

Press Release of Awarded St. Joseph, Michigan Architect, John Allegretti of Allegretti Architects.

I am writing to inform you of the recent announcement of the results of the Detroit Homes Magazine Awards.

I am pleased to inform you that Allegretti Architects received two awards as follows:

First Place for Addition Projects for Union Pier Residence, Union Pier, Michigan designed by John Allegretti, Allegretti Architects, St. Joseph and constructed in 2016.

Problem: Renovation of an existing three bedroom home and one bedroom detached guest house and the addition of a pool house to this vintage 1920's cottage compound. These structures were to be located in the existing front yard where pools are prohibited by the Chickaming Township zoning ordinance.

Solution: The 100'x441' lot allowed us to attach the pool house to the renovated main house creating a new front yard and rear lines and also space for the pool in the newly created rear yard. We placed the addition structures where they could view past the side of the renovated main home, and also overlook the pool and Lake Michigan. The pool house and connectorway then could be considered an addition to the main home under the zoning requirements. The historic context of the existing was further reinforced by establishing a site grid base on the centerline of original homes front door.

Naturally cooled the structures are geothermally heated and insulated with R50 SIPs roof panels, R40 walls, coupled with low-E glazing, two inch rigid slab and foundation insulation was used. Four to six foot overhangs with high emissivity galvanized steel roofing and sustainable knotty pine form an energy efficient home. LED lighting and sustainable knotty number 3 grade pine with clear no voc sealer were used.

Third Place for Contemporary Architecture over 400 Square Feet for Forest Beach Residence, New Buffalo, Michigan

designed by John Allegretti, Allegretti Architects, St. Joseph and constructed in 2016 by Glas Associates

Problem: Two clients challenged us with similar yet incongruent design requirements during our eleven years as this home's architect. In 2005, we were approached by a young professional couple searching for cutting edge sustainability all on a north-facing Lake Michigan dune face. Their site, while offering beautiful, panoramic lake views, had only a toe-hold of buildable area which, under the state's critical dunes permitting process, had to be sheet piled in order to provide the buildable area they required. Then in 2008 with the economic collapse, the project was halted. Keeping the home live, in 2012 an investor envisioned it's potential. We revised our initial designs and created a new, larger version while trying to maintain the sustainable features of our difficult site.

Solution: Embraced in a dune topography helped us to inform the configuration of the home's lakeside shape, while creating an efficient tower home plan configuration. We also placed twenty-five percent of the home was below grade, in order to improve the heat loss/gain character of the home. Abundant passive south and southeast facing windows collect winter BTU's while the uphill deciduous vegetation provides solar summer shading, and north and SE/SW elevations were designed for automatic energy shades, natural cooling ventilation was utilized. Colors harmonize with the natural dark browns, terra cottas, greens and beiges of the site. A geothermal system was originally designed as well as LED lighting, sustainably harvested wood products, and naturally irrigated landscaping locally sourced materials and other features.

Note: Pictures accompany this release, photographers:
John Adams of White Barn Studio and Jim Yochum

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