



## STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS

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## PLEASE POST

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(HEADLINE) "SEAOI Announces Winners in its 2009 Excellence in Structural Engineering Competition."

SEAOI (Structural Engineers Association of Illinois) announced the 2009 Excellence in Structural Engineering Award winners during its Annual Banquet which was held on June 6, 2009. The event was held in the Chicago Cultural Center's Preston Bradley Hall.

The award winning projects and individuals are as follows:

Best Large Structure:	<b>The Index Building</b> Dubai, United Arab Emirates Halvorson and Partners
Best Medium Structure:	<b>The Eleanor and Wilson Greatbatch Pavilion/ Darwin Martin House Visitors' Center</b> Buffalo, New York Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP
Best Small Structure:	<b>Ravine House,</b> Fox Point, Wisconsin Pierce Engineers
Most Innovative Structure	<b>The Richard J. Klarchek Information Commons, Loyola University</b> Chicago, Illinois Halvorson and Partners
Jurors' Favorite:	<b>The Cathedral of Christ the Light</b> Oakland, California Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP
Awards of Merit:	<b>Portage Park Pavilion</b> Portage, Indiana KJWW Engineering
	<b>Nichols Bridgeway, The Art Institute of Chicago</b> Chicago, Illinois Arup/Wiss, Janney Elstner Associates, Inc.
	<b>Northern Arizona University Dining Hall and Student Union Expansion</b> Flagstaff, Arizona OWP/P

(continued)

## **SEAOI Excellence in Structural Engineering Competition Awards (continued):**

**The Art Institute of Chicago Modern Wing**  
Chicago, Illinois  
Arup

**University of Toronto – Leslie L. Dan School of Pharmacy**  
Toronto, Ontario  
Halcrow Yolles

**Meritorious Publication Award:** **Notes on ACI 318-08 Building Code Requirements for Structural Concrete**  
Portland Cement Association

**John Parmer Award:** **D. Stanton Korista**

**SEAOI Service Award:** **Carl A. Peterson**

**Outstanding Young Engineer:** **Robert A. Sadler**

The John Parmer Award is presented to a structural engineer in recognition of his or her outstanding contributions in the field of structural engineering. The candidate must be an individual whose distinguished career is acknowledged by his or her peers to be an example of excellence.

The SEAOI Service Award is awarded to a person who has achieved outstanding success and distinction in his or her career and who has made a significant contribution to the advancement of structural engineering in the State of Illinois.

The Outstanding Young Engineer Award is presented to a practicing structural engineer aged 35 or younger who is recognized by colleagues for his or her outstanding achievements in structural engineering.

Judges' Comments on the projects follow:

***Best Small Structure - Ravine House***  
Pierce Engineers

"Small but very complicated structural design due to many cantilever and non-symmetrical layout. This project also included what may be the first ever reinforced concrete dining room table designed by a structural engineer."

"Very simple, clean and elegant solution which allows the building to open up to the light and views that the site offers."

"In large part thanks to the concrete structural design the Ravine House has the feeling of a tree house which is perfectly appropriate for the setting. The structural design complements and supports the architectural intent in this manner."

"The structural engineer's recommendations for the project to achieve the desired architecture were spot-on!"

"The bold use of post-tensioning in a residence enabled the design and enhanced the architecture."

***Best Medium Project - The Eleanor and Wilson Greatbatch Pavilion/Darwin Martin House Visitors' Center***  
Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP

"Spectacular architectural and structural design. This project pushed the limits of design of slender columns."

"Minimalist building which pays homage to FLW's Martin House and provides unobstructed views. Structurally creative, technically innovative and very suitable for its site and intended purpose. Understated but technically powerful."

"The detailing of this Pavilion is so well coordinated with the minimal structural design that they perfectly complement each other in an almost entirely transparent window wall. It is impressive from the interior and equally impressive from the exterior, breathtakingly minimal due to its structural ingenuity."

"Exceptional engineering to prove beyond doubt that the system would work. This project exceeds every criteria in the SEAOI Awards program! Bravo!"

***Best Large Project - The Index Building***

Halvorson and Partners

“This is an inspiringly stoic and disciplines structural expression especially significant given the context of frivolity surrounding it. The structural design is the key to its overall architectural expression.”

"Pure structural engineering brilliance! The intentional design leverages every aspect of the structure's ability to resist the lateral and gravity loads while enabling the architectural vision for this remarkable tower!"

“Structurally expressive and efficient design in a mixed-use 80 story structure.”

“This project shows the practice of structural engineering for very tall buildings, at its best with an efficient design that is part of the architecture.”

***Jurors' Favorite - The Cathedral of Christ the Light***

Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP

“Wow! Would love to see this building. Really lives up to its name. To design a building with a life of 300 years near a major active seismic fault line is quite a challenge. The elegance and warmth of the structure is very inspirational.”

"This stunning design is not only technically sound, but beautifully articulates the function through the structural form."

***Most Innovative Structure - The Richard J. Klarchek Information Commons, Loyola University***

Halvorson and Partners

“The project goals of transparency and energy efficiency were achieved in the elegant design of the Information Commons building. The energy efficient design and innovative use of radiant piping in the precast panels is notable. The feature stair is very elegant and airy. The LEED silver rating is commendable.”

“The structural design sets the tone for the overall efficient design parti for this building from the stairs to the double curtain wall to the radiant floor innovation in structural design is the key to this building’s success.”

"Strategic integration of structure with building systems is a true engineering accomplishment. Additionally, to achieve such an elegant design for less than \$20M on a project of this size is impressive! Well done!"

***Award of Merit - Portage Park Pavilion***

KJWW Engineering

“The roof design creates the visual transition to its great lakefront location. The Revit 3D model helped solve the technical details of construction. LEED, Gold rating is commendable given its natural setting.”

“The light simple structural design of the Portage Park Pavilion provides a clean inviting expression for a public recreation building. The design exploits all the benefits of steel structural design to create a floating roof reminiscent of the waves in the background and its windswept waterfront terrain.”

***Award of Merit - Nichols Bridgeway, The Art Institute of Chicago***

Arup/Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc.

“Very sleek and compact structure for such a long span. The slender bridge complements the trellis at the nearby Pritzker Pavilion very well and succeeds in minimizing its impact on the views of Lake Michigan.”

“This is an innovative way to create a relatively shallow bridge expression that through its innate design also combats efficiently the required lateral and vertical forces within the Chicago lakefront micro-climate.”

***Award of Merit - Northern Arizona University Dining Hall and Student Union Expansion***

OWP/P

“The lightness of the building design is complemented by the unique design of the trusses which support it. The only project which credited both the design and construction team members for completing on time and within budget.”

“This is a beautifully simple roof expression that floats effortlessly above its intended functions through an elegantly detailed and coordinated structural and architectural expression.”

***Award of Merit - The Art Institute of Chicago Modern Wing***

Arup

“The complexity of all that the structure is trying to do with its slender columns and flying carpet blade roof system is accomplished in an end result that looks simple and clean as if anyone could do it, but they couldn’t.”

“The indirect lighting achieved through the “flying carpet” roof design is very dramatic. The reflectivity of the white concrete beams adds to the warm, indirect light of the galleries. Attention to detail, in the design and construction, complements the works of art which it will showcase.”

***Award of Merit - University of Toronto – Leslie L. Dan School of Pharmacy***

Halcrow Yolles

“The five story glass atrium tribute to previous greenhouses with the floating pods would have been challenging enough but the seven story lab topping made this structural design uniquely challenging and in the end beautifully executed.”

“The “pods” are unique sculptural elements which required creativity and ingenuity to hang transparently. Interesting solutions that appear well thought out.”

Images will be posted on the SEAOI website shortly. To receive electronic copies of images, please contact Elizabeth O’Connor at [eoconnor@seaoi.org](mailto:eoconnor@seaoi.org) or 312.726.4165 x301