WILD WALK WINS ARCHITECTURE AWARD

Tupper Lake, NY - Wild Walk, the $5.5 million elevated outdoor unique structure that opened in July 2015 at The Wild Center and has seen over 100,000 visitors in two months, will be acknowledged for its innovative design and construction. Later this month, the Society of American Registered Architects (SARA) will recognize Wild Walk as an award-winning project in their Celebration of Architecture and Design Program during their annual conference in Miami.

Wild Walk takes visitors up a winding series of bridges and platforms from ground level to breathtaking treetop vistas and into the forest of the Adirondack Mountains that surround The Wild Center.

Charles P. Reay, Wild Walk’s designer, also designed the Center’s main building, the first LEED Silver-certified museum in New York State. Reay cut his teeth as a young architect working under Charles Eames on the IBM Pavilion at the 1964 New York World’s Fair and later as a senior vice-president at HOK on the design of the National Air & Space Museum in Washington DC.

“I wanted The Wild Center building to pay homage to the historic architecture of the area, so it grew out of that landscape and meets the Adirondacks in its own terms”, says Reay. “It seemed very appropriate to me that Wild Walk would come out of wedding the structure, the art, or architecture or whatever you want to call it, and let it be an outgrowth of the forest. The idiom is the forest. It is not trying to build the forest and hide that we built something, but to let the tree forms be a statement of a simplified natural form. I wanted to take the Adirondack forest at its most essential forms.”

“It is such an honor to receive this award”, says Stephanie Ratcliffe, Executive Director of the Center. “Even though I had seen the project on paper, in models and on the construction site at every step along the 10 year development process I was still stunned when I walked up into the Eagle’s Nest for the first time. I looked back on the structure nestled in our forest to see this beautiful sculpture integrating so beautifully with our surrounding forest.”

“The Society of American Registered Architects (SARA) is an organization of licensed architects whose mission is to unite architects in working towards the betterment of the profession”, says Ting Chin, one of the architects who worked on Wild Walk. “The jury for this award consisted of nationally renowned architects and scholars who selected Wild Walk for its design and construction excellence. Wild Walk is an exceptionally unique project and we are honored to have worked on it and to receive such a prestigious award from our peers.”

The architect of record for Wild Walk is New York-based studio Linearscape, the General Contractor is Northland Associates of Syracuse, NY and exhibit fabricators are PWF Enterprises of Syracuse and Cost of Wisconsin.

Wild Walk will stay open until Columbus Day and reopen on Memorial Day of 2016.

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