were given on September 24 during the awards presentation of the AIA Louisiana 2021 Conference on Architecture, which was held in Lafayette.

The three Honor Level Awards given, went to the firms of EskewDumezRipple and Colectivo of New Orleans, and the Dyke Nelson Architecture firm in Baton Rouge. Firms receiving Merit Level Awards included studioWTA, Trapolin-Peer Architects, John C. Williams Architects, and Trahan Architects, all of New Orleans. In addition, Louisiana architects awarded M2 Studio with the Members' Choice Award for their project "402" in Ocean Springs, MS.,

MEMBERS' CHOICE AWARD:

M2 Studio – 402 in Ocean Springs, MS - Inspired by 'The Beat Generation', the hotel encourages guests to break from the standard of society, embark on a spiritual quest, and experiment with elements found in nature - just as they are. The idea was to integrate harmonious natural elements within the space to give guests a sense of wellbeing in a comfortable, yet elevated atmosphere. A plunge pool, private outdoor showers, native meditation gardens, and central fire pit bring guests together to explore new things. Embedded in these experiences are themes of engaging human senses and the concept of permaculture. The property features four modern, floating cabins, each complete with wet bars and private, lush outdoor showers and lounge areas. The theme of senses is captured in the textures and materials used in each cabin, and across the property.

HONOR AWARDS:

EskewDumezRipple – Home Building at Thaden School in Baton Rouge – The central facility of this high school campus features board and batten facades and all wood construction in lightfilled spaces. It includes an expansive dining hall, which also supports the culinary education and sciences programs. The jury said, "The building is graceful and clearly articulates points of entry, hierarchy of program, and elevates the context."

Colectivo – Groundwork EarthLab in New Orleans – This project provided an outdoor classroom and event space for a non-profit focused on environmental conservation and urban agriculture. The outdoor classroom is framed by huge concrete walls with gradients of blue to connect the spaces with an operable wood slat fencing. The jury found the project "resonates with the spirit of community... with layered spaces and bold color."

Dyke Nelson Architecture – DNA Workshop in Baton Rouge – An abandoned warehouse originally built in the 1920s was converted into a light-filled office environment that includes a courtyard providing greenery and indoor-outdoor connection. Old salvaged materials were used in the design, along with re-purposing materials from the area demolished. The jury said it was "a master class in intelligent adaptive reuse, with elements working in concert to create a beautiful series of spaces."

MERIT AWARDS:

studioWTA – Emerald St. Residence in New Orleans – This completely rehabilitated residence restored the key original design features and connection to the outdoors after decades of neglect and modification. A deep mono-pitched roof overhang, which had to be completely rebuilt, extends the livable space. Another wall is composed of floor to ceiling sliding glass panels, with contemporary, minimalist detailing. The jury said the renovation "accomplishes the rare feat of making its delicate interventions feel seamless and better than its original version."

Trapolin-Peer Architects – Sazerac House in New Orleans – Two long-abandoned structures on Canal Street were combined into one unified six-story complex providing retail, exhibit, event, and office space. Including a mix of restoration, re-purposed salvaged elements and contemporary methods, the 1880s building both celebrates its history and provides new life to the structure. The jury said, “The massive restoration project was incredibly complex and thoughtfully realized, standing as a beautiful medley of old and new program components.”

John C. Williams Architects – Paris Parker Salon & Spa in New Orleans – This project redefined the salon function by improving the client experience and making the salon stations both functional and beautiful. Every aspect of the salon station was addressed to make the experience simple and uplifting. It was completed with second floor studio space and operations. The judges said the interior was “remarkable in its organizational clarity and material restraint.”

Trahan Architects – Ochsner Center for Innovation in New Orleans – This new facility will serve as headquarters for the hospital’s innovation group, providing a variety of laboratory, hospital, exam, and office spaces, along with collaborative spaces to develop, test and implement innovative healthcare solutions. The jury said the project defines the street edge with bold form making, and the dynamic building magnifies the landscape.

Waggoner & Ball Architecture/Environment – Resilient Hampton: Newmarket Creek Water Plan & Pilot Projects – Hampton, Virginia – The project is a master plan strategy for a resilient city by directing re-development and addressing flooding. One of the pilot projects included transforms a drainage ditch into a linear park that stores water. The jury said the masterplan included a robust process including public engagement and rendered solutions that stood out for their local applications.

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