The Architectural Awards of Excellence were established by the American Institute of Steel Construction in 1960 to recognize and honor outstanding architectural design in structural steel and to encourage further exploration of the many aesthetic possibilities that are inherent in steel construction. This year a distinguished jury named twelve buildings for Architectural Awards of Excellence. In the opinion of the AISC Committee on Awards, each building represents design of the highest standards, and all awards are equal in stature. The award-winning architects are listed on the following pages with pictures of the buildings for which they received commendation.

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF STEEL CONSTRUCTION
1973 Architectural Awards of Excellence

WELTON BECKET AND ASSOCIATES
Contemporary Resort Hotel

COPE LINDER WALMSLEY
Oxford Valley Mall

EUINE FAY JONES
Gazebo

KNORR-ELIOT & ASSOCIATES
Feather Factory

McGAUGHAN & JOHNSON
Fourth District Headquarters, Metropolitan Police Department

C. F. MURPHY ASSOCIATES
College of DuPage—Instructional Unit One

JOHN PORTMAN & ASSOCIATES
Regency Hyatt House

ROSSEN/NEUMANN ASSOCIATES
Pine Knob Music Theatre

PAUL RUDOLPH
First and Second Church in Boston

SMITH, HINCHMAN & GRYLLS ASSOCIATES INC.
S. S. Kresge International Headquarters

SKIDMORE, OWINGS & MERRILL
One Liberty Plaza

THOMPSON, VENTULETT & STAINBACK, INC.
The Omni
Jury of Awards

PIETRO BELLUSCHI, FAIA
AIA 1972 Gold Medalist
Former Dean, School of Architecture & Planning
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts

WILLIAM A. CAUDILL, FAIA
Caudill Rowlett Scott
Houston, Texas

VICTOR O. GRAY, M.ASCE
Vice President, Consulting Engineers Council
Victor O. Gray & Company
Seattle, Washington

AMBROSE M. RICHARDSON, FAIA
Chairman, Department of Architecture
University of Notre Dame
Notre Dame, Indiana

ARCHIBALD C. ROGERS, FAIA
President, The American Institute of Architects
Chairman, RTKL Inc.
Baltimore, Maryland
"This hotel in the futuristic milieu of Disney World could be regarded as a prototype for future combination hotel-transportation facilities. The expression of the hotel is very well handled and nicely reflects its basic steel structure. It is designed on a modular or systems basis which may be a prototype for the future."—Jurors' Comments

Architect
Welton Becket and Associates, Los Angeles, California

Contemporary Resort Hotel
Walt Disney World, Florida

Structural Engineer
Richard Bradshaw Inc., Van Nuys, California

General Contractor
USS Realty Development, Division of United States Steel
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Steel Fabricator/Steel Erector
American Bridge Division, United States Steel
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Owner
WED Enterprises, Glendale, California

The first major successful breakthrough in the use of plug-in/superstructure systems technology, this 1,040-room hotel illustrates the definition and control of a major interior space (while providing an orderly framework for high density dwelling units) and demonstrates that imaginative and authoritative design of the superstructure yields inherent advantages and economies of scale. Steel room modules are arranged in terraced fashion on 13 pairs of structural steel A-frames. The modules slope upwards on two sides to enclose a vast, nine-story-high interior space open to the outdoors through end walls and skylights of glass. Massive tubular steel space frames in a pyramidal design support the end walls, which are penetrated by a monorail. The walls have a maximum width of 100 feet and a height of 90 feet. The hotel is 184 feet high, 220 feet wide at the base, and 468 feet long. Nine levels of guest rooms—topped by a restaurant—rise from a four-level base which contains the public spaces.
Architect
Cope Linder Walmsley, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Oxford Valley Mall
Middletown Township, Pennsylvania

Structural Engineer
Meridian Engineering Inc., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

General Contractor
McCloskey & Co., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Steel Fabricators
Unistrut Corporation
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Delco Steel Fabricators, Inc.
Cornwells Heights, Pennsylvania

Steel Erector
Thomas Lindstrom & Co., Cinnaminson, New Jersey

Owner
Kravco, Inc., King of Prussia, Pennsylvania

This is a major two-level regional shopping center, enclosed, air-conditioned, and containing 1½ million square feet of retail space and parking for over 8,000 cars on 120 acres of land.

The two-level interior mall cross-section has a narrow ground floor, taking on the character of a bustling shopping street and a wider upper floor having the quality of a great galleria. All the public spaces are surmounted by a continuous modular steel space frame 40 feet above the floor, which creates a consistent ceiling for the malls and provides opportunities for a variety of lighting, seasonal displays and special effects.

An effort has been made to create a great concourse, almost a thousand feet long, with the space frame as the great unifying element. The character is reminiscent perhaps of a great market mall of the last century, but using 20th century technology to create a powerful sense of the outdoors, with changing seasonal and lighting conditions, providing a festive quality appropriate to a place of public congregation and enjoyment.

"Here is a fine example of the internal common space which is restoring a very important sense of community to the urban areas of our cities. Steel is a most important material for creating the crystal palace effect that envelops these malls." —Jurors' Comments
The gazebo, a place to feed ducks and watch water, is a multi-stemmed umbrella of light steel framing, set in a mini-park.

The site is a landscaped pedestrian area bordered by a busy thoroughfare, a city library, and a community center building. The location is near a recently completed low-income housing development.

Set in a garden area, the gazebo is a functional and sculptural element which complements the earth mounds, duck pond, and fountains. Constructed of many members of small size, the structure achieves a lightness and delicacy of scale which relates well to the rhythms and reflections of the water, and contributes to a pleasant environment in the middle of the city.
"This is a joyous little structure. It is carefully designed and displays a fresh and light treatment of its essential material, which is structural steel."—Jurors' Comments
This building, originally designed to process feathers, began as a one-story operation in 1919. Two additional floors with a 42-foot-high open loft space were added in 1932. The steel structural framework served also as the support for mounting a maze of complicated tanks, pipes, blowers and catwalks—a huge "Rube Goldberg" fantasy.

In accordance with the building code now in effect, the change of type of occupancy (from manufacture to office use) required that the structure comply with present earthquake structural standards. This compliance was accomplished by adding diagonal steel wide-flange bracing in various places throughout the building, and diagonal steel tie bars at the roof plane. To reduce the open height of 42 feet and to increase the rental area, steel decking was used to partially fill in one floor. Brick pavers are over this added decking.

The end result is a spectacular free-flowing space, crisply modulated with the precise pattern of steel, complemented by trees, plants, park benches, and abundance of natural lighting that together create a most delightful and unusual working atmosphere.
"This old factory, remodeled for office use, presents a sensitive and well organized combination of structure, graphics, and texture. The original structural steel is interestingly recollected and attractively displayed in the remodeling."—Jurors' Comments
"The jury regards this dignified design for a government agency as having considerable importance. It represents a trend toward simplicity and direction that should be recognized and encouraged."
—Jurors' Comments
This new District Headquarters for a large metropolitan police department is a prototype for additional headquarters buildings, two of which are now under construction.

Well over a thousand police officers operate from this unit. It is here that they receive instructions and equipment and pick up their patrol vehicles. The few who remain on duty at headquarters to serve the public must be visible and accessible. Separation of public service areas from the coming and going of the district force is most essential. Also the arrival and processing of persons under arrest must be separated from both public and operational areas for both humane and security reasons. The outstanding achievement of the design is its handling of this complex function.

An exterior skin of weathering steel was selected for its warm brown natural color and for low maintenance cost. The building is designed for vertical expansion and the use of weathering steel and glass avoids the usual difficulty of matching color and texture between new and old surfaces.
Instructional Unit One is the first completed structure on a junior college campus that will ultimately serve 11,500 students with enclosed facilities totaling 1,375,000 square feet. The present building accommodates 2,700 students in an area of 300,000 square feet.

Located on a site of 273 acres, the campus will be organized by function rather than by academic department. The design provides the practical advantages of a continuous, enclosed building as well as the diversity and intimacy of individual building units. Below grade at concourse level, the functional units will be united in one continuous space. They will rise from this common level to form a group of separate buildings at plaza level.

All building units will be of similar construction—steel frame and glass. Weathering steel has been selected as the principal building material because of its maintenance-free property and warm patina. The steel is enhanced by the use of gold-tinted glass in extensive window areas which will reflect the natural surroundings on the exteriors and offer pleasant views of the out-of-doors from the interiors.
"Here is a simple and attractive expression of a steel building. The careful detailing creates an interesting and abstract pattern between the windows, the panels, and the fenestration."—Jurors' Comments
"The jury applauds the high quality of design with particular emphasis on the quality of the internal court and the inventiveness of the form. The interior space is handled in a most inventive way and the central sculpture is designed and scaled as to become an integral part of the internal design. This building represents a bold and progressive step in imagination and inventiveness."—Jurors' Comments

The guest levels of this hotel surround a large atrium, open from the lobby level to the skylit roof 196 feet above.

The unusual configuration of the 17-story structure was based on providing each of the 840 guest rooms with an exterior balcony, taking maximum advantage of views of the city and the bay, preserving the sight lines of neighboring buildings toward the bay, and creating the dramatic lobby space.

Highly individual public areas complemented by large-scale landscaping, fountains and sculpture make the building an effective convention facility.

It was possible to get more spacious guest rooms within the limited space because the main frame, enclosed in the partitions between every other room, was thinner in structural steel than it would have been in concrete. The ductility of a structural steel frame was also important in an area of concentrated seismic activity, such as the San Francisco Bay area.
Architect/Engineer
John Portman & Associates, Atlanta, Georgia
Regency Hyatt House
San Francisco, California

Engineering Consultant
John A. Blume & Associates, San Francisco, California

General Contractor
Jones-Allen-Dillingham (A Joint Venture)
  J. A. Jones Construction Company, Charlotte, North Carolina
  John B. Allen Company, Anaheim, California
  Dillingham Construction Corporation, Honolulu, Hawaii

Steel Fabricator/Steel Erector
American Bridge Division, United States Steel
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Owners
Portman, Crow, Rockefeller, and PIC Realty Corp. (A Joint Venture)
  John C. Portman, Jr., Atlanta, Georgia
  Trammel Crow, Dallas, Texas
  David Rockefeller and Associates, New York, New York
  PIC Realty Corporation, subsidiary of Prudential Insurance Company of America
Here is a well designed structure that uses exposed structural steel to create a gay and light environment appropriate to the function of the theatre. It is straightforward, honest, and very nice."—Jurors' Comments

Architect
Rossen/Neumann Associates, Southfield, Michigan

Pine Knob Music Theatre
Independence Township, Michigan

Structural Engineer

General Contractor
Indusco Corporation, Clarkston, Michigan

Steel Fabricator/Steel Erector
Structural Steel, Inc., Mt. Clemens, Michigan

Owner
Indusco Corporation, Clarkston, Michigan

This theatre, planned for musical presentations of Broadway plays, has a capacity of 5,360 seats under roof and lawn seating for 5,000. Its area is approximately 60,000 square feet. In addition open air concession stands and a 7,000 square foot food dispensing building are arranged around a central entrance plaza and an outdoor eating area.

The theatre is of long span steel truss construction on concrete columns. The steel trusses, the longest items ever shipped in Michigan, are 140 feet long with 50-foot cantilevers. A wood roof was used with wood fascias, clouds, and cylindrical wall panels for controlled absorption and dispersal of sound. All exterior cedar boards are finished with bleaching oil. Their final color is a natural grey. Super graphics in red and orange, as well as orange under the roof of the theatre, give the project a carnival quality.
When this church was devastated by a fire five years ago, only the bell tower and facade remained. Today, viewed from Berkeley St., there is little to suggest that the church has been rebuilt, since the old entrance appears unchanged. But around the corner, a whole new world of architecture opens up.

Neatly dovetailed into the granite tower and front wall is a gleaming, recessed edifice of structural steel, split rib block concrete, and glass, topped with a pitched copper roof. The roof is ended by an angled clerestory shaft some seven stories high, which houses the sanctuary beneath. Entrance is gained up flights of arcing steps embracing an outdoor amphitheater that seats 350. The amphitheater expands upwards toward the roof like an inverted funnel and subtly and neatly relates to the 180-ft bell tower.

While the site of the building is rectangular, the basic plan of the church is U-shaped, with its angular thrusts based on the lines of the amphitheater. The angles have been used in a functional way for acoustics, sight lines, and the introduction of natural as well as artificial light within.
"This addition of contemporary space to the remains of an old church very successfully weds the old and the new without compromising either the contemporary flavor of the new or the Victorian and eclectic flavor of the old. An important symbol has been restored and a functional area for community use has been added. The jury was impressed with the handling of steel as an essential material for constructing the new addition and relating it to the remaining parts of the old church."

—Jurors' Comments
This international headquarters is located on a 30-acre site with no dramatic topographical features. The basic design is a modular building, located diagonally across the site to soften the perimeter masses as they related to the adjacent major traffic arteries.

The complex includes 13 modular building units, each from two to four stories high containing just over 10,000 square feet per floor. Where large uninterrupted areas are demanded, the units are connected at their faces; where offices are the prime need, units are connected at their corners, creating a number of interior courts. Each unit is serviced by a core tower. Future units, with their own service cores, can be added to a number of existing modules.

From a multi-story, skylighted interior courtyard lobby, a system of diagonal pedestrian corridors connects all units at both the first and second levels, and traverses the landscaped courts. The large clear span of the lobby roof is achieved with a series of structural steel Vierendeel trusses, making up a two-way space frame.

Weathering steel curtain wall panels are complemented by red-bronze tinted glass. This exterior color consistency is maintained by the brown glazed masonry blocks of the service core towers.
"This international headquarters office reflects very careful organization of an extremely large and complex design project. The quality of the interior space is outstanding and results from sensitive handling of the structural steel."—Jurors' Comments
This 54-story office tower is situated on a two block site in downtown Manhattan. A special zoning resolution permitted consolidating the total allowable floor area on the larger block (68,440 square feet), leaving the other block (32,760 square feet) for a park.

The building has about 2,000,000 gross square feet of floor area above the plaza, with two floors below the plaza of 68,000 square feet and 60,000 square feet. The tower consists of 49 typical office floors with a gross area of 37,800 square feet each, plus three mechanical floors above the second floor. The second floor is an 18-foot high major rental space, accessible by escalator from rental spaces at the plaza level.

This is the first major high rise building in New York City to clearly express its structural steel frame. The square office floors are completely column-free from core to exterior wall, a span of 47 feet. Only 30 columns support the structure. Steel weight was approximately 25 pounds per square foot.
"This building is a well designed and handsome expression of a steel building. It is attractively sited with open space around it. A new and innovative method of fire protection permits the spandrel girders to be exposed, dramatically expressing the steel frame."—Jurors' Comments
"This vast enclosed space has been handled with a refreshing directness in which the expression of the steel structure and the supporting forms are well expressed throughout the structure."—Jurors' Comments
Restricted by vehicular viaducts to the North and South and by railroads to East and West, the Omni site provided a strong determinant for a square building configuration. To accommodate 15,000 seats for ice hockey, the design placed the seating bowl on the diagonal of the 362-foot square plan. This concept placed more seats on the “50 yard line,” as well as producing a unique orientation of space with an apparent span of 490 feet.

To accomplish this, a two-way steel truss system became the apparent solution. However, it was desired that the structure not only provide a dramatic ceiling to the space, but be interesting to observe from the tall office buildings surrounding the site. The resulting solution was an orthogonal intersection of trapezoidal folded plates, connected with diagonal upper chord members.

The form of the supporting wall trusses, approximately 100 feet high, was determined by the intersection of the seating bowl. The combination of this strong central tower section and cantilevered ends was then used to an advantage both structurally and architecturally. The tower was ideal for resisting wind forces while the normal tendency of the cantilevers to deflect applied reverse forces to the roof structure. Architecturally, in the corners beneath the seating bowl, four glass enclosed lobbies were formed by the 100 and 150-foot cantilevers of the wall trusses, the 45-foot high glass curtain walls being framed with light steel trusses to resist wind forces.

The completed structure satisfied the initial criteria of an economical design having a pleasing appearance from both the outside and the spectator’s viewpoint. The exterior of the building was sheathed in weathering steel with feature strips applied to the surface identifying the structural frame of the wall truss.
Photo Credits

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