



**2021
Southwest
Michigan**



DESIGN AWARDS CELEBRATION

Vol.II | Editor: Sara L. Tripp, AIA, LEED AP
Geselle Neal, Assoc. AIA



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Southwest Michigan 2021 Board of Directors

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From the President

Dear AIA Southwest Michigan Chapter Members,

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to the AIA Southwest Michigan Chapter! While it has certainly been a year of transition, our local Architectural community has continued to thrive as a result of the unwavering commitment of our local Chapter membership. The ongoing support from our Chapter Sponsors and the continued engagement from our membership is a testament to the dedication of our Chapter members and is a sign of future Chapter success.

As our local firms have spent the year transitioning back to the office and re-evaluating the way we work, the quality of design has remained as high as ever. Whether it's been programming and designing virtually, testing out hybrid office models, transitioning design teams back to in-person settings, tracking and maintaining changing protocols and policies, our architectural community has remained strong and dedicated to the evolution of the profession. As Architects we are natural problem solvers and as a result have been well equipped to adjust and thrive with the constantly changing landscape of 2020 and 2021. Through it all, our Chapter firms have remained focused on creating amazing projects and beautiful works of art for their clients.

While all of our Chapter projects deserve to be celebrated, a special congratulations goes out to the 2021 Design Award Winners! It is extremely exciting to be back together to celebrate the amazing work of such talented teams. Thank you all for your unwavering dedication to the profession and your continued commitment to the AIA Southwest Michigan Chapter!

Fred J. Grunert, AIA, NCARB, GGP
AIA Southwest Michigan Chapter President

January 2021	
Jan 28	AIA SWM Board Meeting (Virtual)
	“CEU Relay Day” (2 Virtual HSW, 1 Original) Tom Lowing (AU) – Sustainability Matrix for Cultures Over Time
Jan 29	Jen McCormick (Mohawk Group) – Achieving a 4.0 for Sustainability in Higher Ed.
February 2021	
Feb 08	AESLC Regional Meeting – Southwest Michigan (Virtual)
Feb 10	AIA Visibility Network Call
Feb 11	AIA Michigan Board of Directors Meeting
Feb 16-19	AIA Grassroots 2021 (Online) “Bring It Home”
	“CEU Relay Day” (2 Virtual HSW, 1 Original) Sandy Bliesner (OCBA) – Site Plan Components Brent Meyers (ATAS) – Designing with Metal Wall Panels
Feb 19	
Feb 24	AIA SWM Board Meeting (Virtual)
March 2021	
Mar 03	MHPN Advocacy Day (Virtual)
Mar 10	AIA Visibility Network Call
Mar 11-12	CAN Advocacy Day (Virtual)
Mar 19	25th Annual AESLC Legislative Day (Virtual)
Mar 24	AIA SWM Board Meeting (Virtual)
Mar 31	Last Day to Pay 2021 Member Dues Before Lapsing
April 2021	
April 14	AIA Visibility Network Call
April 15	AIA Michigan Board of Directors Meeting
	“CEU Relay Day” (2 Virtual HSW) Greg Borgia Adfast (Scranton Products) – Sustainable & Contemporary Locker Solutions Dan Garnett – Building Facade Glazing
April 16	
April 22-23	53rd Annual Healthcare Facilities Conference (Virtual)
April 28	AIA SWM Board Meeting (Virtual)

April 28	Components Alliance Network – Unstaffed Components Meeting
May 2021	
May 11-15	MHPN Annual Statewide Preservation Conference (Virtual)
May 12	MI Career Quest (Virtual)
May 19	AIA Visibility Network Call
May 20	ARE Study Group (2 Sessions)
May 20	YAF Virtual Event: So You Want to be a Citizen Architect
May 21	“CEU Relay Day” (2 Virtual HSW) Brent Meyers (Versico) – Sustainable Building Envelopes Marc Treat (ATAS) – Daylighting
May 26	AIA SWM Board Meeting (Virtual)
May 26	Components Alliance Network – Unstaffed Components Meeting
June 2021	
June 03	AIA MI President’s Call (rescheduled from June 03)
June 08	NeoCon Ignite
June 10	AIA National – Annual Meeting
June 10	MWA / Michigan Producers Council Luncheon (Dawn Nowak), Texas Township Farmers Market
June 10	CKLDP Info Session
June 11	AIA Regional Caucus Meeting
June 17	AIA Conference on Architecture 2021 (Virtual) Day 1
June 17	AIA Michigan Board of Directors Meeting
June 17	Multi Rep Summer Reunion Tour (Jen McCormick), Oshtemo Township Park
June 23	Components Alliance Network – Unstaffed Components Meeting
June 25	AIA MI Honor Awards
June 30	AIA SWM Board Meeting (Virtual)
June 30	AIAGR Annual Golf Outing, Thornapple Pointe

July 2021	
July 08	AIA Conference on Architecture 2021 (Virtual) Day 2
July 14	AIA Visibility Network Call
July 28	Components Alliance Network – Unstaffed Components Meeting
July 28	Honor Credit Union Tour (1 Original HSW)
July 29	AIA Conference on Architecture 2021 (Virtual) Day 3
August 2021	
Aug 02-06	NOMA Project Pipeline (regional, virtual)
Aug 04-07	NCARB Licensing Advisors Summit
Aug 05-08	AIA MI 78th Annual Mid-Summer Conference, Mackinac Island
Aug 05	AIA Michigan Board of Directors Meeting
Aug 11	AIA Visibility Network Call
Aug 17	Special-Lite Factory Tour (1.5 Original HSW)
Aug 19	AIA Conference on Architecture 2021 (Virtual) Day 4
Aug 25	AIA SWM Board Meeting (Virtual)
Aug 25	Components Alliance Network – Unstaffed Components Meeting
September 2021	
Sept 08	AIA Visibility Network Call
Sept 10 – 11	AIA MI 32nd Annual Design Retreat
Sept 13	MSPE Golf Outing, Angles Crossing
Sept 17	AIA/ NAWIC / CFMA Annual Golf Outing, Heritage Glen Golf Course (Paw Paw)
Sept 20	Advia CU HQ Follow-Up Tour (1.5 Original HSW)
Sept 20	AIA Annual Business Meeting
Sept 22	Components Alliance Network – Unstaffed Components Meeting
Sept 29	AIA SWM Board Meeting (Virtual)
October 2021	
Oct 04	World Architecture Day
Oct 13	AIA Visibility Network Call

Oct 14	AIA MI Annual Leadership Retreat, Holland
Oct 20-23	NOMA National Conference (50 Years), Detroit
Oct 27	AIA SWM Board Meeting (Virtual)
Oct 27	Components Alliance Network – Unstaffed Components Meeting
November 2021	
Nov 10	AIA Visibility Network Call
Nov 11	AIA SWM Design Awards
Nov 17	Components Alliance Network – Unstaffed Components Meeting
Nov 17	AIA SWM Board Meeting (Virtual)
Nov 19	The Perfect Pair – Sustainable HDPE + Copper Restroom Touch Points (1 Virtual HSW)
Nov TBD	Gospel Ministries Shelter Tour (1.5 Original HSW)
December 2021	
Dec 1	Kalamazoo Latvian Church Tour (1.5 Original HSW)
Dec 09	AIA Michigan Board of Directors (Transition) Meeting
Dec 15	Components Alliance Network – Unstaffed Components Meeting
Dec 15	AIA Visibility Network Call
Dec 22	AIA SWM Board Meeting (Virtual)
Dec TBD	MSU MASS Timber STEM Facility Tour – Joint Event w/ AIA GR & Mid-Michigan (1.5 HSW)

2021 Events Calendar



JASON CHOI

AIASWM aspires to award student scholarships annually. The scholarships are funded in large part by the AIASWM/ NAWIC/ CFMA Golf Outing. In recent years, the Chapter has submitted for, and been awarded, limited matching funds from AIA National enabling larger contributions.

The Chapter seeks to award scholarships to students meeting AIA National criteria and guidelines as well as students that:

- Are in good academic standing, nearing completion of their studies in Architecture or an architectural based program.
- Have demonstrated community involvement.
- Have a passion for architecture and are a current AIAS member. Are a resident of Michigan and US Citizen (preferred but not required).
- Are a student with local ties to Southwest Michigan (preferred but not required).

Historically the Chapter has presented an award to an area student attending a 5-year NAAB accredited program. This year an additional grant was made available to an area student attending a community/technical school architectural program.

This year's recipients of the AIASWM Scholarship Awards are:
Jason Choi of Berrien Springs, Masters of Architecture, Andrews University
Ashley Randolph of Berrien Springs, Bachelor of Architecture, Andrews University

2020 Scholarship Recipients



ASHLEY RANDOLPH

2021 Award Criteria

OBJECTIVE

AIA Southwest Michigan seeks to recognize and publicize excellence in architecture, to bring to the public’s attention outstanding work completed by architects within our chapter, and to encourage excellence in design for projects within our communities.

The Design Awards Celebration is a chance to gather and honor those recognized. We have been planning and strategizing the unique opportunities for this year’s event, with the goal of providing the most engaging experience possible.

ELIGIBILITY

All entries shall be executed architectural projects substantially designed by confirmed AIA Members within firms who satisfy section 2010(1) of the state licensing act, are in good standing with AIA Southwest Michigan at time of submittal, and remain as such through the entire awards process. Projects that have been submitted in prior years are eligible for resubmission; however, prior award winners in this program are not. All firms substantially contributing to the design of the project must be given credit as part of the submission. The entrant should bear in mind that a project will not be judged in competition with other entries, but on the basis of the solution of the problems presented and its worthiness for an award for excellence in design..

AWARDS CATEGORIES

The awards categories include Existing, New, and Un-built projects. Un-built projects must not be for projects currently under consideration or review, or awarded to another concept that is currently in progress towards reality. Honor and Merit awards may be given in each category, at the discretion of the jury. For entries in the “New” and “Existing” categories, the projects must have been completed and received a certificate of occupancy after January 1, 2019. Projects may be located anywhere in the world.

Thank You to Our 2021 Sponsors!

Palladium Level



Platinum Level



Gold Level



Silver Level





AIA Central Idaho Section

2021 Design Awards Jury

The American Institute of Architects (AIA) is a professional organization that helps architects serve the public’s needs while building awareness of the role architects and architecture play in American society.

AIA Central Idaho is located in Boise, Idaho and represents over 180 architects in the Treasure Valley and surrounding counties.



Leah McMillan, AIA, LEED AP | 2022 President Elect

Leah is an Architect and Owner of Mill Creek Architecture, LLC and practices in Oregon and Idaho. She is currently the Vice President of AIA Central Idaho and has served on AIA Salem’s board as well as neighborhood associations and the local PTA. Leah enjoys working on a variety of projects from neighborhood ADUs to historic preservation projects to consulting on healthcare centers that take her back to her time as a plan reviewer. She enjoys navigating the building codes and zoning issues that clients face today and guiding them through the process. She has two young children that show their love of building with Legos and a husband that puts up with her remodeling ideas.



Jeffry T. Slichter, AIA, NCARB

Jeff is a Project Manager/Project Architect with Slichter|Ugrin Architecture in Boise, Idaho. As an Idaho native, Jeff cut his teeth in construction and design growing up in the family construction business, which established a love for the built environment. He holds a bachelor’s and master’s degree in architecture, both from University of Idaho. With various project experience, including office, manufacturing, financial, educational, medical, and residential projects, Jeff strives to understand the end users’ desires and develop the sweet spot between constructability and creativity without sacrificing function.



Jeremy C. Jeffers, AIA, NCARB

Jeremy is a Past President of AIA Idaho, and Principal / Founder of Jeremy C Jeffers, Architect, LLC. His current work focuses on loan monitoring services, property and building systems analysis, building forensic research, and residential and commercial remodels. Jeremy is a graduate of the University of Idaho, and holds architectural licenses in ID, MT, NV, UT, WA and NB (emeritus). He has been a guest speaker for the University of Idaho College of Art and Architecture Professional Practice Program, the Idaho Forest Products Commission, and the Idaho Climate Summit. He currently serves on the Advisory Board for the West Ada School District’s Pre-Engineering/Pre-Architecture Program. He is the recipient of an AIA Idaho Honor Award “Best Use of Idaho Wood” for a remodel of his own home.



Jennifer Mohr, AIA, LEED AP BD+C

Jennifer is an architect with COLE Architects in Boise. With a background in public and private institutions, her work experience includes a wide range of commercial, industrial, civic, and historic remodel projects. An alumnus of the University of Tennessee, Jennifer has worked on the East Coast and in the Treasure Valley. She also serves as member of the Boise City Planning and Zoning Commission.



Caitlin Kessler, Associate AIA | Associate Director:

Caitlin is a job captain with erstad ARCHITECTS in downtown Boise, and she is currently halfway through her Architectural Registration Exams (almost there!). In the office, she is involved with a variety of projects including multi-family housing, master-planning, banks, and community spaces. Working with people is the driving force behind her passion for design. Caitlin currently serves as the Associate Director for AIA Central Idaho and loves the opportunity to provide resources and engagement for local emerging professionals. In her free time, she enjoys exploring the Idaho wilderness, cycling, and learning how to be a handywoman in her mid-century home.



Allegretti Architects Critical Dune Residence

Covert Township, MI
Category: Un-Built

Jury Comments:

We could see from the case studies and different sections that multiple parts of the project were thought through and integrated into the design

We all agreed that we could see this house as one we could live in.

The site was complicated but the pier and beam solution not only works for the site but it is turned into a beautiful part of the design. The combination of sketches and computer aided studies successfully brought the unbuilt project to life and we look forward to seeing it built.



Diekema Hamann Architecture & Engineering The Historic Boudeman House

Kalamazoo, MI
W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment
Research
Category: Addition/Renovation

Jury Comments:

The entry demonstrates the problem and design solution thoroughly through the provided narratives, drawings, and pre-renovation photos. This allowed us to easily understand the scope of the renovation, and the design approach to renovating this historic building. The project exhibits excellence in updates with colors, textures and forms that accentuate the unique features of the main building and carriage house, such as the ornate trim, lap siding, the monumental stair, and oversized roof overhangs.

The scale and form of the new architectural features and renovated elements complement and give precedence to the historic building, its details, and restore the original design intent.

This project is an exceptional example of integrating modern details and elements that compliment but contrast a historic renovation.

Honor Award Winners



OPEN OFFICE



Honor Award Winners

Seven Generations Architecture + Engineering New Office Build-Out

Kalamazoo, MI
The Steelhead Engineering Company
Category: Addition/Renovation

Jury Comments:

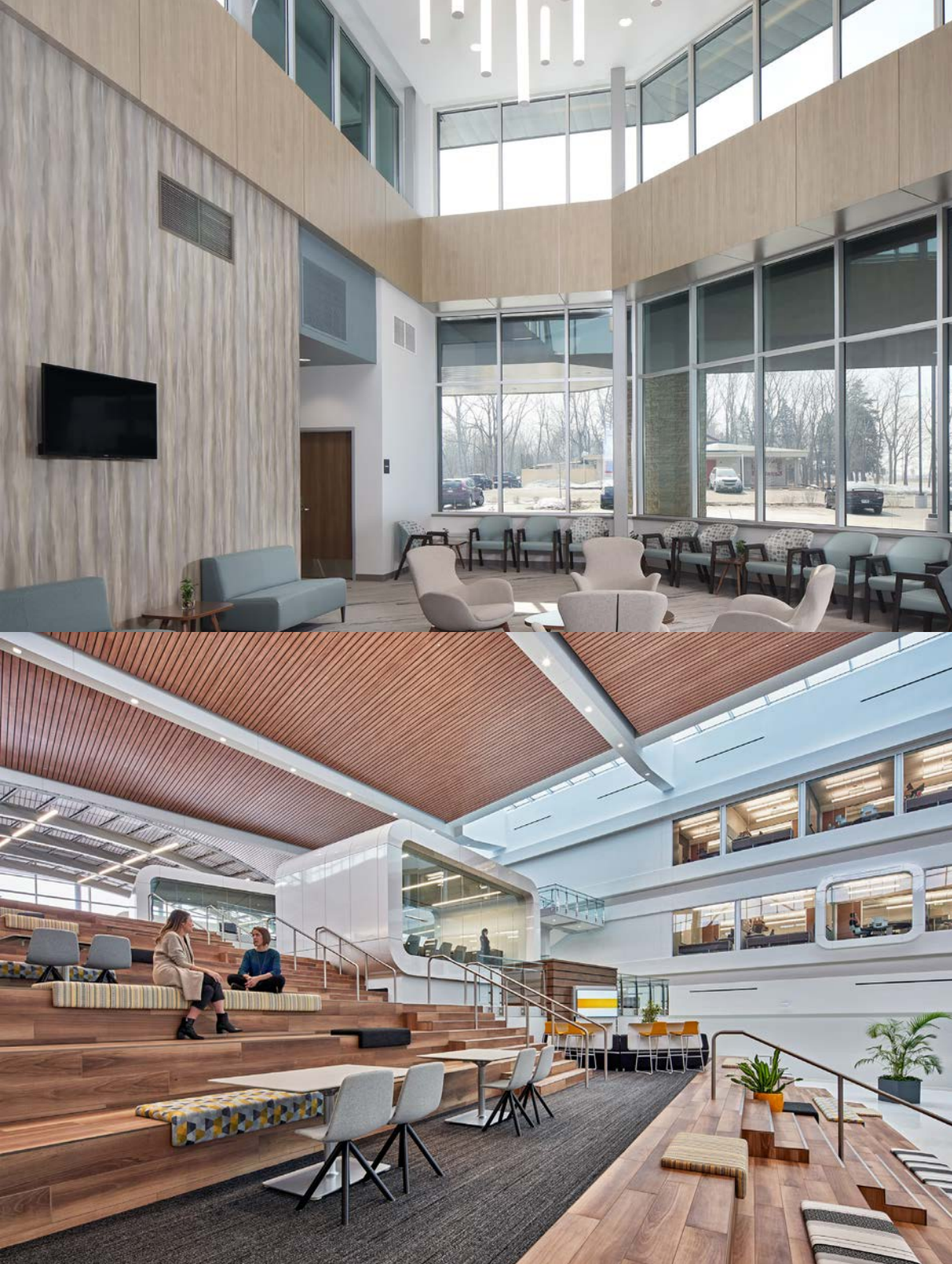
The challenges and expectations were clearly defined and were very clearly executed as represented in the proposal. The selection of materials was very well thought out and accomplished – they make the space comforting, it makes the space a great place to work. Circulation was well defined. From the moment you walk through the reception space, to the conference room, to work areas, it was very well done, nicely handled. Ease of construction was obvious. Remodels can be a challenge and this process was carried out very well. The overall materials were comforting and pleasing. Materials brought about an ease of maintenance which for an owner, cuts down on expenses and the later long-term maintenance. The client's goals were clearly identified and clearly obtained. It's a nice blend of materials, even with the blue as bold, representing the client this was very well carried out. Open office space, natural lighting, and the design lighting, makes the space very comfortable for all seasons. It would be a pleasing environment to bring a client to get creative. The blue accent works very well in this space and it's a nice tie to the great lakes and to the overall feeling of the environment. The design was very sensitive to genius of space, including the materials, colors, circulation. It is just a nice project and a very nice place to work.

TowerPinkster Ransom Public Library

Plainwell, MI
Ransom District Library
Category: New Construction

Jury Comments:

The spaces are connected to each other and to the site with daylight, large windows, the patio and even a double-sided fireplace. This is shown not only in photos but in the site plan and the floor plan that was provided. The materials used reflect both the spaces that they are placed, in as well as the exterior environment. The unique roof shape brought in daylight but will shed the snow and rain while adding and contributing to the unique elevations. We also like the photos of the brick and coping as well as the entry showing that even the smallest of details were thought out, designed, and then built well.



Merit Award Winners

Eckert Wordell Eye Surgery Center of Wisconsin

Oak Creek, WI
Vision Property Group
Category: New Construction

Jury Comments:

We appreciated the thought behind biophilic design, and the photos we were presented with highlighted natural tones from wood to stone to calming blues and tans. The entrance was also a delight to see as one transitions from this fun and dramatic Porte-cochère into a double height full of natural lighting reception and lobby space. We also appreciated the thought behind the custom millwork and the layout of all the spaces. Overall, this project responded well to both programmatic and zoning requirements.

TowerPinkster New Research & Development Facility

Portage, MI
Medical Device Company
Category: New Construction

Jury Comments:

From the fun large elements in the common areas, to the focus on human connectivity and collaboration the interior spaces seem to offer a dynamic workplace to inspire and engage. There is a certain theme of transparency that the jury really connected with. We all loved the amphitheater stair that visually connected the spaces. While the interiors peaked our interest we weren't given the opportunity to see or discuss the exterior of the building. However, the interior spaces highlighted creative, and collaborative design solutions.



People's Choice Award Winner Kalamazoo Latvian Church

Kalamazoo, Michigan
Latvian Evangelical Lutheran United Church of Kalamazoo

Intersect Studio
Category: New Construction



A Journey Through Time Dune Residence

Stevensville, Michigan

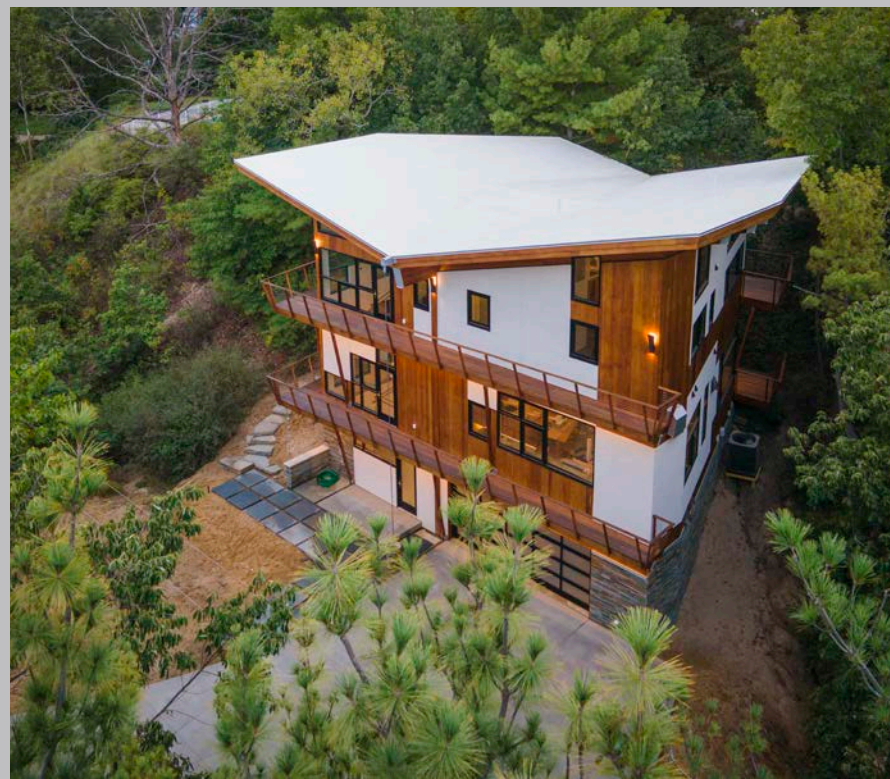
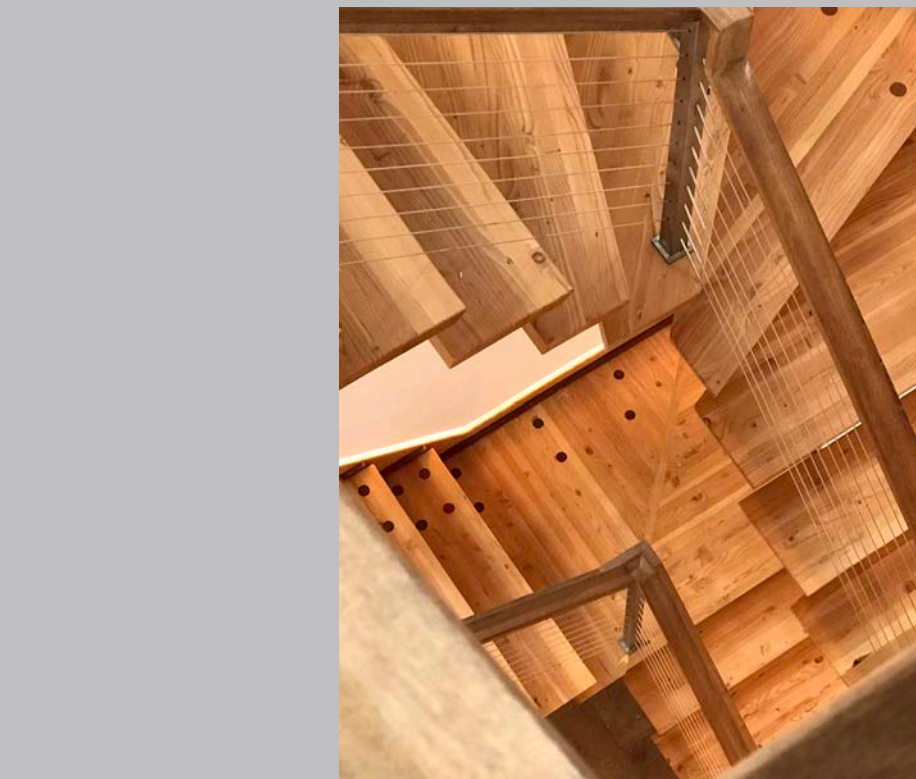
Allegretti Architects

Category: New Construction

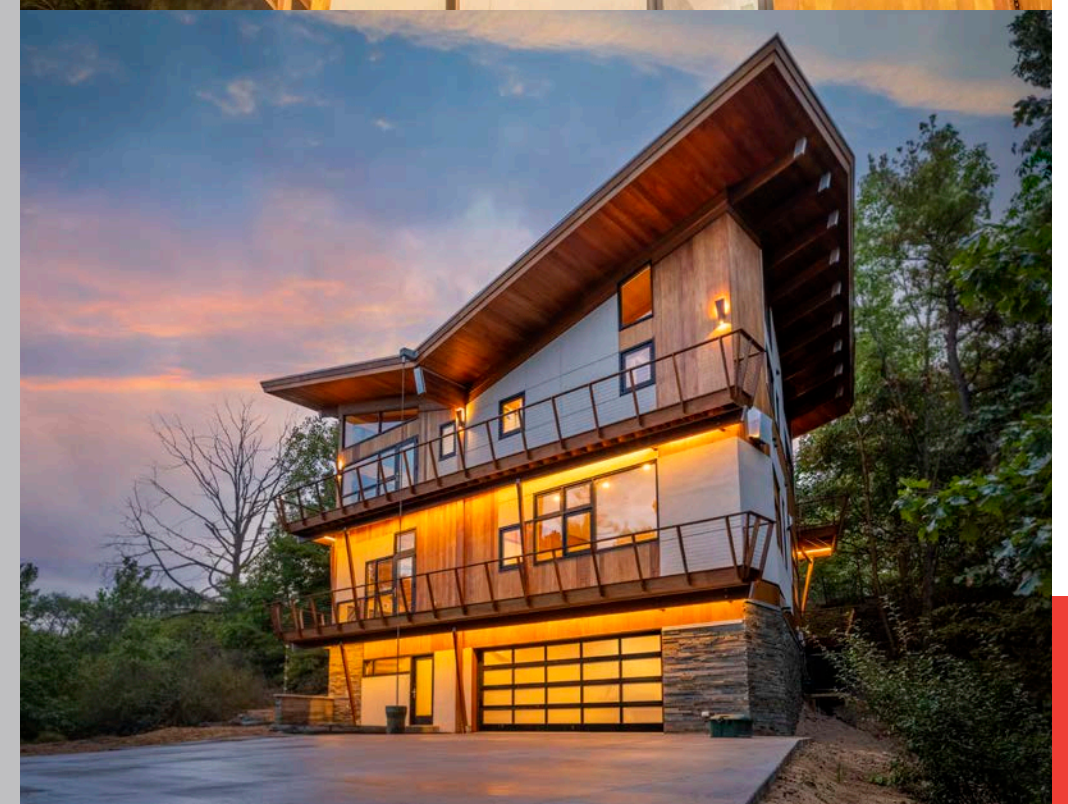
In April of 2019, I met a transnational couple with homes on two continents and two children who wanted a home that would be a permanent living space to call “home”. While looking for existing homes they found one that I had designed in 2005, which they liked. We discussed their program. After learning more about their needs it became clear that the home they were looking at would be much too large for them. I suggested that they might want to consider designing a new home on a lot. It i now the fall of 2021 and the home is just being completed. The long design and construction schedule has the been the result of the owner being confined in China for a year because of the pandemic and visa restrictions and the relocation of the contractor after the first year to Idaho. Our firm seemed to be the only constant in this construction equation. We coordinated with the owner, the contractor and all of the sub-contractors by e-mail for over a year.



The site also offered challenges in that the buildable area was restricted by the front and side yard setbacks and the critical dune Michigan EGLE requirements that disallow construction on slopes greater than thirty-three percent. In order to overcome the absence of both the owner and contractor we have had to dedicate much of our practice to coordinating design as well as the day-to-day implementation of much of the construction.



Initially our challenges were confined to developing a 2,200 square foot home on a 20,145 square foot lot that had a buildable contiguous area of 6.4% or 1,289.28 square feet. Our solution was to incorporate the lower level as a basement and the upper two levels as living area. We were able to tuck a virtual golf range in the below grade lower level, as well as an entry, stair, two-car garage, and a mechanical room. The landscaping is underway, including a screen wall entry walk and other site work to be completed this fall.





Aransas Pass Waterfront Residence

Corpus Christi, Texas

Allegretti Architects

Category: Un-Built

Designing an addition to a coastal desert home in a severe hurricane wind zone is in many ways a more difficult project than we had encountered in this temperate area. Faced with temperature and rainfall extremes we soon began to appreciate the heavy adobe style and decided that rather than demolishing the existing home we would utilize the embodied energy for the greater sustainability of the project. Appropriate testing would, of course, be conducted on the home to determine if anything should be changed. We found that the insulation, roofing, windows, and flashing were to be upgraded to consistency with the addition. 180 MPH hurricane glazing was to be employed throughout to meet the wind zone requirements; surge protection was also a concern.



Our design implements mass timber framing because of its sustainability, as well as its structural resilience and corrosion resistance. It also provides an aesthetic that is ageless and when finished properly, healthy for the occupants and the earth

The addition speaks to the use of the existing built environment with new uses in imaginative ways that express humanities ability to “make all things new again”.

Materials will be selected based on LEED criteria for type, location, health, and carbon neutral qualities. The design has minimized wasted volumetric and square footage and will serve three extended families.





Critical Dune Residence

Covert Township, Michigan

Allegretti Architects

Category: Un-Built

The owners of an existing home in the Fire Drives of Covert Township requested that our firm review the potential of an addition(s) and of a new home. Their family had owned the property for the past twenty-five years and it is their consensus that they wanted to preserve the property for the future generations.

The problems are the site is almost a mile from a paved road. The only access is through steep, narrow, and winding sand dunes. The only buildable area, one hundred and fifty steps above the beach, was on a very narrow sand dune ridge top. Parking is problematic as is turn-around space. The existing home is a two-story geodesic dome constructed on concrete block piers.

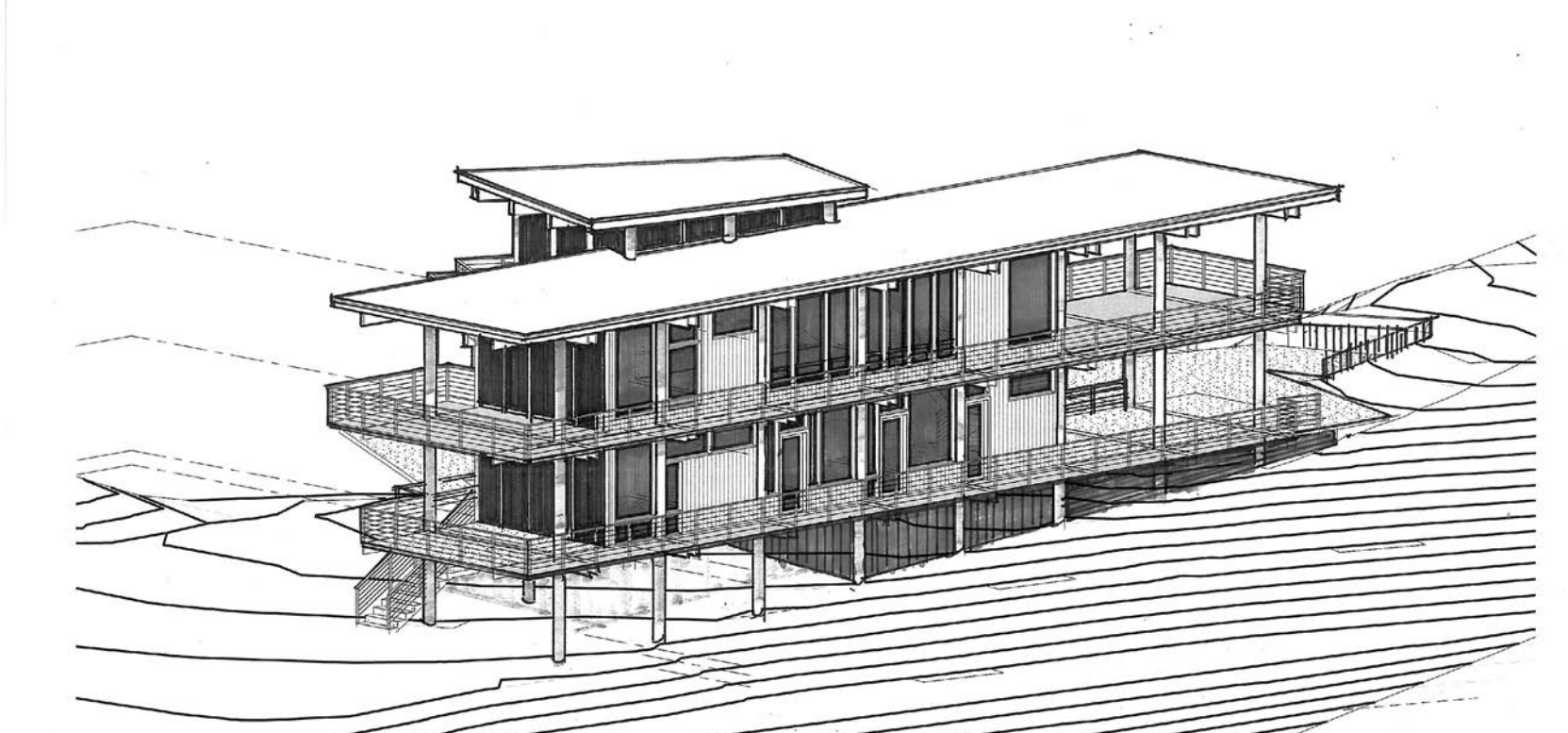
The buildable area is part of the State of Michigan Critical Dunes reducing to fifty its width. The length is also reduced by a 60-year erosion line, existing 20'x30' septic field and tank, primary electric transmission lines, and 15% entry drive grade. The original owner had selected that design type because the prefabricated shell design could be constructed efficiently and at a low cost.



The lack of visual integration into the natural setting led us to reject a renovation or addition. A new home to meet the owner's program seemed like the answer but required costly sheet piling because of the steep slopes. Helical pier foundations were the answer. A post and frame system was developed with a small concrete basement serving as a safe room and a mechanical equipment space.

A sixteen feet wide main structure with a twenty-foot-wide flat roofed structure is supported by helical piers, which are capped with concrete grade beam columns with glulam beams.

The new home design celebrates the unique qualities of the site as well as the owner's love for the peace derived from nature.





The Historic Boudeman House

Kalamazoo, Michigan

W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research

Diekema Hamann Architecture & Engineering

Category: Renovation

W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research has invested in the adaptive re-use of 527 W. South Street from Hospital Hospitality House to Upjohn accounting office.

The main house was constructed in 1866 and the colonial front was added in 1910, establishing the date of interpretation used by the Historic District to determine allowable modifications. In the mid-1960s, a porch was added to the south side of the house. Had the historic district been established this 60's addition likely would not have been allowed, providing the rationale to allow its removal.

Statement of the Problem

- Provide office space in the main house with a new, complimentary entry on the south side with access to Upjohn's employee parking lot.
- Create a video production studio in the carriage house.
- Respond to the existing historic nature of the building when designing the proposed building addition.
- Submit proposed design to the Kalamazoo Historic District Commission for review and approval.



Statement of the Solution

The previously modified second floor arched windows and storms have been restored to their intended form. The bases on each of the prominent north entry columns were unsalvageable and were replaced with new bases of the same form and size. Evidence of the historic carriage house door arch and size was found under the lap siding and was used as a template for the new door.

An entry alcove was added to the south side with exterior panels set it apart from the historic lap siding. Detailing on the addition, including columns and dental, seek to complement the historic structure while setting itself apart. The addition of the exterior sloped sidewalk and an ADA restroom creates greater accessibility.

To aid in differentiating new and historic walls, the new walls feature different crown molding or no molding at all. This design decision allows the new elements to highlight the beautifully contrasting the historic details while complementing their differences. Opening views to the central stair was a priority. Incorporating glass doors, side lights and transoms welcomes the elegance of the central stair into as many adjacent spaces as possible.





Eye Surgery Center of Wisconsin

Oak Creek, Wisconsin
Vision Property Group

Eckert Wordell

Category: New Construction

The Eye Surgery Center of Wisconsin—an ambulatory surgical center just outside Milwaukee—planned and designed for use by three separate ophthalmic practices in the area. The resulting facility is located across from a recently built Ascension Hospital and is one of the first medical buildings in the town’s newly established medical corridor.

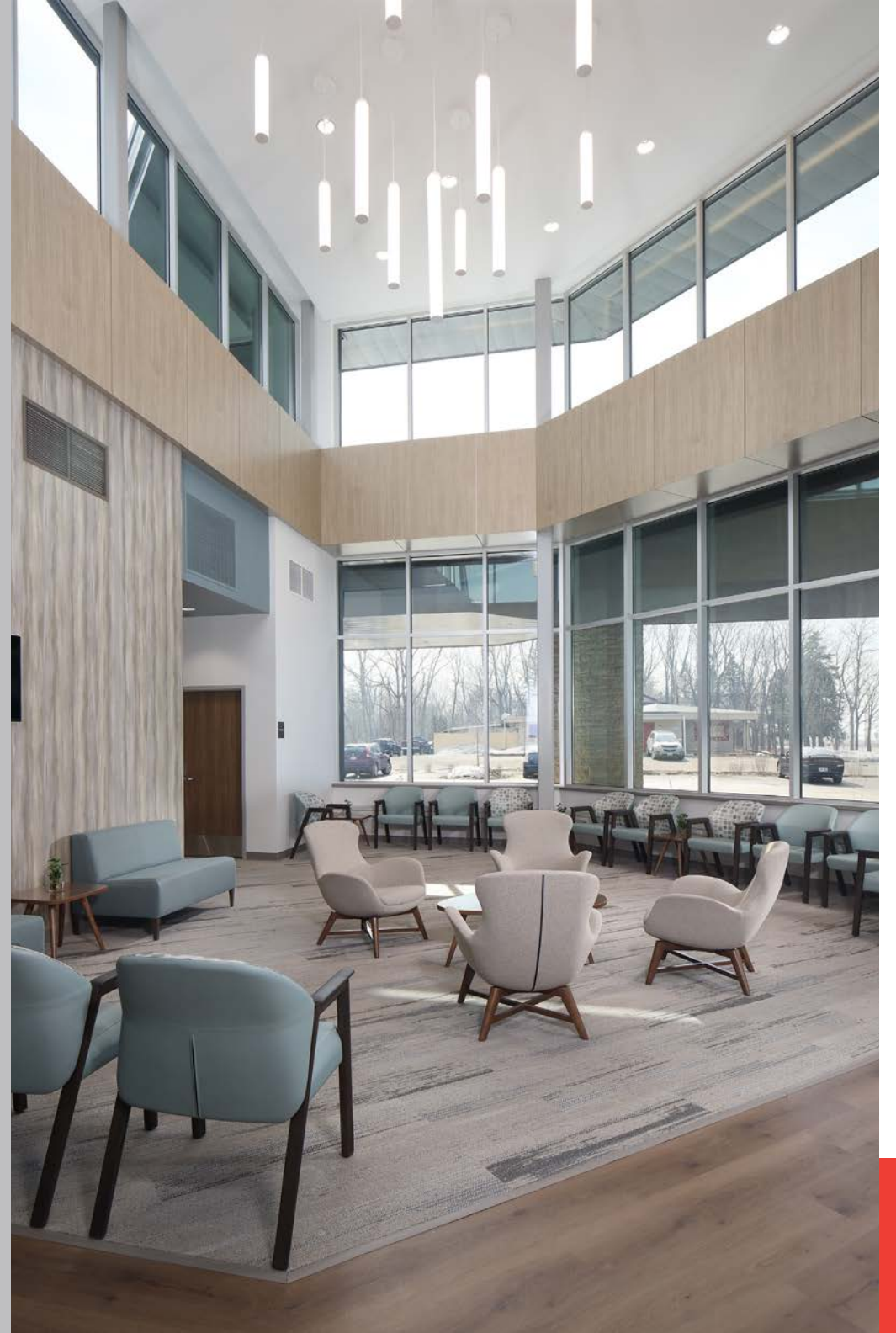
The final program for the facility, based on input from all three practices, resulted in a 11,313 square foot, 3-operating room ASC designed with the flexibility to add a fourth operating room in the future. In light of the potential increase in surgical volume in the future, the design included ample space for the pre-/post-operative bays and surgical support spaces that would be required when the 4th OR is operational. The resulting floor plan reflects the desires of the practices and provides them with the optimal workflow and flexibility as they grow.



The form of the building wraps around these functions and is expressed in an assembly of interpenetrating forms and a juxtaposition of planes. To achieve a welcoming and comfortable healing environment, biophilic design strategies were used including incorporating natural stone, wood tones, and a neutral, nature inspired color palette.



A zoning requirement of the City of Oak Creek required that all buildings along the medical corridor be no less than one- and one-half stories, and no more than two stories, in height. To satisfy this requirement, the design incorporated a dramatic double-high volume entry and reception area, capped by a roof with a large overhang. Additionally, the large windows in the entry and reception area, with clerestory windows, create an open, airy space that is filled with an abundance of natural light that further embraces the biophilic design principles that are linked to good health outcomes.





Honor Member Center

Berrien Springs, Michigan
Honor Credit Union

Intersect Studio

Category: New Construction

The Challenge:

- Create a new building following a Form-Based Code while maintaining the existing credit union operations on the same site until turnover.
- Create a dynamic place for simple and quick banking services which prioritizes human relationship building and upends the formality of traditional offices.
- Reinforce an urban streetscape for pedestrian access while fully accommodating the status quo car culture

Design Methodology:

- Urban architecture should contribute to the public realm and fit into the existing architectural context
- A client’s brand, story and culture story should be celebrated with design and supported with a sense of place
- Design elements and detailing are centered on the human scale and pedestrian building engagement

Solution:

The urban architecture contributes back to and reinforces the public realm with a commanding street presence and clear sense of pedestrian arrival. The design is an homage to historic downtown architecture with vertically oriented glazing. The style of design fiercely represents the client’s fun and friendly modern brand, including use of their signature anodized copper panels, which mimic the warm glow of saved pennies.



The interior architecture provides a colorful & light-filled public transaction space with layers of meeting spaces located down the central spine of the building, with circulation at the edges. This allows what would typically be circulation space only to blend as part of the volume of each meeting space and maximize the small footprint of the building.



This layout also better connects the team members with their customers by removing the barrier of an office door and the feeling of intruding in someone's private space. The glass partitions between office allow for varying levels of transparency while allowing the user to understand and easily navigate the extent of the space. The finishes and integrated graphic design of the interior supports the fun and friendly brand by utilizing simple forms and repeated patterns. The Honor CEO has provided exceptional reviews of the space performing beyond their expectations with rave reviews from their members and visitors.





Honor Member Center & Space on Stadium

Kalamazoo, Michigan
Honor Credit Union

Intersect Studio

Category: Renovation

Oh dear Bob! Although many customers had once enjoyed a meal at this former Bob Evans restaurant, an abandoned building full of mold and water damage wasn't a place to get excited about. The client's original plan for the site was to demolish the existing building and start fresh, but with architectural foresight and deep understanding of the client's needs, we envisioned that the existing architecture could be salvaged and transformed into an asset for their company and the Kalamazoo community.

The Challenge:

- Repurpose and maximize the existing architecture in a meaningful and cost-effective manner.
- Create an elevated banking experience with an emphasis on member engagement, employee health & happiness, and communal space.
- Create open & inviting workspaces that break down traditional office barriers while providing acoustic & visual comfort and privacy.

The function and layout of the building was carefully considered to help the Honor team support and engage with members in an inspiring and highly functional work environment. We employed a sustainable approach to interior spaces throughout, using demountable partitions and flexible furniture systems to accommodate future growth and industry change.



The new addition features a colorful entry canopy & extensive glazing along the street, reinforcing Honor's welcoming reputation and maximizing views of workday activity within, while using integrated glazing to reduce glare and 80% of solar heat gain. The signature copper finish wrapping the addition transforms the old 'Bob' brand into a fresh & fun statement piece for Honor's brand.



The existing building was repurposed into an incredible host center & event space where teams can gather, recharge and connect. Additional daylighting and height was brought into the existing space by raising a portion of the roof and adding a row of clerestory windows above the 'garden' themed lounge space. Games, colorful murals and playful larger-than life elements encourage guests to have fun and DREAM BIG! Honor's regional staff have found this location to be an indispensable central hub to connect & collaborate with team members throughout the hybrid and remote work experience.





Kalamazoo Latvian Church

Kalamazoo, Michigan
Latvian Evangelical Lutheran United Church of Kalamazoo

Intersect Studio

Category: New Construction

A devastating fire recently destroyed the former church and left the congregation that had built it nearly 60 years ago questioning if they had a future. Insurance revenue would only cover 2/3 of a new facility and fundraising seemed out of reach to bridge the gap. The small group of Latvians, with diverse and strong opinions, couldn't imagine how they could come to agreement on what their current and future needs might be. Some call it divine intervention that they were able to engage a design team to help them define what's important for their culture & congregation, evaluate options and diplomatically come together as a community to create a space that allows them to thrive.

A series of client & community engagements built confidence that there were several options on how they could proceed with where and how to build & what they could afford. It was determined that it would be best to design & build the new church prominent of, but attached to the Latvian Association's Community Center which was on the same property of the old church. Attaching to the existing Center would provide opportunities for shared resources and cost savings. Not only did this logistically & physically make sense, but it symbolically joined both organizations.

A Latvian church had not been built in America for over 30 years. Many wondered, how can architecture celebrate & bring people together while being sustainable for current & future Latvian/American generations.



Design Inspiration:

The Kalamazoo Latvians are a strong community that have maintained their culture, traditions and language. While the people are humble and appreciate a warm, simple design aesthetic, they desired a unique architectural expression representational of their modern day Latvian heritage. Uplifting vertical elements, commonly found in Scandinavian architecture, inspired the simple but dynamic forms of the design.

Subtle motifs of birch forests, sandy baltic beaches, traditional woven linen shirts and Latvian symvology relate to what this community calls their fatherland & feels like home.

The sanctuary is intentionally designed with pews in the round for small weekly gatherings to feel full and intimate while larger special events can be accommodated by additional seating in the Narthex.





New Office Build-Out

Kalamazoo, Michigan
The Steelhead Engineering Company

Seven Generations Architecture + Engineering

Category: Renovation

When The Steelhead Engineering Company was established, they wanted an office space that reflected their collaborative nature, technical capabilities, creativity, and Tribal ownership. The challenge they faced was determining how to include each of those elements within an existing office area in Kalamazoo, Michigan. This fit-out revamped the space to better reflect the new tenants, an MEP engineering firm rooted in sustainability.

By leveraging in-house capabilities and technology, the Steelhead Engineering offices achieved uniqueness within a preexisting space. To acknowledge their connection to a local Tribe, a laser cutter was used to etch their newly-drafted land acknowledgment into a sheet of copper, which is a sacred metal in many Native cultures, and hung up in a high-traffic spot at the entrance of the office. A local millworker used a CNC machine to create a wooden fin, the logo for the firm, which is backlit with LED lights and serves as a focal point in the space.

OPEN OFFICE



BEFORE



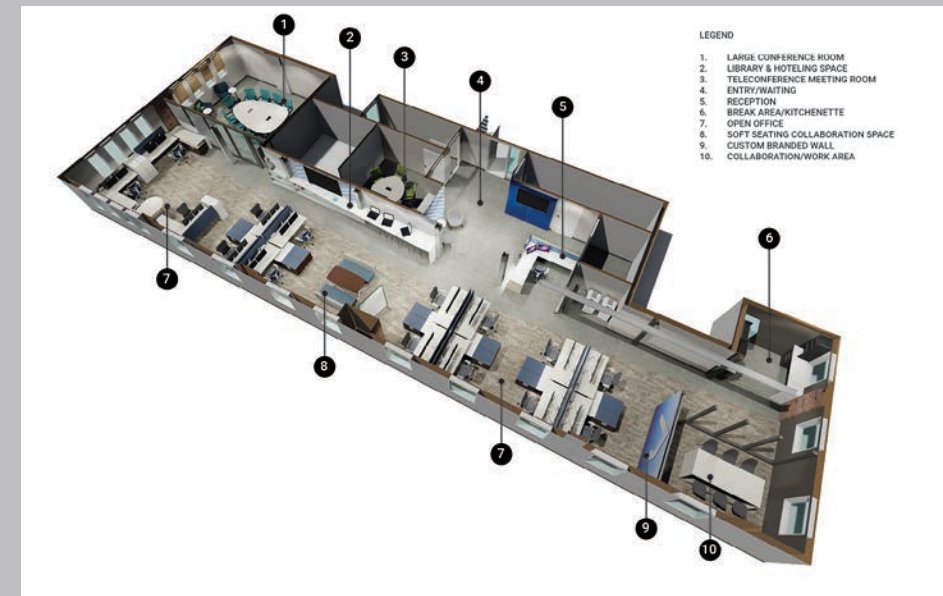
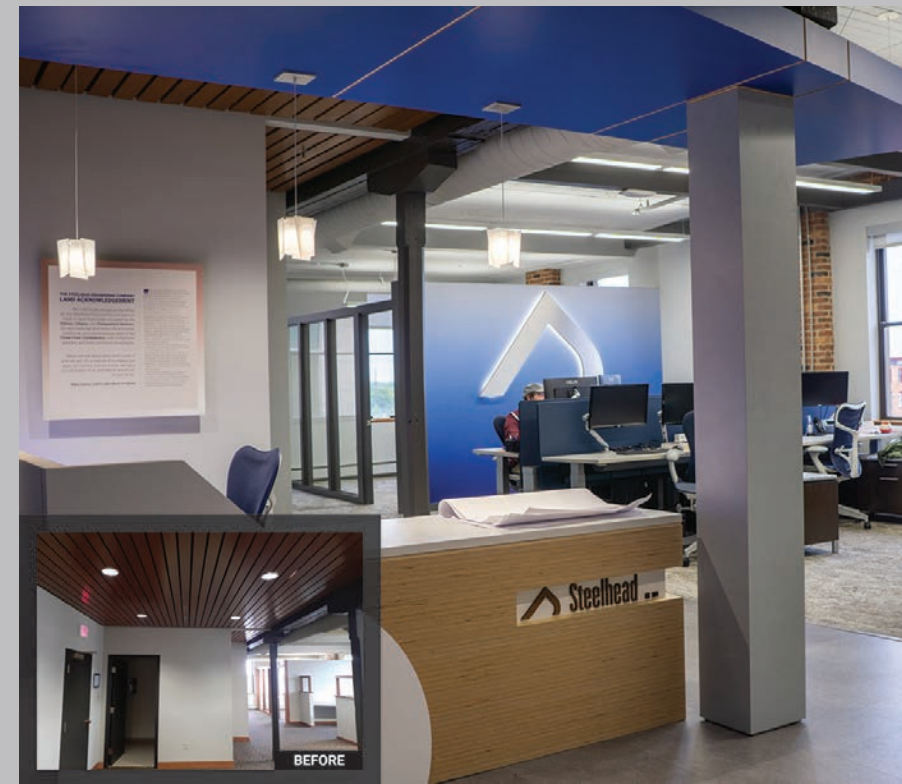
OPEN OFFICE AREA

The abstract fin shape is repeated throughout the office, including on a custom wall covering, tying design elements together with a cohesive narrative. The fin reminds employees and visitors alike of the firm's connection to the Tribe's Great Lakes water clans and to the firm's commitment to creating sustainable relationships between the built and natural environments.



OFFICE LIBRARY/HOTELING SPACE

To make the original 3,000 square-foot space a more open, collaborative setting, some interior walls were removed, creating a layout more conducive to impromptu team conversations and problem-solving. High seating areas were also installed to provide casual “drop-in” workspaces suited for meetings with coworkers, partners, or clients. Some glass walls remained, offering spectacular views of the city below and letting in ample natural light. Through these carefully considered design measures, The Steelhead Engineering Company enjoyed a tenant fit-out specifically designed for their needs, their brand, and their community ties.



COMMUNITY WELLBEING AND SITE DESIGN

TAKEN TOGETHER, THE DIVERSITY OF PLANNED HOUSING TYPES AND PROXIMITY TO SCHOOLS NOT ONLY SUPPORTS A TENANT’S BASIC NEED FOR SHELTER BUT ALSO PROMOTES ACTIVE COMMUNITY-FACING LIFESTYLES.



W. North St. Masterplan

Kalamazoo, Michigan
City of Kalamazoo

Seven Generations Architecture + Engineering

Category: Un-Built

In the wake of a catastrophic fire, three adjoining properties on W. North Street, Kalamazoo, sustained significant damage. Through the W. North Street Master Plan, we worked directly with the three property owners toward a consensus to reimagine what this block could be in cooperation with the City of Kalamazoo and new zoning delineations. The new Live-Work Zone designation and programming include affordable housing units, a retail space, a teahouse, and a nonprofit to develop practical skills for girls in Kalamazoo. Combined with the planned traffic calming measures, this approach focuses on serving the existing community and fulfilling the potential of the new zoning laws in ways that improve the quality of life for the neighborhood. Collaboration, listening, and engagement were critical to maximizing the potential of the three adjoining properties and meeting collective stakeholder needs.

Planning for three properties simultaneously created opportunities for efficiencies such as shared amenities and utilities, which were realized and maximized through consensus-building exercises. A code requirement for permeable surfaces became a shared amenity that connects additional parking and the businesses on W. North Street, providing organic opportunities for community members to gather, mingle, and stay connected. The resulting master plan serves as a prototype for what is possible under the area’s recent rezoning in “Imagine Kalamazoo 2025”, a collective and strategic vision to revive and reinvent the City of Kalamazoo.



Introducing a new density of affordable housing in the Northside Neighborhood through typological diversity. Built on the framework established by “Imagine Kalamazoo 2025” and the newly adopted form-based code.

Corner properties 902 and 920 cap the block by “rounding the corner” having a strong presence on both W. North St. and the perpendicular crossroads. In both buildings, the corner is dedicated to a publicly accessible amenity – a tea room and entrepreneurial incubator, respectively – intended to invite community members to gather, create, and linger here. Providing the physical space and much needed infrastructure such as wi-fi, this stretch of North St. becomes a community asset.

Walking the Neighborhood

The masterplan incorporates traffic calming measures and formal on-street parking for the safety of motorists and pedestrians alike. Immediately adjacent to an elementary school, the site is heavily trafficked by residents of all ages. Additional crosswalks, increased eyes on the street, and improved road design increased the safety of the area.





Greenleaf Trust Office Renovation

Traverse City, Michigan
Catalyst Development

Tower Pinkster

Category: Renovation

Greenleaf Trust was in search of a new location in Traverse City and the old City Hall building, a beloved landmark, had fallen into a state of disrepair. Originally built in 1904 as the Post Office for Traverse City, the steel-framed building had been added onto and modified over time with a second-floor infill and southern addition.

The challenge for the design team was to provide Greenleaf Trust’s clients with a top-tier client-focused environment, while maintaining ties to the local community and preserving the building’s persona.

Upon examination, the design team discovered a long-abandoned ridge skylight which was designed to bring light into what was the mail sorting room. This element became the focus of the new floor plan concepts to create a bright and airy interior to the space. Development of the interior architecture centered around daylighting strategies such as windows or top lighting through the skylight to all the building occupants. This desire fits the goal of Greenleaf Trust to bring the best facilities to not only their clients, but also to their staff.

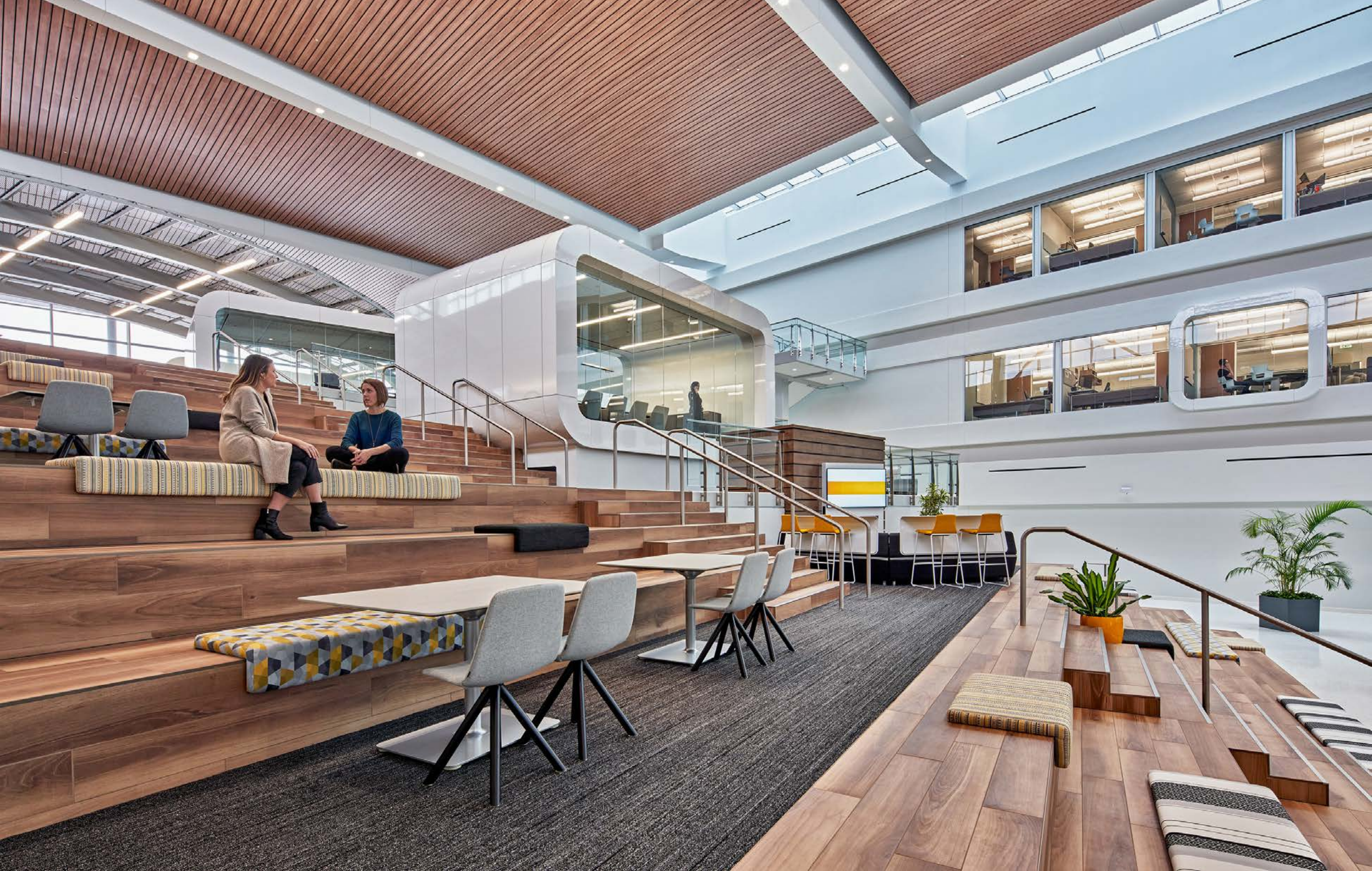


The central top lighting features a custom designed cut glass panel system which receives daylighting supplemented by color tuned LED lights for cloudy days. The desire of the client to host events in the space both indoors and out led to the development of the front porch addition to the north, with the patio space above, offering street presence and views to Grand Traverse Bay.



Our team also focused on the exterior facades and restoring the former glory of the historic arch-topped windows which had been modified over time with non-historic openings and flat top windows split between floors. Our client also challenged us to focus on building engineering systems which would be highly efficient, maintenance friendly, and not visible from the exterior with the goal of keeping the building unblemished by rooftop equipment. Our design solution added a small southern addition which allowed for a second egress, an elevator, and vertical chases for plumbing and HVAC from the garden level.





New Research & Development Facility

Portage, Michigan
Medical Device Company

TowerPinkster

Category: New Construction

This medical device company’s Divisional Headquarters was designed around five key principles: flexibility, connectivity, energy, engagement, and productivity. These principles helped guide the creation of this 485,000-square-foot innovative workplace and research and development facility. The new campus promotes internal collaboration, efficiency, and connects workers in an engaging, technology-rich facility, while supporting the growth of Medical Device Company Instruments Division. The building has achieved LEED Silver status and houses more than 1,500 employees.

The interior space takes advantage of on-site views, daylighting, and natural ventilation. The facility features research and development space, multiple labs, testing areas including a biomedical skills lab, and a showroom featuring operating room equipment. Multiple gathering spaces allow employees to connect throughout the building. These include a cafe, tiered lecture hall, fitness and wellbeing center, and a commercial kitchen. Outdoor spaces provide opportunities for social interaction, sport and wellness.

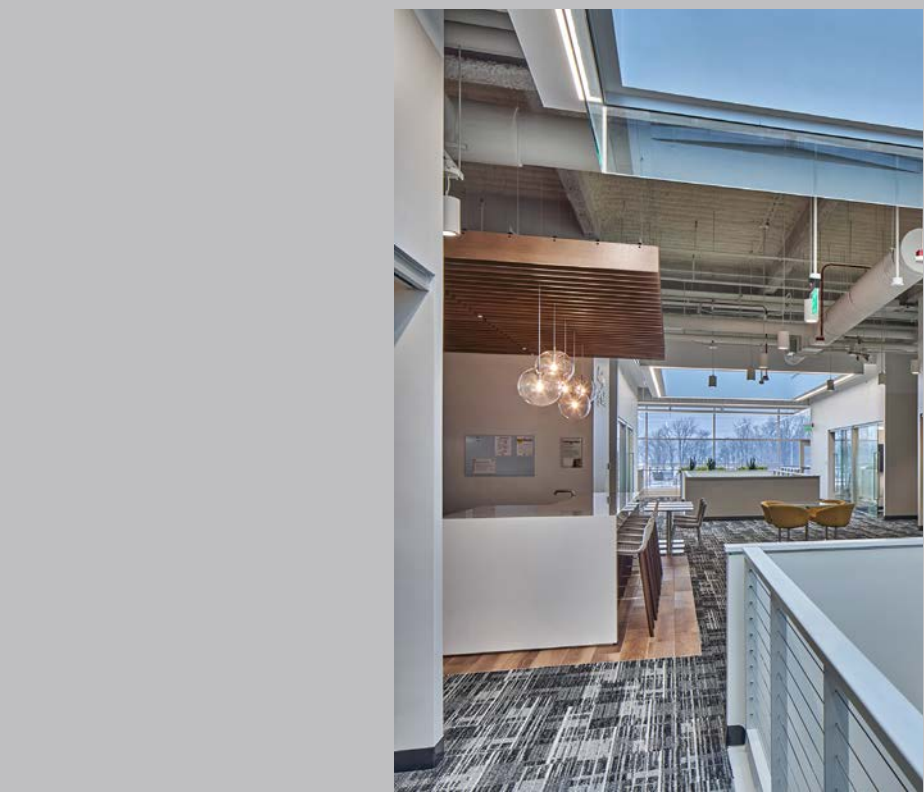
Site Features:

Of the 200-acre campus, 75 were reserved for the building itself. The landscape development team worked to keep the site as natural as possible. Specific design considerations were made so that the parking lot could not be seen from employee workstations, creating a natural environment in every view. The site boasts a pond, walking trails, and an employee vegetable garden.



Research Facilities:

Each lab space is designed with viewing windows, which promotes transparency and connects administrative staff with products. As a global leader in medical device technology, the medical device company required state-of-the-art lab and research spaces to support their product development teams.



Workspace:

With “connectivity” as a leading principle for the project, the design seeks to take the executive, marketing, and human resources teams, and connect them to the research and development, testing, and facilities teams. To promote exploration of and engagement in the building, the office spaces and common areas were designed at a one-to-one ratio.

While each team has its own “neighborhood,” the common areas are intertwined. These are spaces such as coffee and kitchen bars, meeting spaces, collaboration zones, and huddle rooms that create opportunities that encourage collaboration and connection between teams.





Ransom District Library

Plainwell, Michigan

Ransom District Library

TowerPinkster

Category: New Construction

The Ransom District Library’s collection transcends digital and print with a variety of experiences for all curiosities, establishing inclusivity with design intent. This embellished collection achieves a sense of wonder and enchantment by overlapping the variety of spaces for simultaneous memory sharing and creation. Experiences include gathering, performance, rehearsal, study, social, research, reading, making, archiving, lecture, meeting, cafe, gaming, learning, presenting, sharing, and growing.

Floor to ceiling glass maximizes exterior visibility to the west, allowing the adjacent Kalamazoo River to offer the common thread for a cohesive sense of place. The rivers movement and the Library’s intent of community embrace inform soft gestures in the buildings plan, elevation, and section. Railroad iron inspired brick articulates the south, east, and north elevations as a nod to the area’s light industrial heritage. The brick scale blends within the contextual fabric of local architecture, while the iron finish gives the building a progressive identity onto itself.



Accents of natural wood contrast the brick and compliment the wooded site. As an invitation to the public, the architecture offers thoughtful openings that reveal the variety of experiences. A curved roof form opens vertically to the north allowing northern light to illuminate the interior in the day, and glow to the exterior as a lantern in the evening. Small, punched openings in the children's area allow kids to climb and inhabit views to the north, highlighting the library's authentic relationship with community. For activated civic presence to Bridge street, the Teen Room and Large Meeting Room opens at the northeast corner.



The Building footprint rotates counterclockwise from Sherwood Avenue to allow for a vehicular book drop. The Curved eastern elevation continues the architectural vernacular while following the path of the car with appropriate turning radius. A large performance and multipurpose space continue the heightened visibility to the river, while the reading room steps down as a light shelf, scaled for an intimate reading experience by the Kalamazoo River.

