On Thursday, March 19, 2015 AIA Charlotte hosted the 2015 Design Awards Gala at the Foundation for the Carolinas. Eight projects, all designed by local firms, were announced as the 2015 Design Award Winners. The Design Awards were presented by head juror Larry Speck, FAIA. Other design jurors included Kevin Alter and Ilse Frank. The residential jurors were Jane Frederick, FAIA and Michael Frederick, AIA. 2015 was the first year AIA Charlotte had a separate jury for residential submissions.

### DESIGN HONOR AWARD

**Architect**  Perkins+Will  
**Project**  North Carolina Biotechnology Center  
**Location**  Research Triangle Park, NC

The North Carolina Biotechnology Center needed more office and multipurpose space. The new addition would respect the original 1993 building without simply mimicking its iconic architecture. After vetting numerous partiis, a cylindrical tower with a sloping glass connector was chosen because it best fit the context of the campus, preserved circulation, and allowed the addition to have its own presence. The terra cotta and lightweight stone panel rainscreen reflects innovations in modern construction while complementing the existing building’s traditional brick and stone facades.

Photo ©2010, Triggs Photography

### DESIGN MERIT AWARD

**Architect of Record**  ai Design Group  
**Design Architect**  Studios Architecture  
**Project**  MetLife Charlotte  
**Location**  Charlotte, NC

Occupying 364,000 square feet over fourteen floors, MetLife’s new U.S. Retail division headquarters combines progressive workplace strategies with culture-shifting, sustainable design. The design promotes a work environment rooted in engagement and innovation. As a result of the headquarters’ success, the philosophy of designing spaces tailored to the vision for specific business lines is now being used to guide the design of other MetLife facilities around the world. Targeting LEED Platinum for Commercial Interiors—the 8th project to achieve the designation in North Carolina— the upfit also raises the standard for sustainable design in the local corporate real estate market.

Photo ©Eduard Hueber / archphoto
“Learning is everywhere.” This simple concept defines every aspect of the 96,500 building that will serve as the landmark for a future comprehensive medical learning community. Physical connections between programs reinforce the connectivity between patient care, research, and clinical education. This concept spills outside of the building to the site design where a series of patios, terraces and green-spaces reinforce the concept of a learning community.

When the Lancaster satellite campus of the University of South Carolina decided to build a new classroom building, the design team focused on three main objectives:

1. Design a building that reinforces the campus fabric, yet creates a signature destination for students on a commuter campus.
2. Create a variety of learning environments within the space.
3. Maximize daylighting, furthering the concept of creating a place where students want to be.

The converted cotton warehouse that is home to furniture dealer Alfred Williams had lost its historic charm. It had also lost the ability to meet the operational needs of its occupants. Hence a renovation—the building's first since 1986. Peeling back the layers allowed the team to determine what should be preserved and what needed wholesale updates. The result is a space where historic character plays easily off a bright and modern aesthetic. Best of all, Alfred Williams now functions more effectively thanks to a new showroom, flexible spaces designed for multiple uses, and a new approach to workplace organization.

Housed in an 1892 National Register former cotton mill, this project adds a planetarium, an observatory and a 4D theater to a state museum, while simultaneously simplifying circulation to enhance visitor experience. Throughout the design process, the architects coordinated closely with the South Carolina Department of Archives & History to maintain and, in many cases, improve the integrity of the historic structure. Two monumental additions, the new entry and the planetarium enclosure, lightly engage the original building, in counterpoint to the historic, heavy masonry. New interior elements reintroduce the building’s industrial-textile history, utilizing woven mesh panels and industrial detailing.
Story House is a renovation of a house that was designed and built in 1951. Built by an engineer who had an interest in modern architecture of the day, the house is located on an 18 acre tract in Newark, Delaware and was progressive for its time and location. The house also served as the birthplace for a significant international company. Per the client’s program, this project preserved the lower level of the house to document the company’s history while transforming the upper level into a house that is relevant, useful and pays tribute to the engineer’s original design.

Photo ©2014 Sean Snyder, S.A. Snyder, LLC

This project is a modest 2,000 square foot residence located in the North Carolina Mountains.  The simple program includes four bedrooms, three baths and an open kitchen/dining/living area, organized on two levels, within a tightly defined geometry of squares and golden sections in both plan and section.

Photo ©gmatsonphoto

People’s Choice Awards

The People’s Choice Awards for each category were also announced at the 2015 gala. Prior to the gala, AIA Charlotte members, allied members and the public were invited to vote online for their favorite projects. We received over 1,000 votes across the four categories.

Photo ©2014 Peter Brentlinger Photographer
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Addressing the client’s desire to create a truly transformative learning experience, the design team incorporated The Immersive Learningscape as a design driver for the project. The Immersive Learningscape is a concept that integrates 4 key challenges to today’s education (multiple modalities of learning, new technologies, customization of education, and the teaching and learning of 21st century skills) into a flexible, adaptable, active and engaging learning environment. These spaces allow for technology-focused, project-based learning; for flexibility of activities and education, unexpectedness in thought provoking, collaborative environments and brainstorming space for innovative, interdisciplinary and creative learning.

Octapharma Plasma is the North American Headquarters for an International company specializing in the development of life saving drugs through the collection and testing of blood plasma. This unique facility supports the storage and testing of frozen blood plasma collected from over 45 facilities nationwide. The building is comprised of three sections: a two-story Corporate Headquarters, a Laboratory for testing collected samples, and a Plasma Freezer Warehouse. The 12,000 square foot Warehouse stores over $200 million of plasma on a fully automated rack and crane system.

Inspired by internationally renowned Charlotte-born artist, Romare Bearden, Charlotte’s 5.4-acre signature urban park enriches the lives of its community, providing opportunities for intellectual, social and physical well-being. Already a well-known landmark and destination, the park provides space for urban recreation and gathering in the heart of center city, and evokes the spirit of Bearden’s art and early 20th-century Charlotte. The site design and landscape features were informed by the processes and methodologies used in his art: drawing from memory, experience and tradition. Demonstrating Mecklenburg County and City of Charlotte’s commitment to recreation and cultural amenities, Romare Bearden Park will continue to be a catalyst for investment in Uptown Charlotte.
Service Awards

AIA Charlotte presented the 2014 Service Awards at the Design Awards Gala on March 19, 2015. Nominations for these awards were accepted at the start of 2015, and a jury of AIA Charlotte Board members selected the winners. The Sponsor of the Year Award was nominated by the AIA Charlotte Board of Directors.

2014 S. Scott Ferebee Service to the Section

J. Richard Alsop Jr., AIA
Charette Architects

The S. Scott Ferebee Service Award recognizes the work of architects who, by their skill, professionalism, dedication, ability and commitment, and/or volunteer contributions have consistently advanced the common goals of AIA Charlotte.

2014 Laurel Award

Robert Bertges
Executive Vice President, Wells Fargo

The Laurel Award is to recognize individuals, firms or organizations outside the profession who have made significant contributions to the improvement of the region’s built environment.

2014 Emerging Professional of the Year

Sandra Grzemski, Assoc. AIA
Neighboring Concepts

To recognize an individual Associate AIA member or an AIA Architect member who has been registered 10 years or less who exemplifies the highest qualities of leadership and who has demonstrated an unparalleled commitment to their AIA Component or region, to the design and construction industry, to the community, and/or to other professional organizations.
This category recognizes the work of architects who serve as elected or appointed officials, public administrators or institutional leaders who establish and contribute to the development of laws, policies or initiatives that promote excellence in architecture.

2014 Citizen Architect of the Year

Charles L. Travis, FAIA
The Housing Studio, PA
Mayor of Cornelius

To recognize notable achievements in design, community service, education, and service to the profession and the AIA by an architectural firm. Projects, accomplishments, and service submitted reflect a period of at least 10 years.

2014 Firm of the Year

Morris•Berg Architects

To recognize the outstanding efforts of Sponsors or Allied members who support AIA Charlotte through contributions of financial, in-kind materials and/or volunteer resources.