

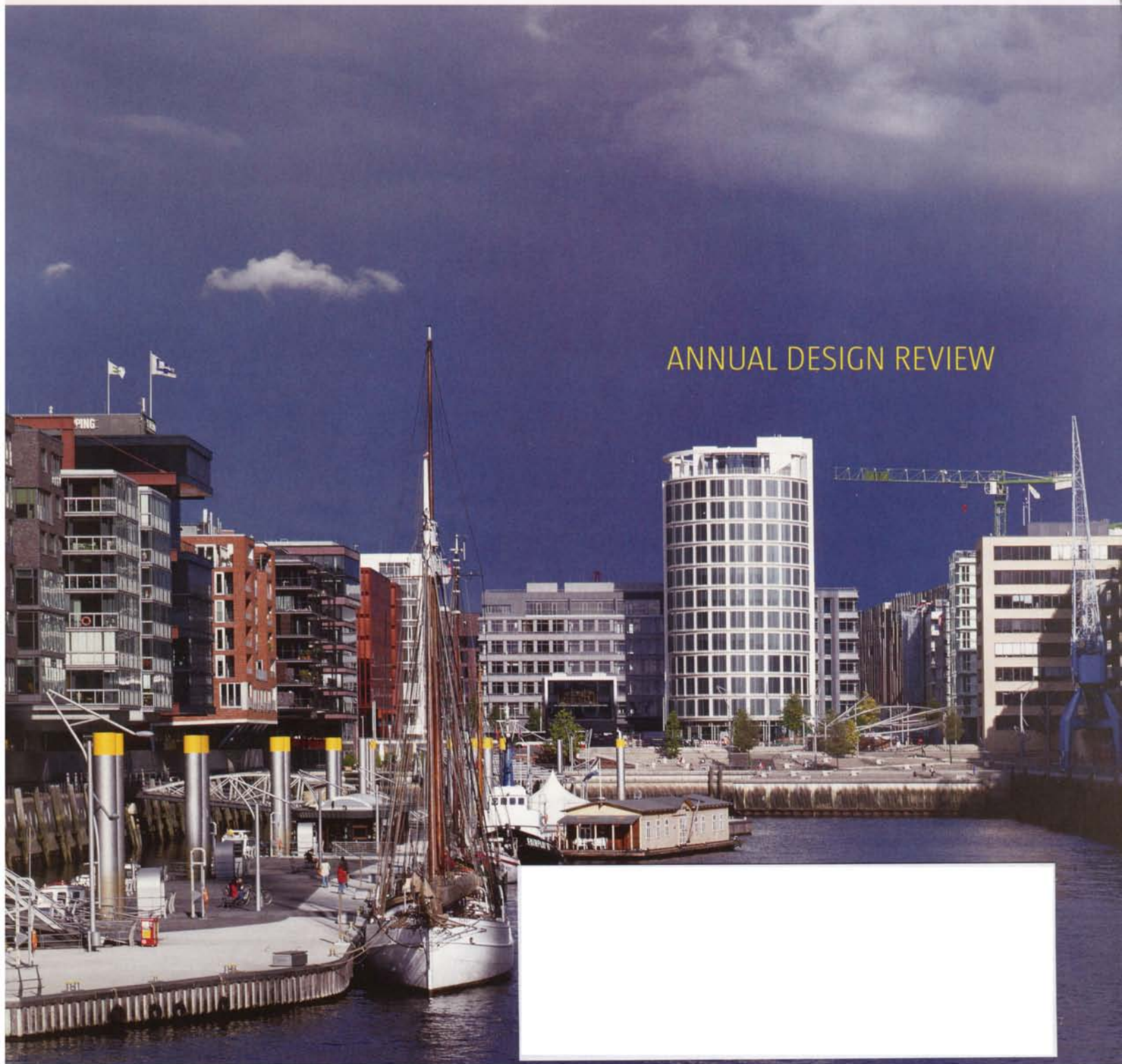
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ANNUAL DESIGN REVIEW



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WITH 20 PROJECTS ACROSS SIX CATEGORIES, THE 2011 ANNUAL DESIGN REVIEW WINNERS REFLECT EXCEPTIONAL DESIGN IN A VARIETY OF BUILDING TYPOLOGIES.

SOMEDAY (HOPEFULLY SOON), it will be possible to talk about an awards program without referencing the still-lingering recession. But the Annual Design Review's requirement that submitted projects must have been completed in the previous year makes the ADR a unique economic and aesthetic barometer of the industry, both good and bad.

The good news is that when the jury—which comprised Ted Landsmark, Assoc. AIA; Raymund Ryan; Hilary Sample, AIA; Trey Trahan, FAIA; and Joe Valerio, FAIA—convened in the ARCHITECT offices in October, it discovered that while the state of the economy may still be weak, the state of design is strong. "I was struck by the fact that there is really good work going on all across the United States," Landsmark said, "in both urban and rural areas, both publicly and privately funded."

After two days of deliberation, the jury selected 20 winners, representing some of the best work that American architects have completed at home and abroad this year. They range from a highly anticipated new

wing for a museum in Tel Aviv, Israel, to a New Orleans school rebuilt after Hurricane Katrina; an inspired renovation of an office park in New Jersey to a brightly accented in-fill house in Wisconsin; a surfing museum in France to a park-services building housing restrooms in Louisville, Ky. Of "the work that we really got excited about," Valerio said, "there's kind of a wonderful spectrum. ... You think of museums as the subject of great architecture. You don't think of bathrooms as the subject of great architecture."

As a whole, the jury applauded the innovation and invention in the projects submitted, but there was a call for more of a focus on designing for the vast majority of Americans, not merely for the well-off. "We need to see more architect-designed work for American families," Landsmark said, lamenting a lack of affordable multifamily housing. But he was heartened by the possibility of what can happen "if there's a will on the part of a range of clients to retain architects who are committed to making great designs."

TEXT BY KATIE GERFEN, WITH KRISTON CAPPS; SARA HART; JEFFREY LEE; CHARLES LINN, FAIA; VERNON MAYS; AND LINDSEY M. ROBERTS

REPP DESIGN + CONSTRUCTION



HONORABLE MENTION

1ST AVENUE COMMERCIAL OFFICE

Tucson, Ariz.

IT WAS THE TYPE of building that presents an emerging design challenge around the gritty edges of cities all over the country: the big vacant retail space. Repp Design + Construction's transformation of a Tucson, Ariz., eyesore into its own 5,400-square-foot office is an adaptive reuse that is tuned to its Sonoran Desert environs. An open studio, filled with natural, indirect light from new glazing and a skylight, requires no artificial light during the day and is cooled with cross ventilation, enhanced with ceiling fans, to minimize dependence on air-conditioning in the late spring and early fall. The studio flows into a private courtyard, fashioned into

a desert garden, that welcomes visitors and is shaded by a 5.5-kilowatt photovoltaic array. A large steel-and-concrete screen wall blocks both the blazing western sun and the traffic noise from nearby 1st Avenue from entering the studio. "In our communities, there are so many buildings like this that ... you wish someone would decide to spend a little bit of money and make some contribution to the city by elevating this really old and ugly building, and that's what they did," juror Trey Trahan said. "It's not the singular iconic building that creates a city; it's all of these, what we think of as secondary background buildings." J.L.