ARCHITECTURAL INSTITUTE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

ARCHITECTURE CENTRE
SUITE 100 - 440 CAMBIE STREET
VANCOUVER BC CANADA
V6B 2N5

TEL: 604 683 8588 / TOLL FREE IN BC: 1 800 667 0753
FAX: 604 683 8568 / 1 800 661 2955
E-MAIL: AIBC@AIBC.CA
INTERNET: WWW.AIBC.CA

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# 2012 Architectural Awards Spotlight a Select Few

An elite group of four emerged as winners in the 2012 AIBC Architectural Awards, announced this evening by the Architectural Institute of British. A modest total of seven projects by British Columbia architects were selected from 58 award nominations across four award categories. Three of the awards went to projects by Busby Perkins+Will Architects (now Perkins+Will Canada Architects Co.) while Vancouver-based Patkau Architects Inc. collected honours in two categories.

While there were no recipients this year for the prestigious Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia Award in Architecture – Medal, there were four Merit selections:

- **Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia Award in Architecture – Merit Level**
  - Linear House by Patkau Architects Inc.
  - Oppenheimer Park Activity Centre by mcfarlane green biggar architecture + design
  - Samuel Brighouse Elementary School by Busby Perkins+Will Architects
  - VanDusen Botanical Garden Visitor Centre by Busby Perkins+Will Architects

Additional honours included:

- **AIBC Special Jury Award**
  - Winnipeg Skating Shelters by Patkau Architects Inc.
- **AIBC Innovation Award**
  - Centre for Interactive Research on Sustainability (CIRS) by Busby Perkins+Will Architects
- **AIBC Emerging Firm Award**
  - WMW Public Architecture + Communication Inc.

“This year’s selections would seem to confirm that the bar for architectural excellence in this province has been raised,” offers **AIBC President Gordon Richards** MAIBC FRAIC CP. “B.C. architects continue to be world leaders in sustainability, restoration, innovation and design. The quality of the work being done across the board is truly impressive, but these seven projects were seen to stand out from the rest.”

These chosen projects also reflect architectural excellence across the design spectrum, ranging from modest, temporary structures and stunning single-family residential projects to complex educational facilities and public spaces.

This year’s winners were revealed at the AIBC’s annual President’s Dinner & Awards Gala. His Honour, The Honourable Steven L. Point Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia was in attendance to take part in the ceremonies. “These awards are a strong acknowledgement of the exceptional architecture being created here in B.C.,” says **AIBC Executive Director Michael A. Ernest MAIBC**. “To have His Honour on hand to bestow the awards that bear his title added to the specialness of the occasion.”

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The awards celebration marked the culmination of the 2012 AIBC Annual Conference, which explored the theme of *Elevation: Reaching Higher Ground*. Adds Richards: "While great architecture respects and builds upon what has come before, it also entails pushing the envelope. Building on this conference, I hope to see not a fresh appreciation to how architects shape our communities, but also an elevated level of awareness and appreciation from the public for the importance of architecture in our daily lives."

*The AIBC is a self-governing body dedicated to excellence in architecture for the benefit of the public, the profession and the environment. For more information about the AIBC, please visit www.aibc.ca.*

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**Contact:** David Wiebe
Director of Communications
E-mail: dwiebe@aibc.ca
Cell: (604) 616-7423

or

Lisa Christensen MA
Senior Communications Specialist
E-mail: lchristensen@aibc.ca
Tel : (604) 683 8588 ext. 331

**2012 AIBC Architectural Awards:**

**Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia Award in Architecture – Merit -** recognizing excellence in completed architectural projects completed within the past seven years and led by a B.C.-registered architect.

- **Linear House**
  Firm: Patkau Architects Inc.
  Lead Design Architects: John Patkau MAIBC, CM, FRAIC, HFAIA, LEED AP; Patricia Patkau MAIBC, CM, FRAIC, HFAIA; Peter Suter MAIBC

  Situated on a 16-acre farm on Salt Spring Island, Linear House embodies the inspired meeting of old and new, man-made and nature-grown. A row of windswept Douglas Firs provides unusual definition to the site, bisecting the surrounding farm grounds. Linear House sits discretely in a narrow space between the trees, allowing for stunning views throughout. The designers' keen attention to detail is seen in such features as the continuous, covered walkway, and dozens of dramatic skylights. The resulting structure delights the senses while creating an organic connection between the built and natural environments.

- **Oppenheimer Park Activity Centre**
  Firm: mcfarlane green biggar architecture + design (now office of mcfarlane biggar architects + designers, and Michael Green Architecture Inc.)
  Lead Design Architect: Steve McFarlane MAIBC, FRAIC, AAA, LEED AP

  Located in Oppenheimer Park in the heart of Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, this new activity space is part of a recently completed renovation project. The objective was not only to revitalize the park, but to also meet community's needs through ready access to open green space. The project team used a highly-consultative public process involving the extraordinarily diverse neighbouring community. The result is an innovative round structure that attracts visitors and invites community to rediscover this neighbourhood park.

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- **Samuel Brighouse Elementary School**
  Firm: Busby Perkins+Will Architects (now Perkins+Will Canada Architects Co.)
  Lead Design Architects: Peter Busby MAIBC, CM, FRAIC, Architect AAA, MOAA, AIA, BCID, LEED AP, BD+C; Robert Drew MAIBC, MRAIC, Architect AAA, LEED AP, BD+C

  Located in Richmond, this innovative K-7 school offers a flexible and adaptable learning environment for its 500+ students. It features open classrooms, administration space, dedicated community space, a library and gymnasium. The designers brought a commitment to sustainability to the forefront, with such features as natural ventilation, daylight harvesting, and green roofs. The highly functional, flexible structure is the result of a collaborative design process that included educators, parents, local residents and students. The youthful input inspired the structure's playful roof form, abundance of natural light, and vibrant colour palette.

- **VanDusen Botanical Garden Visitor Centre**
  Firm: Busby Perkins+Will Architects (now Perkins+Will Canada Architects Co.)
  Lead Design Architects: Peter Busby MAIBC, CM, FRAIC, Architect AAA, MOAA, AIA, BCID, LEED AP BD+C; Jim Huffman MAIBC, LEED AP

  The new visitor's centre at Vancouver's VanDusen Botanical Garden was designed to create a harmonious balance between architecture and landscape, from both a visual and ecological perspective. At the fore is a striking, stylish roof inspired by the organic forms of a native orchid, seemingly floating above the building's curving rammed-earth and concrete walls. In keeping with the firm's commitment to sustainability, the facility is also designed to collect and treat water, harvest sunlight, and store energy. It is the first building in Canada to register for the rigorous Living Building Challenge.

**AIBC Special Jury Award** – a discretionary honour for outstanding achievement in architecture.

**Winnipeg Skating Shelters**
Firm: Patkau Architects Inc.
Lead Design Architects: John Patkau MAIBC, CM, FRAIC, HFAIA, LEED AP; Patricia Patkau MAIBC, CM, FRAIC, HFAIA

A series of temporary structures grouped as a village, the Winnipeg Skating Shelters are a celebration of winter. Through elegant and intimate design, the creative team produced simple-yet-stylish forms that provide shelter from elements for the users of Winnipeg's extensive network for river skating trails. Using thin, flexible plywood, each structure boasts fluid lines that sway gently in the wind while funnelling sunlight, creating an aura of warmth within.

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**AIBC Innovation Award** – for achievements in building design that are not strictly architectural but that have a direct bearing on the future of architecture.

- **Centre for Interactive Research on Sustainability (CIRS)**
  Firm: Busby Perkins+Will Architects (now Perkins+Will Canada Architects Co.)
  Lead Design Architects: Peter Busby MAIBC, CM, FRAIC, Architect AAA, MOAA, AIA, BCID, LEED AP, BD+C: Martin Nielsen MAIBC, MRAIC, P.Eng., LEED AP, BD+C

  The University of British Columbia's Centre for Interactive Research on Sustainability (CIRS) is designed to be the most sustainable building in North America. Developed over 12 years, it is a testament to a clear vision and an architect/client partnership that championed the project from concept to completion. Setting new standards for environmental sensitivity, the facility boasts natural daylight and ventilation; a living roof; and a wood structure constructed of FSC-certified and pine-beetle-killed wood. CIRS actually produces energy by harvesting sunlight, collecting and treating rainwater, and capturing waste heat from a neighbouring building. More than a building, CIRS is a research tool that actively demonstrates the possibilities of sustainable design.

**AIBC Emerging Firm Award** – given in recognition of the development, success and contributions of emerging architectural firms.

**WMW Public Architecture + Communication Inc.**
Firm Principals: Susan Mavor MGDC; John Wall MAIBC, OAA, LEED AP; Brian Wakelin MAIBC MRAIC, LEED AP
Certificate of Practice Issued: June 19, 2009
Areas of Practice: Commercial, Cultural, Educational, Interior Design, Residential Single, Retail, Transportation, Urban Design

WMW Public Architecture + Communication Inc. is a Vancouver-based firm that produces unique work at the intersection of architecture, media and identity design. The firm's designers collaborate seamlessly between these fields using a unique studio model that rejects typical top-down design processes, favouring instead to operate within the realms of digital and construction technologies, emerging materials, and media. As a result, this award-winning firm is able to create engaging spaces and experiences that benefit from a broader, collaborative approach.