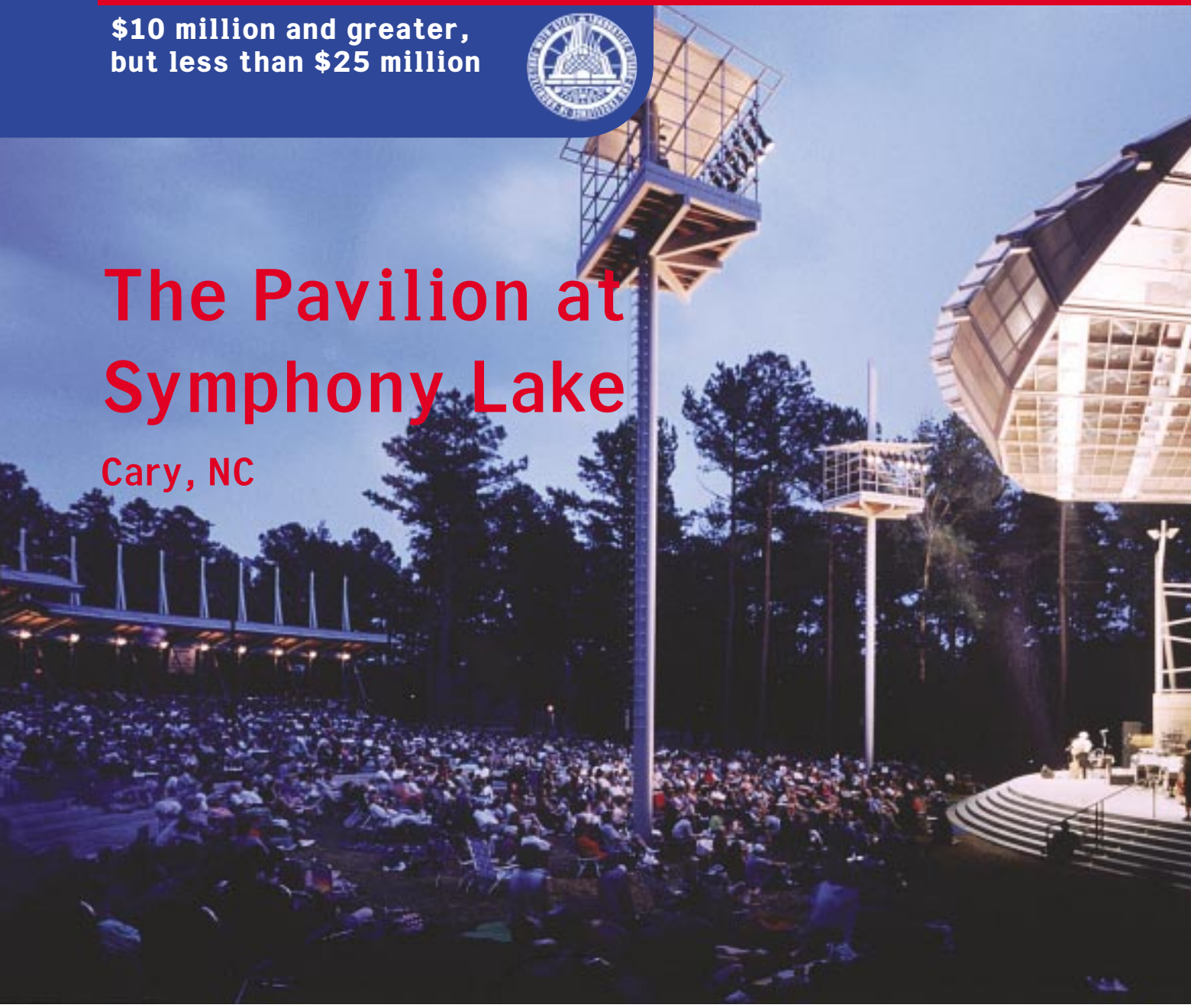
NATIONAL WINNER

$10 million and greater, but less than $25 million



The Pavilion at Symphony Lake

Cary, NC

Nestled within a native pine forest gently sloping to the lake, the Pavilion at Symphony Lake in Cary, NC, has a transformable stage capable of supporting symphony, theater, dance and opera, outdoor seating for 7,000, a covered pavilion for 300-seat dining or 500-seat lectures, concessions and ticket booth and support spaces. Providing a high-tech civic icon to a fast-growing new town, the Pavilion in the Park features extensive use of steel, glass, and wood.

One goal of the pavilion was to integrate with the wooded area. The vertical lattice-like steel structure is in harmony with the scale and nature of the pines, while the thin steel columns and transparent glass surround allows for optimum viewing of the trees and lake, which in turn provide the enclosure of the stage. The dining crescent at the rear of the audience area forms the back edge of the audience clearing. The glowing steel and glass lantern over the stage stores and masks theater equipment, shelters performers and creates a visual delight for the audience with computer-controlled flickering bulbs that mimic a basket of fireflies.

Another goal was to create a flexible design. Draperies can transform the concert shell into a proscenium theater, and the choral loft transforms into an orchestra loft for dance and opera. The orchestra pit provides a dance floor or extra seating when covered.

A vast speaker grid placed inconspicuously amongst the trees provides balanced and articulated sound for large audiences. The computer-enhanced sound system generates warmth of indoor reverberation in an outdoor setting, and the glass shell around stage offers acoustic support for musicians and audience.

JURORS' COMMENTS

A symbolic enclosure of space with a floating structure that could only be steel, supported by tree trunk-like columns. Canopy elements take on tree-like forms of the surrounding forest as they cantilever in unpredictable angles from the columns. The potentially overwhelming sense of mass is mitigated by the use of light framing and transparent screens.

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER
LeMessurier Consultants, Boston, MA

ARCHITECT
William Rawn Associates, Boston, MA

STEEL ERECTOR
Precision Steel Erectors (SEAA member), Raleigh, NC

GENERAL CONTRACTOR
Barnhill Contracting Company, Raleigh, NC

DESIGN SOFTWARE
STAAD