

A WORLD OF REASONS FOR CEDAR



Winners of the Western Red Cedar Architectural Design Awards show diverse, creative ways to apply timeless cedar to cutting-edge architecture.

When is Western Red Cedar more than a beautiful, natural building material? When it's in the hands of the world's most creative architects.

That was the main finding of three leading architects who served as jury for the 2nd edition of the Western Red Cedar Lumber Association's prestigious awards program. Entries came from hundreds of firms worldwide for projects ranging from sheds and home remodels to hotels and commercial complexes. "I served on the jury two years ago, and this year there was definitely a far greater pool to choose from — so something is going right," says Martin Finio, AIA, LEED AP, a returning juror from Christoff:Finio Architecture.

The Western Red Cedar Architectural Design Awards are sponsored by Western Red Cedar Lumber Association (www.wrcla.org) "to recognize innovative design using one of the world's most unique building materials, Western Red Cedar." Hundreds of architects entered, submitting impressive photographs, plans, detail drawings and — for renovation projects — images prior to reconstruction.

"The overall quality of submissions was very high, and the varied use of shingles was especially interesting," notes juror Alfred Zollinger of the firm Matter Practice. "One nice surprise was the number of international projects, as was the variety of traditional and modern uses of cedar." Noteworthy past winners included Grimshaw Architects' iconic Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center in Troy, N.Y., as well as Orange Me-

monial Park. This year, the outstanding honorees include AIA Gold Medal recipient Peter Bohlin's Combs Residence and a massive biomedical complex in Barcelona.

"The projects tell a compelling story," says Katherine Chia, a juror from Desai/Chia Studio, "not just about the innovative use of Western Red Cedar but also about innovative architecture in general."

ABOUT THE JURORS

KATHERINE CHIA

Partner, Desai/Chia Studio, New York City

Since 1994, the firm Desai/Chia has been widely published for its acclaimed residences, landscapes and retail work. Previously, Chia worked with Maya Lin and Prentice & Chan, Olhausen Architects and Planners. She also teaches at Parsons.

MARTIN FINIO

Founding Partner, Christoff:Finio Architecture, New York City

Finio teaches at the Yale University School of Architecture while building an award-winning practice with varied residential and institutional clients. He was editor of the monograph Williams Tsien: Works.

ALFRED ZOLLINGER

Principal, Matter Practice, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Zollinger's firm focuses on architecture and exhibition design. The firm has completed residences, public projects and exhibitions for such clients as the National Building Museum. Zollinger also leads the design-build program at Parsons.



PILOT DWELLING HET ENTREEHUIS

Completed in 2009, this dwelling is the first of ten units planned for the Groote Scheere country estate in the Netherlands, set in a picturesque area known for its farmland, village atmosphere and diverse landscape. Named Het Entreehuis or “entrance house” because it stands at the estate’s gateway, the pilot house is built from sustainable and lightweight Western Red Cedar coated with a black oil color — a nod to the barns typical of the region. The façade is made up of a series of shutters: Large vertical shades on one end allow light to enter or function as blinds, while horizontal shutters on the opposite side are reminiscent of slits in the façade of a farm house. A thatched roof without eaves opens up to a wooden terrace lying just above the landscape, making the house appear embedded in the surrounding bucolic scenery.

COMBS POINT RESIDENCE

The residence at Combs Point is a sequence of clear-finish Western Red Cedar-clad buildings stretching along a stream through a forested glen, from the edge of a lake to a waterfall at the stream’s head. An elevated boardwalk echoes the twisting course as it connects the buildings. Upstream, the guesthouse and a structure combining office and exercise uses are clipped to yet detached from the main house, in a composition mirroring the path of the meandering brook. They each present a simple massing clad in cedar wood siding oriented both vertically and horizontally. Downstream, the main building’s living space opens to a full view of the lake and sky. Primary spaces are framed in Western Red Cedar and steel, as the southern glass wall reveals the waterfall at one end, the lake at the other. A linear steel beam, the fulcrum of the south edge, inflects upward to catch the sun above the ravine’s rim.

Clockwise from top left: Combs Point Residence in Ovid, N.Y. by Bohlin Cywinski Jackson; Bernal Park Restroom Building in Pleasanton, Cal. by Mark Cavagnero Associates; and Pilot Dwelling Het Entreehuis by Bureau B+B in the Netherlands.



BERNAL PARK RESTROOM BUILDING

The master plan for this city near San Francisco called for incorporating architectural elements into the 50-acre Bernal Community Park to support a baseball program and various special events. The solution for a restroom and storage building adjacent to the park’s central gathering area fits elegantly amid the picturesque setting. The rectilinear building is wrapped with a façade of horizontally oriented Western Red Cedar boards. An open-air and skylighted vestibule welcomes visitors, with staggered glass panels creating a visual band that allows natural light and ventilation to reach the interior. The solution meets the municipality’s needs for a lasting public accommodation, with the durable cedar cladding finished in a semi-transparent stain — and graffiti-resistant coating. The windows wrap the structure’s corners, making the roof appear to float above the bands of glass — and offering occupants unobstructed views from within.

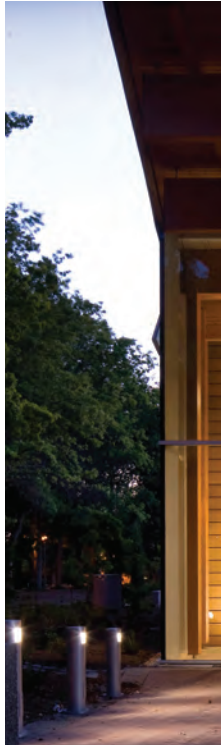
Promotion

RESEARCH MEDICAL COMPLEX OF BARCELONA

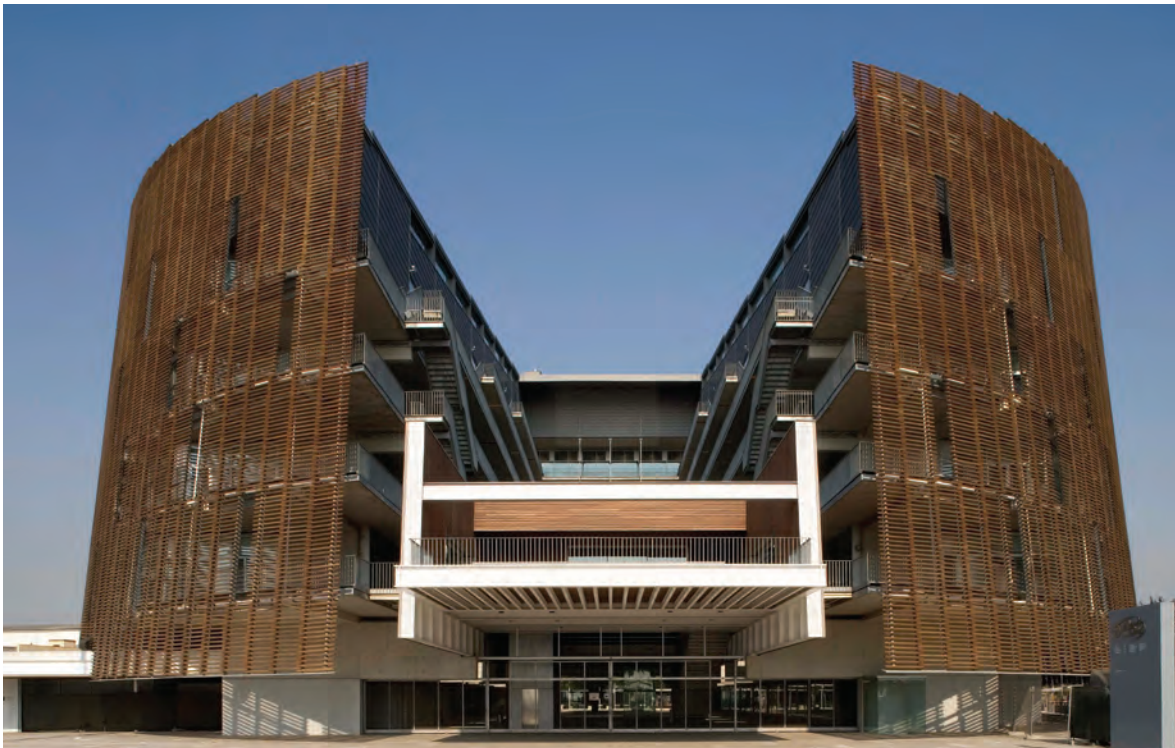
Built along Barcelona's seafront promenade, the Biomedical Research Building is a large elliptical composition (about 600,000 square feet) featuring a high degree of functional flexibility. A double-skin façade incorporating Western Red Cedar performs two functions. It serves as a continuous envelope that resolves the structure's geometry while also ensuring that daylight can pass through without bringing the interiors unwanted heat, glare and direct ultraviolet exposure. More than 44,000 Canadian red cedar slats screen the building from the powerful Mediterranean sun. The slats, trapezoidal in shape to prevent rainwater from collecting, alternate in relative height. A break in the slats runs the full height of the floor at every sixth module, a rhythmic scheme that allows access for fire and emergency workers as required by code.

FIRST PEOPLE'S HOUSE

Clients at the University of Victoria desired a multipurpose educational facility to honor the identity and pride of regional native peoples. Inspired by a Coast Salish longhouse in the post-and-beam structure is clad in vertical-grain, clear-finish Western Red Cedar, salvaged from the coast of Vancouver Island by the Dididat Nation. Organized as three discrete elements — classrooms, ceremonial hall, and administration area — the First People's House is made continuous by glazed curtainwall. An upper roof drains into a storm-water retention pond, while the lower roof is planted with indigenous grasses. Reflecting the integral nature of art in native cultures, the architecture incorporates carved house posts and ceremonial doors, as well a series of decorative carvings set amid woven cedar wall panels in the main hall. Registered LEED and targeting Gold, the facility evokes native principles of environmental stewardship through its use of reclaimed materials and passive ventilation techniques derived from traditional longhouses.



*The Research
Medical
Complex of
Barcelona,
Spain, designed
by Albert de
Pineda Álvarez
and Manuel
Brullet Tenas.*





A view of the First People's House at the University of Victoria in British Columbia, Canada, designed by Alfred Waugh Architect.



Wood Block Residence, located on Mercer Island in Washington, by Chadbourne + Doss Architects.

WOOD BLOCK RESIDENCE

Tasked with a major reconstruction of a 1962 residence by locally renowned architect Fred Bassetti, the architects sought to open up gathering spaces and expand interior sightlines and perspectives throughout the house. A metal skin with interior Western Red Cedar liner grounds the house to the wooded site. An aluminum bar grating encloses the outdoor patio, forming a diaphanous screen to the street. Cedar was selected to clad an existing painted hemlock ceiling, bringing natural warmth to an otherwise modern palette. Thin, tongue-and-groove cedar planks were installed between existing beams — a new roof gesture with the same material outside and in — folding down to cap the perimeter of the residence. Outdoor decks are also built from Western Red Cedar, stained a dark color for visual continuity with the interior floors and outside to the courtyard and patio.

More Cedar Resources: For more details about the awards program or on the application, detailing and specification of Western Red Cedar, visit www.realcedar.org or contact the Vancouver-based WRCLA directly at wrcla@wrcla.org or 866.778.9096.

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