Merit Award
Baker Middle School
BLRB Architects and Tacoma School District

Baker Middle School captures the resourcefulness necessary to create a welcoming and rich learning environment that also enhances the community. The building is well proportioned, and the use of materials is aesthetically pleasing. Sustainable design features compliment interior and exterior spaces supporting instructional activities. The committee was impressed with how the district and design team met the challenge of facilitating the necessary exchange of land. The public outreach, commitment and dedication demonstrated paid off with an outdoor component that enriches the entire community. Baker Middle School is the embodiment of Community Spirit.

Merit Award
Geiger Montessori School
Hutteball & Oremus Architecture and Tacoma Public Schools

The concept of this magnet school provides choice to students of a large urban school district where it is important to recognize different teaching methods and learning styles. This curriculum uses a project based learning approach which was adopted into the building design through the use various educational areas and breakout spaces. The committee was impressed with this design which reflects the guiding principals of Montessori methods, and divides the school into learning communities or "houses". The children are exposed to sustainable features which are highlighted in the design that include daylighting, rainwater harvesting cisterns that serve student gardening plots, drought tolerant plantings, displacement ventilation, and exterior sun shading devices to name just a few. A cost of $237/sf is not unreasonable considering all the features this design includes.

Merit Award
Westview Elementary School
ALSC Architects and Spokane Public Schools

Westview Elementary School is nestled in a northwest neighborhood in Spokane, WA. Clear design criteria guided a community based design process that was viable, livable, identifiable, flexible, memorable and sustainable. These criteria resulted in a vibrant educational program that provides flexible learning spaces that respond to various modes of teaching and learning. A welcoming lobby, expandable classrooms and a spacious library enhance learning options for students. Sustainability features include effective day-lighting, energy efficient mechanical systems and durable, locally available building materials. Finally, Westview Elementary School responds positively to the design criteria by sustaining open spaces, moderating the neighbor’s views of the school and establishing proper traffic patterns.