

2006 HARLESTON PARKER MEDAL

Lulu Chow Wang Campus Center and Davis Garage

MACK SCOGIN MERRILL ELAM ARCHITECTS





JURY: JURY COMMENTS:

George Metzger AIA

HMFH Architects
Cambridge, Massachusetts
Chair

Edward Allen FAIA

South Natick, Massachusetts

Phyllis Andersen

landscape historian
Boston

Nazneen Cooper

Harvard University Physical
Resources and Planning
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Mark Pasnik

Wentworth Institute of
Technology
Boston

Ann Pendleton-Julian

Massachusetts Institute of
Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Grant Rhode

GF Rhode Construction
Boston

Laura Solano

Michael Van Valkenburgh
Associates
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Josiah Stevenson AIA

Leers Weinzapfel Associates
Boston

Joan Wickersham

novelist/essayist
Cambridge, Massachusetts

The Lulu Wang Campus Center at Wellesley College is part of a complex of building and site improvements in a formerly neglected corner of the campus. The new building floats on the site, raised above a sloping landscape and integrated into the campus pedestrian circulation by sweeping bridges. Interior spaces are clustered on several levels, defining the interior circulation as the in-between space and resisting any effort to contain the building within a rectilinear shell. What could be a chaotic result is instead a symphony of repeating spatial and material motifs that relate to its campus context by reference but not by mimicry. The many different internal spaces offer both warmth and homeyness as well as breathtaking views of the adjacent wetland valley and woodlands and the more distant lake. Both interior and exterior details are clearly conceived and carefully executed to be coherent in the total composition and pleasantly tactile and elegant in the foreground. The building is not without its faults, primarily in its assertive style and demonstrative form, which contrast sharply on a campus of dignified buildings. In addition, the building purports to be "green" while it wantonly violates the most common notions of compactness and economy. But most fundamentally, the jury recognized that this building has the characteristics that evoke both wonder and delight in those who walk through or around it, and it is for this transcendent quality that the jury recommends this building for the 2006 Harleston Parker Medal.

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Wellesley College
Wellesley, Massachusetts

Client:
Wellesley College
Wellesley, Massachusetts

Architect:
Mack Scogin Merrill Elam Architects
Atlanta, Georgia

Project team:
Mack Scogin AIA with Merrill Elam AIA; Timothy Harrison AIA; Christopher Agosta AIA; David Yocum AIA; Kimberly Shoemaker-Medlock; Jeffrey Collins; Jennifer Pindyck; Barnum Tiller; Christian Rice; Michael Wirsching; Jennifer Hurst; John Trefry; Stephen Trimble; Kevin Gotsch; Andrea Korber; Jane Lee; Ashley Moore; Margaret Fletcher; Brian Bell AIA; Trey Lindsey; Sophia Greenbaum; Helen Han; Ted Paxton

Contractor:
Richard White Sons

Consultants:
Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates
(landscape); Arup (structural/mechanical/
plumbing); Vanasse Hangen Brustlin (civil);
Lam Partners (lighting)

Photographers:
Timothy Hursley (opener and bottom left)
Peter Vanderwarker (top left)

Editor's note: The full text of jury comments may be found at www.architects.org/awards.