



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AIA ILLINOIS ANNOUNCES STATE ARCHITECTURE AND SERVICE AWARDS

<https://aiaill.org/awards/>

SPRINGFIELD, IL – [Current Date] – AIA Illinois has announced the recipients of its annual Honor Awards, recognizing individuals and projects that exemplify the highest standards of the architectural profession in Illinois. The AIA Illinois Honor Awards recognize people and projects epitomizing the contributions of the architecture profession, the transformative power of design, and the dedication of individuals to service and excellence. These Illinois-based award recipients have made a lasting impact on communities throughout Illinois, the nation, and the world by creating places where people are drawn to live, work, and thrive.

SERVICE AWARDS

- **Gold Medal - Lifetime Achievement** – The highest honor bestowed by AIA Illinois, this lifetime achievement award recognizes a member for demonstrating time-honored leadership, significant contributions to AIA Illinois, and dedication to the profession.
Robert G. Bohlmann, AIA, Bohlmann is the owner / Founder RGB Architectural Group in Kankakee (1994-2016) and current executive director of the B. Harley Bradley House in Kankakee, Frank Lloyd Wright's first Prairie style home. He is recognized as a guiding force and inspiration for his leadership, hard work and life-long devotion to the profession.
- **Champion Award for Public Service** - Recognizes a member's dedication to public service through exemplary efforts at the local, state, or national level.
Andrea Aggertt, AIA, NCARB, Architect of the Capitol in Springfield, Illinois. She is recognized for working tirelessly to provide leadership in civic improvement, development and implementation of government projects that conserve and enhance the Capitol Complex of the State of Illinois.

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- **Champion Award for Equitable Practice** - Recognizes a member who is a positive change-maker and an inspiration to their fellow practitioners.

Kerl LaJeune, Assoc. AIA, NOMA Through education, mentorship, and the development of accessible tools, he has contributed to a more equitable and inclusive vision of the profession. His contributions have helped bridge the gap between the profession and the public, ensuring that more people - especially young people - can engage with and shape the built environment.
- **Champion Award for Social Impact** - Recognizes a member involved in humanitarian or community-driven projects.

Yash Mehta, Assoc. AIA Co-founder Defining Humanity Credited for his vision and extraordinary leadership capacity, he has successfully built and mobilized a diverse network of designers, students, professionals, and community advocates united around a shared mission of social impact.
- **Early Career Achievement Award - Young Architect** - For an architect licensed ten years or less

Giacomo Tinari, AIA, Recognized for bringing not only skill and creativity to his work but also a genuine passion for architecture and design, demonstrating exceptional talent, dedication, leadership and professionalism.
- **Early Career Achievement Award - Emerging Professional:** Recognizes an Associate Member 10 years post-graduation.

Sheetal Vora, Assoc. AIA, LEED AP, WELL AP Through AIA Chicago, ACE Mentorship, and organizations that advocate for underrepresented voices in the profession, she has shown a consistent willingness to contribute beyond day-to-day work, representing the best of what an emerging professional can be.
- **Educator Award** – Recognizes the dedication and talent of an architecture educator in Illinois.

Prof. Charles (Charlie) Pipal, AIA Distinguished Professor at SAIC For excellence in teaching in both the Architecture and Historic Preservation Departments at SAIC, a dedication to architecture, preservation education and serving as the graduate advisor for architecture students pursuing a Certificate in Historic Preservation.

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- **President's Award:** Bestowed by the President, this recognizes a person, group, or entity that has made outstanding contributions to the AIA Illinois mission & vision, as well as to the architectural profession at large.

Illinois Main Street For their 4-point approach that explicitly calls out "Design" as one of the pillars to creating successful main street revitalizations and their efforts tie into the AIA Illinois mission.

DESIGN EXCELLENCE AWARDS

- **Capitol Award and For Excellence in High-Performance Buildings-(5,000 SF and Over) -David Rubenstein Treehouse at Harvard University | Studio Gang.** The Rubenstein Treehouse is the first mass timber building on Harvard's campus, setting a model for holistically sustainable buildings in Boston and institutions worldwide. The 55,000-sf building provides dedicated event space and meeting amenities for Harvard affiliates, the community, academia, and industry and business leaders from around the globe.
- **Excellence in High-Performance Buildings (Under 5,000 SF)- Midcentury For the Next Century | Tom Bassett-Dilley Architects.** This special project was an extensive renovation of Better Homes and Gardens "The House You Asked For of 1953" resulting in a durable, decarbonized house for the next century.
- **Excellence in Preservation (Construction Value Above \$5M)- National Public Housing Museum | LBBA Architects.** The project transformed the last remaining 1938 building of the historic Jane Addams Homes into a cultural destination, including restoration of the existing masonry walls and concrete structure, as well as installation of a new roof, windows, MEP systems, and life safety systems to meet the museum's operational demands.
- **Excellence in Preservation (Construction Value Below \$5M)- A Chapel Reborn | BRUSH Architects.** For the meticulous restoration and historic conservation of St. Andrew's Chapel located inside the historic St. James Cathedral at 69 E. Huron Street in Chicago, Illinois, including intricate faux-finish plaster restoration and partial, art glass conservation, and furniture restoration

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- **Excellence in Interiors (5,000+ SF) - UChicago Medicine Crown Point | Perkins+Will.**
One of the nation's newest multispecialty care centers. This innovative, free-standing [micro-hospital](#) is filling a gap in a region where accessibility to high-quality medical care was previously limited, offering a new way of delivering a variety of health services to the community, with access to abundant natural light, color, graphics, and views of nature.
- **Excellence in Planning - LaGuardia Airport Terminal B | HOK.** LaGuardia Airport's new Terminal B symbolizes the top-to-bottom transformation of one of the nation's highest-profile airports. The transparent, fluid design of the four-story, 850,000-sq.-ft. Arrivals and Departures Hall (headhouse) celebrates movement while conveying a strong civic presence in a city known for its remarkable architecture.
- **Greatest Impact (\$5M+ Construction Value) - Computer Design, Research, and Learning Center, University of Illinois Chicago | Booth Hansen/LMN.** The 135,000-square-foot facility provides a flexible, forward-looking environment that positions students at the forefront of the digital world. Designed to foster collaboration, the building integrates classrooms, labs, offices, and lounges around a five-story atrium filled with natural light.
- **Greatest Impact (Below \$5M Construction Value) - Forty Acres Fresh Market | Latent.**
This \$5-million adaptive reuse and community preservation project transforms a former Salvation Army 12,000-sf bowtruss structure through functional, utility, and façade retrofits, bringing produce access deep within a 30 year food desert.

These awards underscore the depth of talent and commitment within the Illinois architecture community to deliver projects and service that profoundly enhance the built environment and the lives of its inhabitants.

About AIA Illinois

Mission: Empowered by members to champion the profession of architecture. AIA Illinois, the state component of the national American Institute of Architects (AIA), represents more than 4,300 members working to build livable communities from Cairo to Chicago to Rockford. Learn more at aiail.org or call (217) 522-2309.

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