



AIA Southwest Michigan
A Chapter of the American Institute of Architects

Design Awards CELEBRATION

2008

SWAIA tips hat to seven projects

KALAMAZOO – The **Southwest Michigan Chapter of the American Institute of Architects** recently celebrated this year's winners of the chapter's design awards.

Held Nov. 6, the awards ceremony featured seven noteworthy projects from regional designers.

JAMES C. GILLINGHAM ACADEMIC CENTER

Slocum Associates won an honorable mention for the James C. Gillingham Academic Center located on Beaver Island. According to the jury, the building "seems to be of the dune." The jury was impressed by the project's sensibility and resourcefulness. A high degree of consideration is apparent in the choice of materials and construction techniques. They also noted the design solution displayed "a strong sense of place related to the context. The learning spaces are flexible and agile, underscoring the importance of sustainability in connection with the local community."

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

Allegretti Architects earned an honorable mention for a private residence the firm designed in Bridgeman, Michigan. According to the jury, the residence "builds upon harmonious connections between the inside spaces and the outside through the use of open space, views and windows." The jury also liked the warm materials palette and the inviting spaces created inside. "(The) strength of the project is seen in the use of the stairs as a programmatic component and a poetic hinge that connects the living spaces on the inside with each other, as well as with the plaza on the exterior," the jury wrote.



SWMI AIA MERIT AWARD

Gazelle Sports/One DeVisser Place

Firm: Diekema Hamann Architecture • Location: Kalamazoo, Michigan
Owner: Catalyst Development Co. & LLC

GAZELLE SPORTS / ONE DEVISSER PLACE

Diekema Hamann Architecture won a merit award for its project for Gazelle Sports at One DeVisser Place in Kalamazoo. "The 'main street' façade restoration is handled with a fine attention to detail and a delicate touch," the jury wrote. "The impact of this restoration portrays a significant sense of give-back to the community." The jury thought the

project team "did a very commendable job with the building addition, in that the solution is sensible in its materials palette while being very nicely inventive in its form and proportion." They noted this sensitivity reinforces the "architectural dialogue" involved in the interplay between new and old features in an urban restoration project.

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Paragon Health, Gull Road

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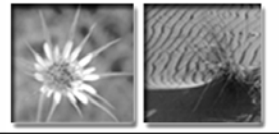
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SWMI AIA MERIT AWARD

Prairie Ridge Elementary
 Firm: Tower Pinkster • Location: Kalamazoo, Michigan
 Owner: Kalamazoo Public Schools

SWMI AIA AWARDS
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PRAIRIE RIDGE ELEMENTARY
 TowerPinkster took home a merit award for its Prairie Ridge Elementary project. The jury liked the school's exterior, which it said

“exhibits a playful exploration of materials, color and form that is very fitting for an elementary school, without being trite or contrived.” The jury felt the design team had carefully considered the scale of the project in proportion to its users. “The solution includes a successful grouping of

community space without sacrificing security for the more traditional learning spaces,” the jury wrote.



SWMI AIA MERIT AWARD

401 East Michigan Avenue
 Firm: Nelson Breech Nave, AIA • Location: Kalamazoo, Michigan
 Owner: Depot Landmark, LLC

401 EAST MICHIGAN AVENUE
 Nelson Breech Nave AIA won a merit award for his design of the 401 East Michi-

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SWMI AIA HONOR AWARD

The Battle Creek Downtown Partnership

Firm: Architecture + design • Location: Battle Creek, Michigan
Owner: Battle Creek Unlimited

gan Avenue project. According to the jurors, the complicated in-fill project was successful because of “its sophisticated response to the surrounding context.” They said Nelson’s solution goes “well beyond replication and explores the notions of materials, transparency and lighting in a way that is inventive and playful.” The jury had much discussion of the extent of new and existing building components along the south elevation and felt strongly that the project was “very successful in its transformative qualities regarding day and nighttime appearance, as well as the establishment of an urban corner.”

THE BATTLE CREEK DOWNTOWN PARTNERSHIP

The jury awarded an honor award to **Architecture + design** for its Battle Creek Downtown partnership restoration project. The work was selected because it “successfully explores how a rich investigation of the history of place can be used to inform the architecture of today.” The jury noted that the result of the exploration created a “soft weave” between the

existing materials and the space’s new uses. The jury responded well to the subtle treatment of volume, surface texture and color. “The design is resourceful, and it is apparent that the team allowed the budget constraints to lead them to questions that drove the enriching exploration,” the jury wrote.

GULL LAKE HIGH SCHOOL

Kingscott Associates won an honor award for its work on Gull Lake High School. The jury noted that the school demonstrated “a consistent, high level of design exploration” that they felt was extremely successful given the complexity of the project. They said the design “pushes the public high school building type to a higher level” and noted that the team’s mindfulness of sustainability was apparent in the design. The jury commended Kingscott for creating effective learning environments that went beyond the traditional classroom setting. Site planning was also viewed as an important component. “The careful considerations for overall



SWMI AIA HONOR AWARD

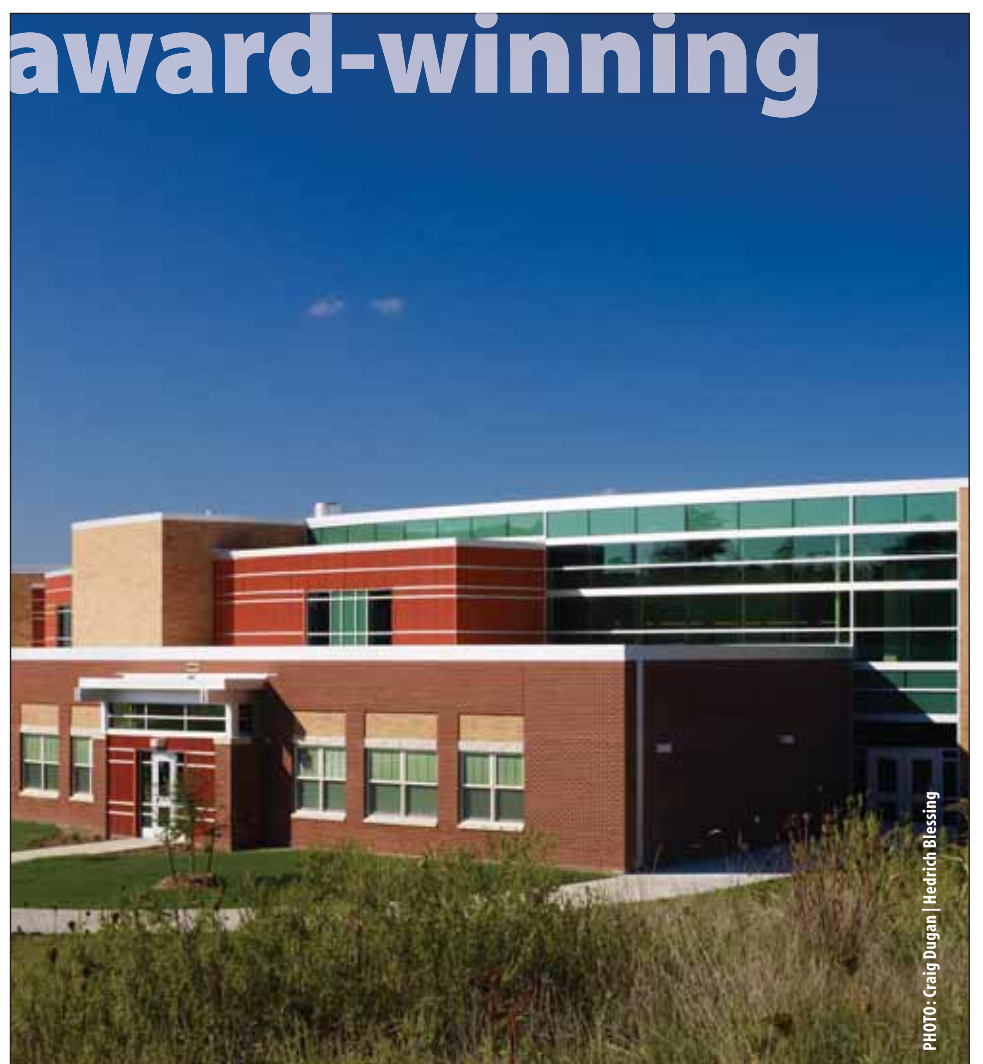
Gull Lake High School

Firm: Kingscott Associates Inc. • Location: Gull Lake, Michigan
Owner: Gull Lake Community Schools

orientation, outdoor people spaces and future growth potentials are appreciated,” the jury wrote.

This year’s jury was comprised of members of AIA’s Indianapolis Chapter. They were: Stuart Godfrey of K.R. Montgom-

ery and Associates, who served as the jury’s chair; Andrea Swartz of Ball State University; Wes Janz of Ball State University; Nathan Moore of CME Corp.; Mike Montgomery of K.R. Montgomery and Associates; and Dustin Eggink of Ratio Architects. **MiBiz**



award-winning

Kalamazoo Public Schools • Prairie Ridge Elementary
AIA Southwest Michigan Merit Award 2008

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