



AIA Washington

A Council of The American Institute of Architects
(360) 943-6012 wacouncil@aiawa.org www.aiawa.org

News Release

June 1, 2006

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Stan Bowman, Executive Director
(360) 943-6012
bowman@aiawa.org
www.aiawa.org

2006 AIA/WA CIVIC DESIGN AWARDS ANNOUNCED

Excellence in public architecture was celebrated at the annual American Institute of Architects Washington Council (AIA/WA) Civic Design Awards program. Nine local civic works earned honors for their superior design and commitment to excellence in public architecture. The Miller/Hull Partnership, SRG Partnership, Mithun, Mahlum Architects, HKP Architects, Bassetti Architects, Bohlin Cywinski Jackson, and NBBJ all received awards for design of civic spaces with a sensitivity to sustainability and usability.

The AIA/WA Civic Design Awards program identifies public projects that are hallmarks of civic design. The *Honor Award* is given to projects that not only embody design excellence, but also show a certain amount of creative risk taking and problem solving. Civic projects earn the *Merit Award* by exemplifying their particular type of civic space, and the *Citation Award* is an acknowledgment of quality design based on individual reasons.

The jurors for this year's awards were a team of three: Alex Anderson, PhD, Assistant Chair & Associate Professor at the Department of Architecture, University of Washington; Taiji Miyasaka, Assistant Professor with the School of Architecture & Construction Management, Washington State University; and Jim Tully, Principal with NBBJ.

The AIA Washington Council is a professional society of architects in the State of Washington. The American Institute of Architects was founded in 1857. The first Washington chapter of the AIA

was established in 1894. The state council was formed in 1962, to be the architecture profession's voice on policy matters before the state government. The AIA/WA seeks to be an effective proponent of the balance between the natural, built and economic environments.

To download photos of each project and get photographer credits, visit AIA/WA's website at: <http://www.aiawa.org/awards.html>.

Honor Awards

Project: **Seattle City Hall**
Public Agency: City of Seattle (Shiels Obletz Johnsen, project manager)
Architects: Bassetti Architects, Seattle, Washington, and Bohlin Cywinski Jackson, Seattle, Washington
Project Location: Seattle
Juror Comments: Seattle’s new city hall provides an accessible and iconic civic presence. This building's strongest



points are superb urban integration on a steeply sloped site, smooth transitions between inside and outside, and a bright, open, welcoming character. The sustainable strategies are sophisticated and well integrated. The rich but controlled material palate and carefully considered building details make this a very fine building at a full range of scales.

Project: **Snohomish County Campus Redevelopment Initiative**
Public Agency: Snohomish County –
Architects: NBBJ, Seattle, Washington
Project Location: Everett
Juror Comments: Starting with mundane, difficult conditions, this project gives Snohomish County a recognizable welcoming, and very useable center. The plaza is related to the optimization of the parking lot below and the



surprisingly elegant jail acts as a backdrop for the terraces and lawns. The project is successful at the urban scale and in its details

Project: **Conibear Shellhouse**
Public Agency: University of Washington
Architects: The Miller/Hull Partnership, LLP, Seattle, Washington

Project Location: Seattle
Juror Comments: What could have been a simply remodeled utilitarian building has been transformed into a structure as graceful as the rowing shells it houses. It integrates existing structures,

accommodates a complicated program, and negotiates a multilevel waterfront site with surprising ease. The light, carefully detailed columns and beams support the roof in a clear, rational manner. The upper level dining area is flooded with natural light and connected to the lower level shell bays by a crisp, well designed stair. At the lower level the project opens out to the lake, dramatizing its fundamental connection with the element of water.



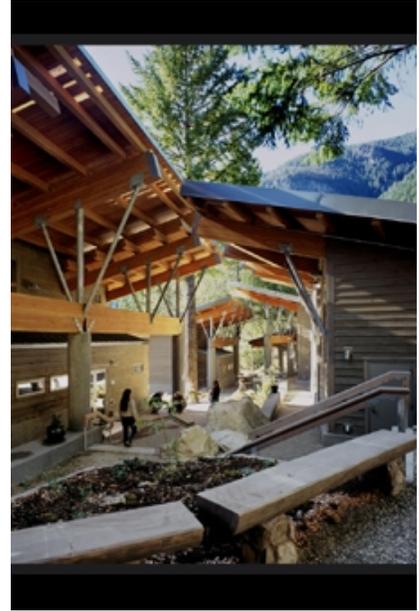
Merit Awards

Project: **Ben Franklin Elementary School**
Public Agency: Lake Washington School District
Architects: Mahlum Architects, Seattle, Washington
Project Location: Kirkland

Juror Comments: The site integration, planning, and material palate of this building come together to make a place that just seems right. The courtyard gardens and carefully composed views of nearby trees make fluid, pleasant connections between inside and outside. Comprehensive daylighting strategies are effective technically, but their real merit is in giving a sense of fresh, open, unconstrained space. The color and materials palette for this project provides for crisp detailing and balanced forms.



Project: **North Cascades Environmental Learning Center**
Public Agency: Seattle City Light/National Park Service
Architects: HKP Architects, Mount Vernon, Washington
Project Location: Diablo Lake (75 miles east of Burlington)
Juror Comments: This group of buildings takes full advantage of its stunning site—standing firm among the trees, tracing the contours of the steep site, maintaining existing vegetation, and framing views of the overarching Cascade peaks. Large openings which invite views and light into the buildings enhance the relationship between the buildings and site. The materials and detailing give a sense that the buildings belong just where they are.



Project: **Nathan Hale High School Performing Arts Center**
Public Agency: Seattle Public Schools
Architects: Mahlum Architects, Seattle, Washington
Project Location: Seattle
Juror Comments: This bold, clean addition to a well-worn school building, gives new life to a busy hub of community activity. The juxtaposition of solid and transparent zones makes the functions within the building clear. Innovative circulation patterns, effective lighting, and simple details—like a stair handrail details recall the rhythms of music—all emphasize that what is most important in the building is what goes on there.



Citation Awards

Project:

Public Agency:

Architects:

Project Location:

Juror Comments:

Merrill Hall at the Center for Urban Horticulture

University of Washington

The Miller/Hull
Partnership, Seattle,
Washington

Seattle

The ecologically sustainable emphasis of this building addition is evident everywhere—in the planning, building form, details and siting. The details also reflect innovative responses to budget constraints. Much of the building’s character relies on its connection to the adjacent gardens and vegetation; it will only improve as the landscaping develops.



Project:

Public Agency:

Architects:

Project Location:

Juror Comments:

Bellevue City Hall

City of Bellevue

SRG Partnership, Inc., Seattle, Washington
Bellevue

This is a remarkably good adaptive re-use project that transforms a bleak existing building into an inviting, lively city hall with a series of simple spatial moves and a warm but clean palate of materials. The entrance lobby nicely creates a welcoming atmosphere for the public. The interior spaces of this project give Bellevue a new civic focus.



Project:

Public Agency:

Architects:

Project Location:

Juror Comments:

Yesler Community Center

Seattle Parks Department

Mithun, Seattle, Washington

Seattle

This project expresses a clear idea and design by arranging three simple box volumes with standard building materials. The simple, well thought out plan makes this building easy to use. Common spaces are welcoming, inhabitable and flexible. Superb daylighting seems to place the users first. For an obviously low budget project, this building does some nice things with light and materials.

