



ARCHITECTURAL INSTITUTE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Arts and Research Facilities Share the Spotlight for 2011 AIBC Architectural Awards

June 1, 2011

For immediate release

Community projects supporting the arts and post-secondary education shone brightest as the 2011 AIBC Architectural Awards were announced Friday, May 27 at the Presidents' Dinner & Awards Gala, the culminating event of the 2011 Festival of Architecture - an AIBC / Architecture Canada | RAIC partnership.

Creative community development and groundbreaking space-making typified this year's award-winning submissions. Nine projects stood above the others this year, including two winners of the prestigious *Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia Awards in Architecture - Medal*; four recipients of the *Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia Awards in Architecture - Merit*; and three *AIBC Special Jury Awards*.

The *Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia Award in Architecture* recognizes excellence in architectural projects completed within the past seven years and led by a B.C.-registered architect. Top honours went to a pair of projects that, while differing radically in size and scope, involved comparable levels of architectural problem solving: the **Beaty Biodiversity Centre / Aquatic Ecosystems Research Laboratory** at the University of British Columbia, by Vancouver-based Patkau Architects; and the **Arena Stage at the Mead Centre for American Theatre** in Washington, D.C., a project of Bing Thom Architects Inc.

"The AIBC Awards have always been a celebration of architectural excellence, and this year is no exception," notes newly-elected AIBC Council President **Gordon Richards** MAIBC. "The impressive list of winners is indicative of not only the quality of work being done by B.C. architects, but the growing regard they have earned around the world."

This year's jury also felt compelled to single out three projects deserving of an AIBC Special Jury Award, a discretionary honour for outstanding achievement.

The challenging task of determining this year's award winners from a worthy slate of contenders fell to a six-person jury of industry and public representatives consisting of:

Steve McFarlane MAIBC (Chair) of mcfarlane | green | biggar Architecture + Design Inc.
Architect / Past Winner

Courtney Healey IA
Intern Architect Representative

Bo Helliwell MAIBC of Helliwell + Smith Blue | Sky Architecture Inc.
Architect – Innovative Approaches to Practice

Colleen Kimmett, TheTyee.ca
Media or Public Representative

James Tuer MAIBC of JWT Architecture and Planning
Architect from Another Region of B.C. / Past Winner

Don Vaughan of Vaughan Landscape Planning & Design
Design Practitioner from Another Discipline

Says AIBC Executive Director **Michael Ernest** MAIBC: “Awards such as these help to set new standards within the profession. Perhaps more importantly, they raise the levels of public awareness and understanding for the architectural profession, and appreciation for the deep and lasting impact that architecture has on our communities.”

In keeping with this public outreach goal, all award submissions including winning projects will be on display at the AIBC Gallery throughout the month of June.

2011 AIBC Architectural Award Recipients:

Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia Award in Architecture – Medal (2):

- **Beaty Biodiversity Centre / Aquatic Ecosystems Research Laboratory**

Patkau Architects

Lead Design Architect: John Patkau MAIBC

Situated on the University of British Columbia campus, the Beaty Biodiversity Centre and Aquatic Ecosystems Research Laboratory form a complex for the study and practice of modern environmental science. The facility includes research labs, resource collections, and office, meeting and support spaces. Central to it all is a natural history museum, with its main exhibition space designed as a glass lantern and featuring an 85` Blue Whale skeleton exhibit. The three-sided design allows for a central courtyard that also invites public curiosity and engagement. The attached Aquatic Ecosystems Research Laboratory, also designed for public use, features a central atrium that effectively connects the building`s four floors. The casual and visible configuration of office and meeting spaces throughout helps foster the feeling of an academic community while encouraging interdisciplinary collaboration. In keeping with its very purpose, the project incorporates a multitude of sustainable design strategies. It is an impressive, modern learning environment that perfectly reflects UBC`s commitment to becoming a world leader in biodiversity research.

- **Arena Stage at the Mead Centre for American Theatre**

Bing Thom Architects Inc.

Lead Design Architect: Bing Thom CM MAIBC FRAIC AIA LLD

A theatre for all that is passionate, exuberant, profound and deep: that, in part, was the vision for the Arena Stage at the Mead Centre for American Theatre in Washington, D.C. The grand plan involved refurbishing two original historic theatres while adding a modern performance space. In doing so, the team challenged many of the usual assumptions of theatre design. Of note, the new theatre, referred to as the Kogod Cradle, is an oval-shaped room that boldly and successfully breaks theatrical convention. Performance spaces were expanded, and acoustics improved dramatically. To pull it all together, all three buildings are wrapped in a 45-foot-high glass skin and capped by a distinctive cantilevered roof. Almost as impressive as the finished project is the

intensive public consultation process that preceded it.

Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia Award in Architecture – Merit (4)

- **The Cordova Street Stables**

Gair Williamson Architect Inc.

Lead Design Architects: Gair Williamson MAIBC and Chris Woodford MAIBC LEED® AP

The Cordova Street Stables, a three-story building made of brick, stone and heavy timber, was constructed in Vancouver's Gastown district in 1902. Originally used for horses and carriages, the passage of time and the evolution of industry had seen it fall into an extreme state of neglect and disrepair. The brave decision to rehabilitate the space would require an intensive two-stage adaptive reuse program. An original design that utilized a cable system rather than columns for support – better for equine access – proved especially challenging. The end product, however, is a unique mixed-use site featuring an open uncluttered environment, well-suited for modern offices, and retail space that still offers a hint of the building's historic past.

- **Creekside Community Centre**

Walter Franci Architecture Inc and Nick Milkovich Architects Inc.

Lead Design Architects: Nick Milkovich MAIBC FRAIC and Walter Franci MAIBC FRAIC P.Eng LEED® AP

While Creekside Community Centre may have begun as a village for world-class athletes, it was destined to have a long-term impact on an emerging neighbourhood. Part of a major waterfront redevelopment needed for the hosting of the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, the facility quickly transformed post-games to its intended purpose as a central hub for a community desperately in need of one. While a full-size gymnasium, exercise space and multipurpose rooms fill the fitness quota, boating facilities, two-level restaurant, significant residential space and a community daycare take it beyond the average community centre. There is optimal pedestrian access, including a waterfront pathway with dedicated cycling path adjacent to the northern façade which curves to carve out a waterfront plaza, offering a year-round venue for outdoor activities. On its south side, the building's step-down massing allows for residential towers of five to 10 storeys. Systems storage and mechanical space is sited below grade, while its green roof is a distinguishing characteristic. Completed on a challenging schedule, the project achieved LEED® Platinum certification. An effective blend of concrete and glass, light and space, Creekside Community Centre conveys a simple expression that speaks to activity, interaction and community.

- **SAIT Parkade**

Bing Thom Architects Inc.

Lead Design Architect: Bing Thom CM MAIBC FRAIC AIA LLD

When it comes to architectural glory, parkades don't typically get much attention. The new, three-level garage on the campus of the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology in Calgary threatens to change that. Conceived and created by Bing Thom Architects, it takes what is typically mundane and infuses it with both functionality and flare. By strategically ensconcing the structure in a hillside, the design team was able to concentrate on-campus parking and make optimal use of a challenging space while respecting existing view corridors. Most striking is the

art element, a pixilated façade that captures and transforms the prairie sunshine.

- **Sauder School of Business**

Acton Ostry Architects Inc.

Lead Design Architects: Russell Acton MAIBC AAA FRAIC and Mark Ostry MAIBC AAA FRAIC

Located at the geographic centre of the University of British Columbia campus, this project is actually an upgrade and expansion of several dated post-secondary spaces going back nearly four decades. With the stylish new structures comes a modern functionality, with state-of the art lecture theatres, interactive study rooms and thoughtful student social spaces. Ground-floor graduate and career centres link with lounge areas, informal study spaces, and a café and student store. The business school's new façade cleverly suggests a barcode - universal symbol of digital information and modern commerce. While the functionality is futuristic, it also utilizes a regional colour scheme inspired by the likes of Emily Carr, BC Binning and Jack Shadbolt. With design elements and images that convey connectedness while blending people, place and business, the Sauder School of Business breathes new life into UBC.

AIBC Special Jury Award (3):

- **For Outstanding Programming and Place-making**

The Woodward's Redevelopment

Henriquez Partners Architects

Lead Design Architect: Gregory Henriquez MAIBC MRAIC AIA RCA

Built in 1903, the Woodward's building at the corner of Hasting and Abbott became one of Vancouver's most beloved community landmarks. However, time, trends and economic troubles lead to its eventual demise in 1993. Still, local community leaders clung to a vision of how the former site could be rebuilt, and with it the struggling downtown east side community where it rested. Henriquez Partners helped shape that vision, one built around a genuine commitment to ethical urban renewal, and brought it to life. Today, the Woodward's Building stands tall as a testament to both what was, and what can be. The Woodward's project is granted this award in recognition of outstanding programming and place-making.

- **In Recognition of Ingenuity**

John Tizya Cultural Centre

Kobayashi + Zedda Architects Ltd.

Lead Design Architect: Antonio Zedda MAIBC

"Harsh" is an apt description for life in Old Crow, Yukon. Located 67 ° north latitude, it is a land where 30° sparkling summer days give way to winter temperatures reaching -60°. Accessible only by air, it is a tough environment in the best of times for its 250 residents. For a design team dealing not only with unique project specifications but added transportation and construction constraints, this project raised a whole new set of challenges. Its ultimate success underscored two enduring architectural credos. Sometimes simpler is better, and persistence counts. This award is presented in recognition of ingenuity.

- **For Elevating Infrastructure to Architecture**

Ty-Histanis Community Infrastructure**David Nairne + Associates Ltd.****Lead Design Architects: Dave McIntyre MAIBC MRAIC CP LEED® AP and
Jeff Gravistin MAIBC MRAIC LEED® AP**

Situated on the Tofino Peninsula on B.C.'s rugged west coast, Ty-Histanis is a model for sustainable First Nations community development. Working closely with the local First Nations community, the project team set out to create a model community respectful of the area's unique cultural history and spectacular natural surroundings. Modern infrastructure in the form of a postal kiosk / bus shelter and pump house / energy plant serve to bridge the past and present, and lay the groundwork for a 25-year community plan. This project is celebrated for elevating infrastructure to architecture.

High resolution images of all 2011 AIBC Architectural Award recipients are available via the AIBC ftp site. To view images, please go to:

AIBC FTP Access: <ftp://199.60.218.106/>

Folder: 2011 - Media / 2011AIBC_Award_Winners / [A-Selected_Images-Use these choice shots](#)

Username: aibcftp

Password: cmns2003

The Architectural Institute of British Columbia is a self-governing body dedicated to excellence in the profession of architecture for the benefit of society, the environment and its registrants. For more information about the AIBC, please visit www.aibc.ca.

-30-

Contact:	David Wiebe, Director of Communications E-mail: dwiebe@aibc.ca Phone: (604) 683-8588, ext 308 Cell: (604) 616-7423	Lisa Christensen MA Senior Communications Specialist E-mail: lchristensen@aibc.ca Tel: (604) 683-8588 ext 331
-----------------	--	--



2011 Festival of Architecture An AIBC / Architecture Canada | RAIC Partnership
May 24 - 27, 2011 Vancouver Convention Centre www.aibc.ca/vancouver2011

Thank you to our generous festival sponsors and exhibitors including:

First Tier Sponsor



Second Tier Sponsors



Third Tier Sponsors



Fourth Tier Sponsors



Media Partner



Conference Supplier



With Additional Support Provided By

