The 2017 Brick in Architecture AWARD WINNERS

Since 1989, the Brick in Architecture Awards have been one of the most prestigious national architectural award programs featuring clay brick. Architecture firms from around North America enter their best projects to be judged by a jury of their peers.

This year, a diverse panel of architects independently reviewed and scored each of the entries. Based on the technical and creative use of brick in meeting the aesthetic and functional design challenges, the Brick Industry Association is pleased to showcase the following projects which were chosen as the Best in Class in their respective categories.
COMMERCIAL DESIGN

Apple Store, Williamsburg
Brooklyn, NY

The gritty, industrial Williamsburg neighborhood in Brooklyn, New York, is in many ways the poster child for gentrification. However, given the vast transformation the area has experienced over the past few decades, the last thing many neighbors wanted to see was the demolition and replacement of an historic brick building for an Apple Store, especially given the company’s commonly sleek, modern aesthetics.

Given the community response, the architects were tasked with designing a new retail building that not only fit the neighborhood’s rich architectural past, but also remained consistent with Apple’s brand and identity, which was no small feat. To address the problem, the design team developed a solution by drawing inspiration from an unlikely source—the demolished building itself.

Before it was razed, one of the building’s industrial brick walls was carefully photographed and served as a model for the new building. Working with its brick suppliers, the team conducted several rounds of mock-ups to determine the desired blend of brick colors and mortar dressing, resulting in a custom blend of molded brick. Next, the team paid homage to the original building’s large arched openings, exposed structure, and decking.

Meticulous attention on coursing (using a Scottish bond), the periodic inclusion of clipped brick, and the decision to eliminate as many vertical expansion joints as possible all combine to imbue the new Apple Store with the older aesthetic characteristics of the area’s surrounding nineteenth-century solid masonry structures.

Kent State University College of Architectural & Environmental Design
Kent, OH

Inspired by strong urbanist principles, Kent State University’s new College of Architectural & Environmental Design building had one overarching goal: to better connect the university with downtown Kent. To achieve this, the architects sited the new structure along a primary east-west pedestrian clay brick esplanade, even subtly canting the orientation of the building to maximize a perspectival effect of the corridor. A ground-floor café, gallery, and library all serve to welcome visitors into the building. The site, multi-use design, and the building’s materials were all designed to be inviting to passersby. Northern Ohio is home to a number of brick kilns. For this project, the design team worked meticulously with a local brick fabricator still using traditional beehive kilns for the firing process to produce ironspot brick units in custom shapes. These types of kilns produce brick in a range of colors dependent on their location relative to the heat source. The result is a warm, traditional brick that simply feels familiar and timeless.

Although builders have been using brick for thousands of years, its design possibilities still surprise. A lengthy structure, the new Architectural & Environmental Design building boasts a predominant, asymmetrically bull-nosed brick to establish a pleasing rhythm along the lengthy building. The fins project a maximum of four inches from the façade. The overall pattern and scheme was designed in counterpoint to the building’s glass curtain wall and cantilever.

Sourced locally and literally from the ground, brick also contributed to another of the university’s goals: LEED Platinum Certification.
EDUCATIONAL DESIGN (K-12)

Fruitville Elementary School Classroom Building Addition
Sarasota, FL

Fruitville Elementary School has a stellar reputation for teaching children with autism. Its campus, however, had grown dated. The new 29,000-square-foot, two-story classroom building reinvigorated the campus with a contemporary and modern aesthetic. The project includes 18 new classrooms, 8 of which will be designed for students with autism and special needs, as well as the design of 2 new parking areas, a new covered play area, basketball court, and enlarged bus loop with covered walkway.

The first design challenge was logistical. The administrators sought a design that allows the students with autism to be integrated with the daily life of the campus. This meant siting the new school building in the middle of the campus—a logistical challenge during construction. A second aesthetic challenge tackled how to reconcile groupings of classroom windows that could not be aligned (for functional reasons) between the first and second floors. The architects turned to brick for the solution. The design incorporated projected courses of brick to create a composition of rhythmic vertical bands to create relationships between first- and second-floor windows. The brick detailing accentuates the window pattern and repetition of the classrooms within.

The use of clay brick provided the design team with a rich design and detailing palette, and it encouraged the team to think carefully about how to manipulate the play of light and shadow on a building façade.

The resulting projected brick bands have become the school’s signature look.

Dumbarton Oaks Fellowship House
Washington, D.C.

The Dumbarton Oaks Fellowship House is an adaptive reuse project with large new additions to a 1950s commercial, brick masonry building in the Georgetown neighborhood of Washington, D.C.

Since its inception, the Dumbarton Oaks Fellowship House has functioned as a dwelling house for scholars and as an embassy to the greater Georgetown neighborhood of Washington, D.C. With a mission for community connection, the existing architecture also crosses over, mixing the playful and formal with the old and new. The substantial addition adds 25 dwelling units. To blend seamlessly with the existing 1950s structure and site footprint, the design team employed brick veneer construction with oversized brick and copper-clad residential bays. Together, the materials echo the scale and precedent of the mostly brick-clad townhomes lining the adjacent residential streets.

To achieve a juxtaposition with the existing building, the architects chose a Flemish bond pattern with accented headers. Yet, not all the design is traditional. A stainless steel cable trellis system, laid in a diamond pattern, allows vertical plantings to rise up the new brick additions and front entrance of the building. These green walls provide a modern twist on a traditional material while also allowing for passive shading and softening the building within the residential context.

In addition, the design team played off the almost encyclopedic selection of brick detailing around the campus and even added their own flourishes into the new Fellowship House.

The project will achieve LEED Gold Certification, thanks in part to its utilization of brick and passive strategies such as considerate glazing locations, daylighting, passive shading and cooling via window awnings, and sunshade and shutter elements.

RENOSATIONS (ADDITIONS) / RESTORATION (RESTORING)

Architect: Cunningham | Quill Architects
Landscape Architect: Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architecture
Manufacturer: Redland Brick Inc.
Distributor: Potomac Valley Brick & Supply Company
Builder: Whiting Turner Contracting Company
Mason Contractor: Baltimore Masonry, Inc.
Photographer: Robert Creamer

Credits appear as submitted in entry form
The Aston
Washington, D.C.

The Aston condominium, a contemporary 32-unit building, sits on a once-thriving commercial district known as “Automotive Row” in Washington, D.C. After the 1968 riots, however, the neighborhood fell into a 30-year period of neglect. Today, the Aston is a catalyst for the historic district’s redevelopment.

The Aston’s owners had two nearly irreconcilable directives for the architects: Conceive a building that could be built quickly and economically, but that would also become a paragon of contemporary design for the area. With playful geometric massing, textures, rhythms, and carefully composed façades, the Aston met both requirements. And brick played an outsized role.

As an economical material with proven long-term durability and ease of installation, brick was the natural choice. On an urban site like the Aston, masonry materials can be brought to the site incrementally, allowing contractors to best utilize these limited staging areas. In addition, brick can be installed with conventional scaffolding and conveyances—with year-round construction in D.C.’s mild winters.

On the aesthetic side, brick complemented the Aston’s historic context. The project design organizes three distinct building blocks. The first mass, articulated in buff-colored, monumental-size masonry, is symmetrically composed with punched windows flanking a richly articulated bay window. A metal shell wraps this block and bends to form a signature crowning element, providing an iconic cap. Behind this shell, a second masonry mass steps down to respond to the rhythm, height, and proportions. The third mass of dark-colored panels rises above the second mass and completes the three-part composition.

The Aston has been a phenomenal success, appealing to the aesthetic requirements of today’s young, urban professionals.

John W. Olver Transit Center, Net-Zero Energy Building
Greenfield, MA

The John Olver Transit Center in Greenfield, Massachusetts, achieved what no other transit center in the United States has ever achieved before: net-zero energy consumption. This first-of-its-kind transit center pushes far beyond standard industry designations for “sustainable” design and represents a noteworthy achievement in green building practices in the region. For all its green credibility, the building is also right at home in downtown Greenfield, where its scale and materiality only reinforce the historic urban character and sense of place.

The design team chose to work with two historically contextual materials—brick and copper. The dark Roman brick façade echoes the elegant utilitarian nineteenth-century brick structures that define Greenfield’s town center. The uniquely shaped brickwork, for example, recalls historic brick details of local Queen Anne- and shingle-style residences. The sculptural west façade of Roman brick faces a major entry road into the city; its monolithic, curving form conveys a sense of movement, a cue to the building’s programmatic purpose as an intermodal regional hub.

The design includes an 8,000-square-foot photovoltaic array, 22 geothermal wells, and a biomass boiler. Yet, brick plays an environmental role too. The brick cladding prevents heat gain from summer’s late afternoon sun. And brick screening allows filtered daylight into the interior and lowers the use of electric lighting through daylighting.
“Kinsley” is a 150-acre waterfront property in Oxford, Maryland. The design for the new residence was inspired by the early eighteenth-century architecture of Williamsburg, Virginia, and is a celebration of that era’s pride in craftsmanship and an innate understanding of architectural precedent, materials, and proportion.

The client’s goal was to create a meticulously detailed building with period-authentic masonry. Taking special trips to Williamsburg, the client (who was also the general contractor) and brick manufacturer studied the size, color, pattern, and texture of the eighteenth-century brickwork. From these explorations, they chose a custom hand-molded red exterior brick set in a Flemish bond pattern with glazed headers and contrasting rubbed brick window and door surrounds, quoins, and water table. The glazed headers required numerous attempts to replicate the color and finish of the eighteenth-century originals. The brick under the water table is set in a contrasting English bond pattern. So involved was the homeowner that he and the mason worked closely to duplicate the weathered pointing of the original inspiration by variably raking the mortar, followed by light grapevine pointing. The window and door frames are of pegged mortise and tenon construction, and the molding profiles of the cornices and other wood features were all based on carefully researched historic examples. The steeply pitched roof is clad in heavy cedar shakes. The exquisite craftsmanship of the exterior was carried through to the home’s interior, with extensive woodwork featuring mortise and tenon joinery with hand-planed surfaces. The random-width yellow pine flooring was milled from reclaimed timbers.

Add these elements of design and workmanship to a panoramic waterfront setting at the terminus of an allée of mature trees with views from three façades to the gardens with the water beyond—and you have an historically singular new home for clients who share a life-long appreciation for eighteenth-century architecture and a love for life on the water.

To create a secret natural world inside of a Manhattan skyscraper, the design team exploited the courtyard’s steep gradient across three stories to stage an ecological journey from moist fern forest, through open meadow, to a craggy mountain overlook. The winding clay brick paver pathway is the journey. The path always seems to disappear just around the bend, the rippling pattern of its brick creating a single fluid motion out of repetition. As it winds through the undulating terrain, the path works in concert with strategic plantings and grading to frame a series of ever-changing Hudson River School-like compositions. This creates a sense of mystery, Olmstedian infinity, and a feeling that this rugged landscape predates the building that surrounds it.

VIA 57 West sets a new paradigm for environmental responsibility and weaves sustainability into each of its units and amenity spaces.
The 2017 Brick in Architecture Award Winners

Several other projects were selected for Gold, Silver, and Bronze awards based on their scores totaling in the top percentages of their respective categories. The Gold, Silver, and Bronze award winners are:

**GOLD WINNERS**

**COMMERCIAL**
The Brickyard
Location: Los Angeles, California
Design Architect: Michael Maltzen Architecture, Inc.
Associate Architect: Gensler
Landscape Architect: The Office of James Burnett
Manufacturer: Glen-Gery Corporation
Builder: Hathaway Dinwiddle Construction Company
Mason Contractor: Premiere Tile

**EDUCATIONAL (Higher Education)**
New College House, University of Pennsylvania
Location: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Architect: Bohlin Cywinski Jackson
Landscape Architect: Michael Vergason Landscape Architects
Manufacturer: Glen-Gery Corporation
Distributor: Diener Brick Company
Builder: INTECH Construction
Mason Contractor: Dan Lepore & Sons Co.

Data Sciences Building
Location: Rochester, New York
Architect: Kennedy & Volich Architecture
Manufacturer: Glen-Gery Corporation
Mason Contractor: Lechase Construction

**EDUCATIONAL (K-12)**
Addition to P.S. 70Q
Location: Astoria, New York
Architect: RKTB Architects, P.C.
Manufacturer: Glen-Gery Corporation
Mason Contractor: Citnalta Construction Corp.

**MUNICIPAL / GOVERNMENT**
Education Center for Beardsley Community Farm
Location: Knoxville, Tennessee
Design Architect: Cooperative Endeavor of: Jennifer Akerman/University of Tennessee College of Architecture and Design
Architect-of-Record: Elizabeth Eason Architects
Manufacturer: General Shale, Inc.
Builder: Cooperative Endeavor of: Merit Construction (General Contractor) with Students/Faculty of the University of Tennessee College of Architecture and Design (Design/Build Team), and the City of Knoxville Public Service Department
Mason Contractor: Cooperative Endeavor of: JDC Masonry, Inc., University of Tennessee College of Architecture and Design, and the City of Knoxville Facilities

**PAVING & LANDSCAPING**
GE Management and Development Institute
Location: Ossining, New York
Architect: Wesley Stout Associates
Manufacturer: Whitacre Greer Company
Mason Contractor: Northbrook Contracting Corporation

**RENOVATIONS (ADDITIONS) / RESTORATION (RESTORING)**
The Mill at Middletown
Location: Middletown, New York
Architect: Magnusson Architecture and Planning
Preservation Consultants: Scott Henson Architect
Landscape Architect: Poudre Design Group
Builder: Sisca NE
Mason Contractor: All County Restoration

**RESIDENTIAL – MULTI-FAMILY**
Park Van Ness
Location: Washington, D.C.
Architect: Torti Gallas + Partners
Landscape Architect: Michael Vergason Landscape Architects, Ltd.
Manufacturer: Glen-Gery Corporation
Distributor: Capital Brick & Tile, Inc.
Builder: Clark Construction Group, LLC
Mason Contractor: United Masonry Inc. of Virginia

The Jefferson
Location: New York, New York
Architect: BKS Architects
Landscape Architect: Town & Gardens, Ltd.
Manufacturer: General Shale, Inc.
Builder: CM & Associates
Mason Contractor: L and G Masonry Corporation

Circa Central Park
Location: New York, New York
Architect: FXFOWLE
Manufacturer: Glen-Gery Corporation
Builder: Artimus Development
Mason Contractor: Artimus Construction

**RESIDENTIAL – SINGLE FAMILY**
Brick City House
Location: Denver, Colorado
Architect: Studio B Architecture + Interiors
Landscape Architect: Elevate by Design
Builder: Old Greenwich Builders
Mason Contractor: JD Masonry

**SILVER WINNERS**

**COMMERCIAL**
Epic Systems Corporate Campus — Campus 4
Location: Verona, Wisconsin
Architect: Cuningham Group Architecture, Inc.
Builder: JP Cullen
Mason Contractor: JP Cullen

**EDUCATIONAL (Higher Education)**
Visual & Performing Art Center — Western Connecticut State University
Location: Danbury, Connecticut
Architect: Amenta Emma Architects & Holzman Moss Bottino Architecture
Manufacturer: Glen-Gery Corporation
Mason Contractor: Connecticut Mason Contractors, Inc.
The 2017 Brick in Architecture Award Winners

HOUSES OF WORSHIP
Private Chapel
Location: Maryland
Architect: Franck & Lohsen Architects
Manufacturer: The Stiles & Hart Brick Company
Builder: Harry W. Heinsohn, Inc.
Mason Contractor: Vintage Construction and Masonry, LLC

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Location: Maryland
Architect: Franck & Lohsen Architects
Manufacturer: The Stiles & Hart Brick Company
Builder: Harry W. Heinsohn, Inc.
Mason Contractor: Vintage Construction and Masonry, LLC

PAVING & LANDSCAPING
Lea Elementary School
Location: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Landscape Architect: SALT Design Studio
Associate Architect: Mellora Design
Manufacturer: Pine Hall Brick Company, Inc.
Builder: ThinkGreen LLC
Mason Contractor: Syrstone

Barbara Cox Center for Sustainable Horticulture
Location: Dayton, Ohio
Architect: Five Rivers MetroParks
Manufacturer: Whitacre Greer Company
Builder: Outdoor Enterprises

RENOVATIONS (ADDITIONS) / RESTORATION (RESTORING)
Franklin Elks Lodge Renovation
Location: Franklin, Indiana
Architect: LandsHope Studios LLC
Manufacturer: Pine Hall Brick Company, Inc.
Builder: Dennis Drake Masonry
Mason Contractor: Dennis Drake Masonry

RESIDENTIAL – MULTI-FAMILY
65th Infantry Regiment Borinqueneers Veterans Apartments
Location: Chicago, Illinois
Architect: Pappageorge Haymes Partners
Landscape Architect: Daniel Weinbach & Partners, Ltd.
Manufacturer: Endicott Clay Products Company
Builder: Illinois Brick Company
Builder: Tropic Construction Corporation
Mason Contractor: LCS Construction

BRONZE WINNERS
COMMERCIAL
Honor HQ
Location: Berrien Springs, Michigan
Architect: Collective Office
Manufacturer: Endicott Clay Products Company
Builder: EC Moore
Mason Contractor: EC Moore

EDUCATIONAL (Higher Education)
Paul College at the University of New Hampshire
Location: Durham, New Hampshire
Architect: Goody Clancy
Manufacturer: Morin Brick Company
Builder: Spaulding Brick Company, Inc.
Mason Contractor: PC Construction

Salisbury University Patricia R. Guerrieri Academic Commons
Location: Salisbury, Maryland
Architect: Sasaki
Associate Architect: Ayers Saint Gross
Landscape Architect: Floura Teeter
Manufacturer: Redland Brick Inc.
Builder: Gilbane Construction
Mason Contractor: Henry J. Knott Masonry, Inc.

University of Delaware Center for Biomedical & Brain Imaging
Location: Newark, Delaware
Architect: MGA Partners
Manufacturer: The Belden Brick Company
Builder: Bancroft Construction Company
Mason Contractor: Joseph Rizzo and Sons

EDUCATIONAL (K-12)
Phillipsburg High School
Location: Phillipsburg, New Jersey
Architect: DilGroupArchitecture
Manufacturer: Whitacre Greer Company
Builder: James River Nurseries Incorporated
Mason Contractors: Syrstone

Libbie Mill Midtown
Location: Richmond, Virginia
Architect: Cite Design
Manufacturer: Whitacre Greer Company
Builder: Shade & Wise Brick Co., Inc.
Builder: James River Nurseries Incorporated
Mason Contractors: Syrstone

RESIDENTIAL – MULTI-FAMILY
Schoolhouse Terrace
Location: Yonkers, New York
Architect: Magnusson Architecture and Planning
Associate Architect: Marin Architects
Landscape Architect: New York Green Roofs
Manufacturer: Taylor Clay Products Company
Builder: Sisca N.E. – MPCC-Mengler JV II, LLC
Mason Contractor: Sal-Vio Construction Corp.

Columbia Mixed-Use
Location: New York, New York
Architect: Magnusson Architecture and Planning
Associate Architect: Marin Architects
Landscape Architect: New York Green Roofs
Manufacturer: Belden Tri-State Building Materials
Builder: Hunter Roberts Construction Group
Mason Contractor: Sal-Vio Construction Corp.

The Williams
Location: Brooklyn, New York
Architect: Morris Adjmi Architects
Architect-of-Record: Hill West Architects (formerly GHWA)
Landscape Architect: Landworks Studio
Manufacturer: Glen-Gery Corporation
Builder: T. G. Nickel
Mason Contractor: Rising Sun Construction

Special thanks to this year’s judges:
John Giardullo, AIA – John Giardullo, PC
James Lancaster, AIA – Overland Partners
Lee Ledbetter, AIA – Lee Ledbetter & Associates
Donovan Nelson, AIA – HGA Architects and Engineers
David Newcomb, AIA – Charles Hilton Architects
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Let the Brick Industry Association know about your firm’s projects that reflect excellence in design using clay brick. Your project will be considered for publication in upcoming issues of Brick in Architecture.

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