



NEWS RELEASE

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Suffolk Buildings Capture Several Excellence in Design Awards

SUFFOLK, VA. October 25, 2007 – Five Suffolk buildings have won awards for their excellence in architecture and interior designs. The buildings were selected from hundreds of entries throughout the Hampton Roads region from three different professional organizations.

The Hampton Roads Association for Commercial Real Estate (HRACRE) announced that Suffolk was the recipient of three awards at their Excellence in Development Design Awards program. This program recognizes outstanding projects throughout Hampton Roads.

The Hilton Garden Inn & Suffolk Conference Center received an HRACRE Award of Merit. The building was entered in the Best Commercial Building over 100,000 SF category. The hotel and conference center was designed to be reminiscent of old Virginia

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Jeffersonian architecture. The hotel features 150 rooms, including an executive conference suite, spectacular views of the Nansemond River, and outdoor dining on an inviting riverfront porch. The 14,000 square-foot conference center features a 7,300 square-foot grand ballroom, and a full-service business center.

The Jones Building/1 Foot 2 Foot received an HRACRE First Honor award. The building was entered in the Best Historic Rehabilitation category. The original 1920s Chadwick Theatre building, now a renovated 2-story structure, has been converted into five loft apartments with retail space located on the first floor. The 1 Foot 2 Foot design team gave the street front retail space a less clinical atmosphere and more of a spa-like feel when you enter the reception area. The combined restoration and revitalization of this historic building continues the major transformation of the downtown Suffolk business district.

The Lockheed Martin Center for Innovation received an HRACRE First Honor award. The building was entered in the Best Interior category. Function and form were brought together with the design of this building that includes a lighthouse in the center of the building. Each individual room conveys a clear and cohesive theme. The building has reconfigurable sectors that can support civil, and Department of Defense (DoD) operational-level processing, as well as for highly sensitive government projects.

The Virginia Downtown Development Association (VDDA) Annual Awards of Excellence program was recently held to recognize and encourage excellence in downtown revitalization throughout the Commonwealth. Two levels of awards were presented to showcase the achievements of organizations, individuals and governments in meeting the challenges of downtown management and development.

In the category of Building Development and Improvements, Marcus Pollard with Commonwealth Preservation Group Corporation, was presented the Award of Excellence for Montgomery Lofts in downtown Suffolk. The \$3.6 million project renovated a deteriorating circa 1928 office, warehouse and retail space into 13 affordable condominiums and state-of-the-art offices overlooking Suffolk's bustling Main Street. Commonwealth Preservation Group's main office will occupy the mezzanine level of the

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structure which once provided business managers a view of the former retail floor. Committed to repurposing historic structures, Commonwealth Preservation Group's work in Suffolk also includes two residences, a restaurant and a law office.

The International Interior Design Association (IIDA) Design Excellence program awarded Suffolk Center for the Cultural Arts (SCCA) with a First Honor award. Designers maintained historic elements of a 1922 high school in its conversion to a community cultural arts center. The former boiler room became an entrance and gift shop, the gymnasium a ball room and the band room a senior center. Judges commented on the adaptive re-use and preservation of historic details. The SCCA also received the "Brightest IDEA" award for its design solutions that was a "pinnacle example of what can be achieved through innovative design."

1 Foot 2 Foot Center for Ankle Care was awarded Honorable Mention in the category of Contract Health Care. Designers converted a 1920's theater into a space providing both health care and retail spa services. The design team chose whimsical colors, while restoring the exterior to take advantage of historic tax credits. The judges commented on the appropriateness of the design concept and its playful nature.

"Suffolk has endorsed good design standards for commercial and retail development and is focused on working with developers to encourage renovation of historic structures and complimentary patterns for new development." states Suffolk Mayor Linda T. Johnson "We hope that each of these buildings will serve as an example for future commercial developers and contractors looking at Suffolk. Congratulations to all the 2007 Excellence in Design winners."

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*Lockheed Martin Center for
Innovation*
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Montgomery Lofts
**Building Developments &
Improvements
Award of Excellence**



Suffolk Center for the Cultural Arts
**Historic Preservation
First Honor**

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