ARCHITECTURAL MARVELS

The winners of the 2016 AIA Maine Design Awards

WINNERS AT A GLANCE

HONOR AWARDS:
Casco Bay Ferry Terminal Addition & Renovation by Scott Simons Architects
Little House on the Ferry by GO Logic
Warren Woods Ecological Field Station by GO Logic

MERIT AWARDS:
Batson River Residence by Carol A. Wilson Architect
Sebago Hall by SMRT
Surfer Residence by Caleb Johnson Architects & Builders
Sleeping Porch by Carol A. Wilson Architect

CITATIONS:
Cousins River Residence by GO Logic
House Over the Water by Elliott & Elliott Architecture

RECOGNITION OF SPECIAL DETAILS:
305 Commercial Street Studio by Lavallee Brensinger Architects
Friends School of Portland by Kaplan Thompson Architects

Last year, when AIA Maine announced it was accepting submissions for its biennial Design Awards program, 63 projects poured in from architects across the state. A jury of nationally recognized peers reviewed the submissions, which included projects that were commercial, single-family residential, and small (with budgets under $100,000); they designated 11 winners in four categories. "We try not to give our jury too much instruction, and we don't ask them to give out a certain number of awards," says Jeannette Schram, executive director of AIA Maine, the state chapter of the American Institute of Architects. "We are simply looking to recognize great design."

A principal reason the 35-year-old Design Awards program enjoys such robust participation from Maine architects is its tradition of choosing an acclaimed jury, says committee chair Gavin L. Engler of Carol A. Wilson Architect in Falmouth, who worked with Portland-based committee members Paul Lewandowski of Lavallee Brensinger Architects, Jesse Thompson of Kaplan Thompson Architects, and Scott Simons, FAIA, of Scott Simons Architects to pull together fundraising, organize the jury selection and submission process, and lead the design of a gala honoring the work of all the applicants. This year's New Haven–based jurors were selected for their individual accomplishments and collective understanding of Maine's climate and geography. Alan Organschi of Gray Organschi Architecture chaired the group, which included Elizabeth Gray, FAIA, of Gray Organschi Architecture, Joeb Moore of Joeb Moore and Partners, Joyce Hsiang of Plan B Architecture and Urbanism, and Craig Newick of Newick Architects.

"Architects are interested in their colleagues' work," says Engler. "We belong to the same tribe, having had similar life experiences from architecture school to practice. Because the jury members are held in mutual esteem, there is a spirit of friendly competition." There's also a deep respect for the effort it takes to usher any project from the drawing board to completion, let alone an award-winning one. "To be an architect one must practice patience, persistence, and perseverance in addition to optimism that a feat may actually be accomplishable," he says. On the following pages, *MH+D* joins our state's architectural community in paying homage to a few of those most impressive feats.

Little House on the Ferry, Vinalhaven
GO Logic

Photos: Trent Bell Photography

On a steep slope overlooking a former quarry, a trio of cabins hovers on piers above a delicate layer of soil that provides a scant foothold for vegetation. Among the patches of green are granite outcroppings, some hewn by time, others split and left behind as a visible memory of the once-prevalent granite industry on Vinalhaven. GO Logic in Belfast devised the elevated structures, each comprising a living-dining unit and two sleeping units, to "minimize their impact on the recovering vegetation in the quarry," says project architect Riley Pratt. Cedar decks connect the cabins, which allow visitors to enjoy the island with a degree of autonomy, and create a loosely enclosed, shared outdoor space.

Prefabricated cross-laminated timber panels form the shell of each cabin. Composed of layers of lumber—in this case black spruce—laminated together in a solid, bidirectional sandwich, the panels are factory-cut to the precise building dimensions, then shipped and assembled on site. This highly sustainable, cost-effective construction solution reduces labor, travel, and impact on the location. The ruggedness of the panels, which are exposed on the cabin walls, floors, and ceilings, reinforces the minimalist building forms and materials palette of white cedar cladding and metal roofing, creating an appealingly clean, rustic feeling.

NOTES FROM THE JURY:

"We love the simple materials palette, and the precinct created by the careful stepping of platforms and cabins is very strong. The possible interactions between people sharing this constellation of unitary cabins are intriguing."

ARCHITECT: GO Logic
PROJECT ARCHITECT: Riley Pratt
GENERAL CONTRACTOR: C.W. Conway & Sons Builders
CROSS-LAMINATED TIMBER PANELS: Nordic Structures
STRUCTURAL ENGINEER: Bensonwood

Warren Woods Ecological Field Station, University of Chicago, Chikaming Township, Michigan
GO Logic

Photos: Trent Bell Photography

Nestled on 42 acres adjacent to Warren Woods State Park in Berrien County, Michigan, this 2,400-square-foot building is the first Passive House–certified laboratory in North America, and the fifth in the world. Used by the University of Chicago's Department of Ecology and Evolution for research projects, programs, and classes as well as retreats and events, the facility offers a fully equipped lab where small groups of students and researchers grow, process, and study plants. The facility also includes a seminar space, kitchenette, bathrooms, and three sleeping cabins adjacent to an environmentally significant beech and maple climax forest.

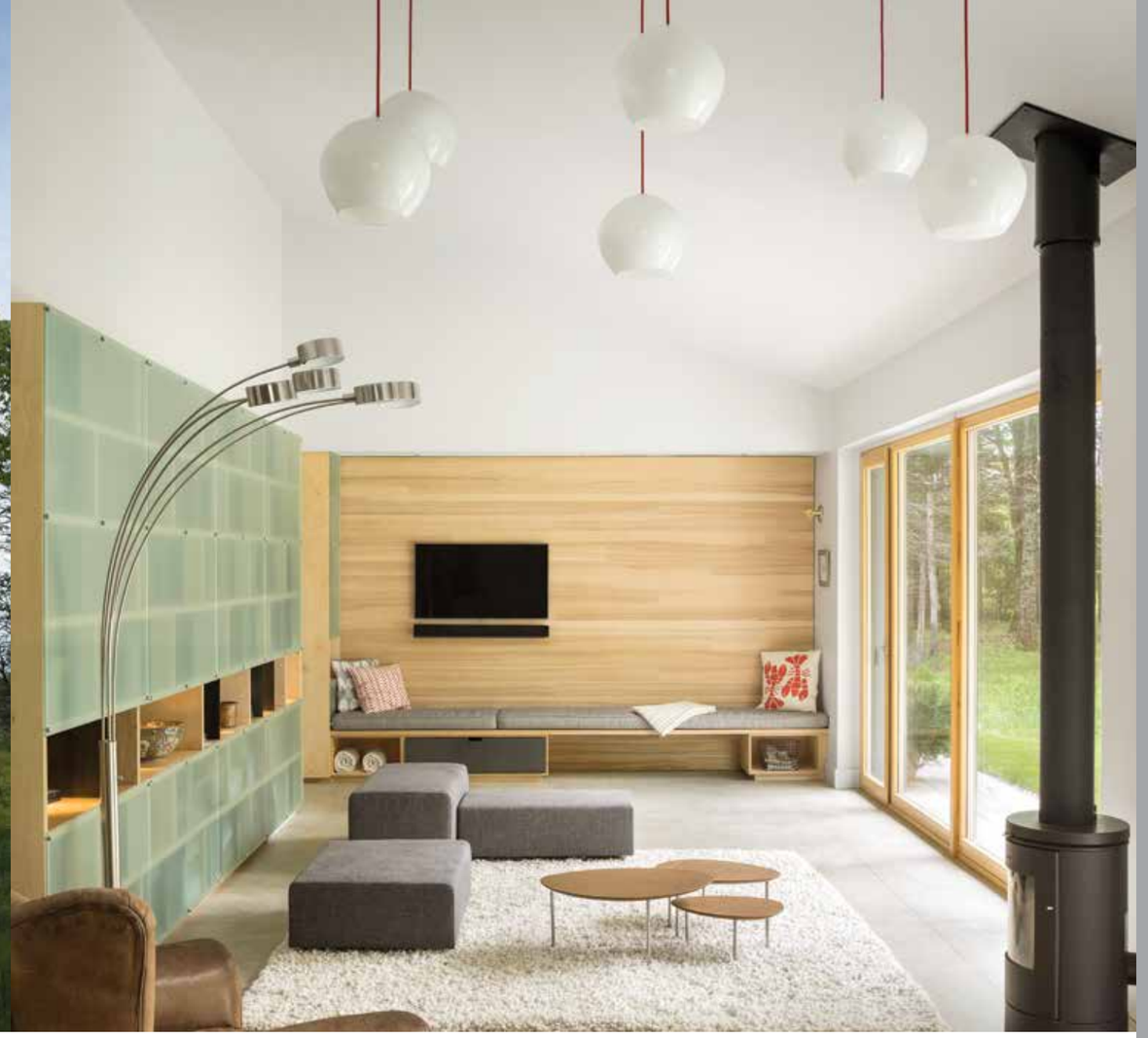
GO Logic of Belfast designed the field station to meet the German Passive House standard, which represents up to a 90 percent improvement on energy needs compared to a structure built to standard code, by creating a compact, highly insulated building shell that makes use of solar gains. Additional heating is provided by redistributing the lab's high internal loads into the rest of the building with transfer ducts installed between the spaces to help distribute the warm air. "We have always felt Passive House was more than a residential solution, but also a perfect fit for institutional clients as a way to reduce operational costs and maintenance," says project architect Timothy Lock. "To be able to positively test this theory in the context of a progressive design solution was the icing on the cake."

NOTES FROM THE JURY:

"What a beautiful project—the shed and flat-roofed forms are skillfully juxtaposed and provide a variety of interesting interior spaces and lovely relationships to outdoor spaces. The difference in expression of the building skin, from transparent to opaque, underscores the sculptural qualities of this building in the field."

ARCHITECT & GENERAL CONTRACTOR: GO Logic
PROJECT ARCHITECT: Timothy Lock
CARPENTRY: Ebels Construction Management
HEATING & COOLING: Mitsubishi Electric Cooling & Heating
LAB EQUIPMENT: Thermo Scientific
LIGHTING: Artek, Eureka, Finelite, RAB Lighting, WAC Lighting
MECHANICAL ENGINEER: J.H. McPartland & Sons
PASSIVE HOUSE CERTIFICATION: Passive House Institute US
PLUMBING: Chicago Faucets, Just Manufacturing
SITE SUPERVISION: Energy Wise Homes
STRUCTURAL ENGINEER: Albert Putnam Associates
WINDOWS: Kneer-Südfenster
VENTILATION: Zehnder America

Cousins River Residence, Freeport
GO Logic



Photos: Trent Bell Photography

A wooded bluff above the Cousins River estuary is the location for this 1,600-square-foot, three-bedroom home, designed by GO Logic to the stringent Passive House standard for energy performance. Sited in a clearing to take advantage of solar gain, the building reads as three box forms—the house, the screened porch, and the garage—each with a shed roof that slopes in the opposite direction from its neighbor. The strong horizontal lines of the single-level structures provide a nice contrast to the surrounding pine forest. A covered walkway stretching between the house and garage helps connect the buildings to the landscape.

Natural light from the south-facing windows floods the vaulted interior and filters through the translucent glass of a custom two-sided, wall-sized bookcase in the open living space. There's a kitchen with gray, painted wood cabinetry at one end of the room and an ash accent wall with a television and built-in daybed at the other. In between is the dining/living area, which is separated from the corridor that leads to the bedrooms and bath by the bookcase constructed from Baltic birch plywood, steel, and acid-etched glass. Concrete flooring, swirled with a dye that creates a mottled limestone effect, suits the home's modern styling and is a critical component of its energy performance, helping to maintain and regulate the interior temperatures throughout the year.

Because the living room has multiple focal points (view, kitchen, bookcase, woodstove, TV), selecting furnishings was a challenge, says architect Gunther Kragler. Critical pieces, including the daybed and a modular sofa and coffee table, "allowed the space to be flexible and adaptable for day-to-day living and special occasions," he says.

NOTES FROM THE JURY:

"The simple juxtaposition of forms creates interesting overlaps. We commend the introduction of synthetic materials to the wood interior, amplifying the projection of light deep into the plan."

ARCHITECT & GENERAL CONTRACTOR: GO Logic
PROJECT ARCHITECT: Gunther Kragler
CASEWORK & CABINETRY: North Yarmouth Woodworking
ELECTRICIAN: Electric Man
FLOORING: Day's Concrete Floors
FRAMING: Wood Design
GRANITE COUNTERTOP: Freshwater Stone
HEAT RECOVERY VENTILATION SUPPLIER: Zehnder America
PAINTING: R.I. Randall & Son's
PLUMBING: D.J. Small Plumbing, Heating & Pumps
STRUCTURAL ENGINEER: Albert Putnam Associates
TILE: Old Port Specialty Tile Co. & Green River Stone
WINDOWS: Kneer-Südfenster