The AIA ENY Design Awards took place on March 21st at the Troy Arts Center. Distinguished jurors from the Architects League of Northern New Jersey deliberated over 20 submissions and awarded a total of six awards across five categories; commercial/industrial, institutional, residential (multi-family), and adaptive reuse.

As this year’s AIA ENY president, and design awards committee chair and co-chair for the past several years, I can’t remember a more well attended event. I contribute this to both our members, industry partners and to our Master of Ceremonies, Patrick Quinn, FAIA. Before announcing the awards and providing each awarded firm a chance to address our members and guests, Patrick spoke about how his winning design submission as a very young man ignited his remarkable career. As a global practitioner, academic, national and international award winner, and fellow of some of the most prestigious architectural organizations including; the Royal Society of Art and the American Academy of Rome Patrick shares an appreciation for the work that our regional and local members embark on. He stressed the significance of staying relevant, passionate and true to our values and clients.

Each of the winners spoke about the brilliant project teams and outstanding clients that enable the quality of work that was displayed. Three of the six awards were in the institutional category, stressing the importance of community engagement, and the investment that local and state agencies are contributing to provide communities with access to resources. The projects this year, demonstrate a range of clients; those who provide more freedom to those with stringent guidelines and proforma, and tight budgets. In the end the following firms were recognized and applauded for outstanding projects.

**The Winning Projects:**

**HONOR AWARD:**

- Phinney Design Group  
  **Yaddo Artist Studios**, see page 3
- Envision Architects, DPC  
  **Five Rivers Environmental Education Center**, see page 4
- Balzer and Tuck Architecture  
  **14 Hudson Mixed Use Building**, see page 6

**MERIT AWARD:**

- JMZ Architects and Planners, P.C.  
  **Building 25**, see page 7
- JMZ Architects and Planners, P.C.  
  **Mohawk Valley Community College, Rome Campus Transformation**, see page 7
- Balzer and Tuck Architecture  
  **Finger Lakes Community College Campus Center**, see page 7
Save the Dates

Urban Green Council: Energy Code
May 3

UNALAM Tour
May 18

Scavenger Hunt
May 31

Summer Mixer
June 14

Emerging Professionals Networking Mixer
September 27

Beaux Arts Ball
October 25

AIAENY Annual Meeting
November 14

Holiday Soiree
December 6

2018 AIAENY Leadership

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Term: 2018 - 2020
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CORRECTIONS: Please contact AIAENY at admin@aiaeny.org if you find any areas that need correction in the Architect. AIA Eastern New York appreciates all comments and feedback.

Baani Singh, AIA
Past-President
Alternate NYS Director
bonnied2d@gmail.com
Advocacy Day 2108

On May 1st, 70 AIA and Associate AIA members from chapters across New York State gathered in Albany for the annual AIA NYS Advocacy Day. Advocacy Day is a chance for architects to gather in the capitol to meet with our local legislators and discuss and advocate for issues that are important to the profession. This past year has seen several legislative victories thanks to the hard work of the AIA NYS Government Affairs team and strong support from key legislators, particularly in the 2018 state budget. These victories include; extending the State Historic Tax credit for five years and decoupling it from the federal tax credit, rejecting the proposed tax credit deferral, rejecting design-build expansion, and approval of an e-licensure program from the Office of the Professions.

The goal of Advocacy Day is to show a unified front on issues that affect the profession throughout New York State. This year there were three key issues that have gained traction in the legislature and were the focus of our meetings; instituting a ten year statute of repose, indemnification reform for public contracts, and reinstating due process for design professionals in New York City. The proposed ten year statute of repose would repeal the current law which essentially subjects design professionals to an indefinite period of liability in favor of a more reasonable and predictable period of liability; New York and Vermont are currently the only states with a statute of repose. The indemnification reform process for public contract seeks to eliminate often uninsurable clauses in some public contracts that require design professionals to defend a public agency for claims that are outside of their own professional standard of care. Finally, reinstating due process for design professionals in New York City seeks to modify a current law that allows the NYC Department of Buildings, at their sole discretion, to revoke Registered Architect filing privileges without input from the State Education Department. The proposed bill would modify the current law to re-establish the State Education Department’s role in this process. While this proposed bill is isolated to New York City, it can affect Upstate New York because the current law sets a dangerous precedent that can be copied in municipalities across the state.

AIA Eastern NY was able to meet with the offices of Senator Neil Breslin, Senator Elizabeth Little, Senator Kathleen Marchione, Assembly member John McDonald, Assembly member Patricia Fahy, and Assembly member Carrie Woerner. We had very productive conversations with all representatives and look forward to their continued support. If you’ve never volunteered for Advocacy Day in the past, it’s a great opportunity to look behind the curtain and make an individual impact on issues that affect our profession. If you’re looking for more information, the AIA NYS website has great information or feel free to reach out to admin@aiaeny.org.

Honor Award

Phinney Design Group

Yaddo Artist Studios
Now that trout season has officially opened, and the major leaguers have begun their annual campaigns for the pennant, summer will be upon us soon. So far this spring we have had a few continuing education opportunities for the chapter.

On March 1st Gary Traver from the New York State Division of Building Standards and Codes presented two courses (3 LU/HSW) of continuing education focusing on the New York State Building Code.

On March 22nd AIAENY Past-President Baani Singh, AIA, LEED AP, NCIDQ offered a presentation to the International Facility Management Association NY Tech Valley chapter on sustainability in existing facilities (1.5 LU/HSW). The talk focused on energy efficiency, health, carbon footprint, and water use, and the various Green Building Rating Systems.

On April 3rd the Upstate Masonry Institute offered Masonry education day (4LU/HSW) at the Desmond Hotel in Albany. The conference intended to bring awareness and educate industry professionals in the use of masonry materials in the design and construction fields. At the conference AIAENY Past-President / NYS Director Mark Thaler, AIA, NCARB co-presented on the Assessment and Restoration of Historic Masonry.

Coming up on May 18th there will be a 2LU/HSW tour of the UNALAM Manufacturing Plant in Sidney, NY. UNALAM manufactures engineered wood construction materials.

This continuing education opportunity includes an hour of instruction and then proceeds on an in-depth tour of their glulam (structural glued laminated timber) manufacturing facility. This course will cover the glulam manufacturing process, specifications, and shared responsibility between the design team and glulam manufacturer before concluding with a consideration of design issues specific to curved glulam. Codes (including fire safety), AITC standards, shared responsibility case studies, and how to design specific curved shapes will all be discussed.

Regards,
Paul R. Conant, 2018 VP of Programs

Honor Award

Envision Architects, DPC
Five Rivers Environmental Education Center
The AIA held their annual Grassroots Conference in San Diego last month with the theme “Leading through Influence.” This conference is put together as an opportunity for the chapter, state, and national leadership to get together to promote chapter leadership and civic engagement. If you ever have the opportunity to attend this conference, I would highly recommend it. Every architect in the room is there for the same reason; how to improve the impact that architects have on the built environment and our surrounding communities. It was an invigorating few days that gave me some fresh insight on how architects are particularly well suited to address a lot of the big issues that our communities face today.

“Leading through Influence”. As architects we have a unique perspective on the built environment and how it can impact issues like climate change and our local communities. All of the keynotes, seminars, and workshops at Grassroots were centered around the idea of the “city architect” and how architects can be part of the conversation that shapes how our communities will adapt to future challenges. We heard from architects who were city planners, practicing architects, planning board members, non-profit board members and elected representatives; and they all had one thing in common, they stepped up and got involved when their communities needed them.

When you really get down to it, architects are problem solvers. Starting in architecture school, and following into practice we develop a unique way of working through problems. Architects look at a particular challenge from every angle and listen, really listen to everyone that has a stake in the process to ultimately come up with the ideal solution. This is exactly the type of creative thinking that our local communities need when it comes to the built environment; so if you are presented with an opportunity to become involved, please consider stepping up to add your voice to the conversation.

One of the other great aspects of the Grassroots Conference is that you get to meet and network with AIA leadership from across the country. I was particularly surprised at how similar the challenges that every chapter faces really are, no matter how big the city or how active the membership is. Every chapter that I talked to was working to provide opportunities for leadership, support for emerging professionals, relevant educational opportunities, and an overall sense of community for their members. The AIA ENY chapter is no different, and we have actively working to provide those opportunities and services. We have just moved into the second year of a three year strategic plan where we’re working hard to create new events and programs that will benefit our members and create a more vibrant design community.

As always, we could use more help. There has been a strong, consistent group of leadership that has worked hard over the last several years to get our chapter to this exciting point, and it’s time that we gave them some help. I became involved a little over a year ago because I saw an opportunity to become involved as a newly licensed architect and to add my voice to the conversation. It has been an incredibly rewarding experience so far, and it has only grown my respect for the profession and the impact we can have. There are opportunities to get involved at any level; from volunteering to help at an event, serving on a committee, or potentially serving as a board member. There are also opportunities to get involved at any experience level, if you are still making your way through the licensure process you are more than welcomed to become part of the conversation. If you are interested in volunteering at any level, please reach out to admin@aiaeny.org or reach out to us at one of our events!
CSArch Hires New Principal

CSArch, a premier architecture, engineering, and construction management firm in New York State, is pleased to announce the hire of Michael Schwarz, PE, LEED AP, as Principal.

“The addition of Michael expands our engineering capabilities, raises the bar on our technical design standards, and improves the operations and management of our engineering practice. We are extremely excited to have someone of his experience and character join us as we continue to grow,” said Daryl Mastracci, PE LEED AP BD+C, Managing Principal at CSArch.

With more than 20 years of experience leading complex, multi-disciplinary projects across the U.S., Schwarz brings an immeasurable amount of knowledge and expertise to our firm. At CSArch, he will be responsible for overseeing the mechanical engineering team, providing technical direction throughout all aspects of projects from inception to completion, and will work alongside Mastracci in leading the engineering practice at CSArch.

Prior to joining CSArch, Schwarz served as the Director of Engineering & Mechanical Engineering Discipline Director at M+W Group. There, he managed over 125 engineers across three U.S offices, along with M+W’s most complicated projects. His building systems design experience spans multiple industries, including education, science & research, advanced technology, and manufacturing.

Schwarz holds a Masters of Science degree in Energy Systems Engineering from the University of Arizona, and a Bachelors degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Stuttgart in Germany.

About CSArch

CSArch is a widely recognized design firm in New York State, providing architecture, MEP engineering, and construction management services to PK-12 schools, colleges and universities, corporate, civic, and institutional clients. The firm serves clients statewide out of its offices in Albany, White Plains, and Newburgh. In 2017, CSArch was named a Top 300 U.S. Architecture Firm by Architectural Record, a Top 50 Firm in Business by Architect Magazine, and a Top 90 K-12 Firm by Building Design + Construction. In 2017, CSArch was also named one of the “Best Places to Work” by the Albany Business Review.
Merit Awards

**JMZ Architects and Planners, P.C. Building 25**

**JMZ Architects and Planners, P.C. Mohawk Valley Community College, Rome Campus Transformation**

**Balzer and Tuck Architecture Finger Lakes Community College Campus Center**

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AIA Eastern New York A Chapter of the American Institute of Architects

**MISSION**

To provide meaningful value and services to member architects and assist in their professional development and success

To promote the profession and practice of architecture in the Eastern New York area through public outreach and be a visible point of contact to the local community

To develop opportunities for members to dialogue and interact with one another in substantive ways

To nurture young architectural professionals to become our future members and leaders

To highlight the achievements of our members

To responsibly maintain a stable organization from which to pursue our mission

To support architectural initiatives which seek to improve the quality of the built environment and create livable communities

To act as a conduit between our members and AIA New York State and AIA National – the voice of the architectural profession and the resource for its members in service to society
Programs Schedule
Please see the currently scheduled 2018 AI-AENY Events (CEU opportunities in **Bold**):

AIANYS Lobby Day – Tuesday, May 1

**UNALAM Manufacturing Plant Tour – Friday, May 18** – 2 LU/HSW

Scavenger Hunt – Thursday, May 31

Summer Mixer – Thursday, June 14

**Tour of Historic Building in Albany, NY – June (Pending – event & date to be confirmed)**

Emerging Professionals Networking Mixer – Thursday, September 27

Beaux Arts Ball – Thursday, October 25

AIAENY Annual Meeting – Wednesday, November 14

Holiday Soiree – Thursday, December 6

Contact us:
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Special thanks to our Allied Members!

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