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ARCHITECT

THE MAGAZINE OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS



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During the course of his rise from starving artist to global sensation, 2012 AIA Gold Medalist Steven Holl (pictured above, left, with Chris McVoy, a partner in his firm) has never compromised on his cerebral, poetic design philosophy—even when his clients have no idea what he's talking about. JUSTIN DAVIDSON

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Daily coverage from this year's AIA National Convention and Design Exposition in Washington, D.C.

What's Next videos about the future of practice. There's a new one every week.

Blaine Brownell's Mind & Matter blog looks at products and materials in development and on the market.

Aaron Betsky's Beyond Buildings blog comments on how design affects our society and culture.

And there are constant updates: breaking news, new products, slide shows, extra images of the projects in the issue, and more ...

ON THE COVER
AIA GOLD MEDALIST STEVEN HOLL.
PHOTO BY ART STREIBER.



ARCHITECTURE

Pittman Dowell Residence

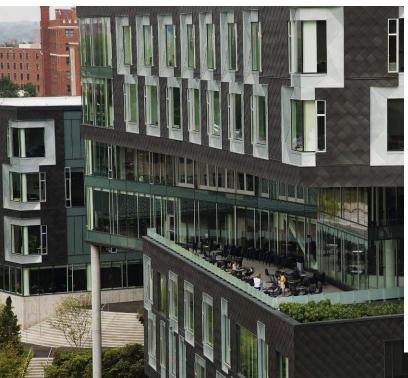
La Crescenta, Calif. Michael Maltzan Architecture

The Pittman Dowell Residence was designed by Los Angeles—based Michael Maltzan Architecture. The seven-sided structure was inspired by a geometric series of interlocking polygons, and features living spaces that enclose an irregularly shaped outdoor room.

Jury: "The house acts like an optical instrument with staged views of the surrounding landscape. ... The clear, concise presentation of details and the theatrically arranged spaces constitute a sublime and poetic expression, and push the boundaries of what a house can be."

Architect: "The house is adjacent to a [Richard] Neutra house, the Serulnic House, from the 1950s. My clients were ... looking for a house that would be both a respectful yet challenging neighbor to the Neutra house. They wanted to design a house that would take into consideration the meaning of 'Contemporary' as opposed to 'Modern.' That might seem like a small distinction, but for them the term Modern has a very particular meaning, both in their world as painters and also in architecture." — Michael Maltzan





ARCHITECTURE

The Gates and Hillman Centers for Computer Science

Pittsburgh Mack Scogin Merrill Elam Architects

Atlanta-based Mack Scogin Merrill Elam Architects faced numerous challenges in designing the School of Computer Science at Carnegie Mellon University. The buildable area was limited by a large zone of subsurface rock and sewer lines. And the architects were charged with designing a single, signature building that could be treated as two separate facilities.

Jury: "The building not only matches the culture and aspirations of the school, but also provides campus connections that had been clearly missing before. The fenestration and zinc exterior skin surprisingly relate beautifully to the campus fabric without being literal."

Client: "The skin and the form of the building speak to the 21st century. Yet inside it is a very comfortable space. The organization of the building worked so well right from the start—the sense that this is public space merging with private space. It is a leading-edge, contemporary building housing world-class science ... [that has] this innate, comfortable feel inside." —Ralph Horgan, associate vice provost, Campus Design & Facility Development, Carnegie Mellon