



**ACE MENTOR PROGRAM**  
ARCHITECTURE • CONSTRUCTION • ENGINEERING

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**Aspiring High School Architects and Engineers  
Face Off Before Industry CEOs  
– 7<sup>th</sup> Annual CIRT—ACE National Design Competition –**

On April 30 three teams of high school students from Iowa, Maryland, and Rhode Island participating in the ACE Mentor Program faced off in Washington, DC before a jury of construction and design industry CEOs at the finals of the 2013 Construction Industry Round Table (CIRT)—ACE National Design Competition.

This year's design contest was the stiffest in the competition's seven-year history. A record 43 teams from 24 ACE affiliates (chapters) throughout the U.S. submitted entries in one of three project categories – a modular addition to a school, a playground or small community park, and a home retro-fitted for seniors.

The Des Moines, Iowa team earned top honors with its project "Modular Reset." The eight students designed four different-sized, compatible modular classrooms that can be configured to match instructional needs. The prefabricated modules can easily be disassembled and reused at other locations or returned to the factory. With its design to retro-fit homes for physically challenged individuals, the second-place team from Frederick, Maryland conceived a menu of retro-fit options that allows clients to create custom solutions for their situations. Third place went to the Northern Rhode Island team's "Riverwalk Park" situated in its demographically mixed community. The park includes a playground and amphitheater and incorporates sustainable design and educational features.



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“Students in the National Design Competition impress our members with their dedication and talent,” said Mark Casso, CIRT president. “In many ways, the competition reminds CIRT members why they first entered the industry, renewing their enthusiasm for their own work.”

According to ACE Executive Director John Strock, the competition is an annual highlight for ACE. “It affords the best teams from across the country an opportunity to test themselves against each other,” he said.

The champion team earned a \$5,000 prize for its affiliate, and the second- and third-place teams took home \$3,000 and \$2,000, respectively.

The seven-person jury was composed of: Elisabeth Broome, managing editor of *Architectural Record*; Randy Lake, CEO, Oldcastle Materials, Inc.; Patrick MacLeamy, CEO, HOK Group; Ray Messer, President and Chairman, Walter P. Moore & Associates; Bill Siegel, President and CEO, Kleinfelder; Charles Thornton, Chairman, AECOS Group and co-chair of ACE; and Mark Casso, Esq.

“I was deeply impressed watching the three finalists present their projects articulately and with poise,” reflected juror Beth Broome.

“The boards and presentations themselves represent just the tip of the iceberg of a highly collaborative, research- and time-intensive project whose success depends on the great efforts of both students and mentors. It gives me great hope watching students embrace the fields of architecture, engineering, and construction with such enthusiasm and commitment.”

## **Runners-up**

Competition runners-up in the three design categories each received cash prizes -- \$1,000 for 1<sup>st</sup> runner-up and \$500 for 2<sup>nd</sup> runner-up.

In the local playground/small community park category, Team 8 from Philadelphia and Team Bechtel from Houston were the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> runners-up, respectively. The Trumbull Team from Greater Bridgeport/Shelton, CT and Team T-3 from Houston claimed 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> runners-up, respectively, in the modular education addition category. For their designs of a retro-fitted home, the Orange Park High School Team from Jacksonville, FL and the Century High School Team from Santa Ana, CA earned 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> runner-up places.

A team from New Haven, CT earned a \$250 award for Best Presentation Boards.



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### **About the ACE Mentor Program**

The ACE Mentor Program <http://www.acementor.org> was founded in 1995 by the principals of leading design and construction firms. Its mission is to engage, excite and enlighten high school students to pursue careers in architecture, engineering, and construction through mentoring and to support their continued advancement in the industry. ACE's 64 affiliates in 38 states organize 2,300 mentors to deliver a 15-session after-school program to almost 8,000 students.

### **About the Construction Industry Round Table**

The Construction Industry Round Table (CIRT) is exclusively composed of approximately 100 CEOs from the leading architectural, engineering and construction firms doing business in the United States. CIRT is the only organization positioned to express in a singular voice the views of the richly diverse and dynamic design/construction community. First organized in 1987 as the Construction Industry President's Forum, the Forum has since been incorporated as a not-for-profit association with the mission "to be a leading force for positive change in the design/construction industry while helping members improve the overall performance of their individual companies."

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