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The Journal of the Architectural Institute of British Columbia, Issue 32 May 2009

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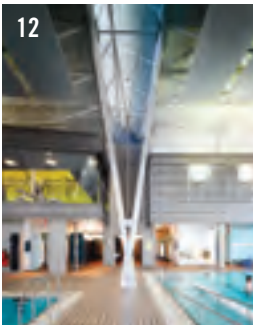
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Image credits:

All 2009 AIBC Annual Architectural Awards photos courtesy of the submitting architectural firm. Used with permission.

President's Message



David R. Wilkinson, MAIBC MRAIC is the President of the AIBC Council

B.C. architects and building professionals have steadfastly maintained their proud position at the forefront of design innovation, both here at home and internationally. This special awards issue of *architectureBC* is dedicated to the 2009 Annual AIBC Architectural Awards. Its pages profile this year's recipients as well as all those who took the time and effort to submit their projects for consideration.

I am delighted to report that this was another record breaking year for the AIBC awards, with 56 submissions entered across three categories: the Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia Award, the AIBC Innovation Award, and the newly introduced AIBC Emerging Firm Award. Kudos to all who participated.

Eight awards have been granted this year. As always, the hallmark across all winning submissions is excellence. These projects showcase the achievements of B.C.'s best and brightest, in areas that include sustainability, community enhancement, recreation and education.

My sincere thanks go out to this year's awards jury, headed by Shelley Craig B.E.S, A.A.DIPL, MAIBC. The AIBC awards program simply could not exist without the dedication, spirit of volunteerism, and thoughtful project deliberations demonstrated by our esteemed jurors.

While we find ourselves in trying times, with an uncertain economic climate surrounding us, the proficiency, creativity, talent and innovation demonstrated on the pages that follow affirms that the future holds much promise; there is reason for encouragement.

On a more personal note, I have truly enjoyed the spirited collegiality and brilliance of our members, committees and staff during my two years as your president. I have also enjoyed, on your behalf, the respect and encouragement of our professional colleagues, associated organizations, government representatives, and the public.

The tradition of excellence continues.

2009 Annual AIBC Architectural Awards

Each year, the Architectural Institute of British Columbia showcases the best in B.C. architecture through its annual awards program. While honours are given out in a number of distinct award categories, there is one common element: Excellence.

The various award categories and criteria reflect a broad spectrum of projects completed at the local, national and international levels. Submissions are judged on design excellence, with criteria that includes site usage, sustainability, budget, and client needs. From simple single-room structures to innovative undertakings that set new stands for design, the annual award recipients reflect the wealth of talent within B.C.'s architectural community.



AWARDS PROGRAM GOALS

- To honour excellence in completed architectural projects;
- To celebrate recent achievements of AIBC member architects and firms;
- To recognize the role of AIBC members and associates in British Columbia's built environment;
- To encourage public interest in B.C. architects and architecture; and
- To promote AIBC members as architectural leaders provincially, nationally and internationally.

2009 AWARD CATEGORIES

Short-listed entries, award levels and winners are selected by a jury in the following categories:

- The Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia Awards in Architecture
- The AIBC Innovation Award
- The AIBC Special Jury Awards
- The AIBC Emerging Firm Award (new)

AIBC AWARDS JURY

- **Shelley Craig** B.E.S, A.A.DIPL, MAIBC, Urban Arts Architecture, MAIBC / Innovative (Chair)
- **Ian Chodikoff** M.Arch, MAUD, OAA, MRAIC, *Canadian Architect* magazine, Media / Public
- **Stan Douglas**, Stan Douglas Studio, Other Discipline
- **Lisa Kwan** IA.AIBC, Soren Rasmussen Architects Inc., Intern Architect
- **Michael McColl** MAIBC, Stantec Architecture Ltd., Past Year Winner
- **Jim Meiklejohn** MAIBC, MRAIC, LEED AP, Meiklejohn Architects Inc., Architect from Other Region

2009 Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia Award in Architecture

Medal Recipient

Arts and Social Sciences Complex Simon Fraser University

Firm: Busby Perkins+Will Architects Co.

Lead Architect: Peter Busby C.M., AIA, FRAIC, MAIBC, MAAA, MOAA, BCID, LEED A.P., Dsc (HON)

The Arts and Social Science Complex at Simon Fraser University, a new, multi-faculty development on the Burnaby campus, involves two distinct components. The first brings together under one roof five existing social science programs: Archaeology, Clinical Psychology, Criminology, First nations Studies, and the Centre for Forensics Research. The second encompasses the new Faculty of health Sciences while integrating the new space with the existing campus.

The design challenge involved creating a truly interconnected environment, both physically and philosophically, for several distinct academic departments. It also called for creating profile for a new faculty, demonstrating environmental responsibility, integrating with the existing campus, and being fresh and innovative while respecting the original, iconic architecture of Erickson Massey. Time and budget constraints further complicated the task.

The solution begins with the decision to situate the two- and three-storey buildings as “bookends” to one another, a C-shaped design that creates a courtyard. This consideration for social interaction and interconnectivity typifies the project’s design. Within, a modern approach to educational facilities sees greater emphasis on comfort, as evidenced by the infusion of natural light to what are typically closed environments.

The commitment to sustainable design is at the forefront. Lighting controls and mechanical systems create a 30 per cent reduction in energy consumption. There is an extensive waste management system, and green roof technology throughout.

Modern features aside, the ASSC also pays tribute to that which came before. It not only builds upon the original architecture, but re-energizes it. The original vision has been infused with new material and modern methods. For example, the distinctive vertical lines of before now include energy-efficient solar sunshades. Other familiar features - such as repetitive elements, narrow floor plates, and the extensive use of concrete, wood and glass - pay homage to the original architects.

Despite the complex challenges and considerations, the project succeeds. It is a modern learning facility that also embraces the original architecture while connecting with its surroundings. The finished facility also serves to connect the educational programs within, in keeping with the increasingly interdisciplinary nature of post-secondary studies.

Simon Fraser University’s Arts & Social Science faculty has long been characterized, and represented physically, by architectural innovation and excellence. The new Arts and Social Science Complex continues that fine tradition.



“This is simple, organized, and well put together. It picks up on other elements on the Simon Fraser University campus.”
— juror comment





“There’s a really deft hand
at work here. It’s a robust
concrete structure with a
beautiful scale.”
— juror comment



2009 Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia Award in Architecture

Medal Recipient

Kensington Park, Robert Burnaby Park, Swalwell Park Washrooms

Firm: Bruce Carscadden Architect Inc.
Design Architects: Bruce Carscadden MAIBC (Kensington Park, Burnaby Park)
Ian McDonald IA.AIBC (Swalwell Park)
Glen Stokes MAIBC (Kensington Park, Robert Burnaby Park)

Small buildings matter.

With this group of public washroom buildings, all completed in 2008, Vancouver-based Bruce Carscadden Architect Inc proves the adage to be true, and that architectural excellence can flourish in any setting.

As is often the case, the most unique problems and challenging sites often give rise to the most creative solutions. This was certainly the spirit with which Bruce Carscadden MAIBC and the

design team undertook these companion projects on behalf of the City of Burnaby and the District of Lake Country.

While acknowledging the utilitarian purpose of public washrooms, these buildings also reflect a refreshing exploration of detail and site, proposing a suite of solutions that address durability, maintenance, ventilation and aesthetics. The resulting structures boast durable materials wherever possible, while remaining sensitive to the relationships with park buildings and other



“These are reserved, yet durable structures. They also bring to play the aspect of delight.”
— Jury Comment

“The presentation is very strong in its use of iconography, while being sensitive in both the use of materials and site relations.”
— Jury Comment



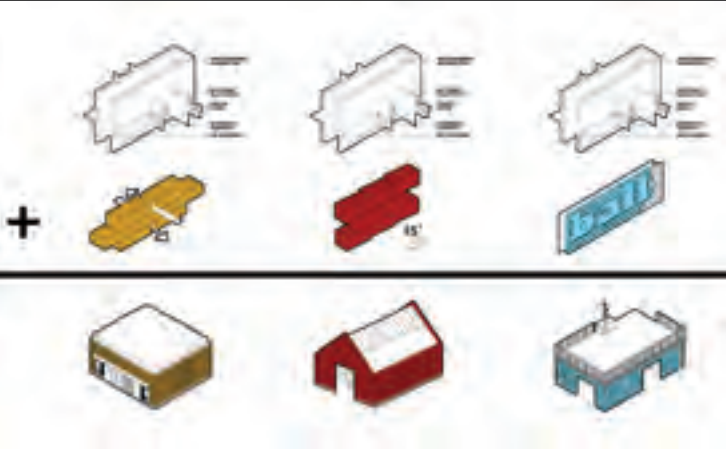
surroundings. For example, they boast natural ventilation system whereby fresh air is literally drawn in..

Each washroom responds to site in a unique way. The Swalwell Park Washroom, located in the heart of the Okanagan, represents the first step in a long-term strategy to rejuvenate an underappreciated park. It embodies the district’s commitment to sustainability at every turn, from its green roof and grey-water capture system to the use of natural lighting, ventilation and a palette of durable material. There is also a distinct and delightful element of play.

At Burnaby’s Kensington Park, the design team crafted a lone structure surrounded by heavily used outdoor recreational spaces. The result, in the architect’s own words, is a facility with a “quixotic nature oddly contextual adjacent a children’s park.” One of this structure’s most distinctive features is its use of inexpensive concrete masonry units individually rotated by 15 degrees, producing a textured surface both inside and out. It is reminiscent of basket weave – clever in its visual appeal while also acting as a deterrent for graffiti. Form and function unite.

The final washroom in the series stands at Robert Burnaby Park. Here, team members took full advantage of the site By embedding the structure into the side of a significant grass berm, they successfully created an accessible rooftop viewing deck with sweeping panoramas of the entire park. The clever location also serves to keep the structure virtually out of site from surrounding residences. A textured surface of cast-in-place concrete once again presents an uninviting palette for graffiti.

These new additions to B.C.’s park facilities bring architectural excellence to the typically mundane. They offer a vision of indoor space, outdoors. And they prove beyond a doubt that small buildings do matter.



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2009 Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia Award in Architecture
Merit Recipient

Chimo Aquatic and Fitness Centre

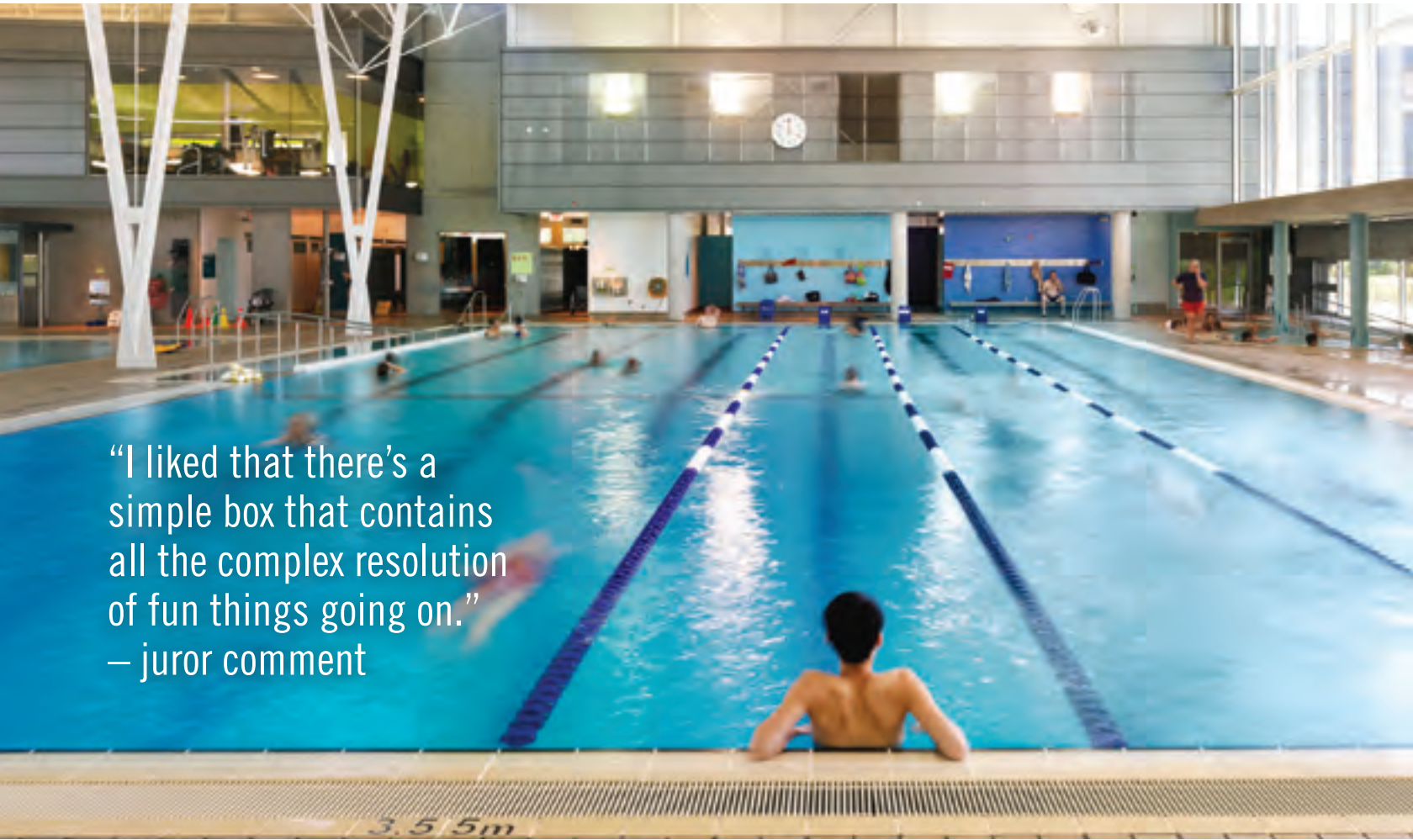
Firm: Hughes Condon Marler : Architects
Lead Design Architect: Roger Hughes MAIBC OAA FRAIC LEED AP

The Chimo Aquatic and Fitness Centre in South Coquitlam represents step one in the renewal of the Coquitlam Recreation and Sports Centre. Intended to be a centerpiece for a growing community, it reflects a tangible commitment to sustainability, accessibility and community health.

The facility houses a six-lane, 25-meter swimming pool, diving tank, lap pool, leisure pool, hot pool, steam room, sauna, weight training room, fitness space, and physiotherapy and sports medicine services. The “front room” natatorium is, in essence, a double height glass box, glazed on three sides. It has dramatic street presence, with the water surface at eye height for those walking or driving by. Grouping the support functions in a three-floor area towards the back permits the aquatic centre to operate as a free-standing facility while further phases and components are introduced.

Designed to a minimum LEED® Silver standard, it features pool water that is pre-heated by roof-mounted solar panels, and rainwater used for irrigation. The heat exchange and dehumidification equipment is enhanced by the building’s flow-through natural ventilation. Pool water is also reused for the flushing of toilets.

The aquatic centre is also notable for its commitment to accessibility, including a universal change room and in-pool therapy rails, along with second-floor fitness and physiotherapy areas. It is an important community facility whose public purpose is abundantly evident in its architecture.



“I liked that there’s a simple box that contains all the complex resolution of fun things going on.”
— juror comment



“This is quite refreshing. It goes above and beyond clichés often seen in the community centre world. I really like the way the light column splits the space. It’s very clearly presented. It’s a clean, appropriate, sensible building.”
— juror comment

2009 Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia Award in Architecture
Merit Recipient

North Vancouver Library

Firms: Diamond and Schmitt Architects Incorporated
CEI Architecture Planning Interiors

Lead Design Architects: A.J. Diamond B.Arch, M.Arch, OAA, OC, FRAIC, RIBA, MAIBC (DSAI, Principal-in-Charge)
Paul Szaszkiwicz BES, B.Arch, OAA, MRAIC (DSAI, Project Principal)
John Scott MAIBC, MRAIC, MAAA, AIA (CEI, Partner-in-Charge)
Sid Johnson MAIBC, M.Arch, Dip.Bldg.Tech (CEI, Associate)

The new North Vancouver Public Library is the product of extensive community consultation. The result: a public facility that truly reflects the needs and wishes of modern library users, as well as genuine insight into the ebbs and flows of library life.

Situated as an adjunct to North Vancouver City Hall, helping to frame a new civic plaza, the building features an open, accessible design, with an intuitive flow that leads one through a natural segregation of increasingly quieter environments. Generous, light-filled public spaces speak to comfort, and the substantial scattering of art throughout adds to the inviting ambiance. A dedicated high circulation area - or “hot zone” – serves to concentrate activities in one primary area. The design allows for a high degree of flexibility, including technological capacity that will allow it to remain responsive over time.

Books aside, it is more than a library. It offers a full range of mixed use space, including a wired business and career centre, market promenade, wireless cafe, rooftop and outdoor reading rooms, and an amphitheatre. A much-needed community meeting space, it also takes full advantage of its special surroundings, with vantages onto the Lions Gate Bridge, Burrard Inlet and North Shore Mountains.

Nearly double the capacity of the community’s previous public library, the project was designed to LEED® Gold standards. It is powered in part by rooftop solar panels and Central Lonsdale’s first sustainable energy plant, hidden beneath the outer plaza. Exterior sunshades add a distinctive design feature while also reducing solar heat gain by close to 75 per cent.

From quiet study and contemplative reading to family play and social interaction, this new facility is designed to be a hub of community activity, a centre for engagement, and a landmark for this vibrant community.



2009 Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia Award in Architecture

Merit Recipient

Whistler Public Library

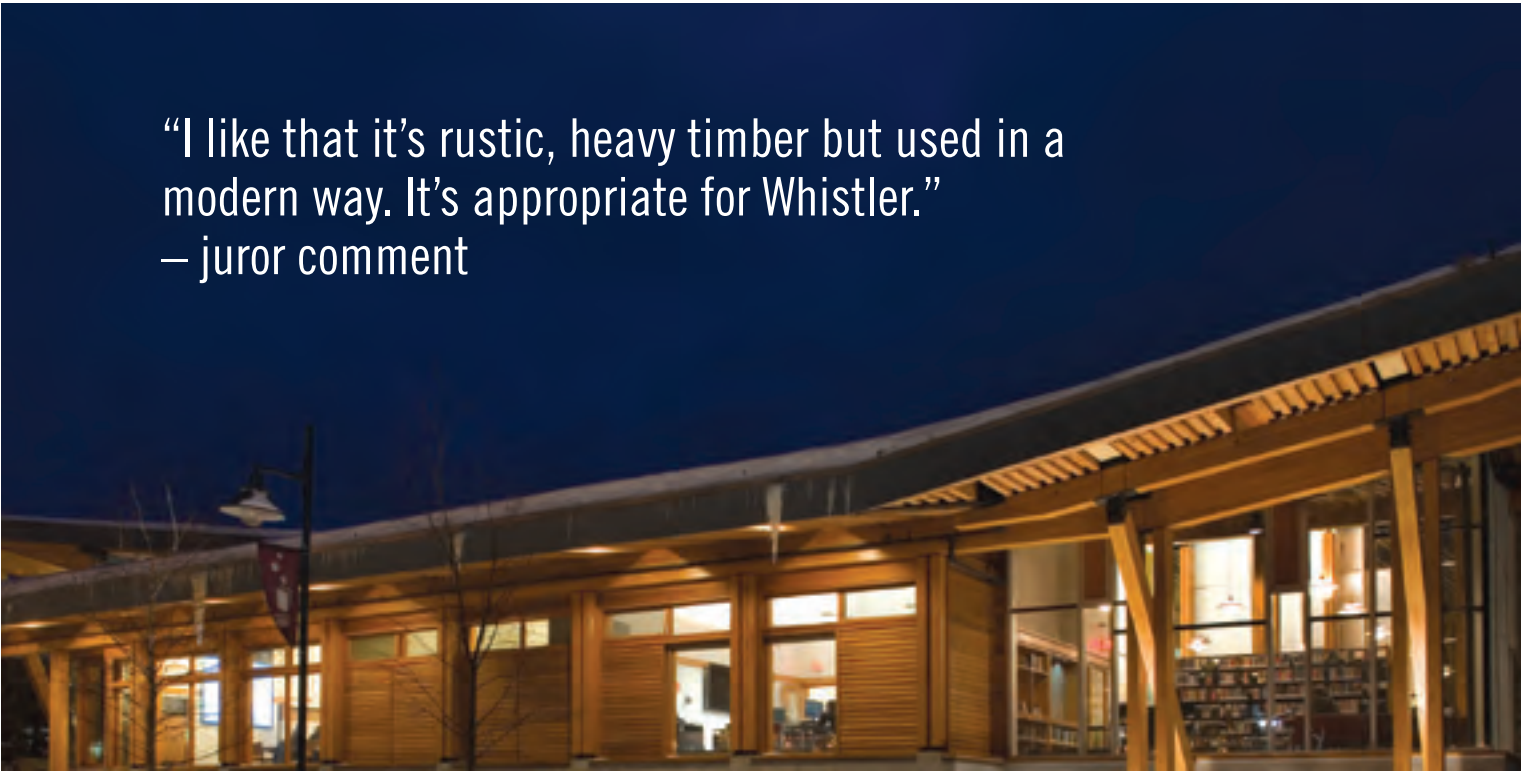
Firm: Hughes Condon Marler : Architects
Lead Design Architect: Darryl Condon MAIBC OAA FRAIC LEED AP

Designing a new public library for this resort community called for a reinterpretation of Whistler architecture, seen by many as a “faux alpine” pastiche with an overemphasis on connecting details. This project set out to create a more crafted response to site and setting, with added energy considerations. It also needed to blend intellectual pursuits with the community’s passion for the outdoors.

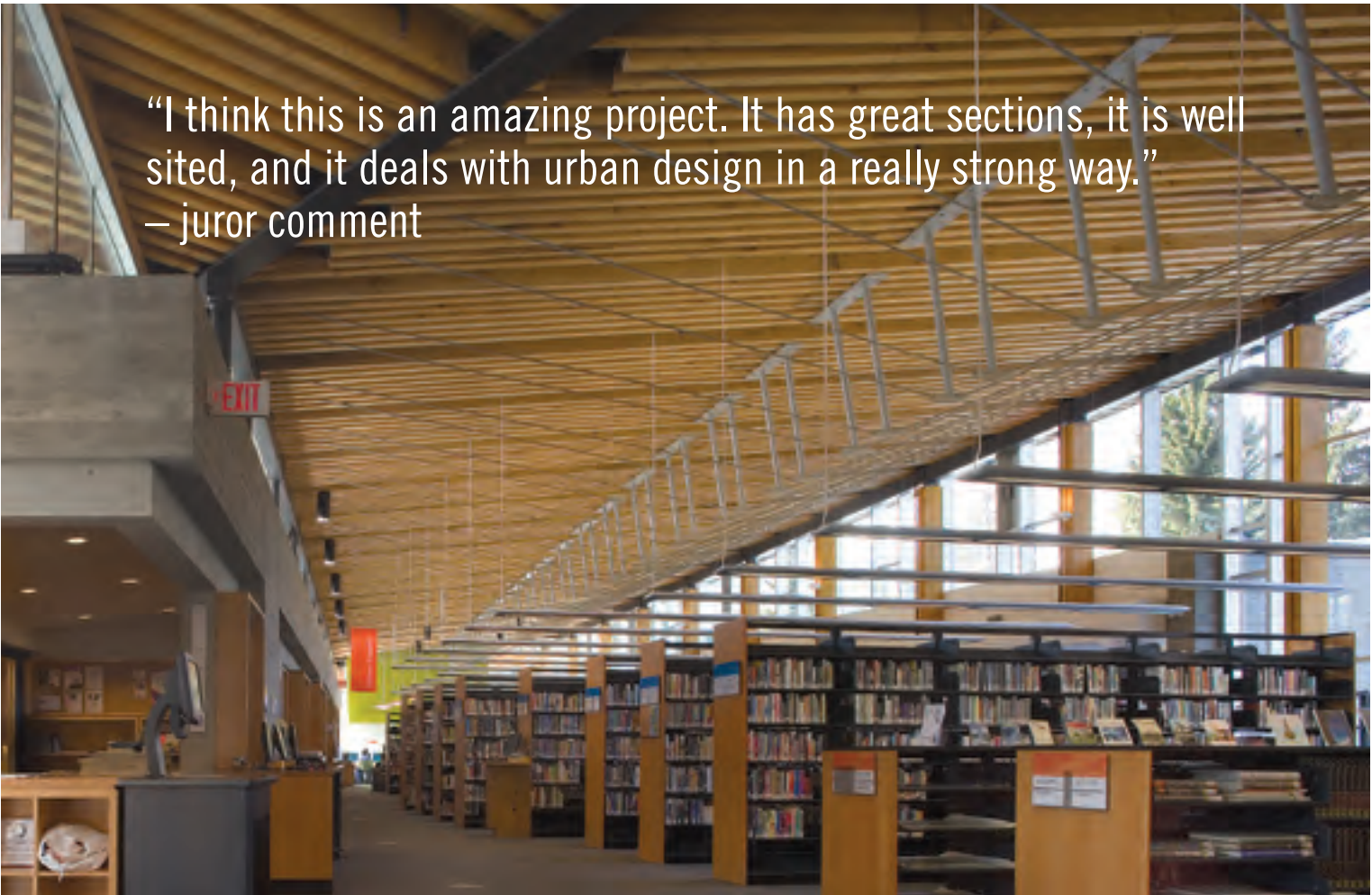
The library’s L-shaped design allows for multiple connections to the outside, and is oriented to form a plaza that connects with existing walkways. The building’s northern exposure allows for optimal visual connection to Whistler’s dramatic natural surroundings. On the opposite side, pedestrian arcades, overhangs and columns tie in to the meandering character of Whistler Village. An end-of-trip facility, with showers and lockers for cyclists and skiers, fits the active Whistler scene while encouraging alternate, energy-efficient means of transport

The most marked green strategy is a laminated hemlock green roof system. Inspired by Whistler’s traditional architectural vernacular, is also happens to be a superior product for sustainable wood construction. Design considerations reflect the varied Whistler climate, allowing for dramatic variations in daylight from season to season. The project expects to achieve LEED® Gold rating.

The end result is a 21st Century library with a traditional feel, a platform for new media and technology that remains a comfortable home for readers. It stands for imagination, contemplation and community, the very qualities that went into its creation.



“I like that it’s rustic, heavy timber but used in a modern way. It’s appropriate for Whistler.”
— juror comment



“I think this is an amazing project. It has great sections, it is well sited, and it deals with urban design in a really strong way.”
— juror comment

2009 AIBC Innovation Award

'22' Series

Firm: Bocci
Designer: Omer Arbel IA.AIBC

Sometimes innovation occurs as a paradigm shift; big, bold strokes of the imagination that turn traditional thinking on its head. Other times, it's more simple and subtle, like the creation of a better mouse-trap. Omer Arbel's eye-opening idea is the latter.

The "22" Series is a suite of electrical accessories that does away with the traditional, ubiquitous, and tired plate covers that come with power receptacles, switches, thermostats and phone lines. Using a unique "snap fit" mounting system, components can be installed flush with surrounding surfaces. For architects, the potential impact of this simple concept is big.

Architects and designers spend significant time and energy ensuring that lines, proportions,


accents, movements and relationships are both purposeful and artistic. In the end, however, practicality and established norms can get in the way. Something as trivial as the plastic face plates diminishes the desired result.

For architects, no more cover plates means much less visual impact. Flush-mounted electrical outlets do away with a longstanding source of "visual noise". It's an elegant solution to an overlooked challenge, a simple idea - well executed - whose time is long past due.

"I believe this is, as architects, what we should be looking at. Until we get down to this, we won't have control over the ultimate details of a building. This is brand new."
— juror comment



"Cool but quirky."
— juror comment





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2009 AIBC Special Jury Award Winner

Dockside Green

Firm: Busby Perkins+Will Architects Co.
Peter Busby C.M., AIA, FRAIC, MAIBC, MAAA, MOAA, BCID, LEED A.P., Dsc (HON)

Victoria’s Dockside Green is a mold-breaking development that set out to change the standard for sustainable design. The project is committed to the triple bottom line equation of ecological, economic and social equity. Each of its 26 buildings targets a LEED® Platinum rating, which would make it the most sustainable community in the country.

Synergy, the first stage of Dockside Green, is a 10,000 square metre, mixed use project consisting of four buildings; a nine-story residential and a six-story residential building with ground floor

commercial space, a four-story residential building, and a two-story townhouse.

The lengthy list of sustainable features includes an extensive water recovery system, green roofs, energy-saving fixtures and appliances, low-energy glazing, and a community Smart Car vehicle co-operative program. An onsite wastewater treatment facility handles 100 per cent of the sewage, and a commitment to soil remediation saw over 95 per cent of construction waste diverted from land fill.

The entire Dockside Green project is wrapped around a central greenway that is also a key component of the development’s intricate water management system. An onsite biomass gasification plant converts wood waste into clean burning gas for heat and hot water. Dockside’s energy system

goes beyond greenhouse gas neutrality; it has the capacity to be an energy provider, selling excess carbon-neutral heat to neighbouring buildings.

Synergy can lay claim to achieving the highest-ever LEED® Platinum score. It sets new standards for civil and mechanical work, and a new benchmark for urban infrastructure and site remediation. Still, it is about more than environmentally-friendly design. It reflects a philosophical commitment to sustainability that extends to public awareness and education. Aptly named, Synergy stands as a showcase for large scale sustainable development, and represents a significant raising of the bar for sustainable architecture.

“This is a benchmark project of the past twenty years. It demonstrates how to respond to a client.”
— juror comment



2009 AIBC Emerging Firm Award Winner
JWT Architecture and Planning

Principal: James W. Tuer MAIBC MBCSLA AIA



James Tuer’s architectural journey began in 1999 at the University of Oregon. Following internships with Howard Bingham Hill and Marceau Evans, it took him to Florida before returning north to the Gulf Islands. In 2006, he established JWT Architecture and Planning, a two-person firm based on Bowen Island.

In keeping with his personal upbringing, Tuer’s firm is founded on the principles of diversity, adaptability and conservation. The business strategy is built around collaboration, community service, educational outreach and design excellence. A focus on single family residential work has allowed JWT to also explore new approaches to materials, and form. A business approach that balances built commissions with planning work, and local projects with international work, helps to bridge the economic highs and lows.

The firm’s commitment to community is evidenced through Tuer’s work with the Bowen Island Advisory Planning Commission and the

Bowen Island Sustainability Framework Working Group. His work also generates speaking engagements and media interviews that serve as a platform for his strong environmental message. Most recently, the company has reinvested its earnings in a remote, off-the grid residential project that is also a living laboratory for new design ideas and innovative building crafts.

JWT has quickly established a sound reputation, one that carries beyond the Canadian border. Testimonials speak to Tuer’s visionary voice, fresh approach, and rare ability to connect one-on-one with his clients.



“He is able to understand the values of maintaining a good firm, design excellence, and client relationships.”
— juror comment



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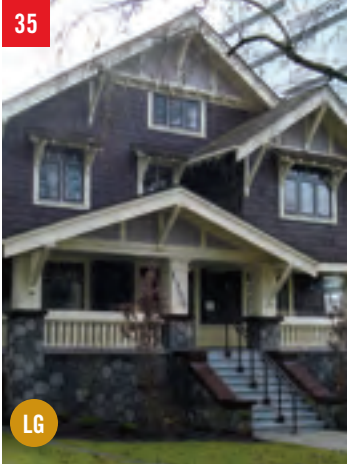
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#	Firm Name	Project Name			
01	AA Robins Architect	Mobile Living Unit	21	Iredale Group Architecture	Squamish Adventure Centre
02	Acton Ostry Architects Inc.	Terminus + Grand	22	JWT Architecture and Planning	Pearson Residence
03	Acton Ostry Architects Inc.	Stella	23	KG. Terriss Architect MAIBC MRAIC	Lindsey Residence
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08	CEI Architecture Planning Interiors	Chancellor Gymnasium Expansion and Fitness Centre	28	mcfarlane green biggar ARCHITECTURE + DESIGN INC.	Canadian Rockies International Airport
09	Coast Architectural Group	Abbott House	29	Measured Architecture Inc.	Wolfe House
10	Coast Architectural Group	The Cove Lakeside Resort	30	Musson Cattell Mackey Partnership Architects Designers Planners	Bentall 5
11	Coast Architectural Group	The Outback	31	Musson Cattell Mackey Partnership Architects Designers Planners in Collaboration with Smith Carter Architects and Engineers Inc.	Child & Family Research Institute
12	David Nairne + Associates Ltd.	Quw'utsun Smuneem Elementary School	32	Musson Cattell Mackey Partnership Architects Designers Planners in Collaboration with Smith Carter Architects and Engineers Inc.	Blusson Spinal Cord Centre
13	Don Stuart Architect Inc	West Vancouver Residence	33	Nick Milkovich Architects Inc.	The Courtyard House
14	dysarchitecture	Pemberton Community Centre	34	Patrick Cotter Architect Inc.	London Station at London Landing
15	Flechas Architecture	Castillo House	35	Urban Design Group Architects Ltd.	Heritage Harmony
16	Flechas Architecture	Kitsilano Residence	36	VIA Architecture Incorporated	Laurelhurst Community Center
17	Helliwell + Smith - Blue Sky Architecture Inc.	Elma Bay Residence			
18	Hotson Bakker Boniface Haden Architects	Quest University Canada			
19	IBI / HB Architects	Coopers Lookout			
20	IBI / HB Architects (project started by the former firm IBI Group)	Nita Lake Lodge			

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Other AIBC Awards and Certificates

Special Certificate of Recognition Janet Lutz MAIBC



Janet Lutz was registered and licensed in British Columbia in 2002 under Reciprocity of Inter-recognition, having been registered in Washington State since 1988 and with many years of experience working in architectural and design offices. The following year she successfully ran for AIBC Council, and soon became active in reviewing policy governance as well as an outspoken advocate for the institute's Intern Architects and young practitioners.

In 2003, Janet was named Chair of the Equity Task Force. For the next two years, she worked to review public legislation, the equity policies of other professional associations, and existing AIBC policy and regulations concerning the issues of equity. It was determined by the Equity Task Force that, while there was room for improvement, the necessary framework connecting public legislation and AIBC policy was already in place. As a result of this work, AIBC Council adopted several new policies designed to require performance indicators of status and success of existent policy.

Janet's work with the Equity Task Force led council to appoint her Chair of the Policy Monitoring Committee in 2005. This committee was formed to develop procedures and processes to more efficiently and comprehensively monitor the policies governing and directing the AIBC by its council. The goal was to ensure the threads of the fabric linking vision to program, and goals to results, were visible. The result was a streamlining of procedures between staff and council while maintaining accountability of reporting.

That same year, Janet was also named to the Communications Board and, very importantly, began work on the Design Resource Library initiative. In early 2006, a survey was conducted through the AIBC website to determine members' interest in, and the need for, a professional library. The results indicated that an AIBC-based print library would be of value to IAs preparing for registration examinations as well as to young practitioners. Based on the survey results, policy governing the library was developed and adopted by council in November 2006. Janet then turned her attention to populating this library. She reached out to the membership, initiating a fundraising campaign and asking for donations from retiring practi-

tioners. John Graham MAIBC generously donated his personal library in 2006, as did Abe Rogatnick Hon. AIBC, this past year. Two wish lists of titles were also compiled with the priority being study books for IAs along with other recommendations for acquisition.

The list of Janet's accomplishments on behalf of the AIBC and its members would not be complete without mention of her work with the Volunteer Recognition Committee. Janet saw the need to elevate the profiles of those individuals who spend countless hours representing the institute and its constituents, both at home and afar. In 2006, as Chair of the Awards committee, she began a comprehensive review of the Volunteer Recognition Program.

Janet currently sits on the AIBC's Consensual Resolution Review Panel.

Since joining the AIBC, Janet has proven herself to be an effective crusader. When she sees a need that is not being met, she also sees an opportunity to affect change. Whether sitting as a member of a disciplinary committee at a formal inquiry, working in the complex arena of equity issues, or as a member of the Consensual Resolution Review Panel, Janet brings the same essential attributes: fierce intelligence, compassion and a deep concern for the profession and the public it serves.

AIBC Honourary Member Jim Green

Jim has a wide range of experience in community development, social activism, city planning, and arts and culture. He has taught university, held elected office, and is currently the principal of Jim Green & Associates, a development consulting firm.

Jim has made a contribution to the profession of architecture not only as a non-market housing activist striving to improve the conditions of our most vulnerable, but as a former City of Vancouver Councilor (2002-2005) whose public policy helped shape the form of the city.

Jim is a well-know advocate for Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, and has led the development of many significant projects including the Woodward's Redevelopment. He chaired Vancouver's Creativity City Task Force as well as the Social and Economic Development Committee of The Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

He has authored and co-authored numerous reports and publications including Towards an Ethical Architecture, Issues Within the Work

of Gregory Henriquez, and Which Legacy? Vancouver's Downtown Communities and the Expansion of the Vancouver Convention & Exhibition Centre.

Jim's work has helped elevated the role of the architect from that of a tool for development to that of an integral member of a team intent on making the world a better place. Architects who have worked beside him know of his commitment to design excellence along with the goal of community empowerment. His lifetime of community service makes him an exception candidate for the title of honorary member.

AIBC Honourary Member Blair McCarray P.Eng, PE, LEED® AP, ASHRAE Fellow Principal – Stantec

Blair McCarray has been a leading mechanical engineer in the province for more than 35 years. He is a LEED® Accredited Professional, a Fellow of the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE), and a member of several other professional organizations. Blair was the founding chair of the Vancouver Branch of the Cascadia Chapter of the United States Green Building Council (USGBC), and was a member of the Canadian Green Building Council Technical Advisory Group.

Blair has been a key contributor to some of the highest profile and most innovative architectural projects in B.C., including the Vancouver Convention Centre, Library Square, Vancouver International Airport, University of British Columbia Museum of Anthropology, Simon Fraser University's Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue, Dockside Green, and many others.

His participation in these projects has significantly influenced their architectural outcomes. In many ways, Blair has moved forward the art and science of sustainable design and integrated design. Through his collaboration with architectural firms, he has increased the awareness and appreciation of the innovative role that mechanical engineering can play in creating environmentally-responsible, energy-efficient and integrated architecture. As a passionate and effective advocate for sustainable design, he has enhanced the stature of architecture in British Columbia.



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