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JCJ's Mill River Park concept receives citation for Design Excellence by The BSA Design Awards

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Stamford, CT JCJ Architecture, a nationally ranked design, planning, architecture, and interior design firm, has received a citation from the Boston Society of Architects (BSA) 2020 Design Awards. The firm's concept design for the Mill River Park Whittingham Discovery Center was recognized in the Unbuilt Architecture and Design category.

"We are honored to have our work recognized by an organization as esteemed as the Boston Society of Architects," said Peter Bachmann, AIA, principal and institutional markets leader at JCJ Architecture. "Our team embraced the opportunity to envision a dynamic structure that would become a community destination—supporting diverse programming and sitting gently within the urban greenscape creating its own sense of a natural environment. It is meaningful to have our peers acknowledge the project and our response to Mill River Park Collaborative's vision for rehabilitation of 28-acre parkland set in downtown Stamford, Connecticut."

JCJ Architecture developed a design for the project in response to the Mill River Park Collaborative's (MRPC) RFP for a new facility that would function as an interactive learning and development center to support multi-functional programs in the park. The MRPC sought to create a unique objective and artistic impression within the landscape. In addition to creating a place of enduring appeal to engage and hold the eye of the observer, the building would include facilities for interactive exhibits, flexible classrooms and labs, areas for an adjacent ice rink, carry out café, office, and support spaces. The project would be a year-round destination, appealing and engaging the surrounding community in this new urban greenspace.

The BSA jury commented, "This is one of the most unique visitor centers we've ever seen. We love that the building becomes the site and the site becomes the building. A diversity of activities are made possible by the sloping structure, which invites visitors to engage across seasons. From lounging to sledding to taking in performances, the Whittingham Discovery Center's integrated architecture and landscape beckon to its community, a true gathering place."

The Boston Society of Architects is committed to professional development for its members, advocacy on behalf of great design, and sharing an appreciation for the built environment with the public at large. Each year the BSA sponsors awards programs to honor design excellence in Massachusetts, New England, and elsewhere. By celebrating these outstanding achievements, the

BSA Design Awards highlight the opportunity that all building industry professionals have to affect their communities and their quality of life positively.

New England Real Estate Journal - 17 Accord Park Drive #207, Norwell MA 02061 - (781) 878-4540