2021 Design Awards

Design Award
casa suadade
PLAN Architectural Studio, P.C.

Merit Award
The Thomas Tischer Visitor Center
Eastman Museum
Flynn Battaglia Architects

Citation Award Winner
TRANSPLANT(barn)
PLAN Architectural Studio, P.C.

Citation Award Winner
SHELTER... (in)PLACE
In.Site: Architecture

Community Impact Award
UR Strong Memorial Hospital Surge Tent
Dwyer Architectural

Designers Unleashed Award
FlexPods: Flexible Living Modules
SWBR Team 2
Thank you to all of our participating firms!

The Banks at Roselawn West 9x30 Design, Architecture
Upper Falls Square SWBR
Casa saudade PLAN Architectural Studio, P.C.
Gorbel, Inc. Edge Architecture

Charlotte Square SWBR
Churchville-Chili CSD Aquatics Facility SEI Design Group
250 Alexander Street Edge Architecture
SHELTER... (in) PLACE In.Site: Architecture

TRANSPLANT (barn) PLAN Architectural Studio P.C.
RIT Global Cybersecurity Institute LaBella Associates
West Street Apartments PLAN Architectural Studio, P.C.
Central Library of Rochester & Monroe County Edge Architecture

SUNY Geneseo Red Jacket Dining Hall Edge Architecture
Dutchess County Law Enforcement Center LaBella Associates
Livonia CSD Performing Arts Center HUNT Engineers, Architects, & Surveyors
UR Strong Memorial Hospital Surge Tent Dwyer Architectural

Genesee Valley CSD Innovation Center HUNT Engineers, Architects, & Surveyors
SUNY Broome Community College - Culinary Arts & Events Center Passero Associates

Henrietta Public Library Passero Associates
Renovate Townsend Hall SWBR

Thank you to all of our participating firms!
Project Description

Located in the agrarian countryside south of Rochester, NY, the former Mendon Pony Club, with its remaining 1930s vintage horse barn and equipment shed, sat idle (and horseless) for decades. The new owners envisioned a farmette with an immersive visual connection to the surrounding pastures, their horses, and with nature. The horse barn was laid out to accommodate equine stalls, hay storage and a tack room, therefore it was decided to adapt the adjacent equipment shed into a residence. The five-bay structure with sliding barn doors and dirt floor had been used to park tractors and store farm equipment. It was built into the side of a hill that sloped south to former pastures and on to woods.

The design strategy was to ‘lift’ the barn doors up to create a strategic canopy to cover a new patio and offer the opportunity for a 65-foot long south facing window wall. The canopy was conceived based upon passive-solar principles. Its configuration lets sunlight permeate the residence in the winter, shades it in the summer, provides rain and snow cover, and allows western breezes to pass through. The original barn door windows remained in place, were covered with transparent corrugated roofing, and transformed into skylights.

The floor plan is open with all primary functions on one level. The roof structure was painted white, and due to its height, afforded a loft space on each end. Shed dormers were added for additional head clearance, to bring in light and to provide views. The center space was left open to experience the volume and to accommodate a great room. A simple concrete block mass serves to divide the space and provide the hearth for a wood burning fireplace. A central bifold bay of windows enhances circulation flow and reinforces the connection of inside and outside.

Upgrades to the site included new pasture fencing, new utilities and gravel drives, and an array of solar panels that were installed on the south side of the horse barn roof enabling energy conservation. The project stealthily fit a new residence into underutilized existing farm structures so that from the North side road, the property remains virtually the same and continues to contribute to the area’s bucolic past.

’Saudade’, a Portuguese term to describe the bittersweet feeling of nostalgia, was the theme of this project and pays homage to the owners’ animal-loving fathers. The result is a place that allows for animals and humans to seamlessly commune.

Jury Comments

The project appropriates the old barn structure into a new home that naturally fits into the horse farm setting. The canopy is a really nice feature that playfully flips up the old barn door that becomes a cover for the patio, while also taking into consideration the passive solar design of the house that was well executed. On the inside, the painted white walls and the structure is simple and elegant, while allowing the texture to show through from the original structure. For such a simple plan, the interior volume and spatial arrangements were well done, and there’s a great use of materiality.
Merit Award

The Thomas Tischer Visitor Center
George Eastman Museum
Flynn Battaglia Architects

Project Description

The project consisted of creating a Visitor Orientation Center for a historically significant house museum. Prior to the project, the facility had incrementally evolved over many decades leaving a circuitous and inefficient circulation system, multiple floor levels and the main entrance distant from the visitor parking. Site topographic conditions were equally challenging with a gently sloping property with stairs facing visitors at all entrance points.

Our overall given program goal was to centralize circulation at one point, adjacent to parking, serving staff and all visitors with admissions and visitor amenities including an enhanced café and gift shop. Another objective was connection of the two main theatre spaces with this new lobby creating a focused hub of all museum activities.

The design for the new Visitor Center was conceived of as a lighted “vitrine” atrium carefully preserving the historic fabric of the original residence, situated midway between the house and the museum. The atrium accomplished several technical and program goals, not only weaving numerous site and floor level changes into an imperceptibly sloping continuous floor level, but also creating a visually distinct, iconic entrance point for all museum activities. Housing the main admission desk, security and reception space, this space allows immediate access to the existing Theatre, the new concourse, bookstore and café, orienting visitors to the museum and tours of the house.

A significant site feature of the new facility is the Colorama, a framework for the display of large-scale images originally created as transparencies for Grand Central Terminal in New York. This feature creates an interesting frame for the newly landscaped courtyard/drop-off area with the added benefit of screening the existing cooling towers.

Jury Comments

I applaud the simplicity of the glass connector between the theaters. The glass entrance and trim colors do not dominate the façade, but subtly blend into the adjacent historic buildings. It was innovative how the design team used photosensitive glass to overcome the energy penalty for the west facing glass front. The way that the exterior space is activated is respectful of all of the adjacent activities already happening in the area, as well as creating opportunities to engage with the surrounding communities. The interior passageway, with its undulating glass wall, helps to expand that space and make it more livable and inviting. This connector between is very respectful of both buildings on either side and it is clear in plan how it cleaned up a convoluted circulation path to simplify movement within.
Citation Award

TRANSPLANT(barn)
PLAN Architectural Studio, P.C.

**Owner**
Phil & Jen Lopez

**Civil Engineer**
Artman Engineering

**Structural Engineers**
Torchia Structural Engineering & Design, P.C.

**Timber Frame Structural**
Fire Tower Engineered Timber

**Interior Design**
Jen Lopez Design

**Contractor**
Metis Construction Services

**Photography**
Tim Wilkes Photography

**Project Description**

Jen and Phil dreamed of a house to serve as a generational gathering place for their family. Jen’s strong sense of simple design and Phil’s New York State roots led them to a structure that once served as a hay barn in rural area near Schenectady, NY. They decided that the dismantled frame of this old barn, a heavy timber structure, was destined for resurrection 500 miles away on a wooded lot in Hudson, Ohio. Its skeletal frame would be transplanted, and their house would be built around it.

The architect’s role was to carefully navigate the design process, and surgically graft this frame into its new environment. The primary goals expressed by the client were to re-assemble the frame as close as possible to its original form, clearly express and celebrate the heavy timber members, and create the soaring volumetric feeling of a barn.

The design solution started with the siting of the structure. Influenced by traditional bank barns, the ground floor was set below grade and constructed of masonry, rooting its foundation into the earth. This move provided visual screening from the street, created a stealth garage entrance on the west, and established a private exterior patio and yard extending to the east. Lowering the structure also helped to scale down the massing of the three-level house. The east-west orientation allows eastern sun to permeate the great room in the morning and places the main entrance on the south elevation, to formally address the street.

Emulating the experience of entering a barn, the simple and unassuming exterior gives way to an expansive almost chapel-like interior volume. The straight-forward plan is arranged with the primary circulation centrally-oriented, flanked by private rooms to the west, and common spaces to the east. This allows visibility and connection via the 35-foot-high atrium as one moves horizontally through open foyers, and vertically on the ornamental stair. Between the second and third levels, an informal office loft projects out over the main fireplace hearth. The ground level great room includes the kitchen, dining, and living areas, flowing out to a covered patio and the yard through full-width bi-fold doors.

Like any unique construction project, especially one that involves transplanting a historic barn frame into a new context, the project was logistically challenging. However, this residence is now poised for longevity, in a new environment, and a new century, as a family gathering hub for years to come.

**Jury Comments**

It is an elegant and restrained design that respects the timber frame structure. The interior organization is inventive and dynamic, allowing for different views and experiences on all of the levels, both internally and on the exterior. The triple high atrium is generous and grand from the ground floor all the way to the roof, and yet is balanced by the plain white walls and ceiling that are infilling the rustic pole and beam and timber frame structure. It is amazing to see how the re-used timber frame was brought to the site and the various systems that were used to celebrate the natural wood and frame on the interior. The simplicity of the exterior and the sunken terrace and garage help to simplify the exterior look of the building.
Citation Award

In.Site: Architecture

SHELTER... (in)PLACE

In.Site: Architecture Project Team

Rick Hauser, Partner, Principal & Lead Design
Ali Yapicioglu, Partner & Project Support
Kimberly Kraft, Project Architect
Nicole Martin, Project Architect
Larissa Reynolds, Downtowns Designer
James Reynolds, Downtowns Designer
Kurt Schnarr, Architectural Designer
(Unbuilt Project)

Owner
The Shaws

Photography
James Reynolds

Project Description

Our rural practice, situated where cows outnumber people, embraces an agricultural ethic. We aim to master three lessons from farmers:

SITING. Like the modern barn, place-based structures belong because they serve – and are in equilibrium with – the land that nourishes them.

SCALE. A modern barn is sublime and its scale is in measure with the working landscape it inhabits.

ECONOMY. Ingenuity underscores a lack of pretension. Simple forms suited for climate and purpose.

This house is not a barn. However, it will be surrounded by a cultivated landscape that is squarely within the cultural, geographic, and historic context of barns. Heeding the above lessons, the design begins with a linear, roofed form, sited to minimize disruption of the field. This “line in the landscape” accomplishes several things:

At its east end it greets visitors. Pulling away the garage permits a roofed zen entry garden between, plus shaded outdoor living spaces that frame the landscape. Along its south facade its transparency and length permits communion with the dark forest across the pond. Its west end culminates one story above the sloping terrain with indoor/outdoor living space aimed at the view. All the above could result in a house that looks much like a freestall barn, but for several small changes.

Passive solar principles compel us to pivot the south wall 15 degrees east — while the western facade is pulled deeply behind the roof and seasonal shade sails — to protect against summer afternoon’s low rays. The “pivot” also slims down the house at its entry, shedding unnecessary square footage. The result? All shared living spaces occupy a multi-level room that grows in width and height as one proceeds along that “line in the landscape.”

In the end, this single roof — inspired by farm buildings, and chiseled, angled, and stretched by function — amplifies and refines its role as Shelter in this rural Place.

Jury Comments

One of the best designed projects that we looked at; a modern take on a historical red barn. A beautifully presented project to tell the story of what the intention of that project is, bringing lots of excitement and opportunity in the unbuilt category. It’s quite usonian in nature with the large cantilevered overhangs and transom windows. The pinch point at the entry provides for a surprising volume as you move through the space, which is quite nice and we look forward to seeing the final product.
Community Impact Award

UR Strong Memorial Hospital Surge Tent
Dwyer Architectural

Owner
University of Rochester Medical Center

Contractor
LeChase Construction

M/E/P Engineer
M/E Engineering, P.C.

Structural Engineer
Jensen/BRV Engineering, P.C.

Consultant
Passero Associates

Photography
Dwyer Staff Photographer
LeChase Construction Photographer

Dwyer Architectural Project Team
Kristin Merle, AIA NCARB
Kurt Kruse, Designer

Project Description

This unique project was delivered in a design-build method to meet the client’s aggressive 5 month schedule. The project’s goals were to build a structure with enough capacity to relieve an overcrowded Emergency Department, allow for new social distancing in preparation for an anticipated fall COVID surge and could be rebuilt for any future emergencies. Most important, the patient experience was to be considered as Dwyer assisted in preliminary research and programming. With the threat of winter and the elements, several temporary structures were eliminated that could not provide a sound and clean environment for patient care.

LeChase Construction was brought on board to lead the construction of the selected 3,200 SF Sprung Structure. Close coordination with engineering teams helped determine the optimal location of the tent within the existing busy Emergency Department parking lot. In addition to rethinking and rerouting patient and ambulance traffic, the team had to adjust to accommodate a significant change in grade. A concrete foundation and slab were built to provide a level structure. Handicap accessible ramps between the tent and both the Emergency Department main entrance and EMS entrances were constructed and covered with a canopy system to protect the ramps during inclement weather.

The resulting structure includes 28 patient bays, a nurse work area and support spaces. Keeping in step with the aggressive schedule, the design team researched and selected durable healthcare materials that could be ordered and installed quickly and still maintain infection control guidelines. Prefinished drywall was specified for a quick assembly, yet appealing and safe finish for the interior walls. The spacious interior features heating and cooling systems, automatic doors and power and data sources for optimal patient care. From inception to occupancy, this project was completed in 5 months, on time, and within budget.

Jury Comments

Appropriate for its time having simplicity and straightforwardness, as well as the ability to solve a problem for the hospital. Its interior organization and simplicity of the tent and its structure are noteworthy, keeping such an open space and yet is able to bring a graceful feel to a space that is serving an important and immediate need. We wanted to celebrate the impact that this has brought to the community.
Designers Unleashed Award

FlexPods: Flexible Living Modules
SWBR Team 2

Project Team:
Alli DiGiacomo - Project Designer in Education Studio
Caitlin Ellis - Project Architect in Education Studio
Kris Sambor – Graphic Designer
Erik Reynolds - Project Architect in Housing Studio

Project Scope
The 2021 Designers Unleashed: Ideas Competition challenged participants to design a conceptual mobile, modular structure to be deployed during festivals throughout downtown and the Greater Rochester area.

Project Description
Rochester has made a name for itself through its year-round festivals. From the well-known Lilac Festival to the recently incepted Fringe Festival, Rochesterians have learned how to maximize the warm seasons out of necessity. Our expertise in hosting festivals draws over 100,000 people each festival. Attendees may retire to one of the area’s hotels, rentals or return home. What if you want to stay where the action is?

FlexPods services the festival crowds and focuses on two primary goals: Flexibility and Identity. FlexPods can be adapted into various configurations not only to address the number of occupants, but also weather, privacy, security and fun! The FlexPod unit is an easily transportable and lightweight 7’-0’ cube with a solid ‘utility wall’ panel on one end that includes built-in lighting, roof downspouts, a storage closet, and a murphy bed. With the bed stored away, the entire FlexPod becomes an open living space. There are limitless ways to combine units, open walls, create shade, block or invite summer winds through the use of privacy shades, glass, solid walls and more. FlexPods can be deployed in a variety of applications. Not only can they create temporary communities for festivals, but they can also be used in federal emergency situations, as shelter for the homeless, and for farmers markets. FlexPods are easy to reconfigure, creating various conditions with a single unit. The site diagrams demonstrate how units create clusters with varying experiences. The space created between FlexPods becomes even more interesting than the unit itself. The design’s focus was not on flashy forms, but about place-making and enhancing experience.

FlexPods also focus on identity. Each unit has its own unique color and pattern. Identity is especially important while providing shelter for homeless residents. The colors and patterns enhance the festival aesthetic and aid in wayfinding. Units can also be sponsored and branded by local companies to generate revenue.

FlexPods conveniently fit on a standard parking space, easily conforming to any open lot. Once unloaded, let the end users customize their experience. The configurations are endless!
People’s Choice Award

RIT Global Cybersecurity Institute
LaBella Associates

Owner
Rochester Institute of Technology

General Contractor
LeChase Construction

Civil/Landscape Engineer
Environmental Design & Research

Photography
Gene Avallone Park Avenue Photo

LaBella Project Team
Jerry DeRomanis, AIA - Project Manager; Michael Place, AIA - Project Architect; Meghan Thomas - Project Designer; Danielle Lewis, CID - Interior Designer; Monica Simmons, PE - Sr Structural Engineer, Josh Lawrence - Structural Engineer; Jeff Davis, PE - Lead Mechanical Engineer; Rob Czerkas, PE - Sr Mechanical Engineer; Kevin Boardway - Mechanical Engineer, Nate Fox - Mechanical Engineer, Chuck Lind, PE - Sr Electrical Engineer, Kennan Buzyniski - Electrical Engineer

RIT Global Cybersecurity Institute is the recipient of AIA Rochester’s 2021 People’s Choice Award.

AIA Rochester profiled each of our 22 eligible projects by local architects on social media. We then asked the public to weigh in on their favorite contending project by voting online. Each vote cost $1.00, with 100% of proceeds benefiting Open Door Mission.

The 2021 People’s Choice Award raised $576 for Open Door Mission.

Scholarship Winners

Jack Ciranni
Penn State
$1,500
AIA Rochester Scholarship

Paras Nandu
Rochester Institute of Technology
$2,500
AIA Rochester Scholarship

Rebecca Gregg
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
$1,500
Myron Starks Scholarship

Ting Li
Rochester Institute of Technology
$1,500
Women in Architecture Scholarship

Hannah Lake
Morrsville State
$500
AIA National Scholarship

Cecilia Ebersold
University at Buffalo
$1,000
AIA Rochester Scholarship

Ali Alsaedi
Rochester Institute of Technology
$2,500
AIA Rochester Scholarship

Colin Thompson
Alfred State
$2,500
Bergmann Scholarship

Mackendra Nobes
Kent State
$2,500
AIA Rochester Scholarship

The Architectural Foundation of Greater Rochester promotes and enhances the practice of architecture as a cultural, artistic and business resource in the region. We advocate for the architectural community and built environment and provide scholarship opportunities to regional students pursuing a career in architecture. There are several special scholarships including the Women in Architecture Scholarship, Myron Starks Scholarship, AIA National Scholarship and the Bergmann Scholarship. This year $17,000 was awarded to nine recipients. Best of luck to these future architects! For more information visit www.rocarchfoundation.org

The Architectural Foundation of Greater Rochester wishes to thank the following for their generous donations to our Scholarship Program: AIA Rochester and its members, AIA National, Bergmann Associates, the Family of Myron Starks, AIA, and the Women in Architecture.
Awards Jury

Colleagues on the Board of Directors at AIA Columbus comprised the 2021 Design Awards Jury. AIA Rochester is grateful for the great care, effort, and time that they put into our awards selection.

Jury Chair

Robert S. Livesey, FAIA, FAAR

Robert S. Livesey is a Professor and Director Emeritus in the Knowlton School of Architecture at The Ohio State University. He has been recognized with university, state and national teaching awards. As the principal of Robert Livesey, Architect, he has won numerous design awards and been published in national and international journals. He holds an M.A. in Architecture from Princeton University and a Master of Architecture from Harvard University. In addition to other recognitions, he is a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects and the American Academy in Rome.

Monica Wangler, AIA

Monica is an architect and Senior Project Manager at NBBJ. She has spent over 20 years working on complex projects with healthcare clients throughout the region. She brings large, multi-faceted teams together to develop collaborative solutions that streamline and enhance the design, construction, and ultimately, the function of projects. She is involved in all phases of project development from feasibility and concept design through construction administration and beyond and has represented the client directly. She has served as President of the Board of AIA Columbus and currently serves on The Center for Architecture and Design and the ACE Mentoring Program boards. As part of the Ohio Construction Transformation Consortium, she developed a white paper and presented at a variety of conferences. She is also a founding member of the Cogence Alliance – Columbus. Monica is a graduate of the University of Cincinnati, DAAP School of Architecture.

Tim Lai, AIA, IIDA, LEED AP, NCARB, Principal

Tim Lai is a licensed architect (State of Ohio & Indiana) with 20 years of professional experience. He received his Master of Architecture from SCI-Arc (Southern California Institute of Architecture) and moved to Columbus in 2001. Having worked at Triad Architects and NBBJ, he is experienced in many building types and projects of various scales in the U.S. and overseas. In 2010, Tim started his own practice with his wife Eliza Ho to focus on local and regional projects. He has since built a reputation for his elegant and functional design with modern sensibility. The firm has won numerous design competitions and design awards from the American Institute of Architects, International Interior Design Association and Columbus Society of Communicating Arts.

An advocate for design and architecture, Tim has served on the board at The Columbus Center for Architecture and Design since 2011. During his tenure, he initiated Design Talk, a program to engage architects, designers, and the general public on topics related to buildings and built-environments in Columbus. In 2016, the Design Talk team produced an 18-minute video, Stories of Architecture, that features three beloved buildings in Columbus: Palm House at Franklin Conservatory, 400 West Rich, and The Wexner Center for the Arts. Stories of Architecture, Part 2 was completed and debuted at the annual Design Week by The Center for Architecture and Design in October 2017.

Tim has served on the juries for design awards for various chapters of the American Institute of Architects and American Society of Landscape Architects, including Ohio, Tennessee and Nebraska.

Meera Parthasarathy, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP

Meera is an Ohio registered architect with over twenty seven years of experience in the building industry. She has worked on residential, commercial and institutional projects throughout her career. She served as a Green consultant to design teams on commercial and multi-family residential projects. She has provided green affordable housing training to non-profit developers around the country. She was co-developer for Columbus State Community College’s certificate program in Sustainable Design and taught the first part of the course for two quarters in 2006. In 2003, she founded the Central Ohio based nonprofit, Columbus Green Building Forum, which has advanced the practices of sustainability through education and outreach efforts. Through her work with the Forum, Meera has collaborated with local governments, nonprofit and community-based organizations to make green building practices mainstream in Central Ohio.

Lindsay Mitchell, AIA

Lindsay is a registered architect in Ohio and serves as co-chair of the AIA Columbus Committee on Design. She has worked professionally in Columbus and Washington, D.C. and her background includes work on higher education, hospitality, and residential projects.

Director of Practice + Design

Michael Trapanovski, AIA

A sixteen-year Project Architect, Michael Trapanovski offers HUNT partners and clients uncommon versatility. His ability to organize and execute design projects from pre-design through project completion is exemplified by efforts in the following areas: residential (multi-family, assisted living, and single family); municipal (libraries, fire stations, and historical renovations); and commercial/industrial (mixed-use office and residential). His attention to detail in his construction document efforts has been appreciated by clients throughout NY State and the northeast. On both a personal and professional level, Michael’s listening skills are the key to his design and marketing successes.

Thanks to the leadership of Michael, we were again able to present the 2021 Design Awards Gala in a safe and virtual format. AIA Rochester extends its gratitude to Michael and to 2021 President Andrew Petrosky, AIA for their hours of work both behind the scenes and in front of the camera as co-hosts of our virtual Design Awards show. The chapter acknowledges the work of the entire Design Awards Committee: Danielle Rupert, AIA, Michelle Murnane, AIA, Jennifer Takatch AIA, Alessia Ranzato, Lisa Fingar, Christina Fluman, Geranania Garzon, Jim Meiner and Executive Director Linda B. Hewitt, Hon. AIANYs.

AIA Rochester especially thanks our sponsors for their enthusiastic participation in our Design Awards. Without their ongoing commitment, this event would not have been possible. Visit www.aiaroch.org/2021-design-awards to view the Design Awards show and to see additional footage of our award winning projects.
2021 Design Awards Sponsors

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2021 People’s Choice Award
The 2021 People’s Choice Award raised $576 for Open Door Mission
Thank you so much for your generosity!

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