



AIA
Alaska

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ALASKA ARCHITECTURAL FIRMS RECEIVE 2017 DESIGN AWARDS

Homer (October 14, 2017) – The American Institute of Architects, Alaska Chapter (AIA Alaska) is pleased to announce the recipients of its 2017 Design Awards for Excellence in Architecture, the profession’s highest recognition of works that exemplify excellence in architecture, interior architecture and urban design.

Each year, architects throughout Alaska submit projects that they feel are exceptionally responsive to their clients’ needs or exhibit design excellence above and beyond competent design. These submittals include a description of the project, architectural drawings and photography. To ensure the judging of the awards is unbiased, AIA Alaska Design Awards are always judged by prestigious architects from another state or region.

Selected from 10 submissions, two projects were recognized during AIA Alaska’s Awards Banquet held at the Land’s End Resort this past Saturday evening. Architects from prestigious firms in Wyoming served as the jury, awarding two HONOR awards for projects that best exemplify Alaska’s northern design requirements, sustainability, site/context sensitivity, forward-thinking and innovative design:

HONOR AWARD: WASILLA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Architect: ECI Alaska, Inc.
Developer/Client: City of Wasilla
Consultants: Schneider Structural Engineers; HMS, Inc.;
DOWL, LLC; AMC Engineers
Photographer: Chris Arend Photography

Jury Comments:



“There’s a simple austerity about the entry elevation that is appealing; nicely detailed. The simple canopy extension clearly demarcates entry. The exterior expression is very understated and elegant. We love the contrast created between the black structure and the surroundings. This must be very dramatic in the winter. The formal moves at the back of the building are a wonderful surprise and

successful contrast with the abstract quality of the entry elevation. The interior experience is enriched by the subtle sectional play. We like the progression, in plan from entry, through the stacks, to the quiet perimeter ring. We like the way the stacks radiate out, the elevation is beautiful, and even the signage is nicely done. A noteworthy project, very simple but with layers and some subtle surprises. We like the continuity of the ceiling, and the texture of the ribs on the elevation.”



HONOR AWARD: JAMES C RYAN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Architect: Bettisworth North Architects and Planners with Perkins+Will

Developer/Client: Fairbanks North Star Borough School District

Photographer: Kevin Smith

Jury Comments:



"This project is a beautiful geode. The abstract quality of the simple rectangular forms clad in white panels conceals a wonderfully sculptural, colorful, playful interior environment, a successful response to the daylight problem at this location. The experience must be a beautiful surprise. We would be excited to drop our child off here every day. The locker/lounge situation is very clever, and it looks like they've gone to great extents to make the interior spaces very comfortable. The plan and some of the elevations are very simple, really successful, very Corbusian. The white façade looks great in the snow. There is something noble about the connectivity of the common space, and a nice sense of openness. The curvature and color of the interior forms add an appropriate and elegant playful quality to the interior space. Really beautiful, we appreciate the simplicity of the exterior. We wish our school had been this thoughtfully designed."



PEOPLES CHOICE AWARDS – A DRIVE-BY JURY OF PEERS

All of the projects that were submitted were put on display during the conference, and attendees were encouraged to review and vote for their choice. The following projects were chosen:

- PROFESSIONAL'S CHOICE – THE PROJECT SELECTED BY PROFESSIONAL PEERS AS THE BEST PROJECT.

WINNER: ECI Alaska, Inc – Wasilla Public Library (City of Wasilla)

- MOST ALASKAN – THE PROJECT WHICH BEST CAPTURES ALASKAN DESIGN.

WINNER: ECI Alaska, Inc - State of Alaska Library Archives Museum (Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities)

- GRAPHIC PRESENTATION – THE PROJECT WITH THE FINEST GRAPHIC DIAGRAMS AND ILLUSTRATIONS DEPICTING THE PROJECT.

WINNER: Bettisworth North Architects and Planners, with Perkins+Will for the James C. Ryan Middle School (Fairbanks North Star Borough School District)

AIA Alaska's Design Awards Program was established in 1965 to promote community awareness of great designs being developed by Alaskan architects. For over 50 years, these annual design awards have recognized buildings that both satisfy the needs of the user and significantly contribute to a stimulating built environment.

The Alaska Chapter of the AIA was established in 1961. To learn more about AIA Alaska, visit www.aiaalaska.org

***About The American Institute of Architects:** Established in 1857, members of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) have worked in their communities to create more valuable, healthy, secure, sustainable buildings and cityscapes. AIA members have access to the right people, knowledge, and tools to create better design and through such resources and access, they help clients and communities make their visions real. Find more information at www.aia.org.*