

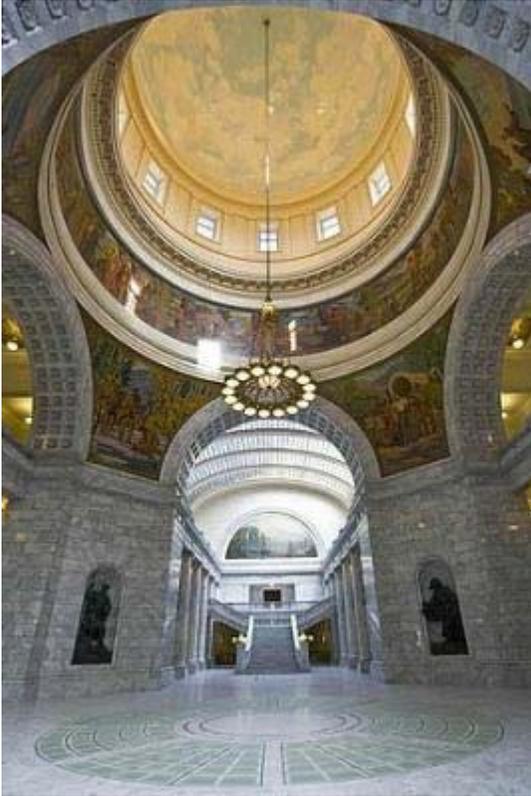
Architects honor Capitol face-lift team

Judges say upgrade exceeded building's original promise

By Tom Wharton

The Salt Lake Tribune

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The state Capitol renovation team won an honor award from the Utah... (Photo courtesy of AIA)

The Utah Capitol Building was built between 1912 and 1916, designed by Utah architect Richard K.A. Kletting. But the iconic structure underwent an extensive renovation and seismic upgrade by the Capitol Restoration Group, which received both an Honor Award from the Utah Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and the People's Choice Award in a poll sponsored by the AIA and *The Salt Lake Tribune*.

The readers' poll was conducted in conjunction with the Utah Chapter's Awards for Excellence contest.

The Capitol Restoration Group included VCBO Architecture and MJSA Architecture, of Salt Lake City; and Schooley Caldwell Associates, of Columbus, Ohio.

Architects who judged entries in this year's contest praised the firms involved in the Capitol restoration, saying the upgrade exceeded the building's original promise. The jury called it a "magic space" and said architects achieved a seamless integration of structure and systems with the building's historic features.

"The sophisticated systems for heating, cooling, lighting, audio and video, security and preservation of historic art and furnishings all operate in the background while the restored marble, glass and murals dazzle everyone who enters," the jury said.

The awards were presented Friday night at, appropriately enough, the Capitol Rotunda.

Former University of Utah School of Architecture dean and longtime Utah architect Robert Bliss received the group's lifetime achievement award. Two pieces of furniture he designed are in the Smithsonian Institution's permanent collection.

Martha Sonntag-Bradley Evans earned an Honorary AIA Utah Award, and Carol Setterberg earned the Young Architect Award.

The second Honor Award given by the professional jury went to Prescott Muir Architects for work on a residence on Michigan Avenue in Salt Lake City. The jury praised the firm for creating a contemporary design appropriate in scale and material to the historic neighborhood.

The Daybreak Corporate Center in South Jordan earned a Merit Award for FFKR Architects and contractor Sahara

Construction. Other Merit Awards went to an East Bench canyon residence in Salt Lake City also designed by Prescott Muir Architects. The design for the St. Joseph the Worker Church in West Jordan received a Merit Award for unbuilt architecture.

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People's Choice

More than 4,000 *Tribune* readers who participated in the People's Choice portion of the competition agreed with the jurors. The Capitol restoration received the most votes - 352 - while the Westgate Lofts came in second with 300 votes and the West Wind was third with 270 votes. There were 32 entries in the competition this year.