



Embracing Excellence

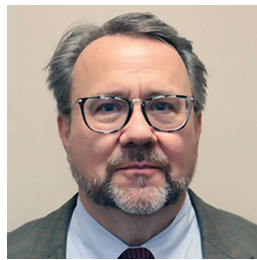
In September, five educational design professionals came together via videoconference to form the jury for American School & University's 2023 Architectural Portfolio. Over several days, the panel—architects and education administrators—reviewed digital entries submitted on behalf of preK-12 schools and higher education institutions. After each juror ranked the projects individually, the group reconvened to discuss their findings and come to a consensus about which of the entries were examples of the best in 21st-century educational facilities. Those projects that stood out from the others were awarded citations.

As a guide to help them evaluate the entries, the jurors brainstormed a list of some of the key design characteristics they would be looking for as they identified the projects worthy of citations. Among them:

- Designs that create inclusive environments
- Spaces that convey a sense of identity
- Use of wayfinding to create a sense of place
- A design that responds to its site
- A space that supports the mental and physical health of users
- Spaces that embrace and even push the bounds of sustainability
- Designs that prioritize student safety. ■



Kelsey Jordan



Richard Boyd



Danny Davy



Katie Vingelen



Michael A. Hacker

“Using the building as a shading element to amplify the outdoor classrooms is brilliant. It is clear that the design supports educators and students throughout the interior and exterior environments.”

WILLIAM W. CAUDILL CITATION, PP. 18-19

“Strong modern exterior design... A great example of how to blend the traditional feel of a college building with a modern sleek look. It is aesthetically pleasing with the three elements of glass, stone, and black brick combined.”

LOUIS I. KAHN CITATION, PP. 20-21

“Great interior learning environments, strong daylighting strategies. The passive solar fins provide for texture and interest in the facades. The student spaces are inviting and appropriately scaled to encourage collaboration.”

SPECIAL CITATION, PP. 22-23

“Nice exterior massing, materials and color. The secured courtyard created from the building massing is a good example of how a safety feature can support a feeling of comfort and belonging.”

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS CITATION, P. 30

“An excellent example of integrating building with the site. Using green roofs for student experiences is a great use of space. The stair-stepping use of color throughout the environments is a fun wayfinding piece.”

WORK IN PROGRESS CITATION, PP. 126-127