

# BEST MULTI-FAMILY • AWARD OF MERIT

## Riverpark Condominiums

**Owner/Developer:** Collins Enterprises, LLC

**Architect:** VIA design architects, p.c.

**Contractor:** Hoy Construction

Riverpark Condominiums adds balance to the city's housing initiative to increase the downtown residential opportunities. As an urban redevelopment infill, the plan is respectful and faithful to the public nature of the project. Comprising an entire city block, it fronts on one of downtown's boat basins. This site offers an optimum panoramic view of Norfolk's Harbor and an opportunity to be a part of the public activities associated with the water's edge. Careful planning was given to vehicular access and parking on and off site to handle the increased residential density. The building's façade is a fresh architectural style respectful of the surrounding structures which are so much a part of Norfolk's heritage.

**Judges' Comments:** Good articulation, variety in building façade/Very nice and appropriate use of porches and bay windows/Vibrant and family living/Superior site planning and respectful approach to existing features and buildings/Proper building scale and detailing allows for plenty of interest without becoming distracting or overwhelming.



# BEST INDUSTRIAL BUILDING, AWARD OF MERIT

## Corporate Dining and Training Facility

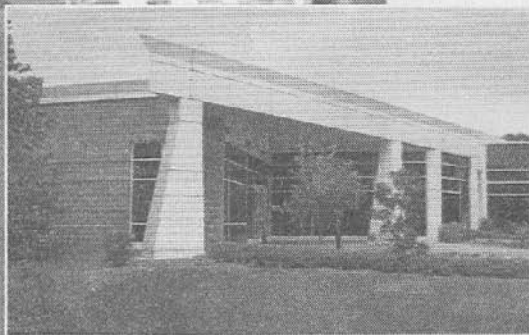
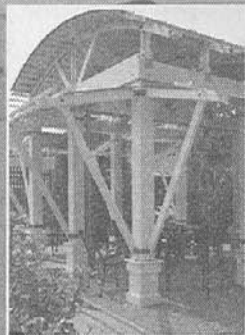
**Owner/Developer:** Anheuser-Busch Inc.

**Architect:** VIA design architects, pc

**Contractor:** Henderson Inc. and R.J. Ortlieb Construction Co.

The 16,000-square-foot facility, which was added to the front of an existing brewery in Williamsburg, uses bold structural forms and clear material breaks to enhance circulation and function, while appearing fresh, independent and strong. The garden-like setting for the dining area is equally experienced inside and outside. The project broke down the barriers between union and non-union staff and promoted equality by giving employees a comfortable facility where they all could congregate.

**Judges' comments:** Good effort at humanizing an industrial complex/Appreciate the relationship between the interior and exterior/Created a pleasant place to get away/Shading extends the days per year that this outdoor space is attractive to use/Builds community within the workforce.



# BEST INTERIOR • FIRST HONOR

## d'ART Center at Selden Arcade

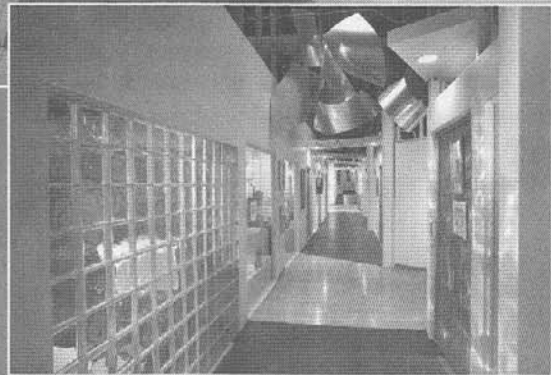
**Owner/Developer:** Susan Bernard

**Architect:** VIA design architects, pc

**Contractor:** Virtexco Corp.

This 14,800-square-foot space in Selden Arcade distributes what would be one large gallery into six smaller galleries along an internal pathway. Threading through the project, the internal pathways allow artists and patrons to view artwork and interact away from the large central arcade space. Each pathway terminates with a gallery that opens up to the original existing skylights and provides an ideal space for artists to display their artwork. The focal point of each pathway is a corresponding pathway on the other side of the arcade.

**Judges' Comments:** Sophisticated, yet industrial-has an attitude/Everyday materials used in extraordinary ways/The windows into the studio spaces frame the artisans as living exhibits within the gallery/Marvelous adaptation of contemporary gallery space within a constrained historical arcade setting/The refined spatial movement through the gallery provides yet another 3-dimensional art form to be explored by the visitor.



# Donna Phaneuf

• VIA DESIGN ARCHITECTS PC •

Donna Phaneuf, president and owner of VIA design architects pc, is downright passionate about her field.

"I love design," she said. "I like to listen to my clients, take their words, give them vision and lead them to a real result that represents what they described. I love to be a part of the process of making that happen. It's really a very powerful profession."

It was this passion that drove Phaneuf to incorporate her own firm in 1991 after working in the industry for eight years.

"I can't say I started thinking I would always have a business of my own," she said. "But after practicing for a while, I started to form very strong ideas, convictions and opinions, and it became apparent that I could not pursue those in the offices where I worked. So that became the compelling driver to step out and try to accomplish them on my own."

Phaneuf, now with 22 years of experience, stands as an example of the type of success and respect earned from adherence to a standard. In addition to her professional duties, she is the treasurer for the Downtown Norfolk Council as well as a member of various DNC committees. She is involved with several local arts programs, including d'Art Center's strategic planning, building and executive committees and the Academy of Music's nominating committee.

Despite her success as a woman in a historically male-dominated arena, Phaneuf makes no mention of gender challenges, choosing instead to be judged by her strides and accomplishments as an architect.

"I see opportunities where others see challenge," she said. "Many firms surrender to the budget and accept that certain projects will not receive



much attention. I turn that around and bring in innovation, bring in something creative rather than the standard humdrum approach. I focused on and capitalized on the areas that appeared to be weak in my profession and turned those into my strengths."

Phaneuf is ever-cognizant of the impact of her designs.

"You have to be very careful with what you do and what gets built," she said. "The redevelopment of downtown Norfolk is a great example of the impact of architects. It's nice to be participating in the renaissance that Norfolk is having and create projects that are making a thumbprint there."

In addition to her contributions as an architect, Phaneuf uses other talents to give back to the community, including serving her church, Epworth Methodist Church in Norfolk, as a flutist. She also provides advice to the parish council regarding human resources and other issues that affect the church community.

"I realized a long time ago that if you are going to commit to this busy life, you don't have to throw everything else away," she said.

Married, with a son at home, Phaneuf enjoys spending much of her time with her family, a family whose support she claims has helped her achieve her success.

—*Jamie Classen*