

Jury Insights: AIA Committee on Architecture for Education Design Awards

FR108

Friday, June 07, 2019, 8:00am

1.0 LU/RIBA Learning Units

Speakers List

- **Michael A. Nieminen FAIA, Partner, Kliment Halsband Architects**
- **Jason Forney AIA, Principal, Bruner/Cott Architects**

2019 Education Facility Design Awards

**The year's best school and college
facilities, presented by the AIA's
Committee on Architecture for
Education**



2019 Education Facility Design Awards Jury

Michael A. Nieminen, FAIA, Chair, Kliment Halsband Architects,
New York

Meriyati Johari Blackwell, AIA, ASID, LEED AP BD+C, Marlon
Blackwell Architects, Fayetteville, AK

Jason Forney, AIA, LEED AP, Bruner/Cott Architects, Cambridge, MA

Kim Tanzer, FAIA, Gainesville, FL

JoAnn Hindmarsh Wilcox AIA, LEED AP, Mahlum Architects, Seattle

Awards of Design Excellence

Crosstown High School; ANF Architects; Memphis, Tennessee

Daniels Building at One Spadina Crescent; NADAAA with Adamson Associates and ERA Architects, Toronto

Magnolia Montessori For All; Page; Austin Texas

San Francisco Art Institute – Fort Mason Center Pier 2; Leddy Maytum Stacy Architects; San Francisco, California

Crosstown High School; ANF Architects; Crosstown High School; Memphis, Tennessee

Nested in the heart of Crosstown Concourse in Memphis, Tennessee, this innovative 500-student high school is an integral component within this newly-transformed vertical urban village. Formerly a Sears regional distribution center, this one million square foot building lay vacant for nearly two decades before its rebirth as Crosstown Concourse, a vibrant hub for education, wellness, and the arts. Crosstown High is uniquely situated on the first, fourth, and fifth floors of the east tower of the iconic art deco building.





BASE CAMP 4







DESIGN
THE
FUTURE



Jury Comments

- Activates an underappreciated area in Memphis and speaks to a student population in a positive way.
- Challenges what and where a high school should be.
- Feels like something you can manipulate and has student agency - right moves to make with context and budget.
- Demonstrates innovative educational planning.

The background of the slide is a faded, grayscale photograph of a city street. On the left, there is a historic building with a prominent clock tower and arched windows. To the right, a modern building with a curved facade is visible. The street is lined with trees and has a few cars parked along the side.

Daniels Building at One Spadina Crescent; NADAAA w/ Adamson Associates & ERA Architects; University of Toronto/Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design; Toronto

The Daniels Faculty required a new working prototype of sustainability to accommodate a program for studio space, fabrication workshops, classrooms, offices, library, cafe, exhibition space, auditorium, and state of the art 'urban theater.' The design of this building presents a case where problems of pedagogy come face-to-face with a physical environment that is inhabited and tested daily by an audience of experts, critics, teachers, practitioners, and students, the very protagonists of the medium.









Jury Comments

- Celebrates the larger urban context at the center of Toronto.
- Demonstrates a sensitive response to the character of a significant historic building without deferring to it.
- Addition transforms existing to create one building with a great sense of scale.
- Master Class - perfect in every way!

Magnolia Montessori for All; Page Magnolia Montessori for All; Austin, Texas

Magnolia Montessori For All (MMFA) is the first public Montessori school in Austin, Texas, located in the historically disadvantaged and underserved communities in East Austin. Focused on a “whole child” education, the school works to cultivate creativity, innovation and leadership skills within a racially, culturally and socioeconomically diverse community.











Jury Comments

- Demonstrates a wonderful economy of means and proves good design can happen anywhere on any budget.
- The project lifts up the community and feels familiar to its context.
- Great interplay between indoor-outdoor learning spaces.
- Simple modern approach to exterior, yet the interior spaces are inspiring and soaring with daylighting

San Francisco Art Institute - Fort Mason Center Pier 2; Leddy Maytum Stacy Architects; San Francisco Art Institute; San Francisco, California

San Francisco Art Institute (SFAI) is “dedicated to the intrinsic value of art and its vital role in shaping and enriching society and the individual”. It prepares students for a life in the arts through an immersive studio environment, an integrated, interdisciplinary curriculum, and critical engagement with the world. To meet their mission, SFAI set out to expand their facilities and curriculum for their graduate program, build a cohesive urban campus near the historic main campus, and find a new creative space in one of the most challenging real estate markets in the world.



FESTIVAL PAVILION









Jury Comments

- This a very sensitive and delicate insertion that respects and recedes letting the beauty of the existing building shine.
- Design strategy plays up the structure's inherent length.
- Humility of the transformation is remarkable; a hushed whisper of change barely visible from the exterior.
- Demonstrates sensitive, appropriate levels of sustainability.

Awards of Design Merit

Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine; Weiss/Manfredi; Ithaca, New York

IIT Innovation Center (Ed Kaplan Family Institute for Innovation and Tech Entrepreneurship); John Ronan Architects; Chicago, Illinois

MIT.nano; Wilson HGA; Cambridge, Massachusetts

Rutgers University – Camden: Nursing and Science Building; Perkins Eastman with Nelson Architects; Camden, New Jersey

UBC Aquatic Centre; MJMA & Acton Ostry Architects; Vancouver

Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine; Weiss/Manfredi; Cornell University; Ithaca, New York

Cornell University tasked Weiss/Manfredi with transforming their original College of Veterinary Medicine campus—a disconnected collection of ad-hoc buildings—into a cohesive campus that would signal the importance of the College and enable the school to advance research while offering an innovative curriculum for training future practitioners and researchers. Through outreach ranging from Ebola virus prevention to healthy pet clinics, and research ranging from invasive diseases to species tracking, the College works to support communities across the world by leading in research on animal health and infectious disease prevention.







COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
606 TOWER ROAD





Jury Comments

- Dramatically alters the relationship between the outside and inside and makes the school part of the overall campus.
- Untangles an incoherent area of the larger campus by creating a new “front door” to one of the best veterinary schools in the country.
- Meticulously detailed throughout with luminous, refined and elegant interior spaces for a range of formal and informal learning.

COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
606 TOWER ROAD

IIT Innovation Center (Ed Kaplan Family Institute for Innovation & Tech Entrepreneurship); John Ronan Architects; IIT, Chicago, Illinois

The horizontal, open and ligand faculty across disciplines. Located in the heart of IIT's historic Mies campus, the building draws students and faculty in from all directions. Conceived as a hybrid of campus space and building, the design is organized around two open-air courtyards through which visitors enter the building, and which serve as collision nodes for chance meetings and information exchange across departments. These two-story glazed courtyards bring natural light deep into the floor plate, creating a spacious, airy and light filled interior and a continuous connection with nature. The design of the Innovation Center is innovative in its own right, and forward-thinking in its approach to sustainability. The second floor of the building, which cantilevers over the ground floor to provide sun shading, is enclosed in a dynamic façade of ETFE foil cushions which can vary the amount of solar energy entering the building through sophisticated pneumatics. The ETFE foil is one percent the weight of glass and gives the building a light, cloud-like appearance.







THE ED KAPLAN FAMILY INS



THE
VICTOR
MORGENSTERN
PITCH



Jury Comments

- A design that “dials it down to zero” but you still hear the this very quiet building in its modernist monumental context.
- This building does not trap itself in the past, but rather finds a new modern expression of design principles embodied on the campus.
- Exemplifies a consistent and superior use of building technology.

MIT.nano; Wilson HGA

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts

MIT.nano is one of the largest commitments to research in MIT's history. Just steps from the Infinite Corridor and the Great Dome, at the heart of the MIT campus, MIT.nano supports the activities of 2,000 researchers. The 216,000 GSF facility allows faculty and students to manipulate materials at the atomic scale and create innovative devices. It streamlines delicate experimentation and prototyping by bringing together complex research and learning activities that are currently distributed around campus. A world-class facility, it modernizes MIT's capacity and deepens the collaboration between disciplines, nurturing game-changing ingenuity and advancing the frontiers of innovation without boundaries.











Jury Comments

- Understated and reserved exterior although large in scale works well in both its historic context and very tight site.
- Technical spaces are phenomenally well executed and serve as a showcase for future, forward thinking technology
- Use of materials blurs the lines between old and new to clear a coherent whole of very diverse parts and times

Rutgers University – Camden: Nursing and Science Building; Perkins Eastman with Nelson Architects; Rutgers University; Camden, NJ

After several decades of disinvestment and decline, Camden, New Jersey, has recently shown a commitment to revitalization and community-building. This commitment is realized in the Rutgers University-Camden: Nursing and Science Building.

Adjacent to City Hall, abutting the heavily trafficked Light Rail station, the building significantly improves Camden's urban context; it captures at once the inherent value of access to transportation, a waterfront, historic building stock, and an activated pedestrian realm.







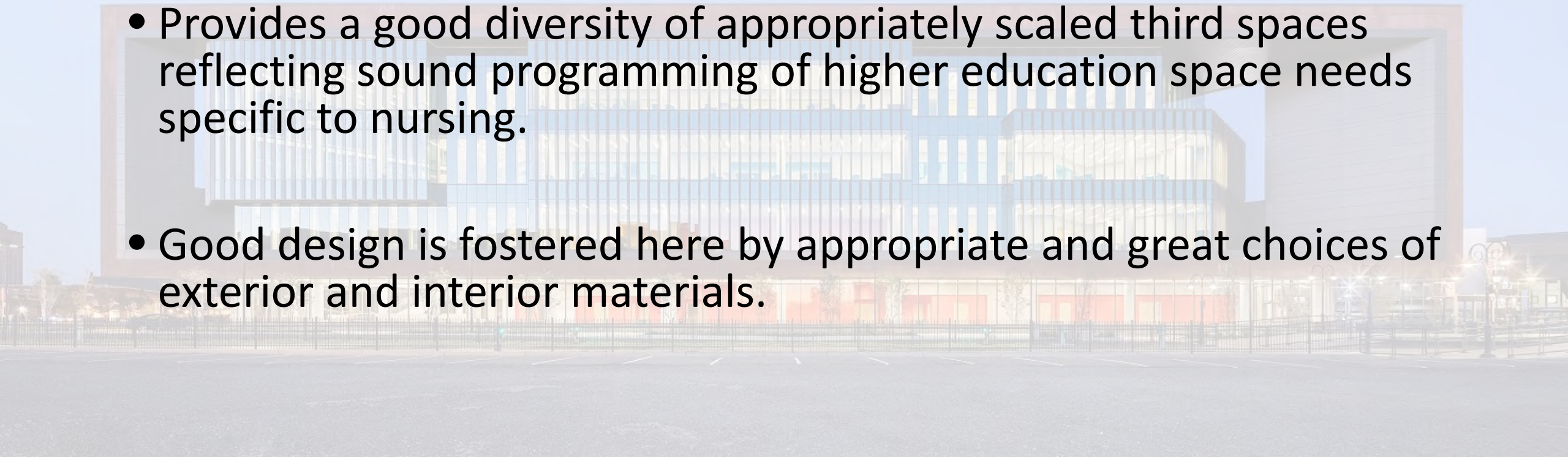


A modern building facade with a prominent copper-colored metal panel on the left and large glass windows on the right. The building has a cantilevered upper section. In the background, a classical building with columns is visible under a blue sky.

Nursing and Science Building

Jury Comments

- The building is an excellent response to its urban context with a positive solution to a difficult plan configuration.
- Provides a good diversity of appropriately scaled third spaces reflecting sound programming of higher education space needs specific to nursing.
- Good design is fostered here by appropriate and great choices of exterior and interior materials.



UBC Aquatic Centre MJMA & Acton Ostry Architects University of British Columbia; Vancouver

How can the new aquatic centre effectively train Olympians, serve its community, and enhance the student experience? How can it operate learn-to-swim programs while at the same time run a 1000-person swim meet?

In 2012, UBC sent more swimmers to the London Olympic summer games than anywhere else in Canada, sporting the most successful swim team in the country. Meanwhile, the explosive market-driven expansion of the endowment lands and burgeoning campus community, created the fastest growing youth and family population in Vancouver's lower mainland. The new aquatic centre was required to meet the needs of both these groups with a high-performance training/competition venue and a community aquatic centre, all within a single facility. The aquatic centre was also required to actively engage the public realm and contribute to ongoing campus life and the greater student experience.











Jury Comments

- Beautiful roof organizes the building over a traditional floorplan hovering over glass. A simple idea executed very well.
- Swimming as part of the learning experience promotes wellness for all ages and educates the whole student.
- Building can be seen as a landform that works in a delicate harmony between the roof and the pool below reducing its apparent scale.

Common Themes in Submissions

- **Emphasis on Collaborative, Project Based Learning**
- **Educational Innovation as a Primary Design Driver**
- **Trend to a process for Student-centered vs. Teacher-centered Classrooms**
- **Increased Attention to Issues of Environmental Stewardship**
- **Expanded Understanding of Third Spaces at all Scales**
- **Improved Efforts to “Tell the Story” Through Project Images and Narratives Including Process Description**

Common Themes in Selected Winners

- **Clearly “Tell the Story” of the project’s intentions through images and narratives**
- **Illustrate Educational Innovations in Collaborative, Project Based Learning**
- **Student-centered Classrooms and Third Spaces**
- **Appropriate Sustainable Design Strategies were well integrated into the overall design**
- **Satisfy User’s Programmatic Aspirations**
- **Create a Memorable Artifact of High Aesthetic Quality**
- **Evidence of a Clear Connection to Their Particular Place in Support of Specific Community and Context**

Tips for Your Next Submission

- **Describe Design Process in Relation to Intentions**
- **Clearly Highlight Educational Innovations**
- **Provide All Requested Metrics of Sustainability**
- **Focus on High Quality Photos that “Tell the Project Story” and be sure to Include People in Photos**
- **Demonstrate the Positive Impact on Student Learning and Community Involvement**
- **Edit, edit, edit ... and capture the Jury’s attention immediately**
- **Your text should tell the most important story in the fewest number of words**

Congratulations to all this year's winners !

The **Committee on Architecture for Education** encourages you to submit eligible projects again next year. We hope you have learned more from this session about this year's winners and the submission process. Thank you for joining us. Special thanks to Jason Forney and Joann Hindmarsh Wilcox for joining us today and thanks to Meriyati Blackwell and Kim Tanzer for their service on the jury. We hope this discussion about the importance of educational innovation, sustainability, response to any special criteria and presentation techniques which assist the jury in understanding each of the submitted projects has been helpful. We hope that these lessons learned will assist you in your future submissions.