



STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS

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Excellence in Structural Engineering Awards Winners

Chicago, IL: Winners of the Structural Engineers Association of Illinois (SEAOI) 2016 Excellence in Structural Engineering Awards were announced at the 2016 Awards Dinner, held on June 11, 2016 on the 99th floor of Willis Tower in Chicago, IL. This design competition takes place each year to recognize excellence in structural engineering.

Awards were presented as follows, with judges' comments in italics:

- **Jurors' Favorite/Most Innovative:** 150 North Riverside, by Magnusson Klemencic Associates
A bold design on a narrow foundation mitigated with Tuned Mass Dampers.
- **Best Renovation/Retrofit Project:** LondonHouse Hotel, by TGRWA, LLC
A creative use of a hybrid lateral system to support a 22-story building on a small footprint in between a landmark building and Mather Tower.
- **Best Bridge/Transportation Project:** 130th and Torrence Avenue Grade Separation, by Alfred Benesch & Company
The complexity of site and transportation constraints resulted in notable architecture, transforming a highly congested multi-modal interaction into a multi-tiered grade separation and improvement that meet the needs of rails, vehicles, bikes, and pedestrians within geographic and environmental constraints.
- **Best Project -- >\$150 Million:** Tanana River Bridge, by Hanson Professional Services Inc.
A cutting edge treatment of severe scour exposure.
- **Best Project -- \$50 Million to \$150 Million:** Northwestern University, Ryan Center for the Musical Arts, by Thornton Tomasetti
A creative and unique design to support upper floors cantilevered over setbacks. A good application of multiple structural systems to achieve architectural and acoustic goals.
- **Best Project -- \$5 Million to \$50 Million:** NEIU EL Centro, by Forefront Structural Engineers
The new NEIU campus in Avondale is an example of engineering and architecture working symbiotically to produce a new aesthetic landscape in unexpected places. The use of trusses creates not only a beautiful interior for the building's users, but also a colorful, volume-rich structure that blossoms from the freeway viewpoint.

- **Best Project -- \$1 Million to \$5 Million:** Ethelbert Cooper Gallery of African & African American Art, by Simpson Gumpertz & Heger
The beauty of architect David Adjaye's work often requires engineering feats to achieve the clean, elegant and sustainable features of his building, requiring the firm to strategize how to fit complex systems into small structures. All materials of the stunning façade are components of this complex system; the firm gained direct access to product manufacturers which lead to a streamlined process. The final product is a true example of innovation, modeling and testing, and collaboration between materials and experts.
- **William and Alys Lavicka Award:** New Splayed Steel Frame Glass Canopy, by Probe Consulting Engineers, Inc.
The engineering design used the state of the art 3-D modeling to help resolve structural issues, weather conditions and the problematic wind loads. The use of the modeling also provided a well-defined visualization of the canopy's scale, proportions and aesthetics for the building's facade. The results of which, the steel and glass canopy compliments the buildings entire architectural facade, providing a very recognizable focal point of entry that identifies the building.
- **Awards of Merit:**
 - 1K Fulton, by Forefront Structural Engineers
 - Gordon Parks Arts Hall (University of Chicago Lab Schools), by Rubinos & Mesia Engineers, Inc.
 - Joliet Central High School, New Student Center Addition, by Wight & Company
 - Navy Pier Ferris Wheel Infrastructure, by Thornton Tomasetti
 - OKO Tower, by Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP
 - The Strand, American Conservatory Theater (A.C.T.), by Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP
 - Writers Theatre, by Halvorson and Partners: A WSP| Parsons Brinckerhoff Company
 - Zurich North America Headquarters, by Halvorson and Partners: A WSP| Parsons Brinckerhoff Company

The 2016 Panel of Judges were:

Academia – Karen Chou, Assistant Chair of Civil & Environmental Engineering, Northwestern University

Architecture – Dawn Schuette – Current president of AIA Chicago and Owner Threshold Acoustics LLC

Government – Asif Rahman, Deputy Director of Permitting, City of Chicago Building Department Structural Engineering – Paul Kelley, Senior Principal, Simpson Gumpertz & Heger

Media – Anjolie Rao, Communications Director for AIA Chicago/Editor, Chicago Architect

For more information about the Excellence in Structural Engineering Awards, please visit www.SEAOf.org.

The Structural Engineers Association of Illinois (SEAOI) was founded in 1965 by practicing structural engineers to advance and advocate excellence in structural engineering and to aid in safeguarding the lives and property of the public. SEAOI contributes to the expansion of the art and science of structural engineering by offering education, outreach and networking opportunities to members and the public living and working in Illinois.

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