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PRESS RELEASE
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ALASKA ARCHITECTURAL FIRMS RECEIVE 2016 DESIGN AWARDS

Fairbanks (November 5, 2016) – The American Institute of Architects, Alaska Chapter (AIA Alaska) is pleased to announce the recipients of its 2016 Design Awards for Excellence in Architecture, the profession’s highest recognition of works that exemplify excellence in architecture, interior architecture and urban design.

Each year, architects throughout Alaska submit projects that they feel are exceptionally responsive to their clients’ needs or exhibit design excellence above and beyond competent design. These submittals include a description of the project, architectural drawings and photography. To ensure the judging of the awards is unbiased, AIA Alaska Design Awards are always judged by prestigious architects from another state or region.

Selected from 20 submissions, five projects were recognized during AIA Alaska’s Awards Banquet held at the Wedgewood Resort this past Saturday evening. Emerging practitioners and educators from Hawaii served as the jury, with the Dean from the University of Hawaii, Manoa’s School of Architecture, Daniel S. Friedman, FAIA, serving as Chair. The jury awarded one HONOR, two MERIT, and two CITATION awards – for projects that best exemplify Alaska’s northern design requirements, sustainability, site/context sensitivity, and innovative design:

HONOR AWARD

Mendenhall Valley Public Library
A center of Juneau Public Library’s community and a prominent welcome to the Dimond Park campus of public buildings. Rooted in location, sweeping ceilings and high clerestory lofts the eye to the surrounding mountains that make the Valley. It is quietly powerful, and clearly connects design to its source of inspiration.

Architect: Northwind Architects, LLC
Developer/Client: City & Borough of Juneau
Consultant: Hacker Architects
Photographer: Joe McCabe
**MERIT AWARDS:**

**Dena’ina Elementary School**
The Knik community, ten miles from the nearest town, is one of the fastest growing areas in the nation. Set in a beautiful, boreal birch forest and drawing from the color and natural materials of its raw surroundings, Dena’ina Elementary is aptly named for the indigenous Athabascan people of nearby Cook Inlet. In conjunction with its new neighboring middle/high school, Dena’ina Elementary creates a learning campus that accommodates the student population spike and provides an important community gathering center in this remote area.

**Architect:** Bettisworth North Architects.
**Developer/Client:** Matanuska Susitna Borough
**Consultants:** Perkins + Will Architects; BrainSpaces, Inc.
**Photographer:** Kevin G. Smith Photography

**Reddington Junior/Senior High School**
Reddington Junior/Senior High School has been embraced as fitting and reflective of the local culture. The building’s precise architecture stands in contrast to the wilderness, befitting a community staking its place in the Alaskan frontier. The swooping interior volume, the ceiling’s trail in the snow motif, and the locally milled wood soffits, all evoke images of Joe Redington Sr. and his enduring celebration of Alaskan grit, the Iditarod.

**Architect:** Wolf Architecture / NAC Architecture
**Developer/Client:** Matanuska Susitna Borough
**Civil/Structural Engineer:** PND Engineers
**Landscape:** Stantec
**Mechanical/Electrical Engineer:** RSA Engineering
**Photographer:** Kevin G. Smith Photography

**CITATION AWARDS:**

**University of Alaska Fairbanks Wood Center Expansion**
One of the major initiatives identified in the University of Alaska Fairbanks’ master plan is to expand and improve student life on campus. The first phase in achieving this was to significantly improve the quality of space and size of the dining areas and food services available. In a region where off-campus options are limited due to subarctic conditions, the goal was to design an expansion to provide students a warm, welcoming location to socialize on campus and integrate the students’ social lives into campus life.

**Architect:** Perkins + Will
**Client Team:** University of Alaska Fairbanks; National Development Council (Public Private Partnership Owner)
**Contractor:** GHEMM Company, Inc.
**Consultants:** Design Alaska Inc. – Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing; KPFF – Structural; DOWL HKM – Civil; Stafford Design Group – Food Service
**Photographer:** Kevin Smith Photography
Ridgeline Terrace
Situated between a shopping center, an industrial district, and a trailer park, this affordable housing project comprises 70 dwelling units and a community center on a lot split by a steep hill into two levels. By constraining development to the upper level, the project takes advantage of stunning mountain views while optimizing infrastructural economies.

Architect: Lumen Design
Client/Developer: Cook Inlet Housing Authority; Trapeline llc + V2 llc
Structural Engineer: Schneider Structural Engineers
Consultants: EIC Engineers + Jernstrom Engineering
Photographer: Kevin Smith Photography

PEOPLES CHOICE AWARDS – a “Drive By Jury of Peers”
All projects submitted for consideration to our Awards Program were put on display during the conference, and attendee’s were encouraged to review and vote for their choice. The following projects were chosen:

Polar Futures Award - The Project with the Strongest Design for the Alaskan Environment
Winner: BDS Architecture and Interior Design, for the “Chickaloon Village Traditional Council Life House Clinic” (2016-0016)

Sorbet Award – The Project with Most Refreshing Palette of Colors + Materials
Winner: Wolf Architects, for the “Reddington Junior/Senior High School” (2016-0015)

Ice Cave Award – The Project with the Most Interesting/Engaging Spatial Volumes
Winner: Northwind Architects, for the “Mendenhall Valley Public Library” (2016-0026)

Not Lost in Translation – The Project with the Best Graphic Presentation
Winner: Bettisworth North Architects and Planners, for the Dena’ina Elementary (2016-0016)

MFP Award – The All Around Most Favorite Project 2016
Winner: Northwind Architects, for the Mendenhall Valley Public Library (2016-0026)

ADDITIONAL DETAILS ABOUT THE AWARDS PROGRAM CAN BE VIEWED AT WWW.AIAALASKA.ORG

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AIA Alaska’s Design Awards Program was established in 1965 to promote community awareness of great designs being developed by Alaskan architects. For over 50 years, these annual design awards have recognized buildings that both satisfy the needs of the user and significantly contribute to a stimulating built environment. The Alaska Chapter of the AIA was established in 1961.

About The American Institute of Architects: For 157 years, members of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) have worked in their communities to create more valuable, healthy, secure, sustainable buildings and cityscapes. AIA members have access to the right people, knowledge, and tools to create better design and through such resources and access, they help clients and communities make their visions real. Find more information at www.aia.org.