



Arkansas

DESIGN AWARDS | 2021

A SUPPLEMENT TO *ARKANSAS MONEY & POLITICS* • NOVEMBER 2021



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JONATHAN OPITZ, AIA
PRESIDENT, AIA ARKANSAS

2021 | FROM THE PRESIDENT

As the 2021 President of AIA Arkansas, I'm honor to present to you this year's AIA Design Awards publication highlighting our chapter's achievements through our Design Awards Program and our Chapter Awards. These individuals and projects represent the accomplishments of our state's architects, consultants, contractors, building owners, and clients. We are very proud of the high quality of work the state of Arkansas is able to produce yearly.

These awards were recently highlighted in our chapter's state convention and second virtual design awards event held in late October. Architects, design professionals, allied members, clients, and friends joined to celebrate these accomplishments.

40 entries were submitted by member firms in the Design Awards Program. The jury identified 8 finalists in the categories of Merit, Honor, and Citation awards. We are grateful for the time and effort of our wonderful jury. The jurors, from Mexico City included Fernando Vasconcelos- Architecture & Design Chair at GFA, Loreta Castro Reguera-Co-Founder of Studio Taller Capital and Diego Ricalde-Partner at Estudio MMX.

In addition to jury selected recipients, our Chapter honors two additional recipients through the Member's Choice Award and the People's Choice Award. The People's Choice Award is an award that allows the public to view all entries and choose their favorite project.

The cover of this year's publication highlights the 2020 Member's Choice Award winner, Miller Creative Quad designed by Polk Stanley Wilcox in Conway, Arkansas. Selected by the AIA Arkansas membership.

This year's chapter awards are as follows:

The Emerging Professional Award is intended to recognize a young professional, practicing for 10 years or less, who has expanded the role of the architect through civic participation and professional mentorship. This year's recipient is Amanda Sturgell, AIA. Amanda has used her talents to serve our organization and others around the state through her volunteering and philanthropic efforts. She is a passionate, civic-minded architect and leader demonstrated personally and professionally through her deep commitment to the betterment of our communities and the state at large. Her volunteer involvement includes AIA Emerging Professionals Committee, AIA Sustainability Committee, AIA Diversity Committee, studioMAIN, PopUp Benton, the Alex Foundation, and the Arkansas Stem Coalition. She was also the project architect for Polk Stanley Wilcox's award winning Jacksonport State Park Visitors Center for the Arkansas Department of Heritage.

The Award of Merit is AIA Arkansas's recognition of an individual, public official, member of any allied profession, public agency, or company that through interest, activity, and concern with the profession of architecture, shall have advanced the cause of good planning and design and/or contributed to the dignity and value of the architecture profession. This year's recipient is Dean Peter MacKeith, Assoc. AIA, the dean and professor of architecture at the Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design at the University of Arkansas. Dean MacKeith is nationally recognized design educator and administrator, having twice been recognized by Design Intelligence as a "design educator of the year" and twice by the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture with national awards for "creative achievement in design education", for his design studio teaching and curatorial work. Dean MacKeith serves as chair of the advisory committee for the Northwest Arkansas Design Excellence Program. He also serves as Special Advisor to the Chancellor for Campus Architecture and Design at the U of A. Dean MacKeith is overseeing the design and construction of the Anthony Timberlands Center for Design and Materials Innovation, a regional center for research and development of new wood products and new approaches in sustainable construction materials.

AIA Arkansas' Diversity Award was established to recognize and individual, public agency, organization or company for exemplary commitment and contributions to inclusiveness within the architectural profession and education in the state of Arkansas. This year's recipient is WER Architects and Brandon Bibby, AIA for creating the "Building Momentum" program. The WER design team developed a program to extend an educational partnership with school districts across the state and expose students to the accessibility of a future in design. The goal of the program is to improve access through an outreach consisting of an interactive presentation, for Middle and High School students to introduce them to the architectural profession.

I hope everyone enjoys this publication; it does a wonderful job showcasing the amazing talent and projects we have in Arkansas. Congratulations to all the award winners! I appreciate you talking the time to celebrate with us.



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DESIGN AWARD CHAIR



YUME RUDZINSKI

Yume Rudzinski earned a Bachelor of Architecture and a Minor in Gerontology at Syracuse University. Over 28 years of professional practice, Yume has worked on a range of public and private projects such as schools, museums, hospitals, nursing homes, multi-family and variety of commercial buildings.

She taught in the School of Architect at K-State and University of Arkansas until 2006, when she established Architects 226 in Fayetteville with her partner, Russell Rudzinski. Currently Yume works as an owner's representative for a group of private investors in Northwest Arkansas where her experience as an architect contributes to successful collaborative projects. During her free time, she manages the Northwest Arkansas High School Hockey team and volunteers at St. Joseph Catholic School and Church.

HONOR AWARD | RED BARN



PHOTOGRAPHER TIMOTHY HURSLEY

FIRM: MODUS STUDIO

CONTRACTOR:
CROSSLAND
CONSTRUCTION

LOCATION:
BENTONVILLE, AR

OWNER/CLIENT:
GREEN CIRCLE PROJECTS

PROJECT TEAM:
CHRIS BARIBEAU, AIA,
CORY AMOS, AIA
JODY VERSER, AIA
DANIEL AROS, ASSOC. AIA
GRAHAM PATTERSON,
ASSOC. AIA
PHILLIP RUSK, ASSOC.

AIA CONSULTANTS:
LAND3 STUDIO, ECOLOGICAL
DESIGN GROUP, RLG,
ENGINEERING ELEMENTS

Red Barn is a carefully crafted Agri-hood in Bentonville, Arkansas. The design is contextually sensitive, deriving materiality from the simplistic vernacular forms of the site and region. A blend and balance of townhomes and flats are designed with ample outdoor spaces to enrich the experience of the agriculture that is produced on site to create a strong live, work, and play community.

As Bentonville is rapidly expanding, this project seeks to be a counterpoint to basic suburban sprawl and a heavy departure from the woes of typical suburban apartment architecture. While sprawl puts a strain on municipal infrastructure, hinders watersheds, and destroys valuable farmland – this project specifically celebrates and respects the agricultural DNA of Northwest Arkansas by following a few key sustainable ideals of conservation planning principles, preserving state-significant soils while retaining and enhancing heritage fields, leveraging agriculture as a community-building amenity, continuing the city's dedication to trail connectivity, and living the "Arkansas lifestyle."

Vernacular agricultural forms are singular in nature, simple in material palette, and timeless. The expression of the flats reflects the calmness of the native agricultural forms on the site. Metal panel facades are drawn from barns, chicken houses, and sheds seen locally. This industrial material is juxtaposed with wood screens and large screen porches. Parking is both garage and surface parking clusters along the "allee" space between the flats and townhouses. The townhouses, both in massing and material, draw from traditional town forms. White board and batten, cedar, and warm gray brick take traditional local materials in a modern direction. While the flats connect to the site through large screened porches that look onto the forests and fields, the townhouses connect at the ground, through neighborhood lawns and community spaces.

This project provides young professionals, growing families, and older couples a unique opportunity to live in close proximity to downtown Bentonville, but also a unique "Ozark living" experience -- in a neighborhood designed with architecture and landscape carefully considered as an enhancement to the land, not a dominant force over the historical, agrarian context.

HONOR AWARD | THADEN SCHOOL BIKE BARN

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PHOTOGRAPHER TIMOTHY HURSLEY

FIRM: MARLON BLACKWELL ARCHITECTS

CONTRACTOR: CROSSLAND CONSTRUCTION

LOCATION: BENTONVILLE, AR

OWNER/CLIENT: THE THADEN SCHOOL

PROJECT TEAM: MARLON BLACKWELL, FAIA
MERYATI BLACKWELL, AIA
JOSH MATTHEWS, AIA

CONSULTANTS: TAYLOR + MILLER LIGHT

The Thaden School is a new independent middle and high school in Bentonville, Arkansas; endowed and structured to allow students from all socio-economic backgrounds to attend. The unique curriculum combines academic excellence with learning by doing in three signature programs: Wheels, Meals, and Reels. Through its partnerships with community organizations in the visual and culinary arts, and organizations promoting health, physical activity, cycling, and community service, the school provides students with opportunities to learn both on and off-campus. The school's "whole student / whole body" pedagogy features indoor and outdoor learning opportunities.

Tapping into an expanding cycling culture in the region, the Bike Barn is integrated into a network of pedestrian pathways that connect the Thaden School to a larger system of trails that extend throughout Northwest Arkansas. Sited on a berm on the eastern edge of campus next to the soccer field, cyclocross, and pump track, the Bike Barn transfigures the vernacular of the region into an athletic facility. Starting with the profile of a gambrel barn, (made prolific in the region for its expansive storage capacity) the Bike Barn reconfigures that profile to create maximum flexibility for a variety of sports including volleyball, basketball, and cycling, while also providing bike storage and support facilities.

As with any good barn, the interior space is the direct result of structural clarity and economy. Consequently, the spring point of the gable is

set to provide the greatest height below the trusses. Working with a local manufacturer who normally fabricates trusses for suburban homes, the main truss was developed collaboratively using local materials and experience. Structural steel, mostly in the form of fitch plates, was used sparingly to reinforce the predominantly wood structure. A literal 'barn raising,' the twelve (12) primary trusses were hoisted into place above built-up wood columns, revealing a modified gambrel profile that results in a spacious, light-filled interior.

Naturally, the entire exterior is clad in wood, locally-sourced cypress backed continuous copper insect screen and finished in a combination of traditional red barn paint. A clear finish is also used where the wood is protected, mainly on the west side where the volume of the barn is carved away to form a wide porch facing the soccer field, providing shelter and shade for spectators. Except for storage and locker rooms, the entire space is naturally ventilated through the combination of open joints in the cypress board siding, vented skylights, and a series of roller doors that open to the surrounding landscape.

As the largest producer of timber in the South, Arkansas has historically harvested timber that is sent elsewhere. In contrast to this history of extraction, the Bike Barn explores the specific material culture of timber and wood in Arkansas, building on the longstanding legacy of light-framed, wooden Ozark barns.

HONOR AWARD | THE METEOR



FIRM:
HUFFT

CONTRACTOR:
DAVE GRUNDFEST
COMPANY

LOCATION:
BENTONVILLE, AR

OWNER/CLIENT:
THE METEOR

PROJECT TEAM:
BRAD KINSLEY, AIA
ERICA BLANSIT, ASSOC. AIA

CONSULTANTS:
STRUCTURAL - GORE 227 INC.
MEP - CORE STATES GROUP
LANDSCAPE - ECOLOGICAL
DESIGN GROUP

The Meteor's mission is to combine "truly great coffee and bikes." Recognizing Northwest Arkansas's growing reputation for world-class cycling, founders Chris St. Peter and Doug Zell relocated the Little Rock location to Bentonville.

The design process began with a simple existing metal shed. We carved into the structure with new glazing, opening the building up to the community. A custom perforated metal screen notates the front entry, and also connects the exterior of the café and bike shop. Designed with cycling and coffee lovers in mind, the space is honest and raw. Bespoke vintage finds are showcased alongside authentic industrial pieces. Even the furniture speaks to the impression of The Meteor being a little different than the average coffee shop. Custom-designed café tables and chairs speak to the same design elements that make the space – raw material, brand colors and geometric shapes to bring a funky edge. The interior is warm, inviting and minimal, reflecting an environment that's welcome to anyone on and off two wheels.

MERIT AWARD | HOBBS STATE PARK TRAIL STRUCTURES

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PHOTOGRAPHER HUFFT

FIRM: HUFFT

CONTRACTOR:
BOULDER CONSTRUCTION

LOCATION: ROGERS, AR

OWNER/CLIENT:
ARKANSAS PARKS & RECREATION
FOUNDATION; ARKANSAS STATE PARKS

PROJECT TEAM:
BRAD KINGSLEY, AIA
MATTHEW HUFFT, AIA
BRANDEN VISSAT
JOSH OGREN
ALEX MILLER
SCOTT BEATTIE
BURGESS ZBRYK

CONSULTANTS:
STRUCTURAL - MARTIN/MARTIN
CONSULTING ENGINEERS
DIGITAL MODELING - EVOLVELAB

State parks as a whole seek to get people on foot or bike to explore nature and their surroundings. These structures are all about getting out to the most beautiful parts of the park, setting the stage for an immersive experience. The design team worked with the client, trail designer and state park personnel to document and evaluate where exceptional key moments should be placed to heighten exceptional geological features, specific views or a unique experience. In order to focus design efforts and the client's budget, the team focused on two specific experiences: Departure, and Destination.

The goal of the Departure was to create an interaction with artistic elements, while also providing a functional space for pre-ride, and post-ride gatherings. It was important to foster the sense of community that has developed in the mountain bike community in Northwest Arkansas.

For the Destination, the team focused on the state park and trail systems biggest asset - the adjacency to Beaver Lake and subsequent shoreline. We identified an ideal camping spot based on geography, views, and location along the trail. Similar to the trailhead, the design aimed to elevate the experience for the user beyond a typical primitive campsite experience.

The parabolic shape of the Hobbs trail structures complements the landscape, inspired by two naturally-occurring features in Hobbs

State Park - sink holes, and rock outcroppings. An innovative parametric design process was utilized by the in-house fabrication team to optimize the design and use the least amount of materials possible. Designers worked directly with fabricators to study and evaluate options, which lead to a seamless process between design and fabrication. Stacked steel tubes were carefully arranged to form the parabolic shape. From a distance, the structures are understood as formal volumes. Up close, though, the stacks create a finer, tactile element to interact with and experience the park's surroundings from a different perspective.

Adventurers along the trails can find themselves between, under or inside the shells. The materials respond to the duality between the monumental scale of the forest, and the granularity of its underbrush. The trailhead offers a welcoming, welcoming launching and landing point for adventure. It makes the experience one to be shared. The camping structures are what make the Monument Trail at Hobbs State Park a destination. They invite visitors to stop, spend a night and watch the park take on its various looks as it turns from day to night and day again. These sites have been received as an invaluable asset and amenity, with a distinct and distinguishing twist in a state that is already known for outdoor experiences. The structures are recognizable objects along the trail, centering adventurers within the landscape and creating a sense of place.

MERIT AWARD | SUE WALK BURNETT JOURNALISM AND STUDENT MEDIA CENTER



PHOTOGRAPHER ARCHITECTURAL IMAGEWORKS - GAYLE BABCOCK

FIRM:
MAHG ARCHITECTURE, INC.

CONTRACTOR:
CDI CONTRACTORS

LOCATION:
KIMPEL HALL -
UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS

OWNER/CLIENT:
UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS

PROJECT TEAM:
GALEN HUNTER, AIA
TRAVIS BARTLETT, AIA
MICHAEL LEJONG, AIA,
NATHANIEL DEASON, AIA
ANDREW WELLS, FAIA
JASON HAINLINE, AIA
JOEY HAMM, AIA

CONSULTANTS:
MYERS ENGINEERING,
HOWELL & VANCUREN,
MORRISON-SHIPLEY ENGINEERS,
BERNHARD TME,
THRESHOLD ACOUSTICS,
ENTEGRITY

Located at one of the most active pedestrian zones on the University of Arkansas campus, this small addition places the student run UATV on display. It's prominent site at the threshold of the historic campus elevates the identity of the Department of Journalism, but offered significant challenges being constructed on top of an existing 200 seat lecture hall below grade. The design response conveys simplicity and restraint, emphasizing a new, more welcoming pedestrian experience at the intersection.

An angled glass aperture breaks the broadcast's "fourth wall," allowing visitors to observe activities within, while framing camera views of the historic campus beyond. Entry to the original building was hidden by large planters at the intersection. These were removed and replaced with a cascading stair leading to an upper terrace providing a place for students to connect with a sibling open space across the intersection.

The addition's form is intentionally spare, contrasting with its surrounding historic neighbors, but with a nod to their slate roof shingles. It's charcoal terracotta skin is taut, revealing only two interior spaces – the studio itself, and master control. After sundown, light spills onto the adjacent street from these spaces signaling the dedication of journalism to the community.

MERIT AWARD | TANGLEWOOD CABIN

00 | AIA 2021 DESIGN AWARDS



PHOTOGRAPHER TIMOTHY HURSLEY

FIRM: MARLON BLACKWELL
ARCHITECTS

CONTRACTOR:
INSITE CONSTRUCTION, INC.

LOCATION: ROGERS, AR

OWNER/CLIENT:
LEAH AND DAN CURRY

PROJECT TEAM:
MARLON BLACKWELL, FAIA
MERYATI BLACKWELL, AIA
JUSTIN HERSHBERGER, AIA
SPENCER CURTIS, AIA

CONSULTANTS:
ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS, INC.,
STUART FULBRIGHT LANDSCAPE
ARCHITECT

Nestled along a remote bluff overlooking Beaver Lake in the Ozark Mountains, the Tanglewood Cabin is a weekend retreat designed to eventually become a full-time residence. The cabin is born of a desire to engage the surrounding landscape while offering security and shelter, balancing prospect and refuge. The steep one-and-a-half-acre lot has an average slope of over 40%, except for a small terrace where the cabin sits. The cabin overlooks an 80-foot drop to the lake below, sited to carefully frame views of the lake and surrounding forest.

The cabin is a stoic mass in the landscape, with a restrained material palette and strategically composed openings, mainly directed towards the lake. The cabin draws inspiration from the dogtrot typology, arraying the interior family functions around a central porch, forming a 'U' shape. The volume and form of the cabin are the direct result of the plan, shaped to conform to the site, projecting slightly over the edge of the slope. The broad south face emphasizes the orientation of the cabin to Beaver Lake, re-presenting the rugged beauty of the Ozarks and offering a respite within the secluded landscape. A slight inflection in the southern edge emphasizes the location and importance of the living area.

The simple plan is wrapped in a dark shell that provides a mysterious, quiet elevation upon arrival, except for a generous entry porch that introduces the material logic. The sides and

rear of the cabin are clad in locally sourced cypress with a charred finish, providing a durable, low-maintenance exterior for the remote cabin. The roof and remaining face that overlooks the lake are clad in metal panels, as they naturally have limited access for maintenance. The finish of the metal panels recalls the sheen and quality of light of the water below, eventually giving way to floor to ceiling glass and a large, carved porch.

The porch and adjacent bedroom are clad in clear cypress, clearly establishing the difference between the dark, stoic exterior shell, and the rich, warm interior. The cypress ceiling expands throughout the interior but breaks to create a more expansive section as the cabin moves towards the lake. Generous spans of glass fold in from the southern façade, connecting the living and dining area to the porch, and ensuring natural light reaches deep into the cabin.

In this compact footprint, every space is used, so circulation spaces are enlarged to become flexible spaces for the life of the home to be celebrated, whether work or play. Along these spaces, carefully composed windows frame dynamic views and bring in soft daylight. Each window is calculated to present views both near and far of the Ozark landscape.

The Tanglewood Cabin transforms a classic, vernacular approach, bending it to create a modern, comfortable, and timeless home.

MERIT AWARD | ASC ARTS X3



PHOTOGRAPHER TIMOTHY HURSLEY

FIRM:
AMR ARCHITECTS, INC

CONTRACTOR:
EAST HARDING
CONSTRUCTION

LOCATION:
PINE BLUFF, AR

OWNER/CLIENT:
THE ARTS & SCIENCE CENTER
FOR SOUTHEAST ARKANSAS

PROJECT TEAM:
JONATHAN OPITZ, AIA
HEATHER DAVIS, AIA
JAMES SULLIVAN, AIA
DAVID COWAN, AIA
KYLE HEFLIN, ASSOC. AIA
KATE EAST, ASID
CAROLINE SMITH

CONSULTANTS:
MCCLELLAND CONSULTING
ENGINEERS, INC., ECI,
INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS
GROUP, INC., LUCAS,
MERRIOTT, & ASSOCIATES

When the Arts & Science Center for Southeast Arkansas (ASC) first looked at expanding nextdoor, they looked at it through an ambitious lens of how to honor the past legacy of Downtown Pine Bluff, the history of the building, and the origin story of their own organization while still addressing and adapting to the current needs of the city, community, and their patrons. Downtown Pine Bluff, Arkansas was once one of the three largest concentrations of African-American owned businesses in the entire United States. In its heyday, the ARTSpace side of the existing building was a firehouse, dairy creamery, and an auto parts store. It was this synergy that the design team used as a primary focus in the overall design and concept of the project. The client's vision was to have three distinct art related components combined between these two historic buildings: The ARTSpace on Main, ART Works on Main, and the ARTS Yard. These spaces together are referred to as the ASC ARTS x3 by the owner.

As phase I of this project, the northern half of the building was renovated to be the new home for ASC's ARTSpace. This portion houses art galleries, multi-purpose spaces, costume storage and a multi-use shop for set building for the ASC Theater. The existing commercial storefronts were replaced with bi-fold garage doors similar to the original firehouse doors. On both the first and second floor, large garage doors divide each space to allow the building to use each space individually or all in unison for one large event. The series of glass garage doors also allows for the visual connection from Main Street all the way through the building to the ARTS Yard behind it. On the second floor, new skylights have been installed in the original openings to again allow natural light to permeate more evenly in the center of the building. All of the exterior brick and original window openings remain, with any damage repaired and restored. A large portion of the historic tin ceilings has been reused in the Event Space. The new stair was added in a newly created two story volume that allows visitors to see and interact on both levels simultaneously, while also pulling natural light and the connection to

Main Street further into the space.

The ARTS Yard is located behind the ARTSpace, and can act independently or as an extension of the program for both the ARTSpace and the ART Works buildings. It is a gated multi-use space that serves several purposes including space for outdoor pottery wheel classes, welding, outdoor movies and shows, bike repair workshops for the community, and overflow space for the shop when it's fabricating sets and scenes for performances.

As phase II of the renovation and the southern portion of the building, ART Works furthers ASC's mission of community engagement, but in a different vehicle. This building was still an active auto parts shop when phase one, ARTSpace, began construction. The idea with ART Works was to create a multi-use flexible black box theater to complement ACS's established more traditional theater. The building is connected both internally and externally to the ARTSpace and the ARTS Yard to allow all three elements to work together and reconfigure as needed. Along with the black box theater, ART Works also has a ticket and concession stand, a lobby, a green room with dressing stalls, laundry, theater storage and an elevated sound booth. The owner also really wants to encourage artists in residency and new apartments in Downtown Pine Bluff, so there are five dwelling units and five leasable artist studios.

The biggest achievement of the ASC ARTS x3 project is the success of taking two underutilized historic buildings and turning them into mixed-use spaces that allow downtown to have a 24/7 community engagement. This constitutes a fundamental shift in the feeling of community ownership, pride, and a sense of progress. As the owner likes to remind visitors, all of the construction funds were raised through private donations, so these projects didn't cost the citizens of Pine Bluff a dime. It is a wonderful way for a community to start believing in their downtown again, by seeing private individuals and foundations invest in their future by reviving essential historic buildings from their past.

MERIT AWARD | WILLIS RESIDENCE



PHOTOGRAPHER TIMOTHY HURSLEY

FIRM:
DEMEX ARCHITECTURE

CONTRACTOR:
STRONGHOLD NWA

LOCATION:
FAYETTEVILLE, AR

OWNER/CLIENT:
PRISCILLA WILLIS

PROJECT TEAM:
TIM MADDOX, AIA
SETH SPRADLIN, AIA

CONSULTANTS:
SMITH ENGINEERING

The single-family house is sited outside the eastern limits of Fayetteville, AR in an area dominated by late 20th century suburban homes. It sits perpendicular to the gentle slope between two converging swales and overlooks a small pond on the south end of the property. The house is aligned with the neighbor to the north, but pivots slightly to frame the view and expand the yard to the west.

The home presents a reserved face to the street composed of clerestory windows and select screening elements that dissolve the austere elevation near the edges. The primary volume of the house is clad in a clear finished cypress with dark voids carved for entry, balconies, and overhangs. Clerestory window units articulate the underlying structure and elevate the roofline to let natural light into the central living area.

The linear layout is composed of three primary functions: the entry and guest amenities, which transition into a central shared living area, and then master suite isolated to the south for privacy and views. The plan utilizes a 4' module to simplify construction as well as provide a spatial and structural order. All the primary spaces spill onto an exterior balcony of some form, giving the owner and guests direct access to the surrounding landscape, views, and natural light.

PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD | THE GRUMPY RABBIT AMERICAN EATERY



FIRM:
RYAN BILES ARCHITECT

CONTRACTOR:
HART CONSTRUCTION

LOCATION:
LONOKE, AR

OWNER/CLIENT:
GINA & JIM WIERTELAK

PROJECT TEAM:
RYAN BILES, AIA
NATALIE BILES, ASID
STACEY BREEZEEL
BRANTLEY SNIPES, PLA, ASLA
WILL STALEY
SARAH MELBY

CONSULTANTS:
PHILIP LEWIS ENGINEERING,
INC, 2GE

The creation of a first-class dining experience in rural Arkansas proved to be a fulfilling design challenge for a Delta-grown multi-discipline team combining architecture, interior design, branding consultancy, and landscape design.

Owners Gina and Jim Wiertelak desired to extend their signature hospitality to the entire community of Lonoke, Arkansas and guests from abroad with the creation of The Grumpy Rabbit American Eatery, a one-of-a-kind space for gathering, celebrating, and enjoying neighborly conversation over a meal crafted by an acclaimed chef. As believers in the ongoing revitalization of Downtown Lonoke, the Wiertelaks invested in the built fabric of the community with the purchase and adaptive re-use of the historic J.P. Eagle Building at 105 Front Street Southwest to house this new experience. The handsome brick structure was originally constructed in 1905 and designed by the renowned Arkansas Architect Charles L. Thompson, whose work is found throughout the town of Lonoke in a relatively high concentration of homes and commercial structures listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Owners utilized State of Arkansas and Federal Historic Preservation Tax Credits in this project, choosing to strategically invest in a project that would be a catalyst for their hometown.

The historic Eagle Building is a twin to the neighboring D.R. Boone Building, remaining structurally connected, but separate properties. Both properties have been utilized variously for commercial purposes throughout the preceding 115 years. Originally constructed as a mercantile and storage facility with a completely open 25'-0" x 100'-0" footprint, the last several decades have seen layers of low-impact interior renovations within the walls of the Eagle Building that had become worn and deteriorated. The Grumpy Rabbit American Eatery project was envisioned from the beginning as an adaptive re-use that would preserve the historic integrity of the building's primary facade, while maximizing the space of the original footprint for the accommodation of a clean, modern dining experience. Demolition of the non-historic interior elements yielded a blank canvas for Architect Ryan Biles and collaborators Natalie Biles and Stacey Breezeel of Shine Interior Design Studio, who are based around the corner in Downtown Lonoke. The resulting interior design perfectly reflects the owner's vision of a light, clean environment juxtaposed with the remaining original materials of the building envelope, including plaster walls, original wood floors, and bead board ceilings. The historic and the new exist alongside one another in a thoughtful, unique composition of textures and finishes. Utilizing space, pattern, and furnishings, the design team created ten different seating areas within the project, bringing to life the Owner's desire to offer a different dining experience each time a guest visited the eatery. Dining rooms and wet bars are located on both floors, with kitchen and service spaces arranged along the side and back of the building, accommodat-ing deliveries and emergency egress onto a new patio space behind the structure.

2020 MEMBERS' CHOICE AWARD | MILLER CREATIVE QUAD

Located in the heart of a traditional, collegiate gothic liberal arts college, the new Miller Creative Quad is a mixed-use building that integrates student housing with music, theater and gallery space. The building is designed to reimagine student housing, to create visual and physical connections to art, to draw activity through the site, to maximize the outdoors, to celebrate the creative process, and most importantly to create a building that allows students “to dwell with the arts.”

Replacing Hulen Hall, a historic dining hall in the middle of the campus, the design of the new building inverts the figure ground of the original building; rather than repeating the diagram of an impervious campus structure that disrupted campus circulation, the new footprint reveals an open ground plane with an internal courtyard that invites engagement with and passage through for campus students and visitors. While its outer shell is traditional in response to its collegiate gothic context, the interior courtyard purposefully introduces a modern design aesthetic to create a sense of discovery, energy and engagement between the exterior and interior, art and patron, student and teacher - where students truly can “dwell with the arts.”

Though the building configuration is typical of many on campus (and uninterrupted on upper floors), the First Floor is carved through along two separate axes in support of activating the quad and drawing people and activity through the site. The south wing of the ground level contains the college's Music Department, with offices, classrooms, conference and music rehearsal and practice rooms. The north wing houses the museum of art, with a large reception lobby, three separate galleries and their associated support spaces. The two slices through the ground floor create a third form, a two-story glass volume that encapsulates a 65-seat film screening theater.

Accessed independently of first floor exhibition and pedagogical spaces, the Second and Third Floors comprise a new residence hall for 106 students, featuring single and double rooms, kitchen areas, study lounges, and classroom space. Reinforcing student engagement with the arts, common areas and study rooms on the second floor are purposeful in providing visual connection to art galleries and common areas below, while outdoor covered patios and study spaces create a direct, physical link to the quad and exterior activities.

Though Hulen Hall was deconstructed and displaced by the Miller Creative Quad, its historical significance and campus legacy live on through strategic repurposing of recognizable elements of the building - its original clay tile roof was repurposed to serve as the exterior cladding for the south music wing, while the recognizable patterned aluminum panels from the original dining hall were installed as a decorative filigree below the light-changing, translucent soffit of the art gallery.





PETER B. MACKEITH | AWARD OF MERIT



Peter MacKeith, dean and professor of architecture at the Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design at the University of Arkansas, is a nationally recognized design educator and administrator. During his leadership since 2014, the school has grown significantly in student enrollment, retention and graduation outcomes, faculty appointments and accomplishments, curricular programs, diversity initiatives, community engagements and outreach centers, external funded research, new facilities and financial resources.

Previously, MacKeith served as associate dean, professor of architecture and associate curator for architecture and design at the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts at Washington University in St. Louis from 1999-2014. He also was director of the Master of Architecture – International Program at the Helsinki University of Technology Finland from 1995-1999, and he held previous academic and administrative appointments at the University of Virginia and Yale University.

A 2020 Senior Fellow of the Design Futures Council, MacKeith has been recognized twice by Design Intelligence as a “design educator of the year” (2017 and 2019) and twice by the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture with national awards for “creative achievement in design education,” for his design studio teaching and curatorial work.

MacKeith serves as chair of the advisory committee for the Northwest Arkansas Design Excellence Program, a regional initiative of the Walton Family Foundation, and is a member of the editorial board of Places Journal for architecture, landscape architecture and urbanism. He is currently overseeing the completion of a \$75 million capital campaign for the Fay Jones School, and guiding the design and construction of the Anthony Timberlands Center for Design and Materials Innovation, a regional center for research and development of new wood products and new approaches in sustainable construction materials.

AMANDA STURGELL | EMERGING PROFESSIONAL



Amanda is a senior associate and licensed architect in Polk Stanley Wilcox Architects’ Little Rock office. She was born and raised in Benton, Arkansas, and is a graduate of Bryant High School. She credits Bryant’s Engineering program and her grandfather, Robert Gregory, a carpenter, with fostering her early interest in design. Amanda is a graduate of the University of Arkansas Fay Jones School of Architecture, and is a member of the AIA, currently serving on the AIA-Arkansas Emerging Professionals Committee and serving as a chair of the AIA-Arkansas Education Outreach Committee. She is a board member of the Arkansas STEM Coalition, Benton’s Downtown Arts and Beautification Group, and participates as a mentor in the AIA Merge Mentorship Program.

Amanda is passionate about design education, and has participated in speaking programs with the UALR Girls in Stem Event, Girls’ State, the 2017 Alex Foundation Girls’ Summer Camp, Bryant High School’s Engineering program, and multiple career orientation classes and career fairs.

BRANDON BIBBY, BUILDING MOMENTUM | DIVERSITY AWARD



Brandon Bibby AIA, NOMA, NCARB, WELL AP is a 2021-22 Space and Society Fellow and architect with MASS Design Group. Bibby is an artist and architect motivated by movement, culture, and familiarity in contemporary southern space and questioning representation and access to equitable and quality design in the built environment. He continuously strives to merge his passion for choreography with architecture by utilizing visualization and narrating through movement and expression. He is a graduate of the Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design and the ninth African American architect to hold an active license to practice architecture in Arkansas. An award-winning professional for his leadership and community engagement, Bibby is a recipient of the Alpha Rho Chi Bronze Medal and named the Arkansas Business’ 20 in their 20s New Influential 2019 Class. He has lectured, and moderated panels with the American Institute of Architects, Architecture and Design Network, AARP, and currently serves as a Health Equity Advisor with the International Well Building Institute.

His diverse portfolio includes design, programming, and project management on over 100 arts, educational, commercial, and healthcare projects. His current work focuses on public memory and memorials at MASS Design Group, an architectural non-profit with the mission to research, build, and advocate for architecture that promotes justice and human dignity.



PROJECT: 1424 SOMA
FIRM: AMR ARCHITECTS, INC.
CONTRACTOR: INTEGRITY CONSTRUCTION
LOCATION: LITTLE ROCK, AR



PROJECT: BANK OZK HEADQUARTERS
FIRM: POLK STANLEY WILCOX ARCHITECTS
CONTRACTOR: CDI CONTRACTORS
LOCATION: LITTLE ROCK, AR



PROJECT: CAMPBELL RESIDENCE
FIRM: JENNINGS + SANTA-RITA ARCHITECTS, PLLC
CONTRACTOR: SCOTT MCMURTREY
LOCATION: ROGERS, AR



PROJECT: CANE HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
FIRM: WER ARCHITECTS
CONTRACTOR: KINCO CONSTRUCTORS
LOCATION: CANEHILL, AR



PROJECT: COLER MOUNTAIN BIKE PRESERVE
FIRM: MODUS STUDIO
CONTRACTOR: CROSSLAND CONSTRUCTION
LOCATION: BENTONVILLE, AR



PROJECT: CO-OP RAMEN
FIRM: MARLON BLACKWELL ARCHITECTS
CONTRACTOR: HEART + SOULE BUILDERS, LLC
LOCATION: BENTONVILLE, AR

2021 | REMAINING PROJECTS



PROJECT: DON TYSON CENTER FOR AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES
FIRM: WER ARCHITECTS
CONTRACTOR: NABHOLZ CONSTRUCTION
LOCATION: FAYETTEVILLE, AR



PROJECT: FLORIDA PUBLIC UTILITIES
FIRM: POLK STANLEY WILCOX ARCHITECTS
CONTRACTOR: DANIS
LOCATION: WILDLIGHT, FL



PROJECT: GRAVETTE COMPETITION GYMNASIUM - LIONS DEN
FIRM: BILD ARCHITECTS
CONTRACTOR: CROSSLAND CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC.
LOCATION: DECATUR, AR



PROJECT: GREENWAY OFFICE PARK
FIRM: MODUS STUDIO
CONTRACTOR: NABHOLZ CORPORATION
LOCATION: BENTONVILLE, AR



PROJECT: GRIST MILL CABIN
FIRM: MODUS STUDIO
CONTRACTOR: MASWORKS CONSULTING
LOCATION: ROGERS, AR



PROJECT: HOBBS STATE PARK EDUCATION PAVILION
FIRM: BRYA ARCHITECTURE INC.
CONTRACTOR: DIXON CONTRACTING INC
LOCATION: HOBBS STATE PARK, ROGERS, AR



PROJECT: J.B. AND JOHNELLE HUNT FAMILY OZARK HIGHLANDS NATURE CENTER
FIRM: FENNEL PURIFOY ARCHITECTS
CONTRACTOR: BRANCO ENTERPRISES, INC.
LOCATION: SPRINGDALE, AR



PROJECT: KM HOUSE
FIRM: MODUS STUDIO
CONTRACTOR: KING KUSTOMS, LLC
LOCATION: FAYETTEVILLE, AR



PROJECT: LITTLE ROCK SOUTHWEST HIGH SCHOOL
FIRM: POLK STANLEY WILCOX ARCHITECTS
CONTRACTOR: NABHOLZ
LOCATION: LITTLE ROCK, AR



PROJECT: MULBERRY-PLEASANT VIEW AUDITORIUM
FIRM: MAHG ARCHITECTURE, INC.
CONTRACTOR: CIRCLE M CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT, INC.
LOCATION: MULBERRY, AR



PROJECT: NORTHSIDE ELEMENTARY
FIRM: CORE ARCHITECTS
CONTRACTOR: BALDWIN & SHELL
LOCATION: ROGERS, AR



PROJECT: OSAGE PARK PAVILION
FIRM: MODUS STUDIO
CONTRACTOR: CROSSLAND CONSTRUCTION
LOCATION: BENTONVILLE, AR

2021 | REMAINING PROJECTS



PROJECT: OZ HOUSE
FIRM: SKILES ARCHITECT, PA
CONTRACTOR: ROGER GRIFFIN
LOCATION: 3286 NORTH OAKLAND ZION ROAD



PROJECT: OZARK NATURAL FOODS CO-OP
FIRM: MODUS STUDIO
CONTRACTOR: NABHOLZ CORPORATION
LOCATION: FAYETTEVILLE, AR



PROJECT: THE DOUBLE BARRELL "TROT" GUN
FIRM: AMR ARCHITECTS, INC.
CONTRACTOR: SUMMERWOOD HOMES
LOCATION: NORTH LITTLE ROCK, AR



PROJECT: ROGERS EMERGENCY DISPATCH CENTER
FIRM: CORE ARCHITECTS, INC.
CONTRACTOR: CADDELL CONSTRUCTION CO. (DE), LLC
LOCATION: ROGERS, AR



PROJECT: SYLVAN HILLS HIGH SCHOOL
FIRM: WER ARCHITECTS
CONTRACTOR: BALDWIN & SHELL
LOCATION: SHERWOOD, AR



PROJECT: THADEN FIELDHOUSE
FIRM: HUFFT
CONTRACTOR: CROSSLAND CONSTRUCTION
LOCATION: BENTONVILLE, AR

2021 | REMAINING PROJECTS



PROJECT: THE HAYWOOD
FIRM: AMR ARCHITECTS, INC
CONTRACTOR: CLARK CONTRACTORS
LOCATION: EL DORADO, AR



PROJECT: THE HIGHLANDS BUILDING
FIRM: CRAFTON TULL
CONTRACTOR: C.R. CRAWFORD CONSTRUCTION
LOCATION: SPRINGDALE, AR



PROJECT: TYSON MANUFACTURING AUTOMATION CENTER
FIRM: DEMX ARCHITECTURE
CONTRACTOR: C.R. CRAWFORD CONSTRUCTION
LOCATION: SPRINGDALE, AR



PROJECT: VALLEY SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL
FIRM: MODUS STUDIO
CONTRACTOR: NABHOLZ CORPORATION
LOCATION: VALLEY SPRINGS, AR



PROJECT: WASHINGTON REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER HUNT TRANSPORT SERVICES CANCER SUPPORT HOME
FIRM: DEMX ARCHITECTURE
CONTRACTOR: C.R. CRAWFORD CONSTRUCTION
LOCATION: FAYETTEVILLE, AR



PROJECT: WINDGATE CENTER FOR ART + DESIGN
FIRM: WER ARCHITECTS
CONTRACTOR: NABHOLZ CONSTRUCTION / DOYNE CONSTRUCTION
LOCATION: LITTLE ROCK, AR



FERNANDO VASCONCELOS,

ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN CHAIR /
GFA

Born in Mexico City in 1956, an architecture graduate from Iberoamericana University, with a master's degree in Architecture & Urban Design from the same university.

40 years of extensive practice designing a number of houses and residential buildings as well as health, education and infrastructure projects, mainly in Mexico City but all over the country.

20 years a teacher for architecture design studios at Iberoamericana University and 20 years a teacher for the Urban Design Summer Studio of the Mexico Program of Fay Jones School of Architecture of the University of Arkansas.

Since 2018, Architecture & Design Chair of the prestigious development firm GFA, in charge of many residential, retail and hospitality projects in Mexico City, Tijuana, Belize, Nayarit and recently, with THOR Urbana, the New Urban Entertainment Center in Chapultepec Park in Mexico City.



LORETA CASTRO REGUERA,

CO-FOUNDER / STUDIO TALLER CAPITAL

Born in Mexico City in 1979 is architect and co-founder, with José Pablo Ambrosi, of Studio Taller Capital. Their work focuses on the design of multifamily housing buildings and public spaces that work as retroactive infrastructures. They have developed projects such as Represo Colosio in Nogales, Bicentennial Park in Ecatepec, Xicoténcatl in Tijuana and the Hydric Pavilion in Mexico City. The studio has received several national and international prizes such as the Architectural League of New York 2021 Emerging Voices Award, a recognition in the Quito Biennial World Prize and a Silver Medal in the Mexico City Biennial. Independently, Loreta coordinated with Manuel Perló a team from National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), to design Parque Hídrico Quebradora, winner of the Gold Prize at the 5th edition of the Lafarge Holcim Awards. Loreta studied architecture at UNAM. She has a master's degree in architecture at the Accademia di Architettura di Mendrisio and in Urban Design at Harvard.



JDIEGO RICÁLDE,

PARTNER / ESTUDIO MMX, S.C.
DIRECTOR / CÁTEDRA BLANCA UIA

Diego Ricalde is an architect by the UNAM and Master in Architecture and Urbanism by the Architectural Association School of Architecture and has worked in Mexico, Switzerland and Italy.

Diego is currently a professor of Architecture and Urbanism at the Universidad Iberoamericana de la Ciudad de México. Together with Jorge Arvizu, Ignacio del Rio and Emmanuel Ramírez, Diego directs Estudio MMX; an urban and architectural design studio based in Mexico City.

Diego has received national and international awards among like the “Young Creators Scholarship” (FONCA), the “Abraham Zabludovzky” Prize, the “Cemex Marcelo Zambrano Scholarship” and the Biennial of Mexican Architecture. Together with Estudio MMX, the office has also received other important national and international awards.

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