

## **Architectural Feature Story: Best of 2012**

Architectural firms, architectural fans, owners, educators, and communities were asked to submit their choice for the best architectural projects of 2012. A number of projects were suggested by you, our readers, as the best architectural projects of 2012.

### **Ann Arbor Municipal Center (stairs detail)**

Ann Arbor



Concrete, galvanized steel, sunlight. Simple, unrefined, almost crude. Yet, these materials, when composed artfully convey a sense of place and invite the passerby to pause, explore and hopefully appreciate something that had previously escaped their notice. See how the wall expresses how it was made.

## Community Health and Social Services Center (CHASS)

Detroit, Michigan



The Community Health and Social Services Center (CHASS) located in Southwest Detroit. The project is anticipating LEED NC Silver Certification from the U.S. Green Building Council.

The Center's two-story facility transforms the visual landscape of West Fort Street and helps foster the economic vitality of the neighborhood. The first floor is organized around a large, two-story waiting space and child's play area. The central waiting space is flanked on one side by 26 exam rooms, four procedure rooms, and support spaces and on the other side by a pharmacy, a dental suite, and a Women/Infant/Children Clinic. In addition to administrative offices and support space, the second floor includes an indoor walking track, a demonstration kitchen for nutritional education, community gathering space and a large conference area. The site is designed to accommodate dedicated space for "Market Days" where fresh, affordable produce is sold by local vendors.

**Cottage 36**  
Traverse City



This project is an excellent example of both State of Michigan and NPS Historic Preservation. Located on one of the Northern Michigan's most historic sites, within the Village of Grand Traverse Commons, formally known as Traverse City State Hospital, this structure was completed in 1883 in a Victorian-Italianate style. [Concept Design Studio](#)'s scope of work included the complete building interior and exterior restoration. This restored building is now LEED certified Gold.

## [Crisler Center](#)

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor



Photo Credit: U-M Public and Media Relations

Because this 50+ year old University facility had “good bones,” a two-phased extensive renovation and addition project was completed to give the home for men’s and women’s basketball new life. Additional space includes 63,000 gross square feet of new spectator entrances, retail spaces, ticketing areas and a private club space. 54,000 gross square feet of improved spectator circulation and egress, additional restrooms and expanded concession areas, as well as ADA accessible seating, all enhance the overall Wolverine fan experience, and create less congestion in the concourse area. The addition of an outdoor plaza, high definition video scoreboard and new lighting are also project highlights.

## [Fort Gratiot Light Station](#)

Port Huron



The Fort Gratiot Light Station Tower, on the western shore of Lake Huron in the shadow of the Blue Water Bridge, is a beacon to travelers on land and water. Its tapered shaft of restored and painted white brick on a limestone foundation is capped by a black lantern with an operating light. After ascending the spiral stair, the visitor emerges at the lantern level to the amazing view of blue water, bridge, and tiny traffic of boats and cars far below. This restored icon and visitor experience represent the best of architecture in Michigan.

## [GreenPath New Corporate Headquarters](#)

Farmington Hills, Michigan



GreenPath, a nationwide non-profit consumer credit counseling service that helps people resolve financial problems, commissioned Harley Ellis Devereaux to provide full architecture, landscape architecture, and engineering as well as workplace/interiors for their 150,000 sf headquarters facility. The design scope was to develop the conceptual design and planning to establish a scope and budget for the facility.

The design was developed on two platforms of agile and adaptive team environments joined by a central connector for meeting, staff development, and team socialization. There is a high-level of amenities including a full-service cafeteria, fitness center, and recreation spaces to support 24-hour operation. There is also a roof deck for staff dining and social events. A raised access floor with under-floor air supply and indirect ambient and workstation lighting add to the comfort level of staff.

[NSO Bell Building](#)  
Detroit



Neighborhood Service Organization's (NSO) redevelopment of the historic 12-story, 273,000 square foot Michigan Bell Building <Insert Link to Project PDF File> symbolizes a new beginning for the homeless individuals who will occupy the 155 apartments as permanent supportive housing. A number of NSO services will be relocated, including mental health counseling, addiction treatment and a state-of-the-art training facility. Phase II will consist of relocating administrative offices for NSO to the building. An estimated 18,000 people in Detroit are homeless. In 2009-2010, NSO moved 150 adults from shelters into permanent supportive housing. The new apartments will double NSO's ability to provide permanent supportive housing.

## Secret Wardle Law Firm New Workplace

Troy, Michigan



Secret Wardle's real estate assessment began with an eye toward owning their own building and providing a future for partners to come. This relocation project brought forward the opportunity for this 100 year old legal firm to adjust to a new legal workplace model. Harley Ellis Devereaux developed an architecture centered around a "connected" workplace. We derived settings that supported knowledge sharing and a "team" driven organization. We built upon the good bones of the existing architectural transparency.

## [Student Fitness Center](#)

University of Detroit Mercy, Detroit



Photo Credit: Christopher Lark Photography

The new [Student Fitness Center](#) is an exciting addition to this historic Detroit campus and its first new building in over 40 years. The facility provides recreation program offerings and is a focal point for student life, providing a wide range of activities in the heart of campus. Materials throughout harken back to the 1920s mission style of the campus core. A two-court gymnasium with an elevated running track, weight fitness areas and a group exercise room are included. A light-filled two-story lobby/study lounge, along with men's and women's locker rooms and an administrative office area are also incorporated.

## Wayne State University A. Paul Schaap Chemistry Building

Detroit, Michigan



The refurbished 220,000, \$71 million building represents the conversion of a time-worn teaching laboratory's transformation into a state-of-the-art center for innovative research. The scope included the renovation of 96,000 square feet of laboratory space and the construction of a 15,000 square foot atrium and lecture hall fronting the existing 1960's era building.

Designed like a compartmentalized fortress of individual labs and offices and lack of common interaction areas, the outdated design lacked a sense of fellowship and community.

Addressing the design issues, small private laboratories were replaced with larger, open-plan flexible research environments. Existing mechanical and electrical systems were replaced with high-efficiency ones. Much of the new project's design in terms of the glass atrium entrance, open labs, and interaction spaces, encourages collaboration between faculty and students.

## William Davidson Player Development Center

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor



Photo Credit: Curtis Clayton Photography

The Player Development Center for men's and women's basketball provides a two-court practice gymnasium with cardio, strength / conditioning, hydrotherapy, training and video review areas. The office level accommodates coaching staff and administration. Team lockers, coach's locker rooms and the lobby's team memorabilia and Hall of Fame complete the project. Natural light permeates the facility, while gymnasium up-lighting provides different modes for a variety of functions. A gym observation balcony allows coaches to monitor activities, and serves as a powerful recruiting tool. Formerly, Crisler Arena's competition court provided the only basketball practice venue. New facilities now enhance the program's ability to succeed and excel.

## Architecture for Children in Bilbao, Spain

Marcelle M. recently contacted MAF with this request:

*"I am an architect here in Bilbao, Spain trying to start an organization that encourages creativity in learning through basic principles of architecture. I have finally been given an opportunity to present my idea to a local school but am in need of working material to present to teachers and parents.*

*I understand you have a work plan on CD that could be useful and wondered whether it would at all be possible to request it. I would be most grateful for any help you can offer."*

MAF responded:

*"Our book is called "Architecture: It's Elementary". It is located on the web at [k5architecture.org](http://k5architecture.org). It is about 500 pages with +10 lesson plans at each primary grade level. The material is 100% downloadable. The material is very colorful and we have found that teachers give it high regards."*

*"A great architect is not made by way of a brain nearly so much as he is made by way of a cultivated, enriched heart."*

## Help Build the MAF Architectural Library

The Rae Dumke Development Fund of the Michigan Architectural Foundation (MAF) is beginning the process of developing an architectural library within existing libraries in Michigan.

The collection may be housed at one or more libraries and would be available to all through the Michigan Electronic Library Catalogue.

The MAF currently is conducting a survey to discover which books architects value most in their architectural book collections. Survey results will be used to ascertain both collection size and contents.

To participate in this short survey, [Click here](#).

## Donate to the Michigan Architectural Foundation

The Michigan Architectural Foundation (MAF) is a financial vehicle to support the art of architecture. We are dedicated to the promotion, perpetuation and preservation of architecture as a fine art. By serving as a visible resource for funding, information and educational programs, we increase the public's appreciation for architecture, which encourages cohesive, sustainable communities, increasing economic value, enriching experiences and adding beauty.

MAF relies on the support of corporate and individual sponsors, patrons and donors to fund its educational, scholarship and grant programs. Please consider supporting MAF programs through a donation or [purchase from our store](#). [Donate Online Today!](#)

[Visit our website for more information about the Michigan Architectural Foundation!](#)

## We Remember



### **D. James Walker, Jr.: 1953 – 2012**

We are saddened by the sudden and unexpected passing of Jim Walker on December 5th. Jim was a wonderful father and husband, but most of us know him best from his work as CEO of Great Lakes Fabricators & Erectors Association (GLFEA). He was deeply committed to the success of the construction industry and our affiliate organizations in Michigan and will be missed greatly.



### **S. Glen Paulsen, 1917-2012**

S. Glen Paulsen, one of the three original founding members of TMP Architecture, Inc., passed away on Sunday, November 25th. He was 95 years old.

Paulsen joined the office of Eero Saarinen in 1949 and worked as an associate and senior designer until 1957, when he established his own firm. Paulsen's firm merged with Tarapata MacMahon Associates in 1969, forming Tarapata MacMahon Paulsen (TMP) Associates. Paulsen continued with TMP until his retirement in 1977.

He began teaching at the University of Michigan in 1957, and ultimately served as President of Cranbrook Academy of Art from 1966-1970. Paulsen was a member of the Michigan Society of Architects and an AIA Fellow.

## Upcoming Events

### **Update! 2013 AIA Michigan Honor Awards Call for Entries - Extended Deadlines!**

The Honor Awards are celebrated in June, but now is the time to submit your project! Many of the changes our membership has asked for will be enacted this year and the Award ceremony will be even bigger and better than previous years. Changes include opening our awards to every licensed architect across the state and the addition of three new awards: the Associate Member Award, the Student Project Award and the Unbuilt Project Award. To read the guidelines and extended deadlines, click [here](#). To register online, click [here](#).

### **National Endowment for the Arts Design Program Update**

NEA has released the Our Town grant guidelines for 2013. All resources are available at [www.arts.gov](http://www.arts.gov). Note that the deadline will be January 14, 2013.

**Additional questions?** Send an email to [ot@arts.gov](mailto:ot@arts.gov). NEA staff are checking that inbox each day and promise to get back to you promptly and will schedule a call, if necessary.

### **12th Michigan Railroad History Conference**

The 12th Michigan Railroad History Conference is scheduled to be held in Bay City, MI on October 5th, 2013.

If interested in presenting, please contact [Mark X. Worrall, Chairperson](#) by January 15, 2013.