

DIAMOND AND SCHMITT ARCHITECTS WINS WOOD WORKS! AWARD
Salvation Army Harbour Light takes Interior Wood Design

TORONTO – Ontario Wood WORKS! presented the Interior Wood Design Award to Diamond and Schmitt Architects for outstanding use of wood at an awards gala in Ottawa last night. The winning project is the Salvation Army Harbour Light in Toronto.

The seven-storey, 8,500 square meter building is the flagship facility of the Salvation Army in downtown Toronto and houses transitional housing, a residential addictions recovery program, community and family services. The Wood Works! Award recognizes the community church, which sits as an independent volume to the north of the residential wings. The church sanctuary is constructed entirely of wood at the interior.

The jury identified the use of maple floors and red oak millwork and cabinetry throughout and its positive effect to “civilize” the building’s institutional qualities. The church is clad in polycarbonate panels backlit to produce a beacon of light, emblematic of the centre’s mandate as a place of hope. The sanctuary is built to the lines of the sidewalk in a dense urban manner, and windows are punched into the brick base to carefully modulate view and natural light.

“These awards are given to a project that highlights an interior where wood has been used extensively in a non-residential or public space”, said Marianne Berube, Wood WORKS! Ontario’s Executive Director. “Award winners exhibit ingenuity and resourcefulness while demonstrating the particular qualities of wood such as its versatility, durability and beauty.”

“We are pleased to be recognized by Ontario Wood Works and especially gratified that the Salvation Army Harbour Light is the recipient of yet another award,” said Donald Schmitt, Principal with Diamond and Schmitt Architects. Previous acknowledgement for Harbour Light includes a 2011 Toronto Urban Design Award of Excellence, the Ontario Architecture Association Design Excellence Award in 2011 and the 2010 Brick In Architecture Award.

This is the 11th anniversary for Wood WORKS! Past recognition for Diamond and Schmitt includes the 2010 Jury Award for the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts, the 2008 Wood Champion Award, the Interior Design Award in 2007 for the Four Season’s Centre for the Performing Arts, Sir Sanford Fleming College, Haliburton Campus School of the Arts in 2005 and for a residence in Caledon in 2004.

Diamond and Schmitt Architects (www.dsai.ca) is a leading full-service architectural practice. The firm is recognized for the design of award-winning performing arts centres, academic research buildings and health care institutions. Current projects include the Faculty of Law at Thompson Rivers University in British Columbia, the Schulich School of Engineering, University of Calgary, the St. Catharines Centre for the Performing Arts and Bridgepoint Hospital in Toronto.

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