The Wood Design Awards

Innovative wood design in North America celebrated
2007 Wood Design Awards unveils winning projects

For Immediate Release
Ottawa, ON, (November 1, 2007) – *Wood Design & Building* magazine is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2007 Wood Design Awards. The Wood Design Awards program is the only North American wide program that fosters growth in the quality of architectural practices by recognizing achievements in wood architecture. The judging was held at the National Gallery of Canada on Friday, October 26, 2007.

The 2007 Wood Design Awards:
Fifteen projects were selected from the over 200 entries to the awards program. These projects push the boundaries of conventional wood building practices and highlight the special qualities, versatility and sheer beauty of wood as a building material. The selection of the fifteen winning projects was challenging for the judges, as all of the projects displayed innovative uses of wood as a building material.

The jury selected projects covering a wide range of categories, including, residential, academic, institutional, commercial and recreational buildings. The esteemed panel of jurors included:

- Mary Griffin, FAIA
  Turnbull Griffin Haesloop Architects, San Francisco, CA;
- Vivian Manasc, MAAA, FRAIC, MBA, LEED® Accredited Professional, Architect
  Senior Principal, Manasc Isaac Architect Ltd., Edmonton, AB;
- Jefferson B. Riley, FAIA
  Partner, Centerbrook Architects and Planners, Centerbrook, CT.

The 2007 Wood Design Awards Winning Projects:

<u>Honor Awards</u>

Atwater Commons, Middlebury, VT, by Kieran Timberlake Associate LLP
The Atwater project, the second commons of Middlebury College to be completed supplements existing housing with 154 new beds in suite configurations and a 225-seat dining hall. The majority of the materials selected for this project – inside and out – reflect the college's commitment to materials local to Vermont and the region, and generally 'green' or sustainable to the environment. Wood is used extensively throughout the interior and exterior of the building.

Chicago Apartment, Chicago, IL, by VJAA │Vincent James Associates Architects
Built for a young family, this apartment was designed to preserve the expansive spatial qualities of an original building constructed in 1908. The design employs a deliberately simple palette of plain-sliced hickory wood paneling constructed of tongue and grove boards for wall finishes. Wood volumes and cabinetry were largely assembled off site and the apartment has hickory floors that were raised to conceal ducts and plumbing.

Courtyard House, Toronto, ON, by Studio Junction Inc.
This urban infill house is designed around a courtyard – an ancient design element that transcends many cultures. Warm rich textural woods are used extensively throughout the house and studio. Examples include millwork, ceiling panels, large sliding doors and fixed windows. The material palette also incorporates a number of recycled elements. The original douglas fir trusses were planed down and re-used as slats for various built-ins and millwork.

Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts, Toronto, ON, by Diamond and Schmitt Architects
The new opera house was designed by relying on the intrinsic qualities of wood to enhance its function. The spaces are warmed and colored subtly but significantly by the extensive use of wood on the inside. Wood is used at several scales. On one hand it is grand and elemental to the space, equal to the exposed steel and glass structure, while on the other hand it humanizes the design: railings, drink rails and cabinetry – elements in proximity to human touch – are all wood.

Grand Teton Discovery & Visitor Center, Moose, WY, by Bohlin Cywinski Jackson
Built for one of the most popular national parks, this discovery and visitor centre attracts over two million visitors annually. This centre pays homage to the strong tradition of rustic architecture in the national parks while remaining fully modern in its design, execution and interpretive mission. Tall douglas fir log frames support a raft of engineered wood beams that radiate from the center of the floor plan and cantilever past the viewing windows.

Healdsburg Residence, Healdsburg, CA, by Nick Noyes Architecture
The two wings of this single family residence define an outdoor courtyard that is planted with a high canopied orchard and has western red cedar trellises to provide shade during the hot summer months. Interior walls are composed of southern yellow pine plywood and floors are white-washed southern yellow pine. The heavily figured and animated clear plywood used thought this house is tempered by exacting craft and wood detailing rendered in gloss white paint. Structural framing is southern yellow pine.

Merit Awards

Canadian Border Services Agency Building, Fort Erie, ON, by NORR Limited, Architects & Engineers
The Canadian Border Services Agency Building is the central component of the Canadian border crossing at Fort Erie, Buffalo. The facility has two parts – an enclosed building portion and an exterior covered secondary inspection area for vehicles. The design objective was to create secure passage and an easy, welcoming flow into the country. The wood components are fundamental to the design. In addition to providing an elegant structural solution and sculptural form, they make a connection to a material that is a part of the Canadian identity.

George Washington's Distillery Reconstruction, Mount Vernon, VA, by Quinn Evans | Architects
This building is a reconstruction of a whiskey distillery built by George Washington in 1797. Due to the unique requirements of the building, almost no ready-made wood material or products were used. Almost everything was custom fabricated, often by hand using historically accurate production methods such as pit sawing. Nearly a dozen different species of wood were used in the construction of the distillery, each one chosen to fulfill a specific structural or aesthetic needed or to match a historical piece discovered during the archaeological investigation.

Herman Miller Canada, Toronto, ON, by Giannone Associates Architects Inc.
The new showroom is Herman Miller Canada's National Design Centre and occupies the fourth floor of an existing World War I warehouse building. An elaborate fir plywood tube-like sheath organizes the space and provides an anteroom to the real showroom component distributed throughout the largely unaltered full loft on the north end of the 10,000 square foot floor plate.

Kwantlen University College Cloverdale Trades & Technology Centre, Cloverdale, BC, by Bunting Coady Architects
The new 17,200 square meter campus replaces the converted warehouse space at the Newton campus, as well as a number of trade shops located at the Langly campus. Locally produced products were used throughout this facility. Large glulam beams are featured predominantly in the atrium and Farrier Building. The beams were produced primarily from wood affected by the mountain pine beetle infestation of BC.

Snow Point Residence, Chappaquiddick, MA, by Hutker Architects Inc.

This family retreat was designed for a growing, multi-generational family. The bowed roof forms and choice of wood shingles for exterior cladding was based on deference to the surrounding woodlands and passive harbor front. Cedar was used through the exterior finishes. Structural systems include standard 2x framing and douglas fir heavy timber.

Citation Awards

Boston Golf Grounds Buildings, Hingham, MA, by Estes | Twombly Architects Inc.
Opting to disregard the norm of a 'metal box' building to house the maintenance operations of a golf course lead to the development of buildings based on farm precedents. Locally milled eastern white pine was used as clapboard siding and trim and the interiors are of southern pine.

Music Room, Stratford, ON, by Michael Wilson
Clear pine is used as the exclusive finishing material in this music room to create balance and diffusion of a wide spectrum of frequencies. The finish of wood is critical, not unlike that used in acoustic stringed instruments; violin family, guitars, and piano, a thin coat of spar varnish applied to the pine maximizes the bright reflection resonance possible only with wood.

The Aldo Leopold Center, Baraboo, WI, by The Kubala Washatko Architects, Inc
This project represents the design and construction of a new headquarter's and conference facility for a prominent environmental organization based in the US. Built to the highest standards of energy efficiency and sustainability, the Center is carbon-neutral and "zero net" energy in design. A major building component included site-harvested wood originally planted during land restoration efforts in the 1930's and 1940's.

Vertical Patio, Seattle, WA, by PIQUE Architecture
This multi-purpose urban retreat transformed a small backyard previously full of waist-high weeds. All the moving components of this structure placed enormous restrictions on the material choice as it had to be lightweight, durable, and a at -modest price. Clear cedar wood became the material of choice for these reasons.

About the *Wood Design & Building* magazine and the *Canadian Wood Council*
The Wood Design Awards and Wood Design & Building magazine are produced by the Canadian Wood Council. For more than 10 years, *Wood Design & Building* magazine has been the only magazine exclusively about wood use in architecture and construction. It is a valuable resource for architects, engineers and builders. Each issue is packed with valuable and inspirational content. It showcases leading architectural design in wood from North America and overseas while demonstrating the significance of good design and construction. Visit www.wooddesignandbuilding.com and www.cwc.ca for more information.

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