



CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE IN WOOD ARCHITECTURE

2014-15 NORTH AMERICAN WOOD DESIGN AWARD WINNERS

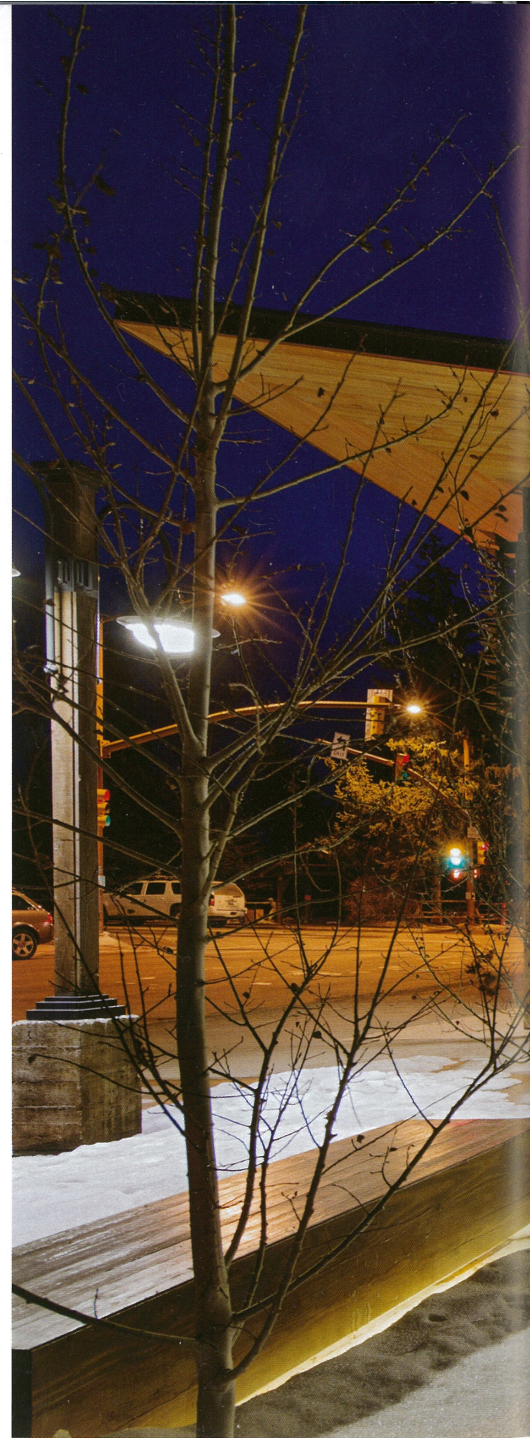


Exposed log columns and glulam beams
welcome entrants to Jackson, WY

North America

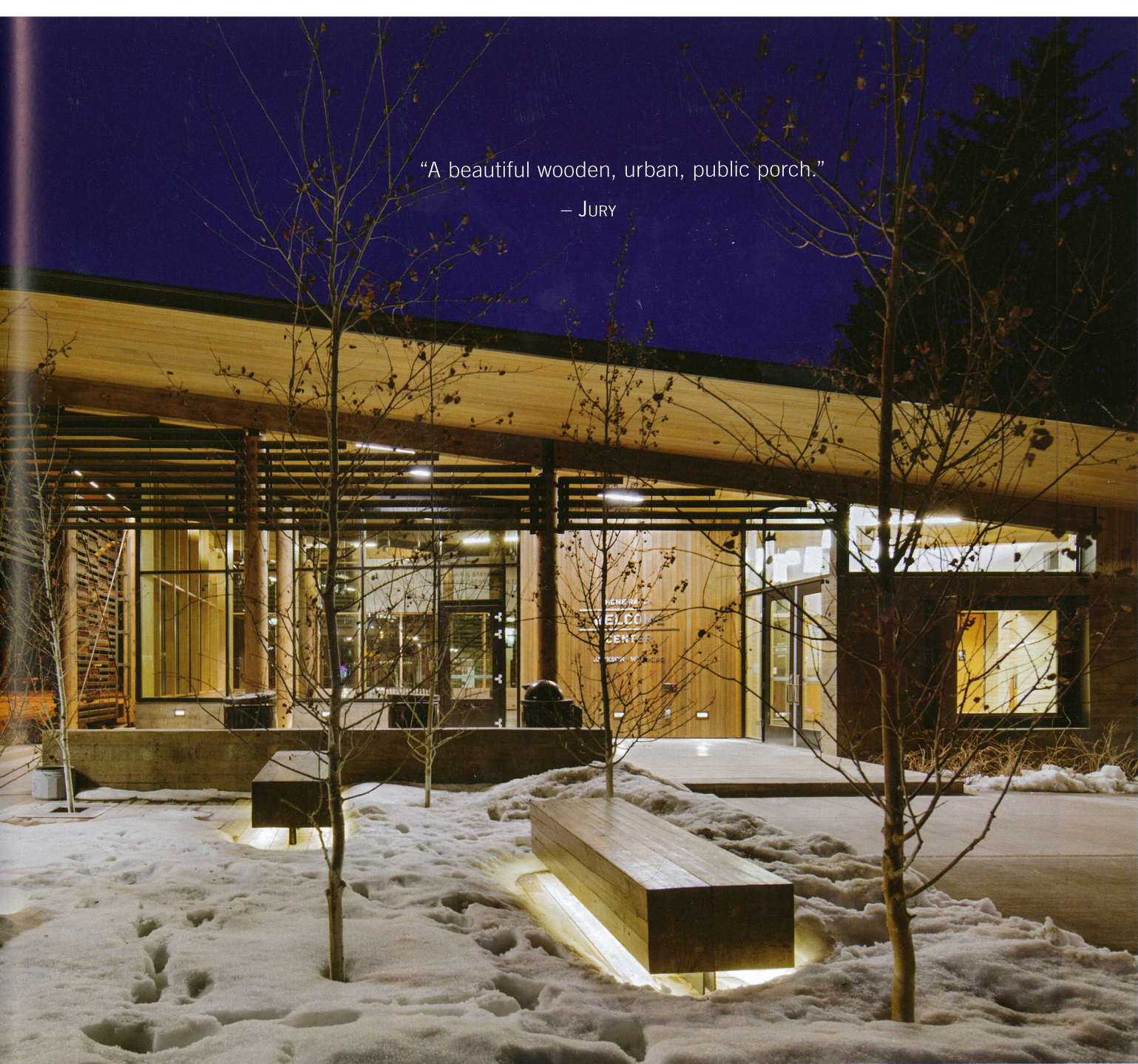
Home Ranch Welcome Center

Carney Logan Burke Architects

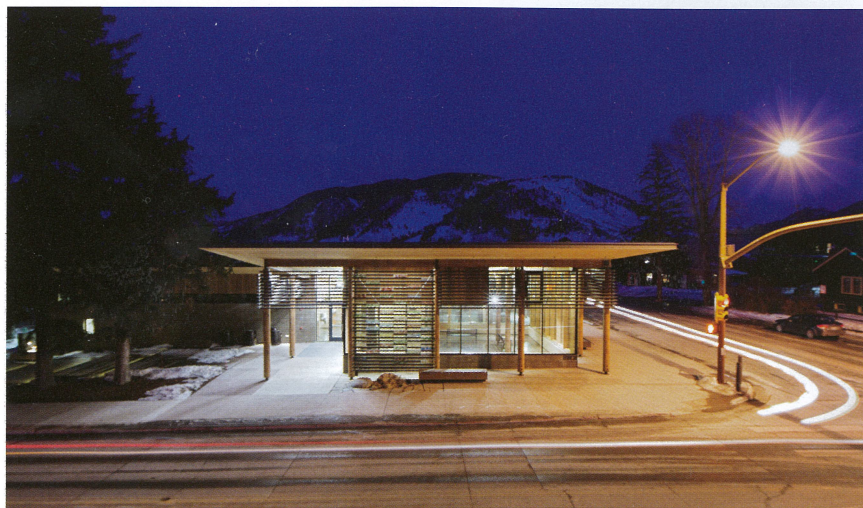


“A beautiful wooden, urban, public porch.”

— JURY







Demarcating the northern entrance to Jackson, Wyoming's historic downtown, the 3,129-sq.ft. Home Ranch Welcome Center serves as a community hub for both residents and visitors. The building program includes visitor orientation space, a transportation hub, and a public restroom. The Welcome Center exhibits function as orientating devices for visitors, utilizing the storytelling of local characters as a narrative for the opportunities and amenities in the Town of Jackson and surrounding national parks.

The LEED Gold building is situated on a prominent corner of the main route in and out of Jackson and serves as a gateway to Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks and adjacent public lands. Since the site includes an existing parking lot that serves as

the primary public parking area for the Town Square and local events, the design had to accommodate the new program and address the public corner without removing any parking spots and preserving the existing 60-ft. spruce trees. Access to public transportation was also considered throughout the siting and design of the building so that bus stops are visible and accessible on this busy street corner.

The design concept was conceived from the idea that the building is the new public "porch" for the town. The porch is a familiar, regional building element that communicates "welcome," signifies entry, provides shelter, and acts as a portal. The building program components, the restroom facilities and orientation space, are divided and expressed individually. The restrooms are housed in an opaque concrete



enclosure, while the visitor orientation area occupies a transparent, light-filled gallery space on the public corner. Both spaces convene beneath the expansive, sheltering roof.

Wood is used as the primary material for the structural system. Turned fir log columns support glulam beams that are exposed within the orientation space to communicate how the building works. These columns support a large canted roof with a glass clerestory that tilts up to the southern light and the omnipresent backdrop of downtown Jackson and Snow King Mountain. Stippled light fills the space, created by the carefully placed screens that wrap the glass curtain walls and log columns of the main hall.

The underside of the big, beautiful porch roof is clad in strips of hemlock chosen for its lighter color, delicate grain character and reflective qualities. The carefully detailed tapered soffit is taut and delicate and reduces the mass of the generous overhangs.

The lobby walls, ceiling decking, a giant wood gate that separates the orientation space from the lobby, and a continuous sill/ bench below the windows are clad with hemlock. Again, this species was selected for its warmth, light and grain characteristics. The bathroom component is made from cast-in-place board-formed concrete. Board forming gives the concrete scale, texture and pattern.

The widths of the boards alternate and the radial sawn pattern on each board is deliberately exposed.

Outside, vertical select grade cedar siding is used to complement the material palette. Untreated Alaskan yellow cedar decking is used at the ground plane entries to visually assist with entry identification and to reference the wooden boardwalks that are typical around the town square. Fir glulam benches are also incorporated outside the building and on the site.

Integrated into the metal sunscreens are glass bricks that represent the art installation called "Strands," the first publicly funded art project produced by the Jackson Hole Public Art Initiative. The colors in the glass bricks are patterned to replicate the portion of DNA that make bison and bears genetically distinct.

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