



**AIA New York State**  
 An organization of the American Institute of Architects

# EXCELSIOR AWARDS For Public Architecture



# DESIGN AWARDS

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2014 Best in New York State  
 Weeksville Heritage Center  
 Brooklyn, New York  
 Caples Jefferson Architects  
 Long Island City, New York  
*Photo Credits: Nicolas Lehoux*



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## AWARD OF EXCELLENCE



Photo Credits: Nicolas Lehoux

### Weeksville Heritage Center

Brooklyn, New York

#### Caples Jefferson Architects

Long Island City, New York

Weeksville Heritage Center is a sustainable modern building that serves as the gateway to a 19<sup>th</sup> Century African-American Freedman's Settlement. In the 1960's, 4 remaining buildings from this Brooklyn settlement were rediscovered. The Center is a two-story, 23,000 square foot new building and 41,000 square foot interpretive landscape.

The primary purpose of the new structure and landscape is to serve as a gateway to the historic houses on the premises with state-of-the-art exhibition, performance and educational facilities, as well as to provide a green oasis for visitors and the local community. The main lobby includes introductory exhibits, and leads to a gallery for changing shows, a lecture and performance space for 200, classrooms for visiting groups and for community education, and a library resource center for visiting scholars. Administrative offices are located on the second floor, and the cellar includes archival storage space as well as a room for recording oral histories.

Weeksville Heritage Center is a unique urban design project in which a modern architectural syntax of simple forms, strip windows, and glass passageways is impacted by repeated African riffs. The riffs are variations that provide a visual counterpoint. The riffs are embedded in construction, in structural elements, such as the joints in paving and stone, in the choice of colors and materials, and in the details like the fence posts and the frit in the sun shading glass. The modern syntax and African riffs, although independent from each other, harmonize when experienced as an entirety.

The landscape is the dominant element in the composition. This space creates a transitional distance between the historic houses and new center. Movement through the recreated farmland links the present to the past, between the now and the then.

In deference to the historic structures, the building is kept low, sited to protect the view of the old houses, while honoring the old trail to the houses and providing long open views of the site through the transparent corridors.

The building enclosure consists of a composition of wood rainscreen, slate rainscreen, and insulated glass window walls and horizontal ribbon windows. The wood rainscreen consists of specially milled ipe boards, with open joints, attached to aluminum clips over a continuous air barrier. The laminated insulated glass roof includes a specially designed frit pattern, echoing African patterns, for solar shading.

Weeksville is targeting a Gold rating under LEED 2.1. The building's footprint occupies only about one-fifth of the project site, a rarity within the five boroughs of NYC, allowing the major portion of the site to become open green space.

Buried under this landscape are 7 drywells, providing on-site percolation of storm water, and 48 geothermal wells drilled to a depth of 470 feet. The closed-loop geothermal well field serves eleven water-to-air heatpump air handling units, reducing the new building's reliance on fossil fuels for heating and cooling. Interior spaces are flooded with daylight, providing multiple views of the historic site and the surrounding neighborhood.

■ JURY COMMENTS: *This project employs elemental geometry in powerful ways to achieve a piece of urban fabric that is elegant in its simplicity. The jury characterized the project as "double-sided": muscular on one side and urbane (landscape) on the other. It deftly manages conflate architecture and urban design to bring a strong sense of order to the broader context beyond the boundaries of the site.*

## AWARD OF MERIT



Photo Credits: Iwan Baan

### Campbell Sports Center

New York, New York

#### Steven Holl Architects

New York, New York

Located on the corner of West 218<sup>th</sup> street and Broadway - the northernmost edge of Manhattan, where Broadway crosses with Tenth Avenue and the elevated tracks of the 1 subway line - the Campbell Sports Center forms a new gateway to the Baker Athletics Complex, the primary athletics facility for Columbia University's outdoor sports program.

The Campbell Sports Center aims at serving the mind, the body, and the mind/body of Columbia University's aspiring scholar-athletes.

The building is stratified in three layers of different programs. Each layer features one of the main aims: Strength and conditioning level - the BODY; Student-Athlete theater - the MIND/BODY; Study Space and hospitality zone - the MIND.

A piece of the urban infrastructure, the Campbell Sports Center shapes the corner on Broadway and 218<sup>th</sup> street, then lifts up to form a portal, connecting the field with the streetscape. Extending over a stepped landscape, blue soffits heighten the openness of the urban scale portico to the Baker Athletics Complex. Terraces and external stairs draw the field play onto and into the building and give views from the upper levels over the field and Manhattan.

The 48,000 square foot facility houses strength and conditioning spaces, offices for varsity sports, theater-style meeting rooms, a hospitality suite and student-athlete study rooms.

The interiors of the Campbell Sports Center reveal its exposed concrete plank and steel structure, with sandblasted glass details and bamboo interior finishes.

The heart of the building is a double-height workout space for the students. This strength and conditioning level is set at the field elevation, which also aligns with and gives views to the elevated subway line. The workouts inside synchronize with the trains just outside the windows.

The diagonal steel tubes, which brace and suspend the frame, use steel in tension for minimum weight and maximum strength. At various points throughout the interior the steel structure is left exposed.

The Campbell Sports Center is a building that creates and is experienced through partial urban views. It frames the entrance to Baker Field, looking back it brackets the apartment building across the street. It merges with the elevated tracks of the subway and with the Broadway Lift Bridge in the distance. The building re-frames what was previously considered a neglected corner of the city, bringing a new awareness to the movement and diversity of the city's pulse and an appreciation of this northern end of Manhattan island with its palimpsest of natural and built form. The athletic activity inside resonates with the city's orchestrated movement of trains, traffic, people and changing light, a small corner of new life in this diverse neighborhood.

■ JURY COMMENTS: *This building is tough, yet elegant and expressive as a modern piece of architecture in a gritty urban context. It fulfills its mission as a "gateway" building.*





## CITATION FOR DESIGN



Photo Credits: Morgan Sheff Photography

### Target Field Station

Minneapolis, Minnesota

#### Perkins Eastman

New York, New York  
Architect

#### 4RM+ULA

Saint Paul, Minnesota  
Associate Architect

Recently opened to the public on May 17, 2014, Target Field Station (formerly known as the Interchange), located in Minneapolis' North Loop neighborhood, is a state-of-the-art multi-modal transit station with complementary mixed-used development and year-round activated public space. This new "Grand Central Station of the Twin Cities" stands adjacent to Target Field Stadium. Taking inspiration from the city's distinct seasons and love of the outdoors, the project's common areas have been specially designed to support a variety of activities for transit and non-transit users alike, ensuring maximum use and comfort.

The overall design emphasizes the principles of Open Transit by bringing together transit and urban culture into a one-of-a-kind destination that enhances commuters' experience and promotes strengthened community. Target Field Station includes a promenade and two levels of public plaza, with areas available for neighborhood bars and eateries, cultural and entertainment spaces, and community events.

The site also includes the Great Lawn, a valuable green space for activities, and 286 below-grade parking spaces. The Great Lawn provides the city with new opportunities for pre-game events, community concerts, and seasonal events, as well as a space for individual activities. An amphitheater and informal seating area comprises The Cascade, a home for year-round entertainment and recreation opportunities, including a place for informal lunch meetings between friends or clients, street fairs, and outdoor concerts.

In the winter months, all plaza surfaces will utilize an integrated snowmelt system, using excess heat generated by the neighboring Hennepin Energy Recovery Center (HERC) to melt snow and ice along walkways, paths and stairs. By using the site's topography and the landscape's natural filtering properties, storm water is funneled to a series of cisterns and underground storage systems, capable of storing up to 40,000 gallons. Water will be sent back to the HERC to quench ash as part of an initiative by the regional Watershed District.

Target Field Station is a bustling urban park, transit station, neighborhood gathering space, and live outdoor performance venue all in one. This iconic destination will connect more than 500 trains arriving and departing daily via Metro Blue (Hiawatha) Light Rail Transit (LRT), METRO Green Line (Central Corridor) LRT and Northstar Commuter Rail. The METRO Green Line extension (Southwest) LRT line will create additional service when it opens in June 2014.

This destination will also connect communities by linking the region's growing commuter and light rail transit network, as well as miles of new dedicated bike paths and walking trails. Near Target Field Station, visitors can also access daily bus operations that connect the Twin Cities Metropolitan area.

These five principles of Open Transit are the foundation of Target Field Station's design: Integration of all available transit modes; An orientation towards real estate development; Architecture that makes iconic spaces; Joining of culture and transit design; Appeal for non-transit users.

■ **JURY COMMENTS:** *With a provocative station design at its core the plaza and its surrounding grounds provide the perfect anti-room to Target Stadium. The combination of program elements and their carefully planned organization creates the kind of urban gathering space that elevates the link between the station and the stadium into a lively civic gathering space.*

## BEST IN NEW YORK STATE

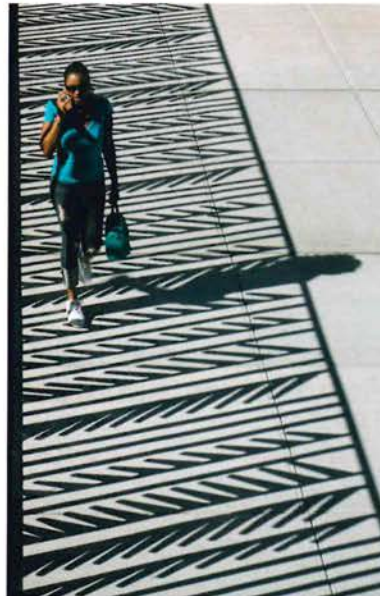


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