

Finance & Commerce names Top Projects of 2012

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By Finance and Commerce Staff

The massive renovation of the Union Depot in St. Paul and the striking new Lowry Avenue Bridge in Minneapolis are among the high-dollar public construction projects named to Finance & Commerce's Top Projects Series of 2012.

But comparatively low-dollar projects made the list, too: a park gazebo made out of old timber from the former Boeing B-17 plant in Duluth and the Minnesota Fallen Firefighters Memorial on the Capitol Mall in St. Paul.

Nearly 70 nominations — a record — were submitted this year, and 26 projects were selected for the honors. Projects were judged for their degree of difficulty, creativity in design, innovative construction techniques, cooperation among contractors and management, and sustainability efforts. To be eligible for consideration, projects had to be fully completed in 2012.

Honorees spanned the state including a new school built in Wadena after a tornado destroyed the previous one and the University of Minnesota's NOVA Far Detector Building in Ash River Falls.

But there was plenty of room on the list for private projects including the dramatic makeover of a vacant Shinders store in downtown Minneapolis, the new MoZaic mixed-use building and its outdoor art park in Uptown Minneapolis, and the Target Commons "alternative workplace" in downtown Minneapolis.

Health care-related honorees are the Mother Baby Center, which created a critical link between Abbott Northwestern and Children's in Minneapolis; the HealthEast Midway Clinic, which reworked a former Borders store in St. Paul, and the Minnesota Veterans Home's Building 19, which replaced an old structure in Minneapolis.

And we couldn't ignore the apartment construction boom. Besides the Flux apartments in Uptown, honorees are the 430 Oak Grove conversion of an office building in Minneapolis and Soltvå in the city's North Loop area. Affordable housing honorees are the new Fort Road Flats building in St. Paul and the iconic Riverside Plaza's massive upgrade in Minneapolis.

While senior housing projects are among the most frequent nominees for the Top Projects list, the new Carondelet Village on the campus of St. Catherine University stood out for its design and the fact that it already has a three-year waiting list. The development is a joint effort between the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet and Presbyterian Homes and Services.

Here are the honorees:

430 Oak Grove

Address: 430 Oak Grove, Minneapolis

Description: conversion of office building into upscale apartments

Contractor: Kraus-Anderson

Architect: Elness Swenson Graham

8th and Hennepin Building

Address: South Eighth Street and Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis

Description: redevelopment of old Shinders bookstore into offices for Shea Architects as well as for the rooftop Union restaurant and Marquee Lounge

Contractor: Welsh Construction and Diversified Construction

Architect: Shea Architects

Engineer: Mattson MacDonald

American Academy of Neurology

Address: 201 Chicago Ave., Minneapolis

Description: new headquarters
Contractor: Mortenson Construction
Architect: Elness Swenson Graham Architects
Engineer: Horwitz/NSI; Gephardt Electric

American Swedish Institute

Address: 2600 Park Ave., Minneapolis
Description: construction of Nelson Cultural Center; renovations to Turnblad mansion
Contractor: Adolfsen & Peterson Construction
Architect/engineer: HGA Architects and Engineers

Carondelet Village

Address: 525 Fairview Ave. S., St. Paul
Description: senior housing project developed by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet and Presbyterian Homes & Services
Contractor: Frana Cos.
Architect: InSite Architects

Evans Hall

Address: Carleton College, Northfield
Description: renovation of 1927 dormitory
Contractor: PCL Construction
Architect/engineer: Collaborative Design Group

Flux

Address: 2838 Fremont Ave. S., Minneapolis
Description: 216-unit new apartment building with vacation-style amenities
Contractor: Frana Cos.
Architect/engineer: BKV Group

Fort Road Flats

Address: 2242 W. Seventh St., St. Paul
Description: new affordable housing building
Contractor: Watson-Forsberg Co.
Architect: UrbanWorks Architecture
Engineer: BKBM Engineers; Emanuelson-Podas; McConkey Johnson Soltermann

Hamline University Anderson Student Center

Address: 1536 Hewitt Ave., St. Paul
Description: new student center
Contractor: McGough Construction
Architect: Shepley Bulfinch
Engineer: Dunham and Associates

HealthEast Midway Clinic

Address: 1390 W. University Ave., St. Paul
Description: conversion of former Borders bookstore
Contractor: Welsh Construction
Architect: HGA

Julia Marshall Gazebo

Address: Enger Park, Duluth
Description: permanent gazebo made of recycled timbers from old Boeing plant, which built B-17 aircraft in World War II
Contractor: Hovland Inc., Timber Framers Guild
Architect/Engineer: Collaborative Design Group

Lowry Avenue Bridge

Address: North of downtown Minneapolis, spanning Mississippi River
Description: 1,600-foot bridge with basket-style design
Contractor: Lunda Construction Co.
Architect/engineer: SRF Consulting and T.Y. Lin International

Minnesota Fallen Firefighters Memorial

Address: State Capitol Mall, St. Paul
Description: monument
Contractor: Meisinger Construction Co.
Architect/engineer: Leo A Daly

Minnesota Veterans Home, Building 19

Address: 5101 Minnehaha Ave. S., Minneapolis
Description: New 100-bed replacement building
Contractor: Adolfson & Peterson
Architect/engineer: Horty Elving

Mother Baby Center

Address: 902 E. 26th St., Minneapolis
Description: construction of 96,000-square-foot facility and remodel of 22,000 square feet, connecting Abbott Northwestern's labor delivery and newborn nurseries to Children's Hospital's neonatal intensive care unit and other facilities
Contractor: Knutson Construction
Architect: HDR Architects
Engineer: Palanisami & Associates

MoZaic

Address: 1350 Lagoon Ave., Minneapolis
Description: conversion of two-acre parking lot into 10-story mixed-use building, outdoor art park
Contractor: Ryan Cos. US
Architect: BKV Group
Engineer: RLK Inc.

North Education Center

Address: 5530 Zealand Ave. N., New Hope
Description: new three-story center for learning
Contractor: JE Dunn
Architect/engineer: TSP Architects & Engineers

NOVA Far Detector Building

Address: Ash River Falls, Minn.
Description: University of Minnesota's advanced physics laboratory to study neutrinos
Contractor: Adolfson & Peterson
Architect/engineer: Burns & McDonnell

Olson

Address: 420 N. Fifth St., Minneapolis
Description: new office in Ford Center
Contractor: RJM Construction
Architect: Gensler
Engineer: BKBM

Riverside Plaza Renovation

Address: 1600 S. Sixth St., Minneapolis
Description: infrastructure upgrades and renovations involving 11 buildings including 1,300 apartments, school, day-care

center, grocery and ramp
Contractor: Knutson Construction
Architect: Blumentals/Architecture
Engineer: Karges-Faulconbridge

Siebert Baseball Field

Address: 516 15th Ave. SE, Minneapolis
Description: replacement of field and stadium for University of Minnesota
Contractor: PCL
Architect/engineer: DLR Group

Soltvå

Address: 701 N. Second St., Minneapolis
Description: conversion of polluted warehouse site into 100 apartments
Contractor: Weis Builders
Architect: Tushie Montgomery Architects
Engineer: Nelson Rudie & Associates; Civilsite Group

Target Plaza Commons

Address: Nicollet Mall and South 10th Street, Minneapolis
Description: renovation of two historic buildings into “alternative workplace”
Contractor: Ryan Cos. US Inc.
Architect: Julie Snow Architects, Ryan
Engineer: Ryan; Ericksen Roed & Associates

Union Depot

Address: 214 E. Fourth St., St. Paul
Description: Redevelopment of defunct rail station into multimodal transportation hub
Contractor: Mortenson Construction
Architect: HGA
Engineer: URS Corp.

University of Minnesota Lind Hall First Floor Renovation

Address: 207 Church St. SE, Minneapolis
Description: renovation for the College of Science and Engineering
Contractor: McGough Construction
Architect/engineer: Collaborative Design Group

Wadena Deer Creek Middle and High School

Address: 600 Colfax Ave. SW, Wadena
Description: replacement of school destroyed by tornado
Contractor: Kraus-Anderson
Architect: Perkins+Will

Read more: <http://finance-commerce.com/2013/05/fcs-top-projects-of-2012/#ixzz2Zz87VO00>