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PHIUS Announces Winners of 2016 Passive Projects Competition at 2nd Annual Design Awards Ceremony

Annual competition recognizes outstanding achievements in passive building design across various climate zones, project types, and geographic locations

Chicago – September 30, 2016 – Passive House Institute US (PHIUS) awarded the finalists of the 2016 Passive Projects Competition during the annual Design Awards ceremony on Thursday, September 22, 2016 at the 11th Annual North American Passive House Conference in Philadelphia.

Back by popular demand, this juried competition recognizes exemplary fully-certified passive building projects of all types and climate zones.

The competition awarded Winner and Honorable Mention designations in the categories of Single Family, Multifamily, Affordable, and Commercial, as well as Best Overall Project and Best Project by a Young Professional (Under 35). Competition entries were judged on their strength in the following categories: energy performance, design, craftsmanship, use of healthy materials, level of difficulty for the given climate and site, and cost effectiveness of the Affordable projects.

Competition entries were narrowed down to a competitive pool of 16 finalists across all project types, with roughly half of the projects qualifying under the Multifamily, Commercial, and/or Affordable award categories.

The honor of **Best Overall Project was awarded to the Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) Innovation Center** in Basalt, Colorado. Similar in size and program to about 90% of all commercial buildings in the United States, this project is the first in the world to achieve both PHIUS+ 2015 Passive Building Standard and Source Zero Energy certification and demonstrates the feasibility of achieving net zero commercial buildings today.

The Winner and Honorable Mention finalists of the 2016 PHIUS Passive Projects Competition were awarded as follows:

2016 PHIUS Passive Projects Competition Finalists		
Category	Winner	
Best Overall Project	Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) Innovation Center <i>Basalt, CO</i>	
	Winner	Winner
Best Project by a Young Professional (Under 35)	R Residence <i>Yokohama, Japan</i>	Right-Sized Passive Home <i>Oak Park, IL</i>
	Winner	Honorable Mention
Single Family	Park Passive <i>Seattle, WA</i>	Madrona Passive House <i>Seattle, WA</i>
Multifamily	Village Centre Apartments <i>Brewer, ME</i>	Ivy City Passive Townhouses <i>Washington, DC</i>
Affordable	Village Centre Apartments <i>Brewer, ME</i>	Alice Street Duplex <i>Truro, Nova Scotia, Canada</i>
Commercial	RMI Innovation Center <i>Basalt, CO</i>	Viridescent <i>Falmouth, ME</i>

“We are thrilled about the tremendous response to this year’s competition,” remarked PHIUS Communications Manager Meredith Marsh. “This event has quickly become a highlight of the annual North American Passive House Conference and is the perfect venue for the community to come together to celebrate the great strides being made in the field of passive building.”

Katrin Klingenberg, PHIUS Co-Founder and Executive Director, is excited by the diversity of this year’s finalists. “With entries received from Japan, Canada, and coast to coast across the United States, this year’s competition highlights the exponential growth of passive building across a variety of climate zones and project types,” said Klingenberg. “These transformative role-model projects send a powerful message to the industry that these levels of comfort and performance are affordable and achievable today. Passive building is going beyond single-family homes to include multifamily, commercial, and affordable projects, and we are excited at the prospect of this year’s finalists serving as an inspiration for future award winners for many years to come.”

PHIUS extends special thanks to this year’s panel of volunteer judges: Timothy McDonald, Mary Rogero, Tessa Smith, and Katrin Klingenberg.

For more information about the award winners, visit the [2016 PHIUS Passive Projects Competition](#) site.

About PHIUS

PHIUS is a 501(c)(3) organization committed to making high-performance passive building the mainstream market standard. PHIUS is transforming the building sector by developing and promoting North American specific standards, practices, and certifications for buildings, professionals, and products to create structures that are durable, comfortable, healthy, and super energy efficient.

Founded in 2003, PHIUS has trained over 2,000 architects, engineers, energy consultants, energy raters, and builders in the passive building standard. The organization is the leading passive building research and information provider in North America. PHIUS released the PHIUS+ 2015 climate-specific building standard, developed under a DOE grant in partnership with Building Science Corporation, in March of 2015. In addition to the DOE, PHIUS has also established strategic relationships with key organizations including RESNET and the Home Innovation Research Labs, among others. The organization has received funding from the Richard King Mellon Foundation and, more recently, the John D. and Katherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

Through its [Passive House Alliance US \(PHAUS\)](#) program, a membership-based organization with over 800 members across 18 local chapters and dozens of corporate sponsors, PHIUS is building a robust national network of passive building communities across North America.

Learn more at www.phius.org.