

Street Dixon Rick Architecture and Vanderbilt University win two new awards for The Commons student housing community

Nashville, TN - The Commons project at Vanderbilt University continues to garner national and regional awards, most recently receiving both the Urban Land Institute's Excellence in Development Award and the "Green Building of America" Award from *Real Estate & Construction Review*.

"We're very pleased that in addition to meeting many of our team's architectural goals, as recognized by these two awards, that The Commons project has helped the university achieve even more immediate goals – an increase in applications," said Baird Dixon, AIA, LEED AP, firm principal for [Street Dixon Rick Architecture, PLC](http://www.streetdixonrick.com).

All first-year students at Vanderbilt are required to live in The Commons, student housing designed to encourage learning outside of the classroom. Applications were up by 15 percent and included a more diverse pool of applicants as well, university officials report.

"We understand that for universities, first-year students are their lifeblood," Dixon said. "It's gratifying that these awards and recognition will help Vanderbilt continue to recruit the best and the brightest, attracting students who want to begin their college careers in a living-learning environment situated on a beautiful, historic part of the campus.

"When we began the Master Plan for this historic part of the Vanderbilt campus, the goal of LEED certification became a very important part of our plan – but this project reflects far more than innovative sustainable design. The new buildings and open spaces remain true to the historic context and create a new gateway to the university," Dixon said.

Street Dixon Rick Architecture, whose work can be found on campuses throughout Tennessee and Pennsylvania, is also completing work on Founders Hall, the campus icon of Juniata College in Huntingdon, PA. This building is LEED registered with a goal of attaining LEED Silver certification.

LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, a certification provided by the U.S. Green Building Council. Seven of The Commons buildings are LEED certified, including five residence halls designed by Street Dixon Rick Architecture.

The [Urban Land Institute's Nashville District Council](#) recognized The Commons project for innovation in land use and design, design excellence, contribution to the community, reflection of the regional or neighborhood character, public/private partnership, environmental sensitivity and financial viability.

"We have been working with universities and colleges for more than 26 years. It's a delight for us when our clients are recognized for their commitment to sustainable design and to excellence in design," Dixon said.

From more than 2,500 nominated projects, The Commons at Vanderbilt University was selected as a Green Building of America Award-winning project. It will be featured in the Real Estate & Construction Review-Southeast Green Success Stories edition and online at www.constructionreviews.com. The website combines more than 30,000 links and millions of searches each year.

Street Dixon Rick Architecture provides architecture, programming, master plans and interiors for universities and schools, churches, libraries, and commercial projects such as offices and health and wellness centers. The firm has established a national reputation for its expertise in student housing and accommodations as well as for its leadership in sustainable designs. Early on in the conversation about sustainable design, the firm's architecture team achieved 100 percent LEED accreditation. The firm supports the U.S. Green Building Council Middle Tennessee chapter, the National Coalition of Girls School and the Southeastern Association of Housing Officers. Street Dixon Rick Architecture is also a proud sponsor of WPLN, the NPR station in Nashville.

Clients include Vanderbilt University, Juniata College in Pennsylvania, Middle Tennessee State University, St. Andrew Lutheran Church, The Harpeth Hall School, First Presbyterian Church/Oak Hill School and the W. F. Adams Memorial Library.

The Urban Land Institute www.uli.org is a nonprofit research and education organization. The ULI Nashville District Council serves as a convener and collaborator, providing a forum for exchange of ideas and education about best practices in land use for Middle Tennessee.

The Commons project also placed as a finalist in the Environmental Construction & Design publication, with a national circulation of more than 25,000.

More information: www.streetdixonrick.com

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