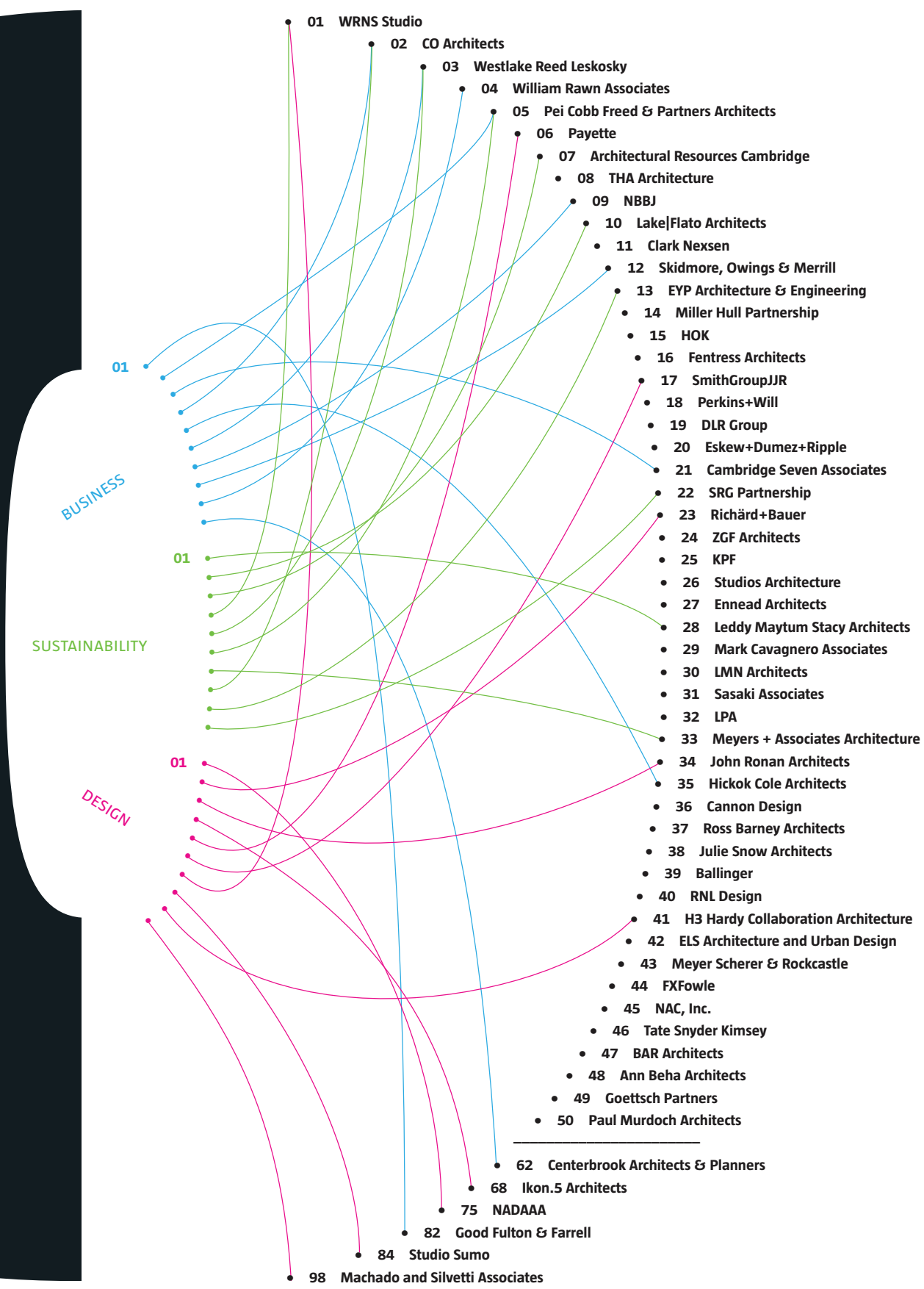


THE ARCHITECT

Text by **Eric Wills** and
Elizabeth Evitts Dickinson

MOST LISTS of top architecture firms are nothing more than a straight-up ranking of top revenue-producers. Not the **ARCHITECT 50**. Now in its fifth year, the program aspires to much more: A qualitative look at how firms stack up across a broad range of categories, from business to sustainability to design. We consider net revenue per employee, profits invested in research, and energy-efficiency metrics (how well firms are meeting the AIA's 2030 challenge, for instance). To measure design excellence, we asked firms for the first time to submit project portfolios, and had an esteemed panel of judges score them. The result? This year's list features perennial heavyweights such as Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, but also design darlings like John Ronan and Julie Snow. Paul Murdoch Architects showed that small firms can compete with big multinationals. Turn the page for our methodology and some surprising results. Don't be afraid to tell us what you think.

➔ Find more data, and the complete lists of the top 50 firms in each of the three categories, at architectmagazine.com



Methodology

Architect advertised the ARCHITECT 50 program in the magazine and on the website, and sent invitations to firms that requested entries as well as to firms that had been invited in previous years. In all, 152 firms qualified to participate in the ranking.

All data was from the 2012 fiscal year and was self-reported. Projects completed or in progress during the calendar year were included. Data was checked for consistency, and outliers were identified and fact checked. Karlin Associates LLC, a third-party research firm based in New York City, compiled the ranking and assured the confidentiality of the data.

SCORING The ARCHITECT 50 ranking is based on scores in three separate categories:

BUSINESS

- Net revenue per employee (counting only architecture and design-related revenue and staff), which counted for 65 percent of the total category score
- Profitability (positive change in net revenue from 2011): 8 percent
- The percentage of profits invested in research (a discretionary score was also awarded based on a firm's research work): 12 percent
- A firm's commitment to pro bono work, measured by participation in Public Architecture's 1% program and the percentage of a firm's billable hours that were dedicated to pro bono work: 15 percent

SUSTAINABILITY

- The percentage of gross square footage of a firm's projects that were LEED certified or designed to LEED standards, which counted for 20 percent of the total category score
- The percentage that achieved certification in other sustainability programs, including Energy Star and Living Building Challenge (a discretionary score was awarded for the types and scope of net-zero projects): 15 percent
- The percentage that pursued a potable water reduction beyond what was mandated by code or that incorporated energy modeling, with additional credit being given for the percentage for which energy data was collected: 40 percent
- Participation in the AIA's 2030 program and percentage of the gross square footage of projects that were designed to 2030 standards: 15 percent
- Percentage of a firm's employees with LEED AP or GA credentials: 10 percent

DESIGN EXCELLENCE

- For the first time this year, the ARCHITECT 50 survey included the submission of a design portfolio. A panel of judges, chosen by ARCHITECT, graded each anonymous portfolio individually to create an overall portfolio score, which counted for 60 percent of the design excellence score.
- The category also measured design awards won, including awards granted by ARCHITECT, the AIA, and ASLA, as well as other urban design and historic preservation awards: 15 percent
- The percentage of total employees who were licensed architects: 10 percent
- A discretionary score for the number and type of teaching positions that a firm's employees held at architecture schools: 15 percent

TOTAL SCORE

Each data point in the three categories was assigned a weight, formulated after consulting with architects and other industry experts. After the scores were tabulated in each of the three categories, they were rescaled so that the top ranking firm in each category was assigned a score of 100, with the rest of the firms' scores then recalculated as a percentage of the top score.

Finally, a firm's scores in each of the three categories were added together to create the overall ranking. Those scores were also normalized, with the top firm given an overall total of 300, and all the other firms' scores calculated as a percentage of the top score.

Each firm's performance was calculated relative to the performance of other firms. A firm with an overall score of 300, for example, did not necessarily top out on every indicator and category; it accumulated the highest composite score.

LEGEND

EMPLOYEES	GROSS REVENUE
# 1–10	\$ Less than 999,999
## 11–99	\$\$ 1–9.9 million
### 100–499	\$\$\$ 10–99.9 million
#### 500–999	\$\$\$\$ 100–999.9 million
##### 1,000+	\$\$\$\$\$ 1 billion+

OVERALL

1 WRNS STUDIO

San Francisco | ## | \$\$\$

OVERALL SCORE: 300.00

RANK IN EACH CATEGORY

- BUSINESS: 11TH
- SUSTAINABILITY: 4TH
- DESIGN: 7TH

Last year was, without question, a good one for WRNS Studio. The 60-person firm had one of the highest net-revenue-per-employee numbers in this year's survey, but it was the breadth and execution of projects, combined with a strong commitment to sustainability and design excellence, that earned WRNS the overall top ranking. Firm partner Bryan Shiles, AIA, credits the success, in part, to a diversity of typology. "We did well through the recession and last year because our client base is so broad," he says. "We have a robust education and institutional portfolio on one hand, and on the other, we built Adobe, which has been very good in terms of leveraging our cache in the high-tech world."

The project for Adobe Systems—a new 280,000-square-foot office building that opened last fall in Lehi, Utah—was the first time the firm tackled a high-tech facility for a Fortune 500 company.

For a transit center located near Lake Tahoe, Calif., WRNS used the metaphor of a boat hull to create a warm, wood interior evocative of the area's natural and recreational history. "The key to our firm is that we find ways to craft authentic conversations in a lot of contexts," Shiles says.

The design judges noted this careful design approach: "The disposition of each project, particularly through its materiality and form, captures and addresses the specific environment and program, resulting in a delightfully variegated portfolio."

WRNS has signed on for both Public Architecture's 1% program and the AIA's 2030 challenge. "We almost don't talk about sustainability anymore because it's just what we do," Shiles says. "Research and hard data is just embedded in our design process."

BUSINESS

1 GOOD FULTON & FARRELL

Dallas | ## | \$\$\$

OVERALL RANK: 82ND

RANK IN EACH CATEGORY

- SUSTAINABILITY: 118TH
- DESIGN: 138TH

Duncan Fulton, FAIA, a founding principal and president/CEO of Good Fulton & Farrell (GFF), has a few theories on how his firm took the top slot for business this year. First, he credits the firm's location in Dallas.

"We've got the good luck of being in a part of the country where the recession was milder than other areas," he says. "North Texas, in particular, has benefited from some new technologies for oil production, and while we don't serve that industry directly, all architects are, at the end of the day, influenced by the larger regional economy around them."

This doesn't mean that the firm came out of the recession unscathed. GFF had to let good people go and scale back, but another business choice that buoyed them during these slow billings periods was being debt-free, a strategy that the firm embraced when it was founded in 1982.

"We've been debt free for about 30 years and still are today," Fulton says. "Our attitude is to save nuts for the winter, so we benefitted from that positioning. The recession hit us, and we were affected, but not as badly as others."

Last year, Fulton says, marked the turning point where "it felt like we finally recovered from the recession." He credits the increase in billings, in part, to resurgence in multifamily projects and to the fact that GFF is in the process of ownership transition, which means that 14 of the roughly 100 employees are now principals who can bring in new work.

"As a result, we've got more channels for new projects to come into the firm," Fulton says. "Knowing the firm has enough work is a shared responsibility and in order to be a principal, you have to keep yourself and other people busy."

02

CO Architects

Los Angeles | ## | \$\$\$

OVERALL SCORE: 292.45

RANK IN EACH CATEGORY

- BUSINESS: 4TH
- SUSTAINABILITY: 8TH
- DESIGN: 11TH

"It is not always easy to design innovative healthcare architecture," said the design judges, "and yet this firm appears to reimagine how to approach the typology, and usually on a modest budget."

03

Westlake Reed Leskosky

Cleveland, Ohio | ### | \$\$\$

OVERALL SCORE: 281.72

RANK IN EACH CATEGORY

- BUSINESS: 6TH
- SUSTAINABILITY: 5TH
- DESIGN: 43RD

Westlake Reed Leskosky's transformation of the Wayne Aspinall Federal Building and Courthouse in Grand Junction, Colo., may make it the first net-zero energy building on the National Register of Historic Places.

04

William Rawn Associates

Boston | ## | \$\$\$

OVERALL SCORE: 276.94

RANK IN EACH CATEGORY

- BUSINESS: 9TH
- SUSTAINABILITY: 12TH
- DESIGN: 21ST

Strong financials and commitment to sustainability—86 percent of employees have LEED credentials—aided perennial list-maker William Rawn.

05

Pei Cobb Freed & Partners Architects

New York City | ## | \$\$\$

OVERALL SCORE: 268.65

RANK IN EACH CATEGORY

- BUSINESS: 2ND
- SUSTAINABILITY: 6TH
- DESIGN: 96TH

Eighty percent of the gross square footage of Pei Cobb Freed's projects in 2012 was designed to meet the targets of the AIA's 2030 challenge, contributing to the firm's high sustainability ranking.

06

Payette

Boston | ### | \$\$\$

OVERALL SCORE: 262.09

RANK IN EACH CATEGORY

- BUSINESS: 41ST
- SUSTAINABILITY: 19TH
- DESIGN: 5TH

Payette's portfolio of healthcare and education projects, including the Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital and Georgetown's Regents Hall Science Center, impressed the design judges.

07

Architectural Resources Cambridge

Cambridge, Mass. | ## | \$\$

OVERALL SCORE: 258.76

RANK IN EACH CATEGORY

- BUSINESS: 69TH
- SUSTAINABILITY: 3RD
- DESIGN: 31ST

Architectural Resources Cambridge cracked the top 10 thanks to a strong commitment to energy modeling and water reduction with its portfolio of LEED Gold-certified higher education projects, including the Phillips Exeter Academy's Phillips Hall renovation and addition.

08

THA Architecture

Portland, Ore. | ## | \$\$

OVERALL SCORE: 257.99

RANK IN EACH CATEGORY

- BUSINESS: 62ND
- SUSTAINABILITY: 11TH
- DESIGN: 14TH

THA impressed the judges with its portfolio of projects, including the University of Oregon's Lewis Integrative Science Building and University of Wyoming Visual Arts Facility, both certified LEED Platinum.

09

NBBJ

Seattle | ### | \$\$\$

OVERALL SCORE: 251.00

RANK IN EACH CATEGORY

- BUSINESS: 7TH
- SUSTAINABILITY: 33RD
- DESIGN: 35TH

NBBJ's strong financials were aided by its design of Google's headquarters in Mountain View, Calif., which is seeking Living Building certification.

10

Lake|Flato Architects

San Antonio, Texas | ## | \$\$\$

OVERALL SCORE: 250.96

RANK IN EACH CATEGORY

- BUSINESS: 54TH
- SUSTAINABILITY: 2ND
- DESIGN: 82ND

Lake|Flato debuted on the list thanks to a strong sustainability ranking; the firm's Josey Pavilion project, an education center for the Dixon Water Foundation, aims to be the first Living Building project in Texas.

SUSTAINABILITY

1 LEDDY MAYTUM STACY ARCHITECTS

in San Francisco is proof that you don't have to be a large firm to make a big impact through sustainable design. With just 16 employees, LMS (ranked 28th overall; see the firm's full listing on the next page) has embedded the ethos of energy efficiency into its entire practice. Fifty-six percent of the gross square footage of the firm's projects met AIA 2030 challenge standards; 100 percent used energy modeling and pursued a potable water reduction beyond what was mandated by code. Fifty-six percent of staffers have LEED credentials. "In some ways, staff are preselected because of our reputation and how much emphasis we put on sustainable design," says Richard Stacy, FAIA, a firm principal. "We don't have to bug people to pursue accreditation; they are self-motivated."

LMS is also proof that you don't have to break the budget to achieve energy efficiency. An affordable senior housing project that the firm designed in Oakland, Calif., was certified LEED Platinum. Last year, the firm completed Sweetwater Spectrum in Sonoma, Calif., a net-zero residential community for autistic adults that was built to LEED Gold standards. "We don't see budget as an excuse not to do sustainable design," Stacy says. "We get creative with taking standard materials like fiber-cement siding and coming up with our own inventive ways to make that into a rainscreen."

Research is another key component of the LMS approach: Several projects, like Sweetwater, are pilot programs that can hopefully be replicated. "We develop our research and our knowledge base primarily by doing research on a case-by-case basis and then sharing that info," says principal Marsha Maytum, FAIA.

Sustainability is such a core value that principal William Leddy, FAIA, believes the descriptor to be superfluous: "We're working hard to get rid of the word sustainability, because we believe good design is good design. You cannot think of it as a separate thing."

11 Clark Nexsen

Norfolk, Va. | ### | \$\$\$
OVERALL SCORE: 250.64
RANK IN EACH CATEGORY
 • BUSINESS: 28TH
 • SUSTAINABILITY: 22ND
 • DESIGN: 25TH

AE firm Clark Nexsen, which merged this year with the Raleigh, N.C.-based firm Pearce Brinkley Cease + Lee, scored well with its portfolio of higher education projects.

12 Skidmore, Owings & Merrill

New York City | ##### | \$\$\$\$
OVERALL SCORE: 249.53
RANK IN EACH CATEGORY
 • BUSINESS: 8TH
 • SUSTAINABILITY: 38TH
 • DESIGN: 30TH

SOM's research credentials were bolstered by its Center for Science and Ecology, a research partnership with Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, as well as its AIA award-winning Great Lakes Vision Plan.

13 EYP Architecture & Engineering

Albany, N.Y. | ### | \$\$\$
OVERALL SCORE: 247.10
RANK IN EACH CATEGORY
 • BUSINESS: 29TH
 • SUSTAINABILITY: 9TH
 • DESIGN: 67TH

EYP contributed 5 percent of its profits to research, exploring PV technology, net-zero energy design for data centers and labs, and other topics in partnership with the SUNY College of Nanoscale Science & Engineering.

14 Miller Hull Partnership

Seattle | ## | \$\$\$
OVERALL SCORE: 246.84
RANK IN EACH CATEGORY
 • BUSINESS: 84TH
 • SUSTAINABILITY: 14TH
 • DESIGN: 12TH

Miller Hull's Bullit Center in Seattle, pursuing Living Building certification, boasts energy efficiency 83 percent greater than the city's typical office building.

15 HOK

St. Louis, Mo. | ##### | \$\$\$\$
OVERALL SCORE: 244.68
RANK IN EACH CATEGORY
 • BUSINESS: 16TH
 • SUSTAINABILITY: 34TH
 • DESIGN: 34TH

HOK contributed pro bono services to the USGBC's Project Haiti Orphanage and Children's Center in Port-au-Prince, designed to be net-zero energy.

16 Fentress Architects

Denver | ### | \$\$\$
OVERALL SCORE: 243.42
RANK IN EACH CATEGORY
 • BUSINESS: 18TH
 • SUSTAINABILITY: 16TH
 • DESIGN: 56TH

With such projects as the Tom Bradley International Terminal at LAX and the LEED Gold Sanford Center for Regenerative Medicine in La Jolla, Calif., Fentress scored high in sustainability and business.

17 SmithGroupJJR

Detroit | ##### | \$\$\$\$
OVERALL SCORE: 243.41
RANK IN EACH CATEGORY
 • BUSINESS: 86TH
 • SUSTAINABILITY: 23RD
 • DESIGN: 6TH

"Artful compositions, with a wonderful sense of material and detail," said the judges about SmithGroup's portfolio, which included the LEED Gold Energy Biosciences Building at UC Berkeley.

18 Perkins+Will

Chicago | ##### | \$\$\$\$
OVERALL SCORE 239.04
RANK IN EACH CATEGORY
 • BUSINESS: 30TH
 • SUSTAINABILITY: 30TH
 • DESIGN: 37TH

Perkins+Will invested 10 percent of its profits in research, including microgrants for employees, a technology lab, and a nonprofit public interest research arm.

19 DLR Group

Omaha, Neb. | ##### | \$\$\$\$
OVERALL SCORE: 236.64
RANK IN EACH CATEGORY
 • BUSINESS: 37TH
 • SUSTAINABILITY: 17TH
 • DESIGN: 54TH

DLR formed Area 51, an internal research unit dedicated to technological innovation; the firm has also partnered with the U.S. Department of Energy on a building performance research program.

20 Eskew+Dumez+Ripple

New Orleans | ## | \$\$
OVERALL SCORE: 236.37
RANK IN EACH CATEGORY
 • BUSINESS: 20TH
 • SUSTAINABILITY: 42ND
 • DESIGN: 38TH

Eskew+Dumez+Ripple balanced design excellence—the Reinventing the Crescent plan for New Orleans won an AIA Honor Award—with a focus on sustainability: The New Orleans Bioinnovation Center was certified LEED Gold.



DESIGN

1 NADAAA

Boston | ## | \$\$

OVERALL RANK: 75TH

RANK IN EACH CATEGORY

- BUSINESS: 148TH
- SUSTAINABILITY: 88TH

Flip through NADAAA's 2012 portfolio and you see a practice skilled in designing for all scales. For instance, a 600-square-foot retail space in San Francisco for skin care brand Aesop, in which a seemingly simple wall of randomly stacked recycled boxes utterly transforms a narrow, deep space into a dynamic interior. Or two new schools of architecture in Canada and Australia (the University of Melbourne's Faculty of Architecture, Building, and Planning building shown above), both of which challenge the traditional assumptions of academic buildings with creative uses of material and assembly.

"The work of this firm is fresh and innovative at all scales," said the portfolio judges. "Well detailed and beautifully drawn, the projects are simultaneously adventuresome and controlled within the project language."

This ability to balance adventure with control comes from NADAAA's attention to form and space-making. "Historically, we've been very material focused," says Nader Tehrani, the firm's principal and founder. "We look at material behavior and study the means and methods of how buildings are put together. We are also looking at building typologies and radicalizing the formal, cultural, and organizational possibilities."

NADAAA, hailed for its innovative technology use, tempers design exploration with critical pragmatism, Tehrani says. "In these times it seems you can draw almost anything and you can build almost anything. But we've also witnessed a precipitous fall in judgment," he says. "It's not about what's technically possible, and it's not about the power to do whatever you can. [It's] cultural relevance that makes it smart architecture and urbanism."

21

Cambridge Seven Associates

Cambridge, Mass. | ## | \$\$\$

OVERALL SCORE: 233.46

RANK IN EACH CATEGORY

- BUSINESS: 3RD
- SUSTAINABILITY: 67TH
- DESIGN: 48TH

Cambridge Seven Associates' commissions from leading U.S. universities, and a series of museum projects in Saudi Arabia, contributed to the firm's strong financials.

22

SRG Partnership

Portland, Ore. | ## | \$\$\$

OVERALL SCORE: 231.65

RANK IN EACH CATEGORY

- BUSINESS: 78TH
- SUSTAINABILITY: 10TH
- DESIGN: 64TH

Ninety percent of SRG's overall gross square footage of projects in 2012 met the AIA's 2030 standards; its Museum of Flight Space Gallery in Seattle earned LEED Gold certification.

23

Richärd+Bauer

Phoenix | ## | \$\$

OVERALL SCORE: 231.48

RANK IN EACH CATEGORY

- BUSINESS: 127TH
- SUSTAINABILITY: 31ST
- DESIGN: 2ND

"Simply gorgeous architecture," raved the judges about Richärd+Bauer's design portfolio, which included its College Center project at Central Arizona College. "Highly artful compositions of different contemporary materials."

24

ZGF Architects

Portland, Ore. | ### | \$\$\$

OVERALL SCORE: 231.27

RANK IN EACH CATEGORY

- BUSINESS: 63RD
- SUSTAINABILITY: 35TH
- DESIGN: 24TH

ZGF's portfolio featured such net-zero energy projects as the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation headquarters in Agoura Hills, Calif., and the J. Craig Venter Institute biology lab in La Jolla, Calif.

25

Kohn Pedersen Fox (KPF)

New York City | #### | \$\$\$

OVERALL SCORE: 230.88

RANK IN EACH CATEGORY

- BUSINESS: 17TH
- SUSTAINABILITY: 40TH
- DESIGN: 60TH

KPF's staff size grew larger in 2012 than it was pre-recession, reflecting the firm's healthy portfolio of skyscrapers and mixed-use urban centers for an international clientele.

26

Studios Architecture

San Francisco/New York City |

| \$\$\$

OVERALL SCORE: 230.59

RANK IN EACH CATEGORY

- BUSINESS: 25TH
- SUSTAINABILITY: 20TH
- DESIGN: 81ST

Studios' strong financials and commitment to sustainability—60 percent of the firm's gross square footage of projects in 2012 met AIA 2030 standards—secured its spot on the list.

27

Ennead Architects

New York City | ### | \$\$\$

OVERALL SCORE: 230.22

RANK IN EACH CATEGORY

- BUSINESS: 21ST
- SUSTAINABILITY: 70TH
- DESIGN: 23RD

Ennead Lab, the firm's research initiative, is exploring such topics as bird-safe glass and smart-grid lighting for city athletic fields.

28

Leddy Maytum Stacy Architects

San Francisco | ## | \$\$

OVERALL SCORE: 228.98

RANK IN EACH CATEGORY

- BUSINESS: 143RD
- SUSTAINABILITY: 1ST
- DESIGN: 44TH

Leddy Maytum Stacy made the list thanks to its number one ranking in the sustainability category.

29

Mark Cavagnero Associates

San Francisco | ## | \$\$

OVERALL SCORE: 227.70

RANK IN EACH CATEGORY

- BUSINESS: 35TH
- SUSTAINABILITY: 21ST
- DESIGN: 80TH

Mark Cavagnero's portfolio of public, nonprofit, and institutional work was notable for its focus on sustainability, with its San Francisco Jazz Center expected to earn LEED Gold certification.

30

LMN Architects

Seattle | ## | \$\$\$

OVERALL SCORE: 225.53

RANK IN EACH CATEGORY

- BUSINESS: 51ST
- SUSTAINABILITY: 60TH
- DESIGN: 15TH

Mid-sized, design-focused LMN shined with its portfolio of institutional projects, including its AIA Honor Award-winning Foster School of Business at the University of Washington.

DESIGN

2

Richärd+Bauer



College Center, Central Arizona College

3

John Ronan Architects



Poetry Foundation, Chicago

4

Ikon.5 Architects



E.J. Ourso College of Business, LSU

5

Payette



Regents Hall, Georgetown University

6

SmithGroupJJR



Integrated Education Building, GateWay C.C.

31

Sasaki Associates

Watertown, Mass. | ### | \$\$\$

OVERALL SCORE: 224.13

RANK IN EACH CATEGORY

- BUSINESS: 48TH
- SUSTAINABILITY: 44TH
- DESIGN: 40TH

Multidisciplinary firm Sasaki embraced energy modeling and water reduction with its portfolio of LEED-certified higher education projects.

32

LPA

Irvine, Calif. | ### | \$\$\$

OVERALL SCORE: 223.73

RANK IN EACH CATEGORY

- BUSINESS: 31ST
- SUSTAINABILITY: 15TH
- DESIGN: 98TH

LPA's commitment to sustainability is reflected by its employees, 80 percent of whom have LEED credentials; the firm's coLAB studio fosters an integrated and multidisciplinary design process.

33

Meyers + Associates Architecture

Columbus, Ohio | ## | \$\$

OVERALL SCORE: 222.36

RANK IN EACH CATEGORY

- BUSINESS: 32ND
- SUSTAINABILITY: 7TH
- DESIGN: 129TH

Sixty percent of Meyers + Associates' employees have LEED credentials, and 85 percent of the gross square footage of the firm's 2012 projects was designed to AIA 2030 standards.

34

John Ronan Architects

Chicago | ## | \$

OVERALL SCORE: 221.39

RANK IN EACH CATEGORY

- BUSINESS: 125TH
- SUSTAINABILITY: 46TH
- DESIGN: 3RD

"An architect's architect," the judges said about John Ronan's design portfolio. "In every case, the firm's projects are rigorously considered in both concept and detail."

35

Hickok Cole Architects

Washington, D.C. | ## | \$\$\$

OVERALL SCORE: 221.10

RANK IN EACH CATEGORY

- BUSINESS: 5TH
- SUSTAINABILITY: 76TH
- DESIGN: 65TH

Hickok Cole's portfolio of commercial office buildings and multifamily housing projects, highlighted by its design of NPR's global headquarters in Washington, D.C., boosted its strong financials.

36

Cannon Design

Grand Island, N.Y. | ##### | \$\$\$\$

OVERALL SCORE: 221.03

RANK IN EACH CATEGORY

- BUSINESS: 49TH
- SUSTAINABILITY: 50TH
- DESIGN: 28TH

Cannon's restoration/renovation of the St. Louis Public Library's Central Library, and its Kaleida Health, Clinical, and Research Building in Buffalo, N.Y., impressed the design judges.

37

Ross Barney Architects

Chicago | ## | \$\$

OVERALL SCORE: 216.71

RANK IN EACH CATEGORY

- BUSINESS: 77TH
- SUSTAINABILITY: 61ST
- DESIGN: 18TH

Ross Barney's emphasis on design excellence shone through with its striking design for a chiller plant at Ohio State University and the Chicago Transit Authority's glass-and-steel Morgan Street Station.

38

Julie Snow Architects

Minneapolis, Minn. | ## | \$\$

OVERALL SCORE: 213.30

RANK IN EACH CATEGORY

- BUSINESS: 90TH
- SUSTAINABILITY: 53RD
- DESIGN: 20TH

Julie Snow boasted one of the top-scoring design portfolios, featuring the firm's U.S. Land Port of Entry project in Van Buren, Maine, and its Minneapolis Federal Office Building Security Lobby Renovation.

39

Ballinger

Philadelphia | ### | \$\$\$

OVERALL SCORE: 213.13

RANK IN EACH CATEGORY

- BUSINESS: 50TH
- SUSTAINABILITY: 25TH
- DESIGN: 88TH

This leading healthcare designer collaborates with the Center for Health Design on evidence-based research; 40 percent of firm staff has LEED credentials.

40

RNL Design

Denver | ### | \$\$\$

OVERALL SCORE: 212.36

RANK IN EACH CATEGORY

- BUSINESS: 87TH
- SUSTAINABILITY: 13TH
- DESIGN: 93RD

Forty-one percent of the gross square footage of RNL's projects in 2012 was designed to meet AIA 2030 standards; the firm's net-zero energy projects included the National Renewable Energy Laboratory Research Support Facility.

DESIGN

7

WRNS Studio



Adobe Utah Campus Office Building

8

Studio Sumo



Mizuta Museum of Art, Sakado, Japan

9

H3 Hardy Collaboration
Architecture

Maritime & Seafood Industry Museum, Biloxi, Miss.

10

Machado and Silveti
Associates

Ruth and Elmer Wellin Museum of Art, Hamilton Coll.

DESIGN PORTFOLIO JUDGES

Stephen Chung, AIA, is a Boston-based architect. In 2009, Casas Internacional published a monograph dedicated to his residential projects. Chung has taught at such institutions as Syracuse, Cornell, RISD, and Yale. He is the host for a public television series titled *Cool Spaces: The Best New Architecture* (see coolspaces.tv).

Merrill Elam, AIA, is a principal at Atlanta-based Mack Scogin Merrill Elam Architects. She has taught, lectured, and served as a design critic at countless institutions, including Yale, the Harvard University Graduate School of Design, and SCI-Arc. With Mack Scogin, she received the 2012 Cooper-Hewitt National Design Award for Architecture.

John Peterson, AIA, is the founder and president of Public Architecture, which mobilizes designers to drive social change. The nonprofit has built a network of over 16,000 design professionals, providing \$45 million of pro bono services annually across the country. The principal of Peterson Architects in San Francisco, he was a Loeb Fellow at the Harvard University Graduate School of Design.

41

**H3 Hardy Collaboration
Architecture**

New York City | ## | \$\$
OVERALL SCORE: 211.95
 RANK IN EACH CATEGORY
 • BUSINESS: 26TH
 • SUSTAINABILITY: 114TH
 • DESIGN: 9TH

"Sophisticated interventions at both the building and urban scale," said the judges about H3's design portfolio, which included its Lincoln Center Theater addition in New York City.

42

**ELS Architecture and
Urban Design**

Berkeley, Calif. | ## | \$\$
OVERALL SCORE: 211.79
 RANK IN EACH CATEGORY
 • BUSINESS: 60TH
 • SUSTAINABILITY: 39TH
 • DESIGN: 68TH

ELS's integrated design philosophy focuses on sustainability; the firm met the AIA 2030 standards for 50 percent of the gross square footage of its projects in 2012.

43

Meyer Scherer & Rockcastle

Minneapolis | ## | \$\$
OVERALL SCORE: 211.11
 RANK IN EACH CATEGORY
 • BUSINESS: 65TH
 • SUSTAINABILITY: 68TH
 • DESIGN: 26TH

Meyer Scherer & Rockcastle's commitment to design excellence and creative adaptive reuse strategies shone through with its AIA Honor Award-winning transformation of a Walmart store into the McAllen Public Library Main Library in Texas.

44

FXFowle

New York City | ### | \$\$\$
OVERALL SCORE: 211.02
 RANK IN EACH CATEGORY
 • BUSINESS: 27TH
 • SUSTAINABILITY: 71ST
 • DESIGN: 52ND

FXFowle invested 5 percent of its profits into research that focused on parametric modeling and fabrication for the Miami Pavilion and Art Bar at Art Basel, and green roof technology and performance for the Jacob Javits Convention Center.

45

NAC, Inc.

Spokane, Wash. | ### | \$\$\$
OVERALL SCORE: 209.54
 RANK IN EACH CATEGORY
 • BUSINESS: 108TH
 • SUSTAINABILITY: 18TH
 • DESIGN: 63RD

NAC's Carl Sandburg Elementary School in Kirkland, Wash., illustrated the firm's

expertise in education design and its commitment to sustainability.

46

Tate Snyder Kimsey

Henderson, Nev. | ## | \$\$
OVERALL SCORE: 207.88
 RANK IN EACH CATEGORY
 • BUSINESS: 85TH
 • SUSTAINABILITY: 27TH
 • DESIGN: 71ST

Tate Snyder Kimsey's design of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's Date Street offices in Boulder City, Nev., an adaptive reuse project on a former brownfield site, is expected to achieve net-zero energy.

47

BAR Architects

San Francisco | ## | \$\$\$
OVERALL SCORE: 207.04
 RANK IN EACH CATEGORY
 • BUSINESS: 14TH
 • SUSTAINABILITY: 43RD
 • DESIGN: 115TH

BAR featured strong financials and a dedication to pro bono work: The firm collaborated with Architecture for Humanity and Haiti Partners on the design of the Children's Academy in Haiti.

48

Ann Beha Architects

Boston | ## | \$\$
OVERALL SCORE: 206.65
 RANK IN EACH CATEGORY
 • BUSINESS: 24TH
 • SUSTAINABILITY: 93RD
 • DESIGN: 27TH

Ann Beha invested 7 percent of its profits in project research for its adaptive reuse and restoration projects at MIT, the University of Chicago, and Cornell.

49

Goettsch Partners

Chicago | ## | \$\$\$
OVERALL SCORE: 204.94
 RANK IN EACH CATEGORY
 • BUSINESS: 38TH
 • SUSTAINABILITY: 29TH
 • DESIGN: 111TH

With clients in China and Abu Dhabi, Goettsch boasted strong financials and a commitment to energy modeling with its portfolio of hotel and high-rise projects.

50

Paul Murdoch Architects

Beverly Hills, Calif. | # | \$\$
OVERALL SCORE: 203.17
 RANK IN EACH CATEGORY
 • BUSINESS: 58TH
 • SUSTAINABILITY: 32ND
 • DESIGN: 99TH

Paul Murdoch Architects snuck onto the list with a portfolio that included the Flight 93 National Memorial in Stoytown, Pa., and a Constitution Gardens plan for D.C.'s National Mall design competition.