



## STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS

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**Stephanie Crain**  
**Structural Engineers Association of Illinois**  
**312-726-4165**  
[scrain@seaai.org](mailto:scrain@seaai.org)

### Excellence in Structural Engineering Awards Winners

**Chicago, IL:** Winners of the Structural Engineers Association of Illinois (SEAOI) 2017 Excellence in Structural Engineering Awards were announced at the 2017 Awards Dinner, held on June 3, 2017 at Venue SIX10 in Chicago, IL. This design competition takes place each year to recognize excellence in structural engineering.

Awards were presented as follows, with judges' comments in italics:

- **Jurors' Favorite/Most Innovative:** JTI Headquarters, by Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP and Ingeni Ingenierie Structurale of Geneva, Switzerland  
*...A true marriage of dramatic architectural expression and structural engineering savvy, resulting in a striking and exciting piece of urban architectural 'sculpture'.*  
*...Just spectacular. The nested trusses and double-cantilever design are only two of the features that make this unusual marriage of bridge engineering and office construction an eye-catching success.*
- **Best Renovation/Retrofit Project:** Hard Rock Stadium, by Ruby+Associates, Inc.  
*Impressively innovative and ambitious construction engineering achievement, in very short construction timeframe.*
- **Best Bridge/Transportation Project:** Kentucky Lake Bridge, by Michael Baker International, Inc.  
*... elegant bridge design, equally matched by the innovative construction methodology.*  
*...The sequencing and seamless installation expertly complemented the stylish, basket-handle design and built-in seismic flexibility.*
- **Best Project -- >\$150 Million:** River Point Tower, by Magnusson Klemencic Associates  
*...Impressive wielding of structural engineering prowess to tackle significant site constraints, yielding an elegant structural / architectural design.*  
*...Creating a new downtown landmark on a site that had scared off developers for decades.*
- **Best Project -- \$50 Million to \$150 Million:** Chicago Riverwalk, by Alfred Benesch & Co.  
*...Great reclamation of a long-ignored urban resource.*

*... Engineers famously reversed the Chicago River over a century ago. Now, they've shown they still have the power to shape it to serve citizens better.*

- **Best Project -- \$5 Million to \$50 Million:** Wrightwood Art Gallery Renovation, by Thornton Tomasetti, Inc.  
*...Steel bracing preserved the architecturally significant exposed concrete and helped to conquer yet another tight site*  
*...Innovative brute-force structural engineering solution cleverly disguised in the finished architectural expression.*
- **William and Alys Lavicka Award:** Duke University Chapel, by Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc.  
*... Impressive marriage of historic structural analysis methodology and state-of-the- art computer analysis*  
*... A beautifully efficient project that ingeniously honored its budget as much as its historically significant canvass.*

#### **Awards of Merit:**

- Hancher Auditorium Replacement Facility, by Thornton Tomasetti, Inc.
- Hanking Center Tower, by WSP (formerly Halvorson & Partners)
- The Robey + Hollander, by FOREFRONT Structural Engineers
- South Air Traffic Control Tower, by exp US Services, Inc.
- Union Station Transit Center, by Simpson Gumpertz & Heger
- The Viceroy Hotel, by FOREFRONT Structural Engineers, Inc.
- Willis Towers Watson - Feature Stair, by Thornton Tomasetti, Inc.

#### **The 2017 Panel of Judges:**

Academia – Catherine Wetzel, Associate Professor, 1st Year M.Arch Curator, Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT)

Architecture – Matthew Dumich, Senior Architect, Adrian Smith Gordon Gill

Construction/Development -- Donald Redar, Division Leader, Concrete Restoration, Bulley & Andrews

Government – Daniel Burke, Deputy Commissioner / Chief Engineer, Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT)

Media – Rob McManamy, Editor-in-Chief, Builtworlds

Structural Engineering – Jon Boyd, CEO, Klein & Hoffman

For more information about the Excellence in Structural Engineering Awards, please visit [www.SEAOI.org](http://www.SEAOI.org).

**The Structural Engineers Association of Illinois** (SEAOI) was founded in 1965 by practicing structural engineers to advance and advocate excellence in structural engineering and to aid in safeguarding the lives and property of the public. SEAOI's Mission is to champion excellence for its members in the practice of Structural Engineering. SEAOI contributes to the expansion of the

art and science of structural engineering by offering education, outreach and networking opportunities to members and the public living and working in Illinois.

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