



CHICAGOARCHITECT

BRIGHT LIGHTS

SMALL PROJECT AWARDS 2013

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NORTHWESTERN'S TRIPLE PLAY 26

WALTER SOBEL AT 99 50

AIAChicago

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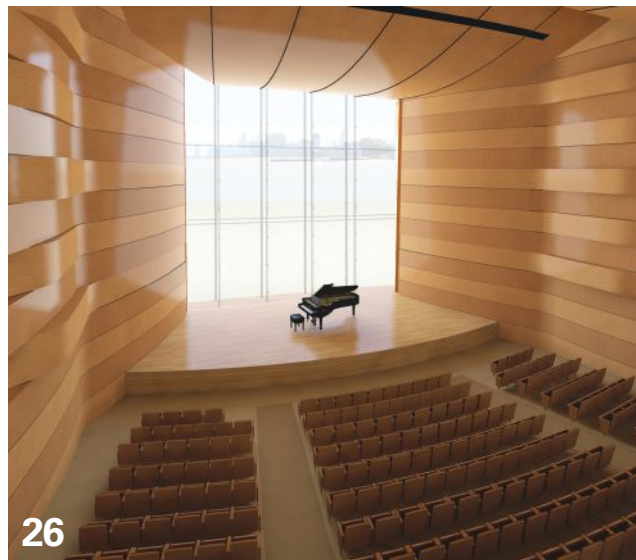
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The 2013 Small Project Awards

AIA Chicago's third annual showcase of outstanding work

2013 SMALL PROJECT AWARDS

AIA CHICAGO'S 3RD ANNUAL SHOWCASE OF OUTSTANDING WORK

When AIA Chicago rolled out the Small Project Awards program in 2011, the goal was to spotlight modestly-scaled structures that may have been overshadowed by the far larger projects that command many of the prizes in the decades-old Design Excellence Awards. It quickly became clear that while entrants in this newer awards program are, by definition, smaller, they cast their own large shadow in terms of technical innovation and style.

The only limitation on entrants in this year's competition was that the work be designed by firms with fewer than nine licensed architects and architecture interns. Project size and cost were not specified; firms determined for themselves what constitutes a small project, and in turn, the jury could make its own determination.

Chicago architects offered up 107 projects for consideration, and the jury of four architects and one design journalist winnowed the pack down to 15 awardees. All showcased on the following pages, they together evince a bold approach to building relatively small spaces. From a movie studio's sleek, sophisticated offices to the harnessed lunacy of a wheeled end table, these projects may be small in size, but their appeal is big.

JURORS:

DIANA TYCHSEN BITTING, Editor, CS Interiors

HOWARD HIRSCH, AIA, Hirsch Associates, LLC

GREG METZ, AIA, Lott3 Metz Architecture;
past president, AIA Michigan

KATHRYN QUINN, AIA, Kathryn Quinn Architects

RAVI RICKER, AIA, Wrap Architecture

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Lurvey Landscape & Stone Supply

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Precision Stone Design

Revolution Brewery

Resysta Midwest

Studio 41

TOTO USA, Inc.

Urban Effects Cabinetry

HONOR AWARD

Planted Environment

LOCATION:	Geneva
DESIGN ARCHITECT:	SIDE architecture
CLIENT:	Withheld
CONTRACTOR:	Harder Brothers Inc.

This \$85,000 renovation transforms the lower level of a traditional suburban house into what the architect calls “a fluid arrangement of spaces.” A winding wall made up of 5,000 rectangular pieces of Baltic birch plywood is the focal point of the renovation, “creating space and acting as both screen and an object of art,” a juror said. Thanks to screening elements often found in the Eastern world, the indoor areas flow into one another while still allowing privacy to be maintained as light and air permeate the rooms. The wall’s woven texture mirrors the handcrafted water hyacinth furniture of the home, emphasizing what one juror said was “the artisan-made element that is so strong” throughout the project. Another juror simply stated, “The wall is brilliant.”



Photos by Nathan Kirkman Photography



CITATION OF MERIT

Unit 4906

LOCATION:	Chicago
DESIGN ARCHITECT:	SIDE architecture
CLIENT:	Withheld
CONTRACTOR:	Instyle Construction

This remodel of a studio apartment in the John Hancock Center shows how much one can do with only 450 square feet and \$45,000. Taking inspiration from the dramatic views of the city’s skyline and Lake Michigan that the unit’s north-facing aperture offers, the remodel attempts to mirror, in the words of the architect, the city’s “sculptural interweaving of form and space” in the interior. Slate flooring used in the narrow entrance creates the illusion of depth, while one juror paid particular attention to “the simple organizing device of the kitchen space, implied by the form of the ceiling.” Metal panels conceal kitchen cabinets to reinforce the uncluttered design of the unit, while attention is drawn to the unit’s west wall, reserved to display the client’s art. The collection of two-sided lithographs is wall-mounted on hinged frames, allowing the viewer to interact with the art and easily change the display. “Given the budget, they did something very impressive” with the space, a juror said. Another juror added, “This is all about minimalism and maximizing space.”



Photos by Candice Cusic Photography

Photos by Renae Lillie, Beatrice Renae Lillie Photography



CITATION OF MERIT

Locomobile Lofts

LOCATION:	Chicago
DESIGN ARCHITECT:	SIDE architecture
CLIENT:	Locomobile Lofts Condo Association
CONTRACTOR:	Instyle Construction

When this former commercial building on South Michigan Avenue in Chicago’s historic Motor Row was converted to residential lofts in the early 2000s, its entrance space was treated in a way that didn’t seem to reflect the building’s hard-edged location or industrial history, according to the architects who were tapped to update the space in 2010. The new iteration uses perforated Baltic birch plywood cladding on the interior and gigantic backlit address

numbers, and new, bolder light fixtures and floor and wall finishes to signal a more urban experience to residents and guests immediately on arrival. “There’s an animation of the public spaces that could otherwise have been a very banal experience,” a juror said. The perforations that appear both outside and inside the lobby “bring the interior common space out onto the public sidewalk,” another said.