

# STEVEN HOLL ARCHITECTS

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## Steven Holl Architects Wins Two International Architecture Awards

**New York City, July 22, 2010 — Steven Holl Architects has received International Architecture Awards for the Knut Hamsun Center in Hamarøy, Norway and the Herning Museum of Contemporary Art in Herning, Denmark.**

The awards, administered annually by the Chicago Athenaeum: Museum of Architecture and Design and the European Center for Architecture, Art, Design and Urban Studies honor “new and cutting-edge design” and aim to promote “excellence in architecture and urbanism from a global point-of-view.”

The Knut Hamsun Center, completed August 2009, is dedicated to the lauded 20<sup>th</sup>-century Norwegian novelist Knut Hamsun and includes exhibition areas, a library and reading room, a café, and an auditorium. The building is conceived as an archetypal and intensified compression of spirit in space and light, concretizing a Hamsun character in architectonic terms. The building uses the vernacular style as inspiration for reinterpretation. The stained black wood exterior skin is characteristic of the great wooden stave Norse churches. On the roof garden, bamboo recalls to traditional Norwegian sod roofs in a contemporary way. The rough white-painted and the concrete interiors are characterized by diagonal rays of light calculated to ricochet through the section on certain days of the year. The building recently received a 2010 AIA NY Honor award and the North Norwegian Architecture Award.

The Herning Museum of Contemporary Art, which opened its doors in September 2009, includes permanent and temporary exhibition galleries, a 150-seat auditorium, music rehearsal rooms, a restaurant, a media library, and administrative offices. Viewed from above, the roof geometry resembles a collection of shirt sleeves laid over the gallery spaces. Truck tarps were inserted into the white concrete formwork to yield a fabric-like texture to the building’s exterior walls. The curved roofs bring balanced natural lights to the galleries, and the loose edges of the plan offer spaces for the café, auditorium, lobby, and offices. Gallery spaces are orthogonal and finely proportioned for visual and installation art. The design fuses landscape and architecture in a one-level building and aims at “building the site.” The surrounding landscape is partially shaped in the

reverse-curve of the geometry of the roof. In June 2010, the museum received a 2010 RIBA International Award.

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**Steven Holl Architects** has realized cultural, civic, academic and residential projects both in the United States and internationally. Steven Holl Architects (SHA) is a 48 person architecture and urban design office founded in 1976, and working globally as one office from two locations; New York City and Beijing. Steven Holl leads the office with partners Chris McVoy (New York) and Li Hu (Beijing). Most recently completed is the Linked Hybrid mixed-use complex (Beijing, China, recently named 2009 Best Tall Building Overall by the Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat (CTBUH); the Knut Hamsun Center (Hamarøy, Norway), the Herring Museum of Contemporary Art (Herring, Denmark) and the Horizontal Skyscraper-Vanke Center (Shenzhen, China). Currently in construction are the Nanjing Museum of Art and Architecture (Nanjing, China), Beirut Marina (Beirut, Lebanon), Cité de l'Océan et du Surf with Solange Fabião (Biarritz, France), and the large mixed-use complex in Chengdu, China: the Sliced Porosity Block. In 2007 Steven Holl Architects opened the highly lauded Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art (Kansas City, Missouri). Recently the office has won a number of international design competitions including the Hangzhou Oxygen Master Plan, University of Iowa New Arts Building, Glasgow School of Art (Glasgow, UK), the LM Harbor Gateway (Copenhagen, Denmark) and the new Center for Creative and Performing Arts for Princeton University (Princeton, New Jersey). Steven Holl is a tenured Professor at Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture and Planning.

For more information on the work of Steven Holl Architects, please visit [www.stevenholl.com](http://www.stevenholl.com)

For more information on the International Architecture Awards, please visit <http://www.chi-athenaeum.org/intarch/>

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