About Design Pittsburgh

Presented by AIA Pittsburgh, Design Pittsburgh is a celebration of architecture and design, and honors those who create it. A signature program of AIA Pittsburgh, Design Pittsburgh highlights outstanding architecture and design in the Pittsburgh region. Held each October, Design Pittsburgh features an architectural design exhibition, a juried Design Awards competition, public voting opportunity for the coveted People’s Choice Award, a gala for more than 400 members, affiliates, design enthusiasts, and guests, a VIP reception honoring the Gold Medal recipient (not necessarily awarded every year), and a ceremony recognizing the winners of the prestigious AIA Pittsburgh’s Design Awards.

Design Pittsburgh raises the profile of architects as critical resources and industry experts in the Pittsburgh region. Through exhibits and events, this program provides excellent exposure of architects’ work to a wide variety of audiences – including potential customers. It highlights the importance of good design in our region – and how our members, sponsors, partners, and the public support and promote the value of architecture and design in the places that we work, live, and play.

Design Pittsburgh Featured Events:

- Design Exhibition
- People’s Choice Award
- PechaKucha Night Pittsburgh
- Gold Medal Award Reception
- Design Pittsburgh Gala
- Design Awards Ceremony
- Young Architects Studio Competition

Design Exhibition & Awards

Each year, AIA Pittsburgh hosts the Design Awards – a juried design competition open to AIA members and firms whose principal(s) are members of AIA Pittsburgh. Additionally, any member of any AIA chapter across the country who has a project in the 11 county area represented by AIA Pittsburgh can be included in the design competition in a variety of award
categories, including the People’s Choice Award, which is chosen by popular vote. All projects must have at least one AIA Pittsburgh architect on the project team. All submissions for the AIA Pittsburgh Design Awards Competition can only be submitted by an AIA Pittsburgh architect. The mission of the awards is to recognize and honor architects and designers, and promote excellence, innovation, and achievement in the craft of architecture. All Design Award submissions are available online for viewing and voting.

Who Participates and Attends?

AIA Pittsburgh welcomes 500+ individuals to Design Pittsburgh, including architects who are members of AIA Pittsburgh, AIA Pittsburgh member firms, and all AIA member firms/members that have a project in the Design Pittsburgh exhibition, Design Pittsburgh Sponsors and Media Partners, business, community, and cultural leaders, architectural industry affiliates, and design enthusiasts. Each year, thousands of individuals view the Design Award Submissions online.

Design Pittsburgh appeals to a wide range of design industry professionals. Industry Partners, including landscape architects, interior designers, graphic and product designers, photographers, engineers, and contractors participate in Design Pittsburgh and take notice of AIA Pittsburgh’s focus on the merits of good design.

Why Support AIA Pittsburgh & Design Pittsburgh?

Media Partners and Sponsors of Design Pittsburgh realize broad, high-level exposure with access to hundreds of design professionals and potential customers. It is a sound marketing investment that offers opportunities to position and profile corporate brands, reach a sector-focused audience, build and expand new business networks, and meet the decision makers of the architectural firms in the Pittsburgh region – meetings that you may not be able to set up through cold-calling, telemarketing, and direct mail efforts. Design Pittsburgh offers business and design professionals a unique marketing venue and targeted approach to reach the people and corporations who could help your business grow. To become a sponsor of Design Pittsburgh, contact Kira Kellner at kkellner@aiapgh.org. For more details visit our Sponsors page online.

Join AIA Pittsburgh to Celebrate the People Who Inspire, Shape, Build, and Design Pittsburgh!
ARCHITECTURE: Certificate of Merit

Project: Forest Hills Municipal Building
Client: Borough of Forest Hills
Architecture Firm: Pfaffmann + Associates
Contractor: Volpatt Construction
Engineers: Iams Consulting, Schneider Engineering
Photographer: Massery Photography
Landscape Architect: Common Ground

JURY COMMENTS: It is extremely impressive to achieve a Net Zero performance goal and this project has a fairly delicate appearing envelope for such high R-values. This has a building section that responds well to solar management and daylighting. We appreciate the exquisite hand-drawn sections. There is a good use of natural materials that reflect the sustainable aspects of the building. It is a very thoughtful siting of the building to take advantage of the roof configuration for the photovoltaic array. It has a nice linear parti organizing a variety of programs. It is a tremendous example for a municipal building in how sustainability can be achieved in tandem with strong design.
SUSTAINABILITY + RESILIENCE: Honor Award
**Project:** Forest Hills Municipal Building  
**Client:** Borough of Forest Hills  
**Architecture Firm:** Pfaffmann + Associates  
**Contractor:** Volpatt Construction  
**Engineers:** Iams Consulting, Schneider Engineering  
**Photographer:** Massery Photography  
**Landscape Architect:** Common Ground  
**Consultants:** SEECH Industries, EIS Solar, Porter SIPS, Zottola Landscaping, PELLA Windows, Eastern Architectural Products

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