On Thursday, June 9, 2016 AIA Charlotte hosted the 2016 Design Awards Gala at the Foundation for the Carolinas. Seven projects, received awards. Design projects were selected by a jury of architects from the Ohio Valley Region, chaired by Drew White, FAIA of Axis Architecture. Two new categories were created this year, Divine Detail and Unrealized Projects. Service award recipients were nominated by their peers and selected by a jury of local AIA Charlotte architects.

YMCA Camp Thunderbird is located on the South Carolina shore of Lake Wylie and, since 1936, has provided a variety of summer camp experiences for children such as environmental, education and retreat programs. While the campus had all of the basic camping facilities such as cabins, dining, water focused sports, etc., it lacked a flexible gathering space for whole camp activities. This 10,800 square foot pavilion now provides this venue.

©Tim Buchman 2009

Serving as an operations center for central North Carolina, the Piedmont Natural Gas Rockingham Resource Center is a renovation to an existing 40,000sf warehouse building in an Industrial Park in Rockingham. The program is split between 16,000sf of office space and 24,000sf of warehouse space. The office space includes a large open office, conference rooms, break area and two large multipurpose rooms. Surrounded by dense trees, the 15 acre site features a large patio area, employee parking lot, service yard and loading dock, two bioretention ponds, and a 9,000sf Storage Building. The project is on track for LEED Silver.

©Tim Buchman 2015
In an effort to expose the under appreciated bones of a spartan building type. Steel cladding was peeled away to expose an oxidized structure. The overhead crane system, which for 35 years had conveyed truck bodies within this dusty hulk, are re-utilized as entry canopies and space makers. Concrete floors are simply "as they were", stained with decades of molten slag, grease and a grinder spark patina. Steel fabrication is evident throughout this architectural intervention. Windows, furniture, signage armatures and the entry door are all site fabricated and yes, the stacked dimes of a skilled welder are ever-evident.

Photo ©2016, Brad Overcash

**MERIT DESIGN AWARD**

**Architect**  
Watson Tate Savory Architects

**Project**  
UNC Charlotte Johnson Band Center

**Location**  
Charlotte, NC

This marching band facility is located adjacent to UNC Charlotte’s iconic School of Architecture, Storrs Hall, designed by Gwathmey Siegel & Associates in 1988. Departing from the predominantly neo-traditional campus architecture, the exterior expression is a composition of abstracted planes and interlocking volumes, consistent with Gwathmey Siegel's work of the period, in counterpoint to Storrs' bands of color and punched openings. Through placement, orientation and program simplification, the building also redefines a previously ill-defined outdoor space, creating an event lawn, terminating Storrs' primary axis. A monumental canopy simultaneously shades the main west-facing façade and provides a stage for outdoor performances.

Photo ©gmatsonphoto

**MERIT DESIGN AWARD**

**Architect**  
Gensler

**Project**  
Charlotte Chamber of Commerce

**Location**  
Charlotte, NC

The Charlotte Chamber of Commerce reasoned that if people could more clearly see them—see their inner workings, see their energy, see their member companies— they would gain insights into the city's business community. Hence a headquarters revamp, one that would create greater visibility and transparency for the Chamber. The organization had been in an outdated, uninspiring space that lacked ties to the buzzing street life outside. The space also failed to convey the Chamber's imagination and today's Charlotte. It was an environment that people could not connect with. And connection is central to their mission of bolstering Charlotte’s economy.

Photo ©2013, Peter Brentlinger Photographer

**CITATION DESIGN AWARD**

**Firm**  
Cluck Design Collaborative

**Project**  
Mac’s Speed Shop

**Location**  
Greensboro, NC

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Photo ©2016, Brad Overcash
The driver for this project is based on the concept of Convergence. Through our analysis of the nature, history, economy and cultural context of Qingdao, we have observed the city’s essence: A city of convergence of the green and yellow islands, mountains and ocean, of China and the world, of rich history and promising future, of birthplace of Taoism and a hotbed of Industry. Like the city it resides in, this project seeks to find ways to unite differences in harmony.

CITATION AWARD - UNREALIZED PROJECTS
Architect       Little
Project         Qingdao Archives Museum
Location        Qingdao, Shandong Province, China

In the 1940s a Japanese immigrant, by way of the Hawaiian Islands, arrived in the Southern California town of San Clemente. A florist by trade, he built a humble home in the style of the traditional Hawaiian barn. San Clemente’s first florist raised his family and operated his business from within the walls of the iconic “Red Barn House” for decades until his passing.

Photo ©2016, Harry Mark
The S. Scott Ferebee Service Award recognizes the work of architects who, by their skill, professionalism, dedication, ability and commitment, and/or volunteer contributions have consistently advanced the common goals of AIA Charlotte.

Alexandria Supino, AIA
HDR

This category recognizes the work of architects who serve as elected or appointed officials, public administrators or institutional leaders who establish and contribute to the development of laws, regulations, policies or initiatives that promote excellence in architecture.

Ron Morgan
Awarded posthumous

The Laurel Award is to recognize individuals, firms or organizations outside the profession who have made significant contributions to the improvement of the region’s built environment. Contributions may include, but are not limited to, advancement or development of laws, regulations, policies or initiatives that promote excellence in architecture; the commissioning of notable additions to the built environment; or activities that raise the public’s consciousness of the importance of excellent design in the shaping of our world and culture.

Susan Patterson
The Knight Foundation
Established in 2013, to recognize an individual Associate AIA member or an AIA Architect member who has been registered 10 years or less who exemplifies the highest qualities of leadership and who has demonstrated an unparalleled commitment to their AIA Component or region, to the design and construction industry, to the community, and/or to other professional organizations.

**Nicole Brown, AIA**  
LS3P

**Matt Butler, AIA**  
Bergman Associates

**Marija Kerlin, Associate AIA**  
Housing Studio

**Sponsor of the Year**

In honor of the continuous support of AIA Charlotte and AIA North Carolina from social events to continuing education seminars and everything in between, Optima Engineering has been a long standing advocate of AIA and the profession.

**Optima Engineering**