

ia architect

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF AIA IOWA

Awards Issue

2024 AIA Iowa and
AIA Central States Design Awards





HILDRETH CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

Tenacity Without Compromise



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IOWA ARCHITECT MAGAZINE WINTER 2025



^ Des Moines University Medicine and Health Sciences Campus, p. 28

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ON THE COVER
Johnston City Hall
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Excellence
in Craft.



KIEWIT LUMINARIUM OMAHA, NE
AIA EXCELLENCE IN CRAFT HONOR AWARD



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editor's letter



Grant Nordby, AIA
Editor, Iowa Architect

Welcome!

Great works of architecture—ones that resolve environmental, cultural, and functional challenges in a single, unified whole—are anything but accidental. They are willed into being, without excuse, the result of resolute intent. *Intention* was the theme of the 2024 AIA Iowa annual convention, co-chaired by Darci Merrill, AIA, and Heidi Willis, AIA. Speakers, workshops, exhibits, and awards each illustrated the cumulative, constructive will of AIA Iowa members and affiliates. The convention enjoyed record attendance and participation from allied exhibitors (despite being held on a Monday and Tuesday!)—a post-COVID recovery that is testament to our creative resilience and resolve.

The nationally selected awards jury recognized this purposeful rigor. Quote: *“The jury was impressed by the breadth and depth of work displayed by Iowa design firms. They were excited to see the number of submissions highlighting preservation and adaptive reuse.”* The jury also recognized that this year marked the first in which sustainable performance measures of AIA’s Framework for Design Excellence comprised core criteria for recognition, noting that *“21st century design is increasingly judged not only on the beauty you can photograph, but also on the degree to which it functions gracefully in a changing world.”* That Iowa architects and their collaborators choose to lead in this way says much for the substance and character of our work in the world—one that will become more resilient, sustainable, and welcoming because we choose to make it so. Please join me in honoring these outstanding individuals, teams, and their works.

iaarchitect

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 INNOVATIVE PUBLISHING

Correction: In the Fall 2024 issue, we listed the incorrect structural engineer for the College Community School District Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources Building. Structural Design Group LLC should have been listed.



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Vesterheim Commons

College Community School District, OPN Architects, and Design Engineers
College Community School District - Prairie Creek Intermediate School

Des Moines University Medicine and Health Sciences Campus, Formation Group, RDG Planning & Design, and IMEG Corp
Des Moines University Medicine and Health Sciences Campus

Waterloo Community School District, INVISION Architecture, MODUS Engineering
Central Middle School Renovation and Waterloo Career Center Expansion



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NEWLY LICENSED ARCHITECTS

Congratulating AIA Iowa's newly licensed architects

American Institute of Architects, Iowa Chapter (AIA Iowa), is honored to recognize the accomplishments of 12 newly licensed architects. Each of the newly licensed members completed a professional degree or master's program in a National Architectural Accrediting Board program; completed the Architect Registration Examination, an extensive series of six exams; and recorded at least 3,740 hours to complete their Architectural Experience Program requirements for the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards. They have each proven their dedication to the profession through years of service and hard work. AIA Iowa and *Iowa Architect* magazine could not be more excited to welcome them to the distinguished designation of AIA.

"These newly licensed members have, through hard work, dedication, and no small amount of talent, completed a significant milestone in their careers. The profession of architecture is richer for their contributions. Congratulations!"

— LISA KALAHER, AIA,
2024 AIA IOWA PRESIDENT



■ MACKENZIE E.
ASHLAND, AIA



■ NATHAN DOGGETT, AIA



■ ANDREW J. EVANS, AIA



■ TANNER FJELSTAD, AIA



■ ABBY FOSTER, AIA



■ BENJAMIN L. HANSEN, AIA



■ ALEC A. HOPPE, AIA



■ ALEJANDRA HUGHES, AIA



■ TAYLOR LOISELLE, AIA



■ CHAD MOKLESTAD, AIA



■ GLADYS PETERSEN, AIA



■ MICHAEL C. STANLEY, AIA

I collected



EMERGING PROFESSIONALS

Individual Submissions
Take Top Three Prizes

WORDS : JESSICA SEARS, INNOVATIVE PUBLISHING

It was another exciting year for the AIA Iowa Emerging Professionals Competition & Exhibition, which was held at the 2024 Iowa Convention in Des Moines on September 22-23. The competition's goal is to promote the efforts of the upcoming generation of architects and designers. The event also inspires professionals to continue mentorship and engagement of these emerging professionals by showcasing the work of architecture students, interns, and architects who have been licensed 10 years or fewer.

This year's Grand Prize was awarded to Sophia Memmer, Professional Affiliate of AIA Iowa, Studio MELEE for her "Woodwind Design+Build" project. The project is a spec building initiative for revitalizing small towns and fostering community identity. With a firm belief that small towns are the "heart and soul of Iowa," Memmer's goal was to create a facility that can contribute economic benefits, contemporary architectural features, and company integration within the community. The main entrance features a space for community events and gatherings, as well as offices, a breakroom, and a conference room. By hosting exhibitions, a facility like Woodwind could attract visitors and bring them to businesses throughout town. Natural light would come through the glass

Grand Prize

Sophia Memmer, "Woodwind Design+Build"



curtain walls, and an outdoor patio space would foster business and community interactions. The transparency elements within the design are meant to create a more welcoming building that could become an integral contributor to the town. Masonry on both the east and west walls links new construction with traditional building materials. Wood Design+Build addresses the need for modern, adaptable spaces while also respecting and enhancing the unique charm of small-town living.

First honorable mention went to Emma Mitchell for the “RoxxAne” project. RoxxAne is a rocking chair that celebrates the essence of feminism crafted with a sophisticated elegance. It was created with form and functionality in mind—a stark contrast to the traditional “architect’s chair” design. Undulating contours on the chair provide an inviting sense of comfort, meant to echo the nurturing and supportive roles women often play. It was crafted from a single sheet of furniture-grade birch plywood, with individual pieces CNC’d, assembled like a puzzle and glue-laminated together in a vacuum-sealed bag. The rocking motion is gentle and responsive, mirroring the quiet strength and determination of women who inspire and lead within architecture.

Second honorable mention went to Oliver Goche, Assoc. AIA, for his project, “Clicking and Other Repetitive Operations.” The project consists of daily studies of various periods throughout Goche’s day that were performed relentlessly and continuously over months. He wrote: “As the days progress into weeks and into months and into years, it becomes easy to lose yourself in the mode of labor. This daily practice allows a different perspective into such labor.” The first three panels are original excerpts from the fourth, which are excerpts from hundreds of others. All are ink on 8.5-inch-by-11-inch printer paper in a black frame.

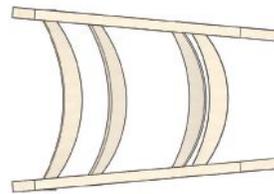
The three winning submissions were selected through a People’s Choice process. The Grand Prize winner was awarded \$350; second prize, \$250; and third place, \$150.

2nd Place

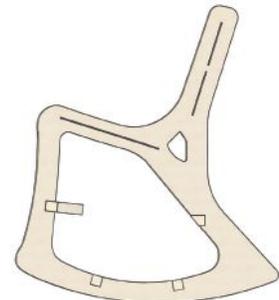
Emma Mitchell, “RoxxAne”



Stretcher Connection



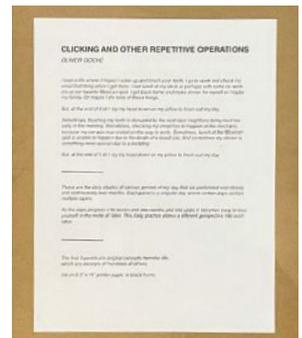
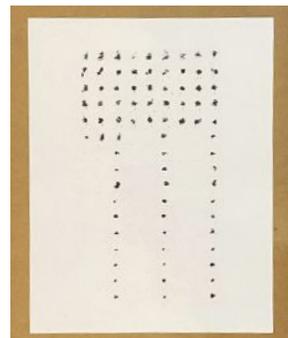
Top View of Frame



Side Elevation

3rd Place

Oliver Goche, Assoc. AIA, “Clicking and Other Repetitive Operations”



I collected



AIA AWARDS

The Tom and Ruth Harkin Center

AIA COTE TOP 10 AWARD

ARCHITECT : BNIM ARCHITECTS **LOCATION** : DES MOINES, IOWA

The Tom and Ruth Harkin Center is a new dedicated office and research space on Drake University's campus for The Harkin Institute staff and fellows as well as a center for community engagement. Throughout the building, empathetic, human-purposed, and equitable design principles are implemented to ensure that the facility supports all building users' experiences, from the building's entrance to each unique space within. The Harkin Institute seeks to improve lives by giving policymakers access to high-quality information and engaging citizens as active participants of public policy. It promotes understanding of the issues to which former Sen. Tom Harkin devoted his career, including his historic legislation, the Americans with Disabilities Act. The design team worked closely with The Harkin Institute to understand needs that were not being met

in the built environment, posing a key question that guided the direction of the design process: "What barriers still exist today?" The answers that emerged from these important discussions, policy meetings, and research provided deeper understanding of how design must do better to elevate the experiences of all individuals. The design vision for the new facility aimed to set a new standard in inclusive design through providing generous space in path and ramp width, creating equitable experiences such as "meet in the round" conference room configurations to provide opportunity for hearing-impaired individuals to engage in conversation through undisrupted sightlines, implementing lighting strategies that create clear paths for individuals with low vision or hearing, and establishing wellness rooms for individual empowerment.



AIA AWARDS

Marion Fire Station No. 1

AIA ARCHITECTURE AWARD

ARCHITECT : OPN ARCHITECTS LOCATION : MARION, IOWA

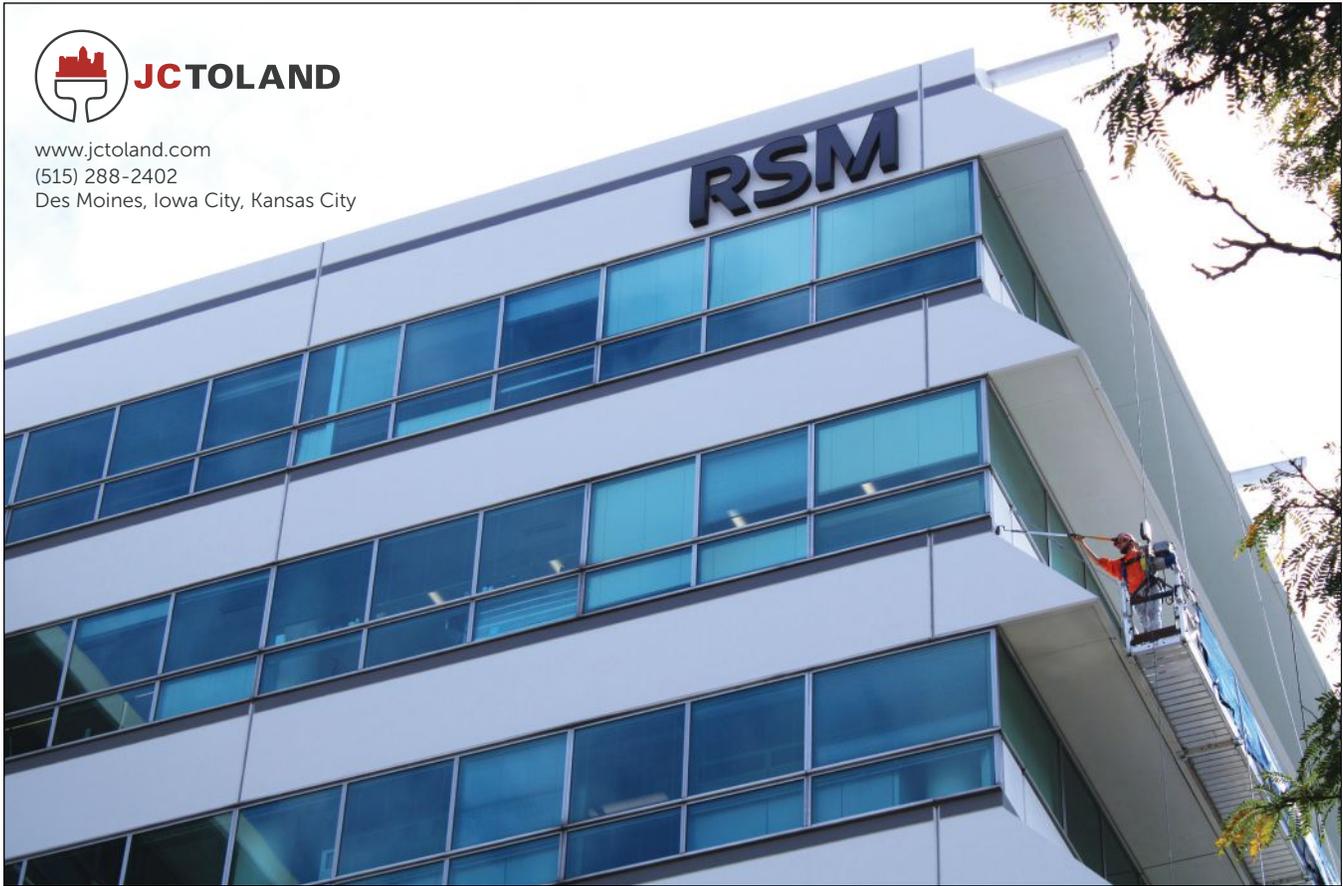
This two-level, 21,000-square-foot fire station in a rapidly growing community reduces response time, establishes a strong and transparent civic presence, and uses biophilic design principles to support firefighters' physical and mental wellness. The plan and massing are anchored by a two-story apparatus bay. Full-height glass doors on both the north and south elevation maximize daylight and establish a connection to the community. Extending east, shou sugi ban wood, which is charred using controlled fire, wraps the living and office spaces to add depth, texture, and contrast with the smooth plane of the glass. The lobby is stretched to become the primary first-level circulation; it mediates between a tree grove and a history wall. This welcoming, light-filled space allows direct views into the apparatus bay and displays the fire department's rich history, pride, and tradition. Strategic

sequencing of spaces, including a decontamination clean room, between the bays and the office and living areas mitigates exposure to fire and ash carcinogens. On the opposite side of the bays, the hose-drying tower also serves as a training area to simulate rescues. Training opportunities continue at the exterior, where the retention pond is also used to train for ice rescues. The living areas, wrapped in full-height glazing with exposed wood ceilings, include a full kitchen, a large family-style table, and a TV and gaming area to ensure the firefighters have a variety of space types to relax and recharge. Circadian lighting is used throughout to ensure the firefighters' wake-sleep cycle is synchronized with natural light. These interior spaces are complemented by two ipe wood terraces sheltered by a roof and wall trellis. A green roof surrounds all the living spaces and sleeping rooms.



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MEET THE JURY



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SOUTH CAROLINA



ROY DECKER, FAIA
DUVALL DECKER ARCHITECTS
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI



**ANNE MARIE
DUVALL DECKER, FAIA**
DUVALL DECKER ARCHITECTS
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI



RAY HUFF, FAIA
CLEMSON ARCHITECTURE CENTER
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

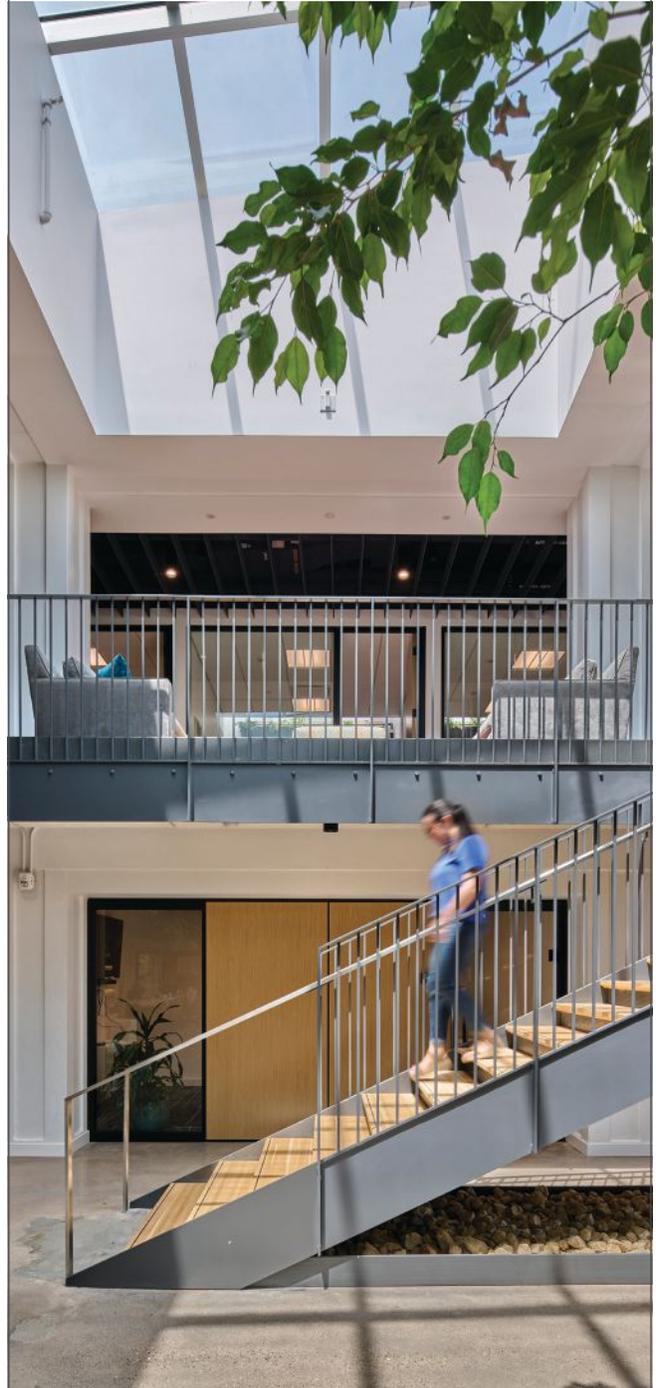
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AIA Iowa Medal of Honor

Mindy Aust, AIA

WORDS : KATE SCHWENNSSEN, FAIA

Mindy Aust, AIA, founder and principal at MA Architecture, has the distinction of being the 20th recipient in 33 years of the American Institute of Architects, Iowa Chapter (AIA Iowa), Medal of Honor. Mindy clearly and importantly embodies the aspirations of AIA Iowa's highest member honor, having "dedicated a significant portion of their career in service to the profession of architecture and played a role in shaping the profession as well as the Chapter."

As a designer and firm leader, Mindy has advanced the profession and served Iowa communities. Mindy's record of design excellence is outstanding: Local, state, and regional design awards are many. Mindy credits her inclusive design process as a major contributor to that success. She has worked at all scales, at all levels of complexity, and in many different types and sizes of communities with the same rigor and ambition. Her focus on public architecture and historic renovation projects has enhanced communities, sustained resources, and built upon legacies.

As an elected volunteer state and national leader, Mindy has had a profound and lasting impact on the future of the profession and AIA. Mindy was elected by her peers as the first female moderator of the AIA Strategic Council (2021). Known and admired for her abilities to communicate, build consensus, and act, she led a positive transformation in the culture of this relatively new organizational structure to be more transparent, strategic, and future-focused. As AIA Iowa president (2016) and as a founding executive board member of Iowa Women in Architecture (2011-2013), her expansive influence on the evolution of AIA Iowa and its membership has been significant.

Mindy is widely known and respected by those who teach, those who practice, and those who do neither. She regularly serves as an invited guest lecturer and critic at Iowa State University and an invited juror for local and state AIA design

awards programs. She is an often-invited speaker to architectural seminars on important practice topics, including project management and design. She is a visible and effective advocate for women in the profession, with many counting her as a mentor. And, not surprisingly, she is highly regarded by clients and architects with whom she has worked, as made obvious in the following short statements from a few of her colleagues and clients:

1. "Mindy has a great design sensibility that is disciplined and rigorous, coupled with tremendous leadership ability that can effectively harness the expertise of a team. In my experience, this combination is rare."
2. "Her commitment to both architecture and community is unwavering, and the recent MA projects manifest her philosophy that the built environment and the people who live in it enjoy an inextricable and symbiotic relationship."
3. "The respect in which the Strategic Council held her was clear. I believe her term as moderator was one of the most consequential in the history of that body's existence."
4. "Women leaders like Mindy, who share their experiences, knowledge, failures, and successes, [are] key to furthering the next generation of women architects. Her mentorship of myself—and numerous others—ensures there are more women in the leadership pipeline."
5. "I fully support AIA Iowa in recognizing this gem of a human, fellow architect, professional leader, firm owner, and colleague to many—locally, throughout the state of Iowa, regionally, and nationally."

This author has the great privilege of knowing many extraordinary architects in the U.S. and beyond, as designers and leaders, as change-makers, architects who consistently advance our profession and our communities. I am proud to count Mindy Aust, AIA, "this gem of a human," among these remarkable individuals, and I know that AIA Iowa is equally proud.



AIA Iowa Young Architect Award

Shannon Swift, AIA

Shannon Swift, AIA, has made several contributions to the architecture profession by promoting holistic health care design and showing exceptional leadership from her involvement in several organizations.

WORDS : ANDREW BALLARD, AIA

Shannon Swift, AIA, is senior associate at INVISION and a leader on the firm's health care team. She has contributed to hospitals, outpatient facilities, and health care master plans across the state of Iowa, including more than 35 projects for MercyOne, showing particular skill implementing MercyOne's brand and providing supporting material for fundraising and grant applications. Swift advances health care design by providing holistic designs centered around function, wellness, and sustainability. INVISION Partner Becky Hansel, AIA, observed that Swift "has evolved from an eager-to-learn intern to an outstanding architect." This sentiment has led Swift to receiving the 2024 Young Architect award from the American Institute of Architects, Iowa Chapter (AIA Iowa).

Swift taps into clients' needs and aspirations with a strong drive, down-to-earth attitude, and clear communication skills. Robert Gavora, CAO of MercyOne Iowa Heart Center, described Swift as having grown "from someone who provided support/analysis on various projects to someone who is leading and driving large-scale initiatives."

Veronica R. Fuhs, CEO of MHA, Monroe County Hospital and Clinics (MCHC), an affiliate of MercyOne, recalled, "Matt Foster, Board of Trustee member for [MCHC], and I met Shannon many years ago when we worked through a master facility planning process and phase one remodel in place and new addition project in our facility in Albia, Iowa. From the beginning, we were amazed at her grasp of health care and the challenging regulations."

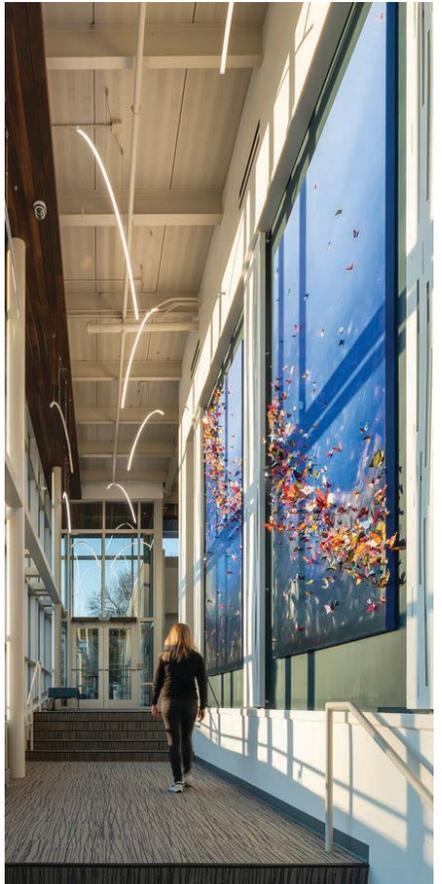
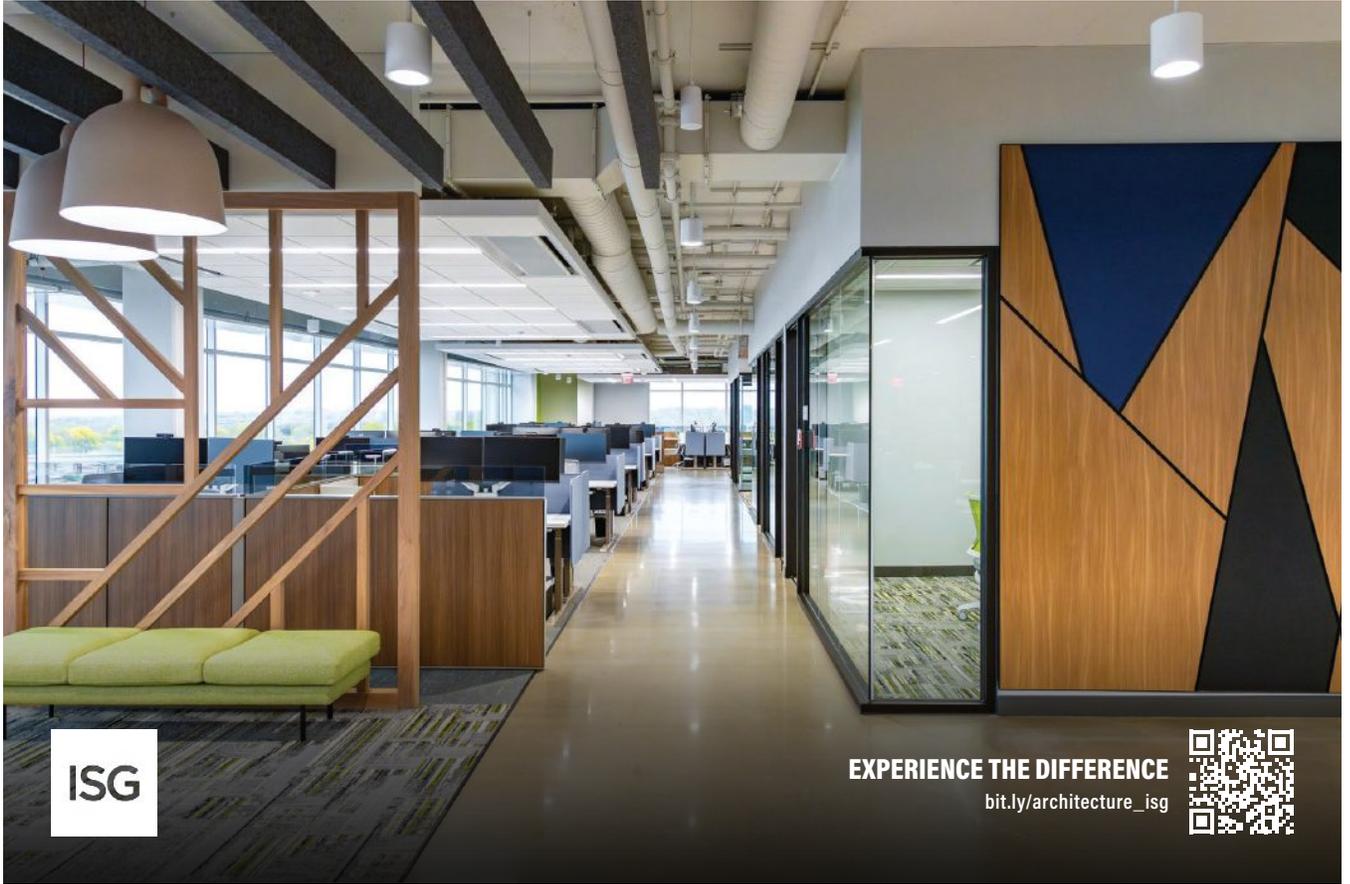
Through various AIA Iowa platforms, Swift has facilitated events, aided in

strategic planning, collaborated with community organizations, and reviewed portfolios. She is past co-chair of Iowa Women in Architecture's Education and Programs (Ed+Pro) committee and remains an active member. Susan Judkin, 2023 Iowa Women in Architecture (iaWia) chair, appreciates that "Shannon has played a critical role in facilitating educational and developmental opportunities for the [iaWia] membership during her multiyear involvement in the organization and on the Board of Directors."

Swift finds opportunities through ACE programs and ISU guest panels to encourage students' curiosity about and confidence in architecture. Miland Jetty appreciatively recalls that "back in high school, I participated in the ACE Mentor program. Shannon's exemplary skills in mentorship through the angle of architecture were critical to my success in the program."

At INVISION, Swift fosters a stronger and more cohesive work environment by empowering younger team members. She has led internal initiatives that improve processes and outcomes, including the firm's photography and awards committee and project benchmarking team. Swift also developed a committee to pursue pro bono design services, including for the Ronald McDonald House renovation at MercyOne Medical Center in Des Moines.

Swift develops client relationships, advocates for the profession, serves as a mentor, and supports her community. She is committed to making a positive impact on the lives of others. The numerous community-minded programs in which she participates allow her to parallel career efforts with service both to the profession and to the community.





Architecture Honor Award

Marion Fire Station No. 1



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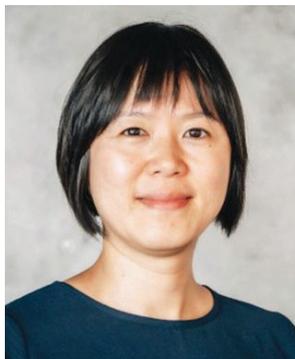


AIA IOWA DESIGN AWARDS

MEET THE JURY



SIMONA FISCHER, AIA
JURY CHAIR
MSR DESIGN
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA



JENN CHEN
LMN ARCHITECTS
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON



MARCY CONRAD NUTT, AIA
ALCHEMY ARCHITECTS
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA



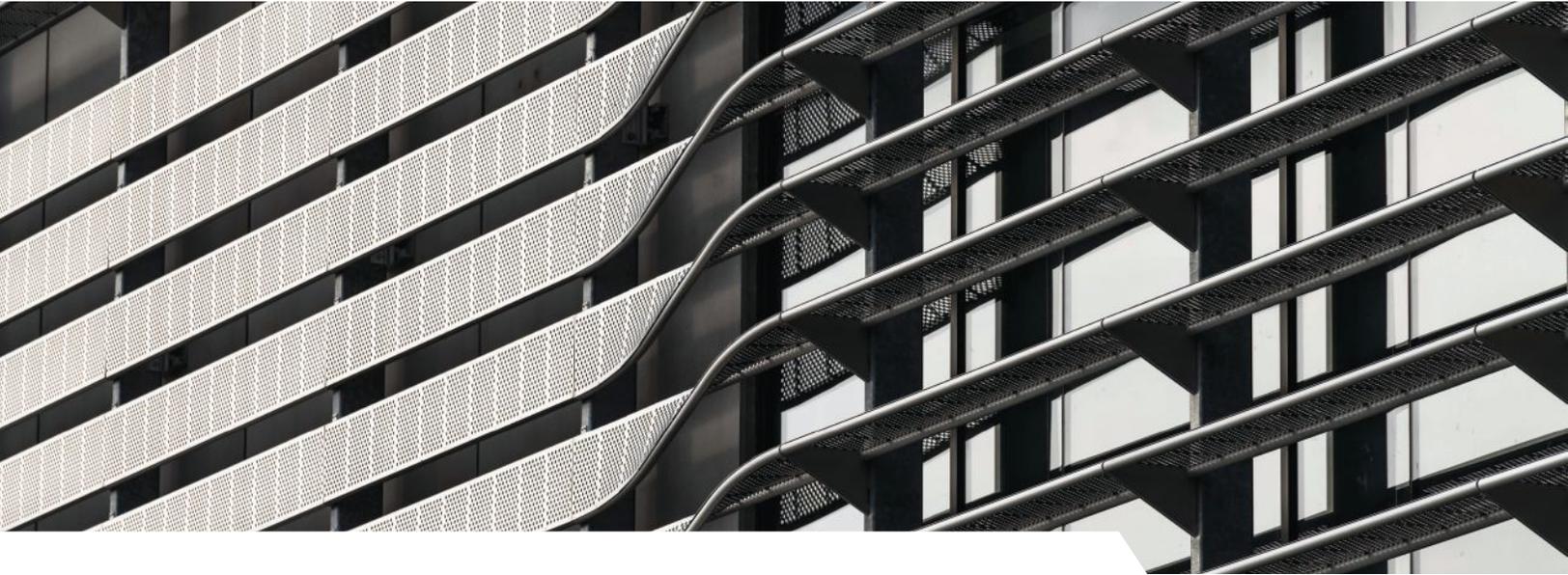
WALE FALADE, AIA
LOCUS ARCHITECTURE
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA



ARATHI GOWDA, AIA
ZGF ARCHITECTS
WASHINGTON, D.C.



PHILLIP KOSKI, AIA
MILLER DUNWIDDIE
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA



DTE ENERGY/FORD DEARBORN CENTRAL ENERGY PLANT

EXCELLENCE IN DESIGN, HONOR

ARCHITECT : OPN ARCHITECTS **LOCATION** : DEARBORN, MICHIGAN

This new central energy plant is at the core of a 10-year master plan to overhaul and modernize a major automotive manufacturer's research and engineering campus. The new facility has fulfilled multiple initiatives, such as replacing an aging central steam system; distributing cooling assets with a 3,000-ton geothermal system, a 19,000-ton chilled water system, and low-temperature water-based energy distribution loops; creating 40,000 ton-hours of thermal energy storage; and providing on-site electrical generation via combined heat and power. The design team used the latest in three-dimensional modeling software to navigate the complex web of MEP systems to balance space utilization, efficiency, and system requirements. In addition to using clash detection and virtual design coordination on the interior mechanical areas, a combination of traditional analog methods such as sketching, paper models, and three-dimensional physical

modeling influenced the façade of the building. The series of "twisted" blades were developed to clad what would typically be a mundane precast building, with the goal of differentiating the heartbeat of the campus and highlighting the systems that allow it to operate. The façade responds by "louvering" open to shade the curtain wall, thus providing thermal comfort for the occupants while creating visual movement at the exterior elevations from all vantage points. The façade system required rounds of iteration, calculation, computation, and several mockups working closely with fabricators to develop. It pushes the boundaries of what metal can do, as well as what industrial buildings can be within a design context. The end result is a highly efficient and flexible central energy plant that exceeds the company's high-performance sustainability objectives and pushes the envelope of modern distributed gas power.

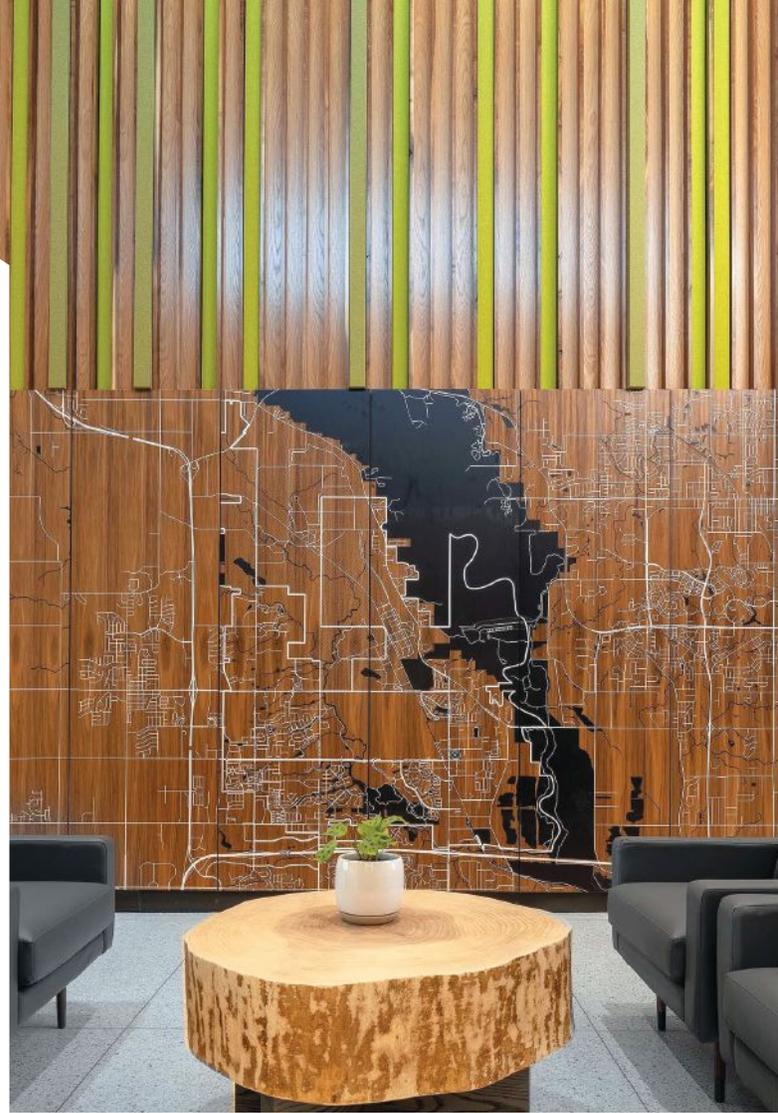


JOHNSTON CITY HALL

EXCELLENCE IN DESIGN, HONOR

ARCHITECT : OPN ARCHITECTS LOCATION : JOHNSTON, IOWA

This new city hall is situated as the civic core of a new town center development in a growing Midwestern suburb. The new facility combines municipal office functions with community spaces inside and out. The building's cross-axial layout features a central lobby that connects interior community spaces such as the council chambers, training rooms, and conference rooms to the municipal offices, both open and private. Materials inside and out reflect the city hall's purpose, while also representing the community and site specifically. Limestone, wood, and metal on the exterior imbue civic permanence while emphasizing the building's warmth and openness. This same palette carries through to the interior to clarify the building's organization and reinforces the interior/ exterior connection. The architecture and scale of elements reflect the city's early formation around a railroad station. Exterior double columns, for example, are organized around the historic railway system and the width of railroad components. Walnut, oak, and ash trees cleared from the site were used to construct the reception desk, council dais, lobby walls, workstations, and interior signage. The building was designed as an example for the community—to drive innovation, conserve energy, and utilize sustainable materials. Both the building and the site support community growth and expansion with flexibility to accommodate evolving needs. Spaces such as the large "front porch" of the city hall can host various types and sizes of events and is surrounded by site amenities such as a splash pad, a skating rink, a bicycle pump track, and large open green spaces. The building becomes a backdrop for a site that acts as a front yard for the community, serving as a forum, plaza, amphitheater, market, and events space to welcome and support its community.





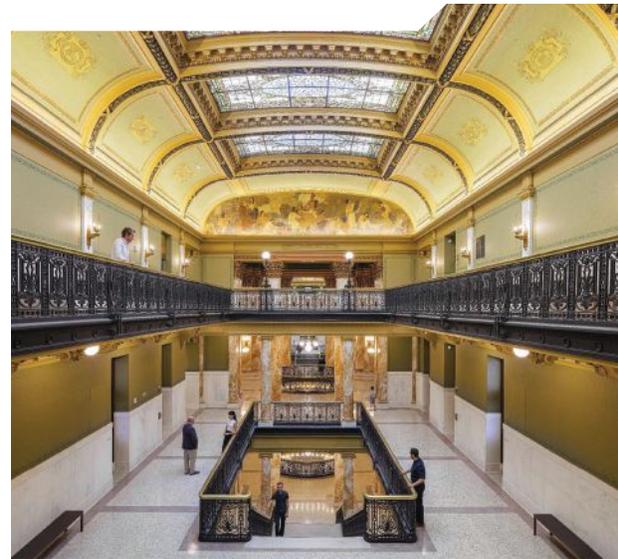
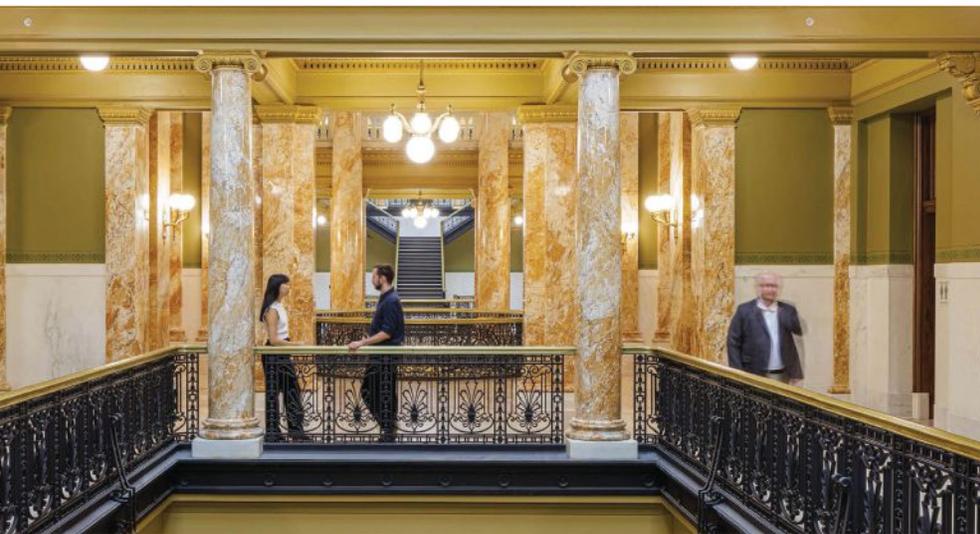
POLK COUNTY HISTORIC COURTHOUSE

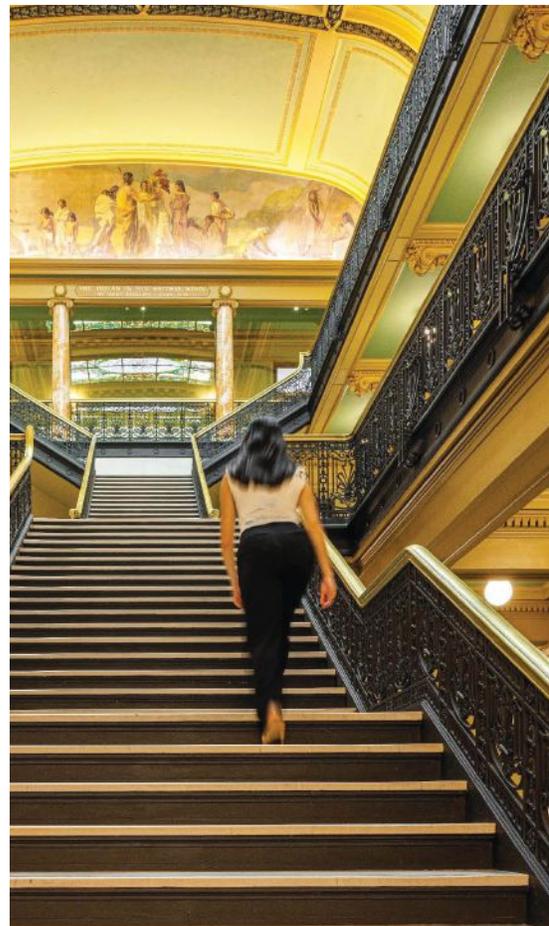
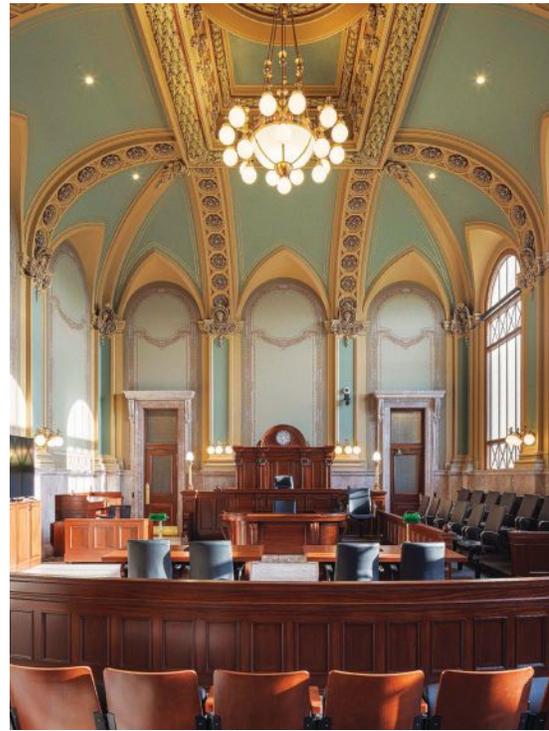
EXCELLENCE IN DESIGN, HONOR

ARCHITECT : OPN ARCHITECTS LOCATION : DES MOINES, IOWA

Designed by Proudfoot and Bird, the historic Polk County Courthouse is the anchor of the Historic Court Avenue District in downtown Des Moines. The courthouse, which is on the National Register of Historic Buildings, has served the 5th Judicial District for 117 years. Built between 1900 and 1906, the Beaux Arts Classical courthouse is one of only a handful of buildings representing this style of architecture in the state and region. The interior restoration of the courthouse is the final phase of a multiyear reorganization of the Polk County Courts campus in downtown Des Moines. The original solution would have moved all Polk County Court functions to a single new building out of downtown, thereby decommissioning the historic courthouse. OPN's team advocated to re-envision a new master plan preserving the historic courthouse as an iconic anchor in downtown Des Moines. Now complete, the multiphase 5th Judicial District Master Plan ultimately included

two other major projects: a new Polk County Justice Center (2016) and new Polk County Criminal Courts (2019). Both projects reused existing buildings adjacent to the historic courthouse to create a cohesive campus. The restoration and preservation of the historic courthouse brings the century-old building back to life by uncovering and restoring much of its original details and architecture. Drop ceilings were removed to reveal ornate plaster ceilings. Each of the six original courtrooms were restored to its original plaster, scagliola, wood finishes, tapestries, and paint schemes. Most of the historic furniture that was able to be salvaged was fully restored, including the judges' benches. The result is an architectural treasure restored to its original grandeur as a celebration of Polk County's past while also creating a place of dignity, justice, and safety for current and future citizens.





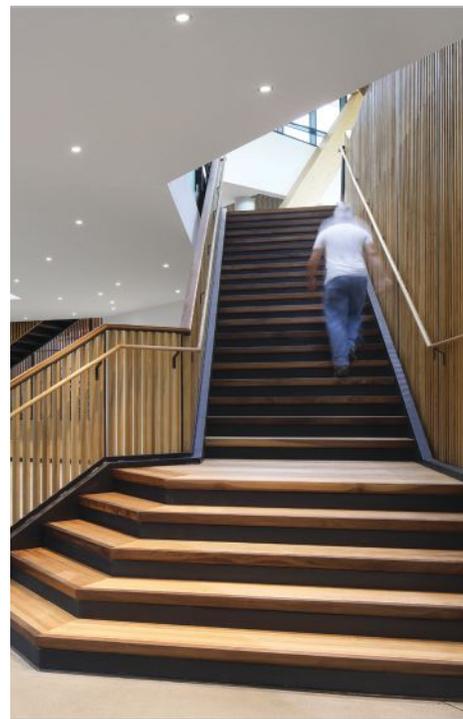
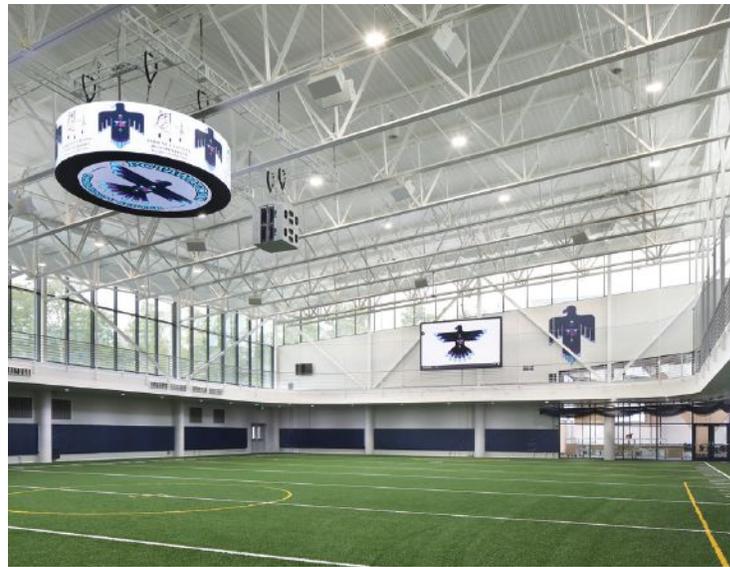


FOREST COUNTY POTAWATOMI COMMUNITY CENTER

EXCELLENCE IN DESIGN, MERIT

ARCHITECT : RDG PLANNING & DESIGN **LOCATION :** CRANDON, WISCONSIN

Beautifully nestled in a 5,000-acre wood, this dynamic facility is the epicenter of physical and wellness activity for the entire surrounding community. Created to serve passive and active programs—both indoors and out—the facility is a beacon to this region and all the people who use it. Whether serving family recreation, the respected elders, or as an active learning environment, the diversity of spaces yields high potential. It is additionally designed to well serve regular large gatherings of a local tribe, including their annual powwow that draws thousands to the facility.





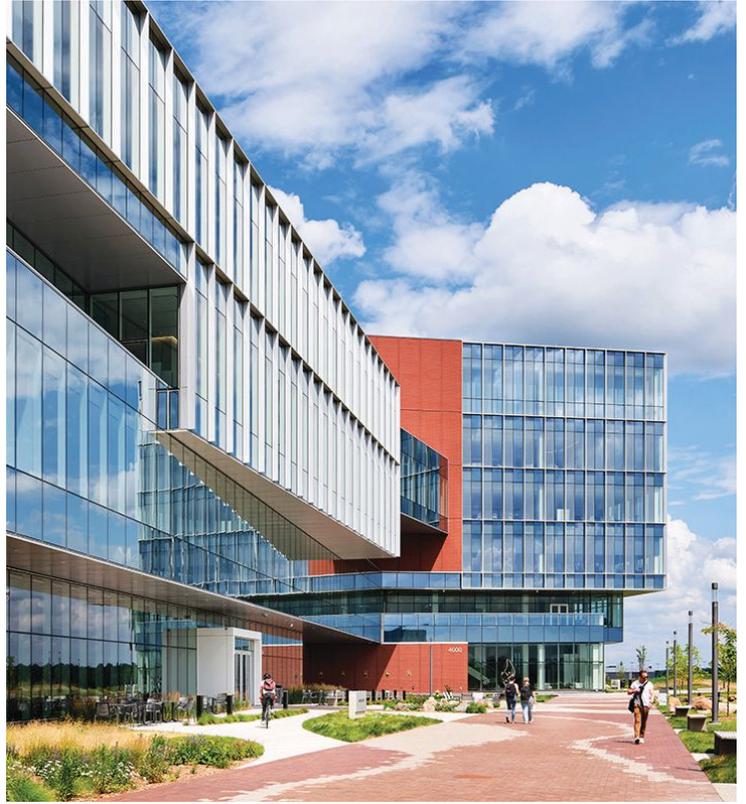
DES MOINES UNIVERSITY MEDICINE AND HEALTH SCIENCES CAMPUS

EXCELLENCE IN DESIGN, MERIT

ARCHITECT : RDG PLANNING & DESIGN **LOCATION :** WEST DES MOINES, IOWA

Des Moines University's (DMU) new Medical and Health Science Campus is a hub for innovation and sustainability in health care education. The state-of-the-art campus serves as the foundation for powerful, evolutionary trends in education and health care delivery. With cutting-edge facilities and technology, the campus supports new programs, research, simulation, and clinical services that are developed with the highest fidelity possible to ensure mastery of skills and learning. To meet the needs of expanding enrollment and the evolving technologies associated with experiential learning, DMU envisioned a plan for a new campus that would successfully increase enrollment while occupying a smaller footprint with higher-performing facilities. Beginning in 2019, RDG Planning & Design engaged DMU faculty and staff in the creative and strategic planning process to design a campus that fosters an exciting university environment and supports advanced medicine and health sciences education and research—as well as

clinical services for residents of the region. Design for the new campus takes direction from the site's natural beauty and diverse physical characteristics. Building on the concept “the edge of advancement,” the design team envisioned an innovative, iconic campus that reflects DMU's values, respects the land, connects to the community, and offers an inclusive, intuitive environment. This project is a transformative opportunity to establish a new legacy for DMU and health care education. The new campus, completed and ready for classes in June 2023, is interconnected with pathways that are programmed to include social and academic features to add value and comfort to users between classes. The campus demonstrates sustainability and stewardship by achieving LEED Silver Certification and anticipates receipt of the WELL Building Standard Gold Certification. The design reflects DMU's history while embracing the future, creating a vibrant and connected learning environment.



LIFESERVE BLOOD CENTER HEADQUARTERS

EXCELLENCE IN DESIGN, HONORABLE MENTION

ARCHITECT : BNIM ARCHITECTS LOCATION : JOHNSTON, IOWA

Serving more than 160 hospitals across the Midwest region, LifeServe Blood Center Headquarters is a new office space and blood donation center in Johnston, Iowa, that aims to support the organization's vital work within the community and their mission to save lives. LifeServe's new headquarters provides a welcoming, collaborative, and flexible building that enables LifeServe to grow and adapt for the future while strengthening their community presence. The facility includes a donor center; blood drive and blood center operations support spaces; 24/7 lab for blood processing;

and a series of office, administrative, and collaboration areas. To accommodate the complex movement of blood product through the facility, the design team worked closely with LifeServe to study and understand design options that enhance organizational function and ensure efficient workflows and adjacencies of the site. LifeServe Blood Center Headquarters creates welcoming indoor and outdoor spaces that strengthen connection to community, clearly demonstrate LifeServe's mission, and encourage meaningful interaction between LifeServe staff, volunteers, and donors.





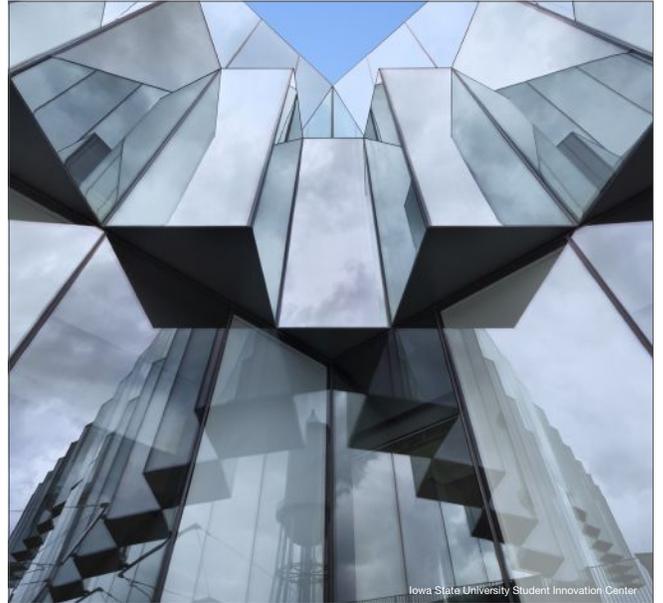
Project:
Kirkwood Performing Arts Center
Contractor:
BSI Constructors, Inc.
Architect:
Jacobs
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100 YEARS

MIDWEST MINARET

EXCELLENCE IN CRAFT, HONOR

CRAFT: NEIMAR COMPANY LLC
FIRM: NEUMANN MONSON ARCHITECTS
LOCATION: GRANGER, IOWA

On a high slope above the plains, a slender structure clad in a series of bone-white waves crests the deep blue sky. Erected next to the 9,000-square-foot mosque, the minaret stands a willowy 130 feet in the air on 200 luxuriant green acres. It provides a visual focal point, as well as a vantage point from which the call to prayer bellows across the land. The artisan of this sculpted-in-place tower hails from Bosnia and has built minarets since the age of 16. In the late 1980s and early 1990s, the fall of the former Yugoslav Republic displaced citizens from their homeland. Forced to take refuge overseas, he and many others ultimately found solace in the Midwest. He is now into his 50s and continues to travel throughout his new country involved in an intimate craft of minaret building, harkening back to deep-rooted Islamic tradition. The designers partnered with this skilled builder, who lived on-site

throughout the minaret's 16-month construction. Cast-in-place concrete delineates the basic elements of the minaret, balancing its proportions and geometries to speak to the adjacent mosque. For the exterior, he took artistic hold. Underneath the beating sun, he cut and welded intricate metal forms to shape the final casting. The resultant undulating patterns of white concrete cloak the tapering tower. Rising, a walkaround balcony adorned in snowy, crystalline patterning encircles the spire. Five times a day, the muezzin climbs up the insular shaft, following channels of sunlight that flush through the façade's apertures. Reaching the open air, the sacred script is recited beneath a coppered conical peak. Standing below, the sound of the prairie winds whirls with the song of prayer above. And, in this moment, the spiritual may not be as unearthly or out of reach as it seems.





es Register



KIEWIT LUMINARIUM

EXCELLENCE IN CRAFT, HONOR

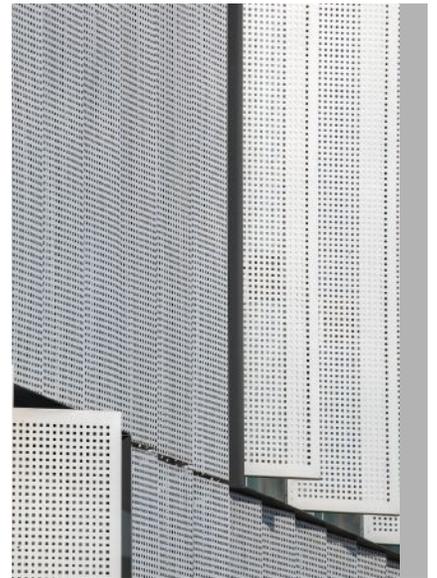
CRAFT: ARCHITECTURAL WALL SYSTEMS

FIRM: KIEWIT BUILDING GROUP

LOCATION: OMAHA, NEBRASKA

The Kiewit Luminarium is an innovative community space and learning environment that is part workshop part museum. It serves as a dynamic space where people of all ages, identities, and backgrounds can explore extraordinary phenomena at the intersection of science, art, and human perception through interactive displays and engaging exhibits. The building is thought of as a “container,” like the classic Nebraska vernacular “machine-shed”: simple, honest, and performative, where apertures in the aluminum exterior envelope strictly adhere to optimal shading based on the orientation of the façade. The building geometry emerged out of an apparent “grain” to the landscape that organizes the building into two forms. On the west, toward downtown Omaha, it “lifts” off the ground, which creates an elevated “canvas” into the air and acts as a billboard to the city. The space under the cantilever then becomes a pedestrian space—a large bus stop for group collection and lingering. The east form along the river anchors into the site along the riverfront boardwalk. The vertical shading fins along the east provide exciting glimpses into the interior, thus animating the façade experience as pedestrians meander the riverwalk.





LIFESERVE BLOOD CENTER HEADQUARTERS



JOHNSTON CITY HALL



We are honored to have built two incredible projects, which the design community has recognized as award-winning creations. Congratulations to BNIM for the LifeServe Blood Center Corporate Headquarters and OPN for the Johnston City Hall.

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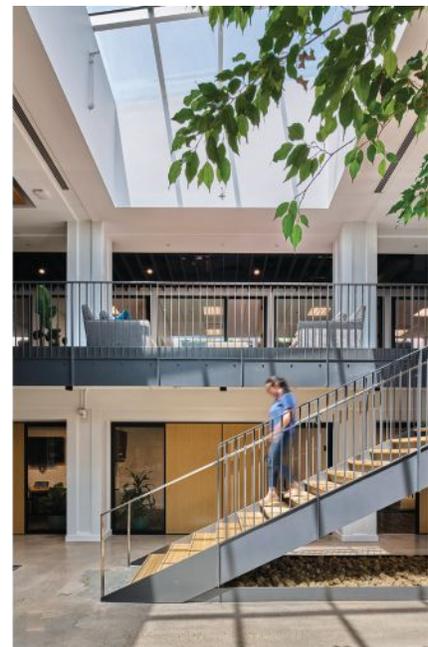
STANLEY CENTER FOR PEACE AND SECURITY

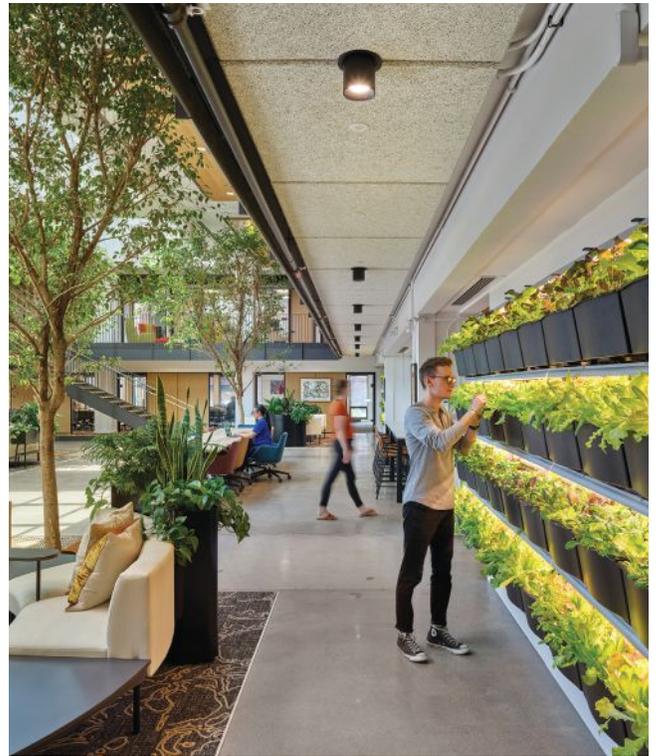
IMPACT AWARD, HONOR

ARCHITECT: NEUMANN MONSON ARCHITECTS **LOCATION:** MUSCATINE, IOWA

With proximity to the Mississippi River, Muscatine, Iowa, has been an industrial hub since the early 1900s. In 1956, Muscatine native Max Stanley used his wealth from HON Industries and Stanley Consultants to establish the Stanley Center for Peace and Security, a global policy influencer focused on mitigating nuclear armament, mass atrocities, and climate change. The Center's new headquarters is tracking to be the second renovation to achieve a full Living Building Certification (LBC). While at a premium, the building reflects the Center's mission—producing more than 100 percent of its energy on-site, collecting all potable and non-potable water through rainfall, and using Red List-complaint materials. The Center explored many sites before renovating a former public library. The building provided 19,260 square feet of occupiable space and a prime downtown location

for strengthening community connections. Nearly 94 percent of the existing building mass was reused, consuming one-third the amount of embodied carbon of similarly sized new construction. A portion of the building was removed to create an urban agricultural space that provides fresh produce for a neighboring foodbank. This removal also helped increase daylighting and views in occupied spaces. While the ground floor houses public spaces for collaboration and educational events, the second floor contains private offices, sized equally to promote equity. Offices without direct views receive skylights and live plant walls. Accoya wood siding, charred to resist insects and prolong weathering, clads the exterior. Interior materials, including a pearl button backspace and white oak veneers, reference Muscatine's industrial history and cultivate place-making.





JOHNSON COUNTY GUIDELINK CENTER

IMPACT AWARD, MERIT

ARCHITECT : NEUMANN MONSON ARCHITECTS LOCATION : IOWA CITY, IOWA

Law enforcement, health care providers, and local government agencies joined to create a 24/7, low-barrier facility to provide intervention and treatment for substance abuse, mental health, and trauma, which also acts as a winter homeless shelter. These offerings are an important alternative to traditional police intervention for individuals in crisis situations. The voluntary facility is strategically located near other supportive services, as well as bus, bike, and pedestrian routes. The building is organized around its three program elements—office, behavioral services, and shelter—and is punctured across its main façade with glazed access points. Inviting entrances incorporate full glazing to create safe and welcoming access. The symmetrical and repetitive plan emphasizes spatial simplicity. Uninterrupted clerestories run the width of the building, delivering calming, filtered daylight. The roof accommodates a 390-panel photovoltaic array that works in concert with a highly efficient VRF heating/cooling

system, which is connected to a stacked geothermal well field. Brick and weathering steel deliver durability to the exterior. The weathering steel lends symbolism to the building's purpose with temporal and self-healing properties. A cool, natural color palette infuses the interior with a calm atmosphere that minimizes environmental stressors. Durable materials and behavioral health furnishings endure high impact while responding to the specific needs of trauma-informed design. Outside, a screened courtyard and patio provide protected outdoor respite with visual privacy. In the first six months of operation, the center served more than 450 individuals, mostly originating from referrals from health care providers and law enforcement. The winter overnight shelter opened in January 2021 and provided 40 additional cots to accommodate overflow from Shelter House's emergency shelter. The shelter opened again for the season in January 2022 to increased demand.





JOHNSTON CITY HALL

IMPACT AWARD, MERIT

ARCHITECT: OPN ARCHITECTS **LOCATION:** JOHNSTON, IOWA

This new city hall, which combines municipal office functions with community spaces inside and out, seeks to create a civic core and community destination in the tradition of the rural Iowa town square with the intention of establishing a unique identity.

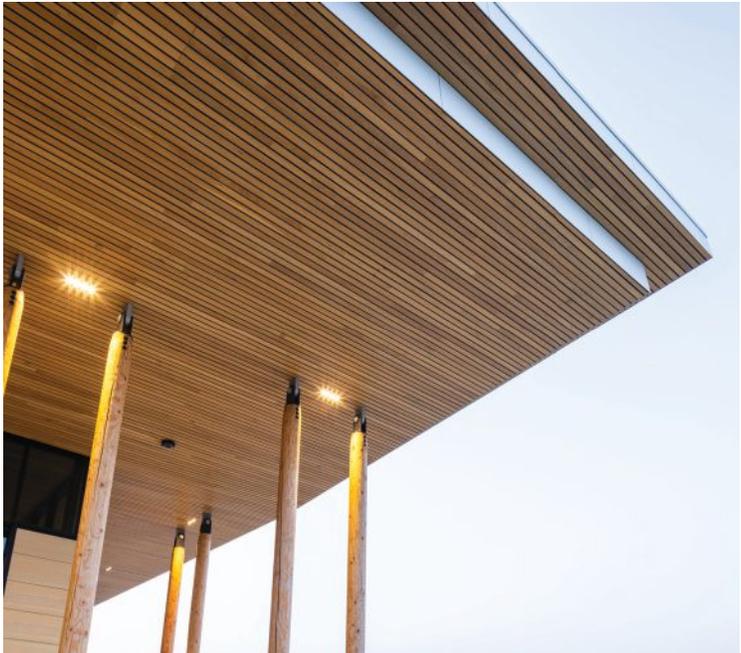
The building was designed as an example for the community—to drive innovation, conserve energy, and utilize sustainable materials. The city hall uses natural and locally sourced materials that imbue a permanence in place and openness in function. Trees on the project site that could not be preserved were salvaged and incorporated throughout the building's interior. The architecture and scale of elements reflect the city's early formation around a railroad station. Exterior double columns, for example, are organized around the historic railway system and the width of railroad components. The building's cross-axial layout features a central lobby that connects interior community spaces such as the council chambers, training room,

and conference rooms to the municipal offices, both open and private.

The site is "open" 365 days a year and accessible in all seasons. Site amenities promote alternative transportation and walkability for both the staff and overall community, with ample public restrooms, drinking fountains, covered bike storage, electric bike charging stations, and a bike fix-it station. Space for a farmers market selling locally grown fresh food promotes local food systems. The design team collaborated with a local arts council to integrate art, sculptures, and murals by local artists throughout the building and site. The site was created to be easily accessible on a variety of approaches—bike, pedestrian, and vehicle.

The building truly becomes a backdrop for a site that acts as a front yard for the community, serving as a forum, plaza, amphitheater, market, and events space to welcome and support its community.





DES MOINES AREA RELIGIOUS COUNCIL

IMPACT AWARD, HONORABLE MENTION

ARCHITECT: INVISION ARCHITECTURE LOCATION: DES MOINES, IOWA

The Des Moines Area Religious Council (DMARC), a local nonprofit working to meet basic human needs of the greater Des Moines community, outgrew their space for the demand and donation volume they were receiving. After a year-and-a-half-long search, a vacant big-box store that had been converted from grocery to office met the needs to accommodate growth for both their front-of-house office and back-of-house warehousing needs. Located on the main bus line, the on-site food pantry was designed to be a more accessible stop for Des Moines residents, with the next closest food pantry more than 3 miles away. New sidewalk paving and landscaping provides a more just and accessible route to the facility, being a catalyst for bringing the surrounding area up to local zoning regulations. Extensive mapping of their existing workflow informed the new layout for greater efficiencies for staff, volunteers, and

consumers. More than tripling the size of their old facility, the warehouse provides the ability for vehicles to drive in and out, along with dedicated areas for program awareness, volunteer groups, and space for future growth and tenant partnership. The office space is highlighted by a double-height area with preexisting mezzanine and glass fronts to carry the natural light through the space, boosting well-being. An edited low-VOC palette was used to keep the number of materials to a minimum and costs low. The design and strength of DMARC's operation was tested shortly after moving in, as food insecurity surged in the spring of 2022. Needs were met in full because durability, flexibility, and cost efficiency were top of mind in delivering this vital nonprofit organization a new home with the capacity to continue to change the 34,000-plus lives in the Des Moines metro for years to come.



AIA CENTRAL STATES EXCELLENCE IN DESIGN AWARDS

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ARCHITECTURE, HONOR

ARCHITECT : HOK AND SNOW KREILICH ARCHITECTS LOCATION : ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI



Jarrett Middle School

ARCHITECTURE, HONOR

ARCHITECT : DAKE WELLS LOCATION : SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI



Iowa State University Student Innovation Center

ARCHITECTURE, HONOR

ARCHITECT: SUBSTANCE ARCHITECTURE AND KIERAN TIMBERLAKE LOCATION: AMES, IOWA



O'Brien Hall College of Business Administration

ARCHITECTURE, HONOR

ARCHITECT: BNIM AND WORKSHOP ARCHITECTS, GRAEF LOCATION: MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN



Stanley Center for Peace and Security

ARCHITECTURE, MERIT

ARCHITECT: NEUMANN MONSON ARCHITECTS LOCATION: MUSCATINE, IOWA



NorthStar Foundation

ARCHITECTURE, MERIT

ARCHITECT: HDR LOCATION: OMAHA, NEBRASKA



Ullem Chapel

ARCHITECTURE, MERIT

ARCHITECT : ASK STUDIO LOCATION : MORAVIA, IOWA



Center of Creative Arts Renovation and Expansion

ARCHITECTURE, MERIT

ARCHITECT : CHRISTNER ARCHITECTS AND AXI:OME LOCATION : ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI



Johnston City Hall

ARCHITECTURE, MERIT

ARCHITECT: OPN ARCHITECTS INC. LOCATION: JOHNSTON, IOWA



Love Bank Park

ARCHITECTURE, MERIT

ARCHITECT: PATTERNH IVES LLC LOCATION: ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI



The Victor

ARCHITECTURE, CITATION

ARCHITECT: TRIVERS LOCATION: ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI



John Goodman Amphitheatre

ARCHITECTURE, CITATION

ARCHITECT: PATTERNH IVES LLC LOCATION: SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI



Potrero Hill Innovation Center

ARCHITECTURE, CITATION

ARCHITECT: EL DORADO AND FORM4 INC. LOCATION: SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA



Blue River East Building

ARCHITECTURE, CITATION

ARCHITECT: BNIM LOCATION: INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI



Fort Wayne

INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE, HONOR

ARCHITECT: CANNONDESIGN AND ELEVATUS LOCATION: FORT WAYNE, INDIANA



Franka Pizzeria

INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE, MERIT

ARCHITECT: KNOP ARCHITECTS LOCATION: CLIVE, IOWA



Reading in Public Bookstore + Café

INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE, CITATION

ARCHITECT: KNOP ARCHITECTS LOCATION: WEST DES MOINES, IOWA



Oceti Sakowin Community Development Vision Plan

URBAN DESIGN & PLANNING, HONOR

ARCHITECT: SUBSTANCE ARCHITECTURE AND SWT LOCATION: RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA



The Bioplex

UNBUILT WORK, HONOR

ARCHITECT : SLATTERY DESIGN + ARCHITECTURE LOCATION : ROLLA, MISSOURI



NWAFS Food Systems Incubator

UNBUILT WORK, HONOR

ARCHITECT : PATTERNH IVES LLC LOCATION : SPRINGDALE, ARKANSAS



Omaha Central Library

UNBUILT WORK, MERIT

ARCHITECT: HDR AND ALLEY POYNER MACCHIETTO ARCHITECTURE LOCATION: OMAHA, NEBRASKA



St. Mary's Campus

UNBUILT WORK, MERIT

ARCHITECT: REDDYMADE AND ACTUAL ARCHITECTURE COMPANY LOCATION: LINCOLN, NEBRASKA



Powell Hall Renovation and Expansion

UNBUILT WORK, MERIT

ARCHITECT: ACHRISTNER ARCHITECTS AND SNØHETTA LOCATION: ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI



24J Houses

UNBUILT WORK, CITATION

ARCHITECT: ACTUAL ARCHITECTURE COMPANY LOCATION: LINCOLN, NEBRASKA



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project credits

AIA IOWA DESIGN AWARDS

DTE Energy/Ford Dearborn

Central Energy Plant

Location: Dearborn, Michigan

Architect: OPN Architects

Contractor: Walbridge

Civil Engineer: Wade Trim

Construction Manager: Walbridge Construction

Engineer: Salas O'Brien

Heat/Power Engineer: PEC Engineers

MEPT Engineer: Salas O'Brien

Photographers: Alex Michl, Assoc. AIA, and Cory Klein

Structural Engineer: ERA Engineering

Johnston City Hall

Location: Johnston, Iowa

Architect: OPN Architects

Contractor: Hansen Companies

Landscape Architect: Confluence

MEPTF: IMEG Engineering

Photographer: Alex Michl, Assoc. AIA

Signage: ASI Signage

Structural Engineer: Raker Rhodes Engineering

Polk County Historic Courthouse

Location: Des Moines, Iowa

Architect: OPN Architects

Civil Engineer: Snyder & Associates

MEPT Engineer: Alvine Engineering

Photographer: Alex Michl, Assoc. AIA

Structural Engineer: Shuck-Britson

Forest County Potawatomi Community Center

Location: Crandon, Wisconsin

Architect: RDG Planning & Design

Aquatic Consultant: Ramaker

Contractor: Ramlow/Stein Architects Inc.

Civil Engineer/Landscape Architect: GRAEF

Electrical Consultant: Czarnecki Engineering

Mechanical Consultant: Thunderbird Engineering

Photographer: Tricia Shay Photography

Des Moines University Medicine and Health Sciences Campus

Location: West Des Moines, Iowa

Architect: RDG Planning & Design

Contractor: Turner Construction

AV/IT Consultant: NV5

Foodservice Consultant: Rippe

Mechanical/Electrical Engineer: IMEG Corp.

Owner's Representative: Formation Group

Photographer: Michael Robinson

Structural Engineer: KPFF

Sustainability Consultant: Stok

LifeServe Blood Center Headquarters

Location: Johnston, Iowa

Architect: BNIM Architects

Contractor: The Hansen Company

Civil Engineer: Civil Design Advantage

Landscape Architect: Confluence

Photographer: Kendall McCaugherty

Owner's Representative: Formation Group

Structural Engineer: Raker Rhodes Engineering

AIA IOWA CRAFT AWARDS

Midwest Minaret

Location: Granger, Iowa

Architect: Neumann Monson Architects

Contractor: Neimar Company LLC

Civil Engineer: Civil & Environmental Consultants Inc.

Lighting Design: Safet Tabakovic

Photographer: Cameron Campbell, AIA,

Integrated Studio

Structural Engineer: Raker Rhodes Engineering

Kiewit Luminarium

Location: Omaha, Nebraska

Architect: Kiewit Building Group

Contractor: Architectural Wall Systems

Construction Photographer: Architectural Wall

Systems LLC

Engineer: HDR

Photographer: Tom Kessler

AIA IOWA IMPACT AWARDS

Stanley Center for Peace and Security

Location: Muscatine, Iowa

Architect: Neumann Monson Architects

Contractor: Graham Construction

Environmental Consultants: Biohabitats and

ECT Integrated Eco Strategy

MEPT Engineer: Design Engineers

Photographer: Cameron Campbell, AIA,

Integrated Studio

Structural Engineer: Raker Rhodes Engineering

Johnson County GuideLink Center

Location: Iowa City, Iowa

Architect: Neumann Monson Architects

Contractor: Merit Construction

Landscape Design: Hawks Design

MEP Engineer: Modus

Photographer: Cameron Campbell, AIA,

Integrated Studio

Structural Engineer: M2B

Johnston City Hall

Location: Johnston, Iowa

Architect: OPN Architects

Contractor: Hansen Companies

Landscape Architect: Confluence

MEPTF: IMEG Engineering

Photographer: Alex Michl, Assoc. AIA

Signage: ASI Signage

Structural Engineer: Raker Rhodes Engineering

Des Moines Area Religious Council

Location: Des Moines, Iowa

Architect: INVISION Architecture

Civil Engineer: Engineering Resource Group Inc.

Construction Manager: Munro

Construction Company

Photographer: Cameron Campbell, AIA,

Integrated Studio

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