

Elements of Style

BY ELLEN RYAN

Washington house styles vary greatly, but one thing sets top designs apart from the rest, say the judges of this year's Washingtonian Residential Design Awards: quality.

The new homes and renovations the jury selected as winners displayed "the same thought and quality of design throughout," one judge said.

Judges praised the consistency, restraint, authenticity, and simplicity of the best work.

Judges this year were Jim Evans, founder of Collaborative Designworks in Houston, Julie Hacker of Stuart Cohen & Julie Hacker Architects in Evanston, and Dan Shipley of Shipley Architects in Dallas.

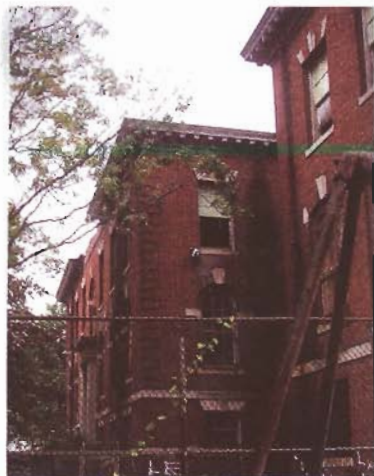
The 2008 competition, which drew a record 142 entries, was

open to registered architects of area homes or second homes owned by local residents. Entrants' names were kept from the jury until winners were chosen. The Washingtonian Residential Design Awards are sponsored by the Washington chapter of the American Institute of Architects and *The Washingtonian*.

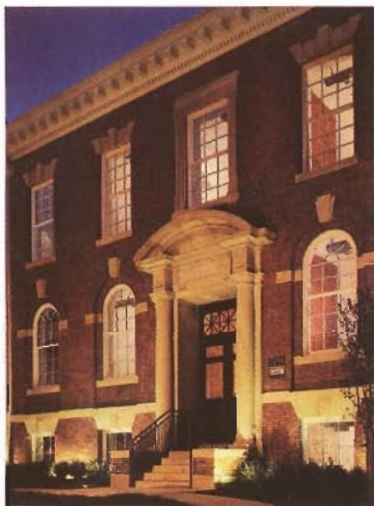


Separate Peace

Photographs by Paul Warchol Photography



Before



Back to School

A 1903 public school adjacent to DC's LeDroit Park had been abandoned for 30 years when **Bonstra/Häresign Architects** began turning it into 92 condos. The new complex includes two connected buildings, two levels of underground parking, and a landscaped courtyard on the roof that reduces stormwater runoff.

The jury praised the light touch of the design, the new dormers, and the unobtrusive placement of mechanical and electrical gear. "Schools are the connective tissue of a community," a judge noted, "and this one signals new life in the neighborhood."

The contractor was James G. Davis Construction of Rockville.

Bathing Beauty

Why should a bathroom have to be along an outside wall? Says Mark McInturff of **McInturff Architects** about this McLean project: "Our European clients asked us to reverse the typical American master-bedroom-suite layout and dedicate the existing larger bedroom space to a combined bath and dressing area." The firm created a freestanding bathroom within the dressing room—and made it mostly glass for "a shimmering environment."

The jury loved it. "The bath is an object that the other spaces revolve around," judges said. "It's a better use of space. . . . Hopefully, they have a lot of Windex."

The contractor was M.T. Puskar of Flint Hill.

