

**2007 AIA Central Massachusetts Design Awards**  
*sponsored by AIA Central Massachusetts and Preservation Worcester*

*Jurors' Comments*

This year we had the opportunity as jurors to review eleven submissions describing work completed in Central Massachusetts in the past five years.

The majority of the projects were healthcare, education, corporate or institutional facilities; we were disappointed that there weren't any residential or preservation projects. We discussed the difficulties many small firms experience when the desire to document a project and submit it to a design award program competes with the need to devote the limited time available to small firms to current clients and projects.

Overall, the projects reflected thoughtful attention to detail and underscored a commitment to design excellence. More details on the scope of work and specific design challenges would have been helpful in some cases. We were delighted to see sustainable elements in many of the projects.

We have chosen to recognize five projects. These projects share a commitment to thoughtful design, functional appropriateness, an awareness of materials and the importance of design details. They differ widely in their design solutions, materials and construction and thus highlight the diversity of high-quality design in the Central Massachusetts area. Two of the projects honored were for the same client – University of Massachusetts Medical Center. Led by different design teams, the success of these two projects underscores the important role a strong client plays in realizing an integrated vision for any large, multi-faceted project.

It is always an education and a pleasure to serve on juries such as this and we wish to express our appreciation to Preservation Worcester and AIA Central Massachusetts for giving us this opportunity.

The Jurors

- **Audrey O'Hagan AIA** (Audrey O'Hagan Architects)
- **Paul Lukez AIA** (Paul Lukez Architecture)
- **Daniel Lewis AIA** (Northborough MA)
- **Allen Fletcher** (Worcester Publishing Company Ltd.)

## **AWARD FOR DESIGN**

**The Forest Refuge** for the Insight Meditation Society in Barre MA designed by O'Neil Pennoyer Architects (Groton MA)...North Branch Builders (contractor, Henniker NH); John Born Associates (structural engineer, Cambridge MA); Sterling Engineering (MEP engineer, Sturbridge MA); STRATA Design Associates (landscape architects, Boston MA)

This is a new meditation center on 75 acres of high rural land with old stone walls and open pasture. We liked the attention to detail throughout the project, the understated design and use of locally grown, natural materials. The project's pleasant spaces and well-executed design is enhanced by sustainable design elements including careful site selection, solar orientation, deep eaves, narrow building sections and roof dormers to facilitate cross ventilation and convective cooling and a low-maintenance exterior skin. The interiors benefit from both abundant daylighting and carefully designed lighting elements resulting in an environment that is pleasant both inside and out.

## **AWARD FOR DESIGN**

**Boys & Girls Club of Worcester** for Boys & Girls Club of Worcester in Worcester MA, designed by Bargmann Hendrie + Archetype (Boston MA)... Ryan Construction (contractor, Walpole MA); Bolton & DiMartino (structural engineer, Worcester MA); AHA – Consulting Engineers (MEP, Lexington MA); Geller Devellis, (landscape design and civil engineering, Boston MA)

This is a new children's recreational facility on a reclaimed brownfield site in Worcester. The project exudes a sense of creativity and fun and represents a clear investment in youth programs by the community. The center serves a diverse community of children within a complex series of spaces that open to a main corridor allowing visibility to the programs and encouraging participation. We liked the playful use of color and details that reflect the area's history. The straightforward exterior functions well although we wished the exterior better reflected the complex spaces within. Overall we were impressed with this project's sense of inclusiveness and the design team's ability to embrace a terrific program and create an accessible and fun place for Worcester's youth.

## **AWARD FOR DESIGN**

**University of Massachusetts Memorial Medical Center, Lakeside Addition** for University of Massachusetts Memorial Healthcare Systems in Worcester by Cannon Design (Boston MA) and Payette (associate architects for the building façade system, Boston MA); Turner Construction (contractor, Boston MA).

This is a four-story addition to an eight-story medical center. The addition includes a new emergency department, surgical units, trauma rooms and patient and family service areas. This thoughtful design recognizes that medical centers need to provide state-of-the-art care in an environment that is also nurturing and human-centered. The location of public spaces and corridors along the perimeter walls and abundant use of natural light leads to intuitive wayfinding and maintains a sense of connection to the outside that is so often missing in large medical complexes. The public spaces are comfortable and the medical areas are both human-scale and

models of medical efficiency. Our favorable impression of this project, the client and the entire project team was enhanced when we learned that the facility remained open and fully functioning during the two-year construction period.

## **AWARD FOR DESIGN**

**University of Massachusetts Medical School Façade Replacement** for University of Massachusetts Medical School in Worcester MA, designed by Payette (Boston MA)... Bovis Lend Lease (construction manager, Boston MA); Engineered Solutions (mechanical engineering, Natick MA); R.W. Sullivan Engineering (electrical and plumbing engineers, Boston MA); Simpson Gumpertz & Heger (structural engineer, Waltham MA)

This is a fine example of a façade replacement project that resulted in a modernized and enhanced image for a busy medical school campus and hospital. Every aspect of the project is thoughtfully considered. The window cladding and curtainwall system incorporates a double-wall that functions effectively as a thermal blanket and passive cooling system and was designed to be installed over the existing windows, minimizing disruption to the building during construction. Enclosing courtyards and other exterior space provided a cost-effective way to add additional space. The granite panels that were removed were crushed and reused instead of contributing to landfill. New entrances to the school and the hospital provide clear and welcoming entry to the interior spaces. These details are knit together with bright new materials resulting in a whole that is more than the sum of its parts.

## **AWARD FOR DESIGN**

**Worcester Technical High School** for City of Worcester in Worcester MA, designed by Lamoureux Pagano Associates (Worcester MA)... Heery International (project manager, Lexington MA); Consigli-O'Connor Joint Venture (contractor, Canton MA); Carol R. Johnson Associates (landscape design, Boston MA); Weston & Sampson Engineers (civil/landfill engineer, Peabody MA); CR Environmental (environmental engineer, E. Falmouth MA); Judith Nitsch Engineering (civil engineer, Boston MA); ENSR (independent wetlands review, Willington CT); Bolton & DiMartino (structural engineer, Worcester MA); Colburn & Guyette Consulting Partners (food service consultant, Marshfield MA); Cavanaugh Tocci Associates (acoustical engineer, Sudbury MA); AHA Consulting Engineers (mechanical engineer, Lexington MA); Shepherd Engineering (electrical engineering, Worcester MA)

This new construction of a technical high school in Worcester is a wonderful example of a civic project succeeding because of the commitment of the community and problem-solving ability of the design team. A complex program and site challenges are addressed through clusters of academic and technical instruction areas located along a spine that parallels the adjacent wetlands. A capped landfill was developed for athletic fields. We liked the scale of the buildings and the attention to long-term energy efficiency. We can imagine students, teachers, staff and the public using the building and benefiting for years from its many well-designed amenities.