

## Architectural Feature Story: Accident Fund Headquarters, Lansing, MI Restored Historic Landmark Wins Top Engineering Excellence Award



The team responsible for the recently completed [corporate headquarters for Accident Fund](#) – including Accident Fund Holdings (Lansing), HOK (St. Louis), ARUP (Chicago), Quinn Evans Architects (Ann Arbor), The Christman Company (Lansing), Tower Pinkster (Kalamazoo), Ruby & Associates, Inc. (Farmington Hills), and Douglas Steel Fabricating Corporation (Lansing) – have received The State’s top engineering award from ACEC Michigan for their efforts in design and construction of the Accident Fund National Headquarters, the site of the rehabilitated, historic former [Ottawa Street Power Station](#), in downtown Lansing.

Converting an abandoned vintage power station into prime office space relied on careful design, a detailed erection plan and flawless execution. Imagine building a ten-story steel-framed office building inside an existing masonry structure, all the while having to both preserve and support the historic brick. Then add the complication that much of the existing steel had to be removed before the new framing and floors could be installed. This was the challenge facing the project team charged with renovating the historic Ottawa Street Power Station in Lansing, Michigan. The team’s collaborative solution was much like building a ship in a bottle.

Accident Fund’s new headquarters received LEEDTM certification by the U.S. Green Building Council and has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. The project also received national recognition by the American Institute of Steel Construction (AISC) IDEAS (2) 2011 Presidential Award of Excellence this past fall, and the **2011 Governor’s Award for Historic Preservation**.

[Click here](#) for more information.

## Feature: Citizen Architect Mark Nickita, AIA, Mayor City of Birmingham MI

*This is the first in our series of articles on Citizen Architects in Michigan. Because the profession of architecture donates time and expertise in public service roles, our communities benefit from the impact of this expertise in their government and development. Please submit suggestions for other Citizen Architects to [info@michiganarchitecturalfoundation.org](mailto:info@michiganarchitecturalfoundation.org).*



Mark Nickita cofounded the firm [Archive DS](#) 20 years ago in Detroit, with the inspirational goal of developing urban centers as more people friendly environments. Not traditional architects, Mark and his colleagues are involved in a diverse practice, from architectural design to urban design and master planning. Their projects include a wide range of mixed use, adaptive reuse, renovation, and new infill projects – mostly in urban settings. Signature work includes the [Canfield Lofts in Detroit](#) (found in the [AIA Guide book](#)), the [Vinton Building](#) on Woodward, an adaptive reuse of a 1900s Albert Kahn structure, and the award winning [Far East Side Master Plan for Detroit](#).

Mark was also involved with several urban design projects for Toronto, and a team of professionals that developed a planning strategy with the Governor of Mississippi to reestablish 70 miles of coastline after Katrina hit.

Mark has spent tremendous time and energy traveling to study urban environments globally in over 350 cities to understand the ways cities work and how their architecture and urban environment developed. He is intrigued by the impact of culture - history, politics, and social conditions – on the development of the world’s urban centers. Because he has spent his career as a student, continually learning how things are done, he has a distinctive global perspective on projects and insight into solutions.

This has been a tremendous benefit for him in his Planning Board and Mayoral roles with the City of Birmingham. It is much easier to promote an idea when it has been done elsewhere, and you’ve seen it. This perspective enables Mark to confidently recommend design ideas to solve challenges faced by the City.

Serving in public leadership positions with this depth of understanding of the built environment demonstrates how architects can have a great impact on our cities as they continue to grow and evolve.

## **MAF Silent Auction Winners Enjoy Dinner by Three Tenors**

Contributed by Frederick F. Butters, FAIA, Esq.

*The Three Tenors entertained the 14 bidders who placed the winning bids for the Italian theme dinner.*

*Tenor Constantine "Guss" Pappas, FAIA served as host, opening his award winning home to for the event, conducting tours over the course of the evening.*



*Tenor Victor Saroki, FAIA served as Sommelier, showing off his wine knowledge, selecting and providing wines matched to each dinner course.*

*Tenor Frederick Butters, FAIA served as Executive Chef, preparing a five course dinner accompanied by handmade chocolates and authentic desserts.*



*In addition, the Tenors were assisted by Sous Chef Anne Mead, who provided food preparation assistance, Michelle Saroki who provided table settings, Gary Quesada, Hon Aff. AIA, who served as Maitre d, Jeanette Quesada as Head Waitress, and Maria Medoro who provided decorations.*



*All guests and staff thoroughly enjoyed the evening. The event raised more for the MAF scholarship funds than any other event in the history of the MAF silent auction, and everyone looks forward to more successful events in the future.*

**[Click here](#) for more information on donating to the 2012 Silent Auction!**

## **Apply Now for the 2012 Evans Historic Preservation Grant**

Applications are now available for the 2012 Evans Historic Preservation Grant, funded by the Michigan Architectural Foundation. This grant:

- Promotes the practice of historic preservation
- Gives encouragement and support to not-for-profit (501c3) community groups seeking to restore important resources
- Showcases innovative solutions to specific preservation problems
- Encourages architects to embrace preservation projects
- Acknowledges the contribution of historic preservation architect, David Evans, FAIA

\$7,500 will be awarded for fees or hard costs of a preservation project located in Michigan. Criteria used to select the recipient are:

- Preserve an historic property or artifact that may otherwise be lost.
- Demonstrate a creative solution to a preservation problem; i.e., adaptive reuse
- Benefit the community aesthetically and/or through increased visibility.
- The award will leverage other funds and will contribute to the continued viability of the historic property.

Applications are due March 8, 2012. For more information or to apply, [click here](#).  
To view past winners, [click here](#).

## Andrews University: Architecture Missions Group



Andrews University provides a unique opportunity through its architectural program. Students, faculty, and alumni are collaborating to provide much needed design and construction assistance to communities and churches around the world.

Check out their projects by [clicking here](#) and get involved!

## Apply Now for the 2012 Architectural Scholarships

MAF awards scholarships annually to students who are completing their Bachelor Degree program and who have been accepted or are currently enrolled in a professional program leading to a Master of Architecture degree. Money has been raised from many activities and sources over many years to underwrite these scholarships, and the five awards have been named for the primary donors and/or supporters.

The scholarship awards for 2012 are as follows:

- AIA Michigan President's Scholarship (\$4,000)
- American Institute of Architect's Scholarship (\$1,500)
- Kenneth Neumann Design Scholarship (\$1,000 plus a summer internship with the firm Neumann Smith Associates in Southfield, MI)
- Professional Concepts Insurance Agency Scholarship (\$1,000)
- HED Alvin Ernest Harley AIAS Graduate Scholarship (\$1,000)
- John Banicki Scholarship (\$1,000)

Each student applicant is required to submit a completed application form, a full college transcript, a personal statement describing leadership, design, or community accomplishments, a copy of the student's design portfolio, three letters of reference, and a school cost and personal financial budget. The jury must take all information into consideration, but has discretion as to the weight of the categories of information.

Letters and posters are sent to all of the Schools of Architecture in Michigan to solicit applications from deserving students. The Deans are contacted to strengthen the communication between MAF and the schools.

Below are the different forms available, simply click them to download them.

- [Michigan Architectural Foundation 2012 Scholarship Application Requirements](#)
- [Michigan Architectural Foundation 2012 Scholarship Application \(Word File\)](#)
- [Michigan Architectural Foundation 2012 Scholarship Application \(on-line form\)](#)
- [Michigan Architectural Foundation 2012 Scholarship Poster \(PDF file\)](#)

Applications are due March 30, 2012.

## **Donate to Michigan Architectural Foundation!**

Thank you to [MAF Sponsors!](#)

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