

AIA Northern Virginia Announces 2025 Canstruction Winners

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Arlington, Va. – The Northern Virginia Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA Northern Virginia), in collaboration with Fashion Centre at Pentagon City, announced the 2025 Canstruction Northern Virginia Award winners at a reception held at Matchbox in Arlington, Va. Architecture firms were recognized with awards for their creative designs and innovative use of canned goods.

This annual community hunger relief initiative gathered over 16,000 cans of food estimated to be worth over \$25,500 which will be donated to the Capital Area Food Bank to aid in providing relief to Arlington County residents.

Six awards were given determined by a jury panel including Christopher Kehde, AIA, 2025 AIA Northern VA President and Executive VP and Managing Director of FGM Architects, Chef Pepe Moncayo (Mahn-kay-oh) of Cranes Restaurant in DC; Shay Ramdeen, Director of Operations at Fashion Centre at Pentagon City; Robert Wetzel, Assistant Community Bank Manager at Burke & Herbert Bank; Allie Ditzel, Senior Project Architect with HGA; Eric Matzke, Structural Project Engineer with HGA; and AIA NoVA's own Past-President, April Drake. In addition, the public voted online over several days for their favorite featured in the People's Choice Award category.

Awards were given to architecture firm teams whose projects used the most cans, received the highest marks for design, showed the greatest structural ingenuity, best used the canned goods' labels to give life to their designs, and used cans for their structure that would best make a delicious meal.

"Canstruction is a unique opportunity for AIA Northern Virginia members to highlight their exceptional architectural and design talents in a fun, creative setting," said Christopher Kehde, AIA, 2025 AIA Northern Virginia President and Managing Director and Principal with FGM Architects in Reston. *"More importantly, it's a meaningful way for us to give back to the community and raise awareness about hunger in a truly engaging and visually impactful way. We're proud to lead this initiative each year and hope it inspires future architects to see how design can make a real difference."*

AIA Northern Virginia thanks this year's program sponsors—MEP Designs, Inc.; Cranes Restaurant, D.C.; Sherwin-Williams; and Burke & Herbert Bank—as well as all Canstruction organizers, participants, and voters for helping to make the event such a success.

The 2025 Canstruction Northern Virginia Award Winners are:

Honorable Mention:

We're Not in CAN-sas Anymore! Designed and built by MTFA

Most Cans Award:

Making Hunger Extinct, designed and built by Wiley|Wilson

Best Meal Award:

Summer Vibes, designed and built by Jacobs

Structural Ingenuity Award:

CAN-Pybaras, designed and built by MW Architects

Best Use of Labels Award:

Fueling Kindness – One Can in the Bug! Designed and built by SAMAHA

Best Original Design Award:

Summer Vibes, designed and built by Jacobs

People's Choice Award:

CAN-Pybaras, designed and built by MW Architects

See photos of build night, and the final canned good sculptures on Social Media:

Instagram: @aianorthernvirginia

Facebook: @aianova

Celebrating 50 Years of Excellence: A Year-Long Tribute

Our chapter proudly marks 50 years of excellence, innovation, and community impact. To celebrate, we are hosting a year-long series of events honoring our history and inspiring the future.

From project tours to panel discussions, networking events, and award galas, we will recognize the visionaries who shaped our chapter and celebrate today's leaders. Each event offers an opportunity to engage with our shared legacy and future.

Join us in this extraordinary celebration of architecture and achievement! Check our event calendar regularly for updates and ways to be part of this milestone year.

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