

## Delaware North Building wins statewide design award

By: Jonathan D. Epstein, Buffalo News, April 4, 2017

Uniland Development Co.'s \$110 million Delaware North Building has won a statewide design award from a leading architectural organization for its urban combination of historic and modern elements.

The Urban Land Institute-New York honored the 330,000-square-foot, 12-story tower in downtown Buffalo with its Excellence in Mixed-Use Development award Monday night at Gotham Hall in Manhattan.

The Buffalo design beat out a Brooklyn project that's six times its size.

The glass-walled facility at 250 Delaware Ave. was constructed on the remediated site of the former Delaware Court Building, whose curved entrance and terra cotta facade were maintained and replicated as part of the new complex. It was designed by Diamond Schmitt Architects, Gensler and CTC Creative, and built according to LEED environmental and energy conservation standards.

"This is an incredible honor, especially considering the project that we were up against. I interpret this to mean that we are doing the types of projects in Buffalo that make an economic and environmental impact and are to scale," Michael Montante, Uniland vice president, said in a statement. "We look forward to developing other progressive and beneficial types of real estate projects in the future that maintain ULI's standards."

The Uniland project was one of two finalists for the award, competing against City Point of Brooklyn. That's a 1.9-million-square-foot mixed-use development with office space and rental apartments.

Besides Delaware North's corporate headquarters, the building also features the 116-room Westin Buffalo Hotel, a 7,000-square-foot courtyard with landscaping and a waterfall wall, 10,000 square feet of retail space, Patina 250 restaurant, Jake's Cafe, and a 600-vehicle parking ramp.

"This honor from the Urban Land Institute is a testament to Buffalo's resurgence, which we're thrilled to be part of with our partners at Uniland," Delaware North Co-CEO Jerry Jacobs Jr. said in a statement.

In all, ULI-New York's second annual competition honored seven projects for responsible land use and creation of sustainable and thriving communities. The competition drew nearly 50 entries from across the state that were narrowed to 19 finalists in office, housing, mixed-use, institutional, civil space, hotel and redevelopment categories. A panel of jurors selected the winners after site visits in January and February.

Five winners were from New York City. Rochester's Tower280 at Midtown project, owned by Buckingham Properties and Morgan Management LLC, won for excellence in repositioning or redevelopment.

"Each of our winners truly exemplifies why New York continues to set the global standard for real estate excellence," said ULI New York Chairman Marty Burger."