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Gwathmey Siegel goes Silver and Gold

Two projects by Gwathmey Siegel & Associates Architects (GSAA) have been officially certified in the United States Green Building Council (USGBC) LEED scale. The renovation and expansion of Paul Rudolph Hall at Yale University has received a LEED Gold certification while the Burchfield Penney Art Center located on the campus of Buffalo State College has officially received LEED Silver.

The 114,000 sq ft Raul Rudolph Hall was formerly known as the Art and Architecture Building, designed in 1963 by the then Department of Architecture chair Paul Rudolph. GSAA's work includes the restoration of exterior walls and windows to the original building and adds 87,000 sq ft of classrooms, lecture halls, offices and a public cafe over seven storeys in the Jeffrey H. Loria Center for the History of Art.

The Burchfield Penney Art Center met rigorous standards in the areas of site sustainability, water use and efficiency, reduced use of energy and atmospheric impact, use of materials and resources, improved indoor air quality and innovation in design. The Burchfield Penney is the first art museum in New York State to be LEED certified, and among the first several art museums in the nation to achieve LEED certification.

Clad in zinc panels, magnesium brick and cast stone, the 84,000 sq ft two-storey structure houses the art of Western New York.

It was conceived as a contrapointal, abstract, ambiguously scaled, sculptural object. Spaces include a dramatic 147-ft long double height main gallery, a variety of other flexible gallery spaces, an auditorium, classrooms, museum store, cafe, public reception room, administration, boardroom, support functions, and a roof terrace. The project was completed in 2008 and just received a 2009 Honor Award from the AIA Buffalo/Western New York Chapter in the category of New build over 25,000 sq ft.

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