Innovative Design and Excellence in Architecture with Steel

Honorable Mention

North Carolina Museum of Art Outdoor Cinema and Amphitheater
WHEN DESIGNING THE PLAN FOR EXPANDING THE NORTH CAROLINA MUSEUM, in Raleigh, NC, the architect’s idea was to successfully mesh the collection of 20th century art and the surrounding landscape into the 167-acre site.

The project entails the possibility of a solution beyond simple site work, earth moving, and the traditions of landscape. Equal emphasis is placed on the development of both theory and program. This approach to the museum entailed: the design of grove parking areas; active cultural areas, such as an outdoor sculpture court; artist’s cabins; a greenhouse containing classrooms and workshops; an amphitheater and outdoor cinema; recreational facilities such as group picnicking areas; and a reading garden. Also involved was the preserva-

Juror’s Comments:

This project is playful and whimsical; however, the attention to detail regarding the use of structural steel is of the highest order.

These unencumbered structures are terrific fun! This is an honest expression of steel structure that also defines space and creates exciting forms with truly minimal means. Beautifully detailed!
tion of existing vegetation and new plantings.

The first phase of the plan was the three-acre site Amphitheater and Outdoor Cinema, which is located adjacent to the existing museum. The new site would increase the museum’s capacity for outdoor programming, and better incorporate the natural landscape. The roof of the amphitheater not only protects visitors from the elements, but its sculptural form provides an identity and focus for the amphitheater. The big screen attached to the west side of the museum is composed of aluminum and steel, and is 30’ by 60’. It is angled for viewing from the sloped landscape in the foreground. The outdoor cinema accommodates 1,200 people with an overflow area of an additional 1200 visitors in adjacent areas.

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**Project Team**

**Project:** North Carolina Museum of Art Outdoor Cinema and Amphitheater  
**Architect:** Smith-Miller + Hawkinson Architects, New York, NY  
**Owner:** North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh, NC  
**Structural Engineer:** Ove Arup and Partners, New York, NY  
**General Contractor:** Clancy and Theys, Construction, Raleigh, NC