

2012 VSAIA Prize Jury Notes

Paula Loomis, FAIA, Chair

Andrea Quilici, AIA

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2012 VSAIA Prize

Sky Tent (Eric Kuhn, University of Virginia)

The Sky Tent submission is a delightful entry. The structures could serve as a great place to “get away” during normal use. During hurricane season it is one of the most believable entries with the tent structure stowed away during the hurricane and easily deployed after the hurricane. One could imagine a community of sky tents joined together by rope bridges. A great place to live among the birds.

Best of School Virginia Tech Blacksburg

Lighthouse (John Jennings)

This entry went straight to the heart of the lighthouse site and captures its concept in one bold move. The jury liked the idea of the refuge attached to the most durable architecture in the area. The entry had great graphics. It was nice to see a real drawing. Ledoux would be proud.

Best of School Hampton University

Self-Sustaining Shelter (Carlton Copeland)

The jury enjoyed the self-sustaining features of this entry and the resemblance of a large lifeguard station. The student clearly thought through the off-grid living conditions that might occur after the storm and provided a rainwater collection system, solar panels for energy and natural ventilation. The open floor plan allows for flexibility of use and can be configured for both families and individual needs.

Best of School Virginia Tech WAAC – Ningning Shang

Living Under Two Roofs (Ningning Shang)

The jury was intrigued with both the everyday uses of this entry, shade and shelter underneath the structure and a platform for elevated viewing, as well as its use after a hurricane. The sculptural quality of the base will also provide a visual landmark between storms and serve as a landmark/beacon on the shoreline for a place of gathering. A visually striking entry.

Honorable Mention “Kit Award”

Outer Bank Portables (Meagan McFadden, University of Virginia)

Relief agencies often use portable/deliverable structures following disasters. This entry is an exemplary portable structure with flexibility. It also fits well into the Outer Banks architectural vernacular.

Honorable Mention for Creativity

Floating Capsules (Zack Saunders, Virginia Tech Blacksburg)

The Navy often sends its ships out to sea to wait out a storm. This entry recalls this concept with the wonderful image of the storm “throwing up the solution.” Even though this concept may not survive a direct hit by a hurricane and it might be an engineering challenge to get the balloon material to stay inflated, the entry is an intriguing concept. The most “out of the box concept.”

Notable “Stanley Kubrick Award”

Wind Tunnel (Chris Yetka, Virginia Tech Blacksburg)

This bold solution offers a real working solution with survival speaking loudly. One could imagine occupants riding out the storm inside to later emerge, set up temporary shelters around the structure and use the energy generated during the storm to provide support until life returns to normal. The permanence of the monolithic architecture and the temporality of the wind join to achieve security during a storm and fun + energy in other times.

Notable for Ingenuity

Moving Structure with Water (Harsh Vardhan Jain, University of Virginia)

The jury enjoyed how well thought out this entry was and the instructive graphics. The concept of the structure moving with the water levels was a winner.