

2005 Inform Award Winners

The 2005 Inform Awards program calls attention to 14 exemplary projects selected from a field of 148 entries. The focus for 2005 was interior and exterior spaces and objects, with broad guidelines that allowed for submissions of comprehensive building interiors and designed exterior spaces, in addition to furniture, lighting, tableware, seating, exhibits, and signage. The jury of Seattle architects (Robert E. Hull, FAIA, The Miller/Hull Partnership, Chair; Rick Sundberg, FAIA, Olson Sundberg Kundig Allen Architects; and Mark Reddington, FAIA, LMN Architects) selected the following submissions for seven Honor Awards and six Merit Awards.

2021

Scout Motor Company

Merit Award

The goal was to create a chic experience for a communications store in Washington, D.C., combining a retail setting for product display and sales with a location for product representatives and clients to use as a satellite office. The basic container is a simple enclosure, with a slab overhead, tall plaster walls, and a poured concrete floor - all set against a backdrop of black carbon steel panels.

Hargrave Residence

Robert M. Gurney, FAIA, Architect

Honor Award

Intersecting spatial volumes and a diverse palette of materials define the identity of this house, located on a sloped corner lot in Glen Echo, Maryland. Just as the exterior volumes are distinguished from each other through form and materials, a similar concept is applied to surface textures and shapes inside the house. Jurors praised the architect's sense of proportion and the engaging cross-section of the main space.

Nichols Residence

Robert M. Gurney, FAIA, Architect

Honor Award

This house in Great Falls is organized around a cylinder that contains open-riser, aluminum-and-steel stairs and a series of bridges that connect spaces inside the colliding forms seen on the outside. Interior finishes are simple, minimal, and consistent throughout.

Occoquan River House

Robert M. Gurney, FAIA, Architect

Merit Award

This 3,400-square-foot residence along the Occoquan River is composed of four strong forms that interact to create dramatic views and defined living spaces. Each volume retains its identity, but contributes to the greater whole. This is especially true on the second floor, where the living, dining, and cooking spaces flow together but retain the imprint of the prominent exterior geometry.

Harmon Residence Screens

Frank Harmon Architect with Christian Karkow

Honor Award

The project is a series of ten screens that are integral to a contemporary house in Charleston, S.C. that overlooks a tidewater creek. Hinged above the porch, the screens were designed to allow an unobstructed view, while offering protection from intense afternoon sun. Reminiscent of the shutters found on Charleston single houses, the movable screens are constructed of metal frames that support perforated metal panels typically used in industrial flooring.

Garden of Planes

Gregg Bleam Landscape Architects

Honor Award

The client for this residential Richmond garden desired a minimalist interpretation of an Italian terraced garden. Freestanding planes of Tennessee sandstone flank the entry and bronze gates, leading to a black slate terrace defined by a brass reflecting pool and a bronze vine scrim. Cantilevered slate steps open to a bocce lawn surrounded by stucco walls, while a long cedar bench suspended from the scrim faces the perennial garden.

Belvedere Gardens

SMBW Architects

Honor Award

A feeling of spirituality is engendered at this 110-acre Salem cemetery through two fundamental moves - a subtractive process of carving the main space from the existing ground plane and the additive use of the displaced earth to create an earthen platform. The result is a composition of three outdoor rooms that form contemplative spaces.

Jackie's Restaurant and Lounge
CORE architecture + design
Honor Award

To suit a menu of playful American cuisine for a Washington, D.C., restaurant, the original 1920s garage structure was left untouched. Already in place were 16-foot ceilings, concrete floors, and a roll-up door. Industrial steel and brightly colored surfaces and furniture create an eclectic atmosphere that recalls the Sixties. The open kitchen makes a performance out of food preparation, while the glowing bar and lounge are separated from each other by a modern version of a projection screen.

Green Door
Envision Design
Honor Award

Green Door, a nonprofit community program that prepares people with severe mental illness to work and live independently, needed a headquarters that conveyed its welcoming attitude. The architects took a 1950s warehouse, inserted four skylights, and quadrupled the perimeter window surface to brighten the space. Low-flow plumbing, recycled materials, renewable flooring and millwork, and salvaged office furniture are among the many sustainable design elements.

Beller Kitchen
Bushman Dreyfus Architects
Merit Award

Built about 1906, this stately Charlottesville house had numerous additions that resulted in a jumble of back porches facing a well-tended garden. A cramped kitchen was tucked deep inside the house. By incorporating two of the porches into the expanded footprint of the kitchen, new space was gained and a spectacular view of the garden was revealed.

Dominion Tredegar Energy Clearing House
Baskervill and 3North
Merit Award

The architects converted this facility overlooking the James River rapids into a "clearinghouse" space for energy trading. Parking is relegated to the lower levels, which elevates the trading floor above the river's flood plain. Open to supervisory and support spaces on the balcony level above, the trading floor provides expansive views of the river and mimics the outdoors with perforated metal "clouds" for acoustical dampening.

Palette Restaurant
BBG-BBGM
Merit Award

The designers used a curved wall and a raised rectangular platform along the street facade to create unusual and intimate spaces. The outer skin consists of sandblasted glass panels, which allow the restaurant to glow. Randomly spaced, clear glass inserts give passersby a glimpse inside. Unobtrusive, diffuse lighting casts a glow across walls and the blonde wood flooring, while artwork is suspended within display boxes that also subdivide space.

Organization of American States
Group Goetz Architects
Merit Award

The design team sought to revitalize the image of the 325,000-square-foot General Secretariat Building in Washington, D.C. A palette of stainless steel, limestone, and glass creates an international feel, while liberal use of Honduran mahogany speaks to the organization's membership. Public spaces were reconfigured to create a tri-level entry space with a monumental staircase accented by folded mahogany planes. On work floors, a "boulevard" organizes collaborative and support spaces.

Metablica
Studio Antiithesis
Special Award

This project unites a space by crossing one boundary - a retaining wall separating a grassy hillside and a brick courtyard - and creating another, demarcating where the hill becomes sloped. Two of the steel tables they created extend across the wall, creating a flat tabletop on higher ground, which flows over the wall and angles. The second of these tables was cut to provide a third surface, located to create a border on the hillside and provide visual continuity.

U.Va. Student Team: Michelle Shuman, Elizabeth Shoffner, Katie Spicer, Nathan Petty, Meredith Epley, Justin Hershberger

Contractors: Charles Danley Welding Studio; Roger Charles Sherry/PlankRoad Studios