



AIA East Bay
A Chapter of
The American Institute of Architects

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For Immediate Release

Bay Area Projects Honored for Excellence

Oakland, CA—December 11, 2017—On Tuesday, November 28, 2017, the American Institute of Architects, East Bay, awarded fourteen projects with jury honors for the 2017 AIA East Bay Design Awards.

Five projects were awarded with a citation for architecture, five were recognized with Merit Awards and four projects received the highest award of Honor. For the first time ever, an honorable mention award was given on behalf of AIA East Bay's Committee on the Environment for excellence in sustainable design and one project was honored a People's Choice award, by attendees of the Design Awards Reception and Presentation. These projects embody Northern California design and represent the outstanding work found throughout the Bay Area.

The distinguished 2017 Design Awards jury are leaders in the Bay Area architectural community: Karen Fiene, FAIA, (Mills College, Oakland, CA); Craig Steely, AIA, (Craig Steely Architecture, San Francisco, CA); and Marc L'Italien, FAIA, (HGA, San Francisco, CA).

The AIA East Bay 2017 Design Award recipients are:

Honor Awards



Miner Road, Orinda
Architect: Faulkner Architects

The Miner Road house is a remodel for clients who wanted a house that was deeply ecologically site-specific; energy-efficient; and had a strong design identity. A minimal material palette includes unfinished white oak, basalt flooring, white gypsum walls, and Corten steel. The smell of the oak permeates the interior environment in haptic conversation with the landscape - a choice that reflects the California Valley Oaks growing outside. The rhythm of the boards suggests growth form in pattern and repeat the refuge like atmosphere of the trees.

Jury Comments: *“Awesome! Poetry. Will age so nicely—this is powerful.” “We love the windows and Corten screens—they’re ethereal” “This had one of the highest sustainability scores (32 out of 36); net zero energy...” “Ecologically site specific—the colors, tones, and hues match the landscape in a way we’ve never seen.” “Melds with site...the dappled light is lovely”*



**Jacobs Institute for Design Innovation,
Berkeley
Architect: Leddy Maytum Stacy Architects**

Built and operated by the UC Berkeley College of Engineering, the Jacobs Institute for Design Innovation fosters interdisciplinary engagement across the University, welcoming undergraduate students to an environment of creativity, collaboration, and innovation.

The compact building makes efficient use of its tight urban site, cantilevering over the existing basement while retaining a south-facing solar court. Large, flexible design studios are bordered by project rooms, instructor’s offices and fabrication

equipment rooms with a variety of rapid prototyping tools. The south wall opens to the sun for optimal daylighting and passive solar benefit.

Jury Comments: *“One of highest sustainability scores...” “Jewel box on urban site—finely detailed and a perfectly good neighbor...” “Great spaces—good elegance for the flexible, big spaces...” “The architect broke up the mass nicely on the street; solar panels make it a sophisticated termination at the sky.”*



**Cowell Ranch Hay Barn, Santa Cruz
Architect: Fernau & Hartman Architects**

Perched on a shelf at the entrance to UC Santa Cruz, the Cowell Ranch Hay Barn greets visitors on their way to central campus, as they pass through the former ranch headquarters of the Cowell Lime Works. The heavy timber, mortise-and-tenon frame is a rare example of the timber

frame tradition on the west coast; the 1860’s building is a contributor to a National Register Historic District.

The challenge was to transform the red-tagged structure into usable program space, to balance new program requirements and rigorous sustainability goals while preserving the essence and sense of space of the historically significant barn.

The architect’s approach was one of rehabilitation rather than strict preservation. The goal was not to embalm the Hay Barn, but to extend its longevity through utility and to reconnect the barn to the Historic Cowell Ranch, to the organic farm, and to the central campus. To preserve the essential character of the historic barn while expressing its new mission, our philosophy was to express what was old as old and what was new as new.

Jury Comments: *“One of highest sustainability scores...” “It’s great to see the old mixed with new...it’s bionic—ready for another 100 years. The insertions are like prosthetic limbs!” “We appreciated the story and rich community involvement” “Use of materials/natural light was fantastic...”*



Creek House, Truckee
Architect: Faulkner Architects

The south-facing site of the Creek House sits at the edge of an evergreen forest where it meets a spring-fed creek at the base of an ancient volcano, now a mountain used for skiing. Years of flooding have exposed volcanic boulders that cover the site, and the house is located in this boulder field as three bars of building mass, staggered along a 140 foot insulated concrete wall which parallels the geography of the site.

A glass floor reveals the drop in topography and undisturbed boulders below, while trapped snow melt frames the Zen garden to the east and temporarily transforms the garden with a reflective pool.

Jury Comments: *“Gorgeous design, refined detail. Lots of careful thoughts about light & shadow.” “It feels like nature is creeping in. The glass floor subtly adds to the experience, using the floor in a way that’s not typical—as an experiential window to see snowmelt views.” “Great siting in boulder field...” “High performance in extreme condition...”*

Merit Awards



MacArthur Annex, Oakland
Architect: Baran Studio Architecture

The design of MacArthur Annex in Oakland is an adaptation to the concerns of the developer, neighbors, city officials, and inhabitants. It is also configured to respond to various site influences, such as the adjacent freeway, BART station, program and economy. The shipping container module allowed the mixed-use project to be fully integrated into the local, as well as a broader context. The shell of the container is modified for openings which provide views, light, and cross-ventilation, no cooling was necessary. Large openings

at one end face south and west to maximize daylight, and the glass was treated to minimize heat gain.

Jury Comments: *“Great use of salvaged material...” “This definitely speaks to evolution & change...” “This whole project is about function and celebrates the mechanics of the containers. It’s not afraid to show the humble roots of the building.”*



Kapor Center for Social Impact, Oakland
Architect: Fougeron Architecture

For its new headquarters, The Kapor Center for Social Impact commissioned a design competition to transform an existing 1920s-era office building in downtown Oakland into an innovative workspace. It was vital to craft a space that would foster collaboration between the Center, its partner organizations and other like-minded nonprofits and organizations. The design is modern and harmonious, blending high-tech and humanism. A circular volume carries an open stair upward through the building's

original three floors to a fourth-floor addition, linking floors and connecting a range of workspaces. Throughout the building, the circular volume acts as an organizing and integrating principle, linking the various floors and functions while maintaining the separations needed to meet code and maintain privacy.

Jury Comments: *“The central core of the circular stair is an elegant programmatic solution...” “Program shapes space/values...it’s a super fearless plan” “Innovative workspace; roof top usage smart—it raises the urban level to the roof” “The melding of contemporary with historic is just perfect, harmonious.”*



Bridge Yard, Oakland
Architect: HNTB Corporation

Located in Oakland at the base of the Bay Bridge, the Bridge Yard is a unique re-imagining of a 1930’s industrial building in the Port of Oakland. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, it was built originally as a repair facility for trains, used later for maintenance and storage, and is now an exhibit and public assembly building. With its dramatic interior volume and deep ties to the history of the site, the Bridge Yard is uniquely qualified to serve as the anchor of a future park and a memorable public assembly space.

Jury Comments: *“Well done preservation; shows restraint...it’s pristine and creative...we appreciated the simple insertions that show detail. This will be a great part of the future park.”*



Claremont Canyon Residence, Oakland
Architect: Kuth Ranieri Architects

The Claremont Canyon Residence is a 1937 two-story Berkeley bungalow, originally designed by Dinwiddie and Hill Architects. It was modernized for a genetics professor, while maintaining traditional and contemporary crafted elements of a family home. The new street façade creates a dynamic and unique front in keeping with the complexity of the existing south patio by incorporating new lift and slide windows at the living room and a new deck off the Master's Bedroom with sweeping views of the San Francisco Bay. Each space was carefully considered to maximize its connection to the

surrounding landscape and views while maintaining privacy from the street. The design creates a modern addition that integrates seamlessly with the existing shell and marries the family's traditional pieces with modern craft.

Jury Comments: *"Nice light, materials, and detailing...Awesome integration...this house has warmth, it's cozy... Love the genetic code at the stairs—there's serious whimsy here"*



The Branson School Student Commons, Ross
Architect: Turnbull Griffin Haesloop Architects

The Branson School Student Commons creates a gathering place for an independent high school on seventeen acres of hilly terrain in the residential community of Ross. The new Student Commons building is located in a narrow glen in the center of campus, along the pedestrian path between the upper and lower campuses. The central gable and large window wall front onto an inviting terrace and lawn while the flanking support wings, sheltered under green roofs, connect to the adjacent hillsides with board-form concrete walls. Sited to take advantage of the sunny southern exposure, the new building features

large overhead doors that open onto a generous plaza for dining, meeting and outdoor learning. By providing spaces for gathering and socializing throughout the day, the Student Commons serves as the heart of campus activity. The building is LEED Platinum certified and features many sustainable strategies, including a living roof, radiant heating, natural ventilation, photovoltaic panels, and pervious paving.

Jury Comments: “Simple, flexible, inviting.... Gracious and welcoming...great siting, smart structure, proportions are perfect. Refined, down to the scale of the steps...Well designed, sits on site beautifully—nestled in the valley... Detailing is fine, did a great job balancing the wood & steel, not fussy...”

Citation Awards



Skyline House, Oakland
Architect: Terry & Terry Architecture

A significant remodel of a post-1991 Firestorm home, the Skyline House was proposed for a young family, who desired an open plan home that embraced the views of the bay and a connection to the existing garden.

Working with the existing floor plan, the design transformed the kitchen area to open out and connect to the front yard garden and forming an outdoor dining area. The design shrouds the open common space in a wood

tube that connects the garden in the front to the viewing deck off the living space at the rear. Opposite the remodeled kitchen the interior dining space opens out to the viewing deck creating one large open space and extending the roof structure as a trellis to shelter the space from the direct sun. A new stair connects the main floor with the lower ground floor continuing the wood tube down through a crevasse to a media/projection room, bedroom and office area.

Jury Comments: “Mid-Century meets Bay Area...Sculptural...Smart plan for views; simple solution to break out of the “cube”...”



Tipping Addition, Berkeley
Architect: Fernau & Hartman

Tipping Addition, also known as the Richter Building, is a small base-isolated building in Berkeley, located a mile from the Hayward Fault. This addition is an infill building adjacent to one designed by the same firm in 1994. The client desired the two buildings to share the same architectural DNA, and to function as a whole. Where the goal with the original project had been to foreground sustainability through first principles (such as sunshades, daylighting, and natural ventilation) the goal with this building was to focus on sustainability through structural

resilience, and to visually express the unique seismic system. Instead of hiding the base isolators at grade, the architects made them a fundamental visual component by splicing them into the tops of the columns to underscore the unique mechanics of the building.

Jury Comments: “Great neighbor—it takes the same language of the first building while still being reflective of our times. This is a seismic innovation—invites you to examine the structure. Brutally honest. Excellent scale; love the roof...Liked their approach to sustainability.”



San Lorenzo Library, San Lorenzo
Architect: Group 4 Architecture,
Research + Planning, Inc.

The San Lorenzo Library, a renovation and expansion project that modernized and nearly doubled the size of a 1960s era public library, transforming it from an inward-facing, low visibility reading room into a welcoming, sustainable, and celebratory civic hub. The expansion and renovation project contributes an impressive array of new library spaces to cultivate lifelong learning, discovery, and collaboration, civic involvement, and community enjoyment.

Jury Comments: “Excellent light and variety of spaces—has a coziness unusual for big spaces. Good form; structural integration is really cool. Great drama in the ceiling, not fussy...”



Legends Aquatic Center, Berkeley
Architect: ELS Architecture and Urban Design

This athletic center has reinvigorated Berkeley’s Bancroft Way by allowing the public to get a first-row view of the Legends Aquatic Center. The new home for UC Berkeley’s intercollegiate aquatic sports, the Center is a state-of-the-art facility aimed at providing additional training space for intercollegiate athletes. Consisting of three single-level buildings surrounding a stretch 50M pool, the new training center includes a two-centerline dive tower and adjacent springboards, a warm-water spa for divers,

and other athletic facilities. The pool is exclusive for student-athlete use and puts Cal into the elite company of schools with multiple 50 meter pools on campus. The facility is sited to create visual links back to the University and specific sporting venues. Locating the entrance, the 50-meter pool, and the dive tower on axis between two of the historic pylons and memorial signage of the historic 1932 Edwards Stadium, establishes a dialogue by creating a link between two facilities from different eras. The design establishes a connection with the athletics precinct and serves as a catalyst for energizing both the aquatics program and the southwest edge of campus.

Jury Comments: “Love the graphic nature of the diving tower... Parti is simple & strong...This project energizes the streetscape and then by stepping down it’s more intimate...”



SonoGROTTO, San Francisco
Architect: Kuth Ranieri Architects

SonoGrotto was a temporary installation and experiment in using affordable, ubiquitous and recyclable materials to create new human-scaled spaces on a cavernous and over-scaled corridor. It is composed of 235 cardboard tubes fastened together. The tubes were packed, trimmed to fit within a 10-foot cube, and was carved creating seats, windows, and an oculus to view the sky above. As the day passes, revolving arrays of dappled-light and shifting shadows dance in and around the vicinity of the grotto.

Jury Comments: *“Ephemeral architecture...this shows that architecture can be spontaneous like music or cooking...We appreciated finding beauty in a mundane material, on-the-cheap cool & conceptual...”*

COTE Honorable Mention for Sustainable Design



Bishop O'Dowd High School Center for Environmental Studies, Oakland
Architect: Siegel & Strain Architects

The Center for Environmental Studies (CES) at Bishop O'Dowd High School in Oakland serves the school's environmental science curriculum while offering learning and gathering spaces for the campus community. The building's two large laboratory classrooms expand onto a generous covered patio—a third classroom—overlooking the Living Lab, Oakland and the Bay.

People's Choice Award



Charles Porter Golden Gate Recreation Center, Oakland

Architect: Shah Kawasaki Architects

The Golden Gate Recreation Center includes a large sky-lit gymnasium for after school sports, a stage/activity room, meeting rooms for senior and other activities, a teaching kitchen, a teen center, and an adjoining computer lab for study. The project has been designed to blur the distinction between the various spaces and indoor/outdoor activities. The glass enclosed lobby and gymnasium wraps around a tot-lot play area with extended views of the baseball field beyond.

A performance stage can be open to the gymnasium, closed for dance classes, or open to an outdoor amphitheater.

AIA East Bay's 2017 Design Awards are sponsored by Dealey Renton & Associates, Dolan's Windows and Doors, The Grubb Company Realtors, Ideate, Moen, Pacific Coast Building Products, and Vectorworks.

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