

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Public Safety
Architectural Access Board and the Boston Society of Architects
presented the following design awards on May 25, 2005.**

Honor Award

**Accessible Design in Public Architecture
Marine Mammal Environment**

Designer: Abacus Architects & Planners
Owner: New England Aquarium

Jury Comments

The project was cited for the universal integration of accessibility in creating a space that encourages intimate involvement with the sea otter exhibit at the Aquarium. We especially liked the fact that walls were kept low and in some cases glass was to the floor so that those using wheelchairs and shorter individuals had excellent views as they traversed the space.

Honor Award

**Accessible Design in Public Architecture
Russell Towers Student Residence, Fitchburg State College**

Designer: HKT Architects, Inc.
Owner: Fitchburg State College & Massachusetts State College Building Authority
Contractor: Linbeck

Jury Comments

The project was cited for the integration of accessibility and overcoming site constraints to create an aesthetically pleasing and easily identifiable accessible entry. The project had in excess of a one story grade change, and through the dramatic approach of major excavation, creating a new entry and lower level in this area, the access was able to become a very gradual walkway. The entry to the building is now clearly identified with use of a red colored band, everyone can use the new entry, and the building has taken on a greatly improved appearance, and no longer seems dated.

Honor Award

**Accessible Design in Private Residential Architecture
Patrolia Loft**

Designer: Ruhl Walker Architects
Owner: Brian Patrolia
Contractors: Sleeping Dog Properties & C.W. Keller & Associates

Jury Comments

This project was cited for the elegant integration of accessibility to create a usable and aesthetically pleasing design throughout this private residence. Of special interest to the jury were many of the thoughtful details in the project. These included: fold down shelving, fold down coat rods, designing in base rails and locating

storage to avoid contact from foot rests with finish materials. This attention to details, while custom tailored to the owner, will ensure that the project looks beautiful for years to come.

Honorable Mention

Accessible Design in Public Architecture
Pingree Accessible Gallery

Designer: Olson Lewis Dioli & Doktor Architects & Planners, Inc.
Owner: Pingree School
Contractor: C.E. Floyd Company, Inc.

Jury Comments

The project was cited for its success in resolving three different floor levels, and integrating the gallery experience for all visitors as the ramp landings had exhibit cases on them. With this design, all visitors would use the ramps in their path through the gallery.

Honorable Mention

Accessible Design in Public Architecture
Visual and Performing Arts Center, Beaver Country Day School

Designer: HMFH Architects, Inc.
Owner: Beaver Country Day School
Builder: Erland Construction Company

Jury Comments

The project was cited for its universal approach where all would use the same accessible route, which made use of bridges, common seating areas, and creative re-grading. In projects where access is truly integrated, it often is hard to see the magnitude of what was accomplished. This project exemplifies this.

Commendation for Access

Accessible Design in Public Architecture
Hopedale Town Hall Ramp

Designer: Nichols Design Associates, Inc.
Owner: Town of Hopedale
Contractor: Barbato Construction Company, Inc.

Jury Comments

The project was cited for the integration of accessibility in preservation of the existing site. The Richardsonian building had multiple entrances on the main street that had stairs at the entrances. The decision to extend the plaza and ramp one side, and provide stairs at the other side, provided two accessible entries, and a meeting place outside as well. The jury appreciated that the historic nature of the building did not diminish their plans to provide access.