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## Bud Clark Commons lands top design prize

Portland Business Journal by Andy Giegerich , Business Journal staff writer

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A Portland low-income housing project has captured a prestigious architecture award.

The **American Institute of Architects** named the Bud Clark Commons as the group's top 2012 Housing and Urban Development design. The award will be given to [Dave Otte](#), the lead architect on the project, on Saturday.

The facility opened [last summer in Portland's Old Town](#)

The Washington, D.C.-based AIA praised:

The shelter's "abundance of natural light and wood finishes inside," exemplified by the sustainably certified Douglas fir that appears throughout the facility.

The bike racks, ventilation and smart sensors that turn off the heat when each window is opened in the Bud's 300-square-foot apartments.

The day center that welcomes non-residents, giving them access to computers and other amenities.

"Bud Clark Commons created a transformative place that serves people with dignity, respects its environment and serves as inspiration for all," the architects' panel wrote. "The architect is really trying to say something here, and it is inspiring. The way the shelter addresses the street and the commons – it creates a place of invitation and dignity in a warm, lively kind of way. It invites a wider idea of constructive citizenry."

"This building is more than an institution," a juror added. "Considering the homelessness initiative – most homeless projects seem institutionalized and one dimensional, but this is not stigmatized, it is thoughtful and brings a new way of thinking about how these facilities should be done. It is a gorgeous project. This approach should be imitated."

Holst Architecture of Portland designed the project. Interior and exterior design work was performed by Acoustic Design Studio Inc., Czopek & Erdenberger Inc., Green Building Services Inc. and Mayer/Reed. [Richard Graves](#) was the project's waterproofing consultant.

Andy Giegerich covers government, law, health care and sports business.