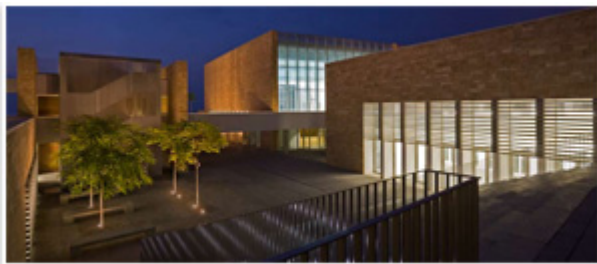


2009 Institute Honor Awards for Architecture Credit Spirit, Community, and Ingenuity

by Tracy Ostroff
Contributing Editor

Summary: An AIA jury chose nine projects to receive 2009 Institute Honor Awards for Architecture. The selections focus on structures in which forms tread lightly on the earth. The recipients, including two cathedrals, two student centers, a private residence, an affordable housing complex, a youth center, a large office building, and a museum, share a commitment to offering sanctuary for building users. Seven of the projects are in the U.S.; one is in Monterrey, Mexico; **and the other is in Beirut.**



Project: Charles Hostler Student Center

Location: Beirut, Lebanon

Architect: VJAA with associate architect Samir Khairallah & Partners

Client: American University of Beirut

Sited on the public seaside promenade Cornice, this new 204,000-square-foot complex integrates social gathering spaces for students and faculty with sports facilities, a theater, and underground parking. The jury praised the “smart use of surfaces and resources in keeping with the local conditions.” Challenging the idea of a single large-scale building and similarly scaled open plaza, the project employs multiple building volumes interconnected into a continuous field by gardens and green roofs. Sited for shading and ventilation, the plan is organized around a series of radial “streets” oriented toward the Cornice and the sea, and woven together by a series of courtyards, circulation paths, and spectator areas. The design uses a non-hierarchical synthesis of architecture and landscape to create a set of richly varied and environmentally diverse spaces for people to gather at all hours.

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