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Pickard Chilton wins Special Citation for Excellence in Architecture from AIA New England for design of BG Group Place

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NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT — The [American Institute of Architects \(AIA\) New England chapter](#) has announced that New Haven, Connecticut-based [Pickard Chilton](#) has won a Special Citation for Excellence in Architecture for the firm's design of BG Group Place in Houston, Texas.

From 184 submissions that were submitted by New England architects as well as architects that are designing projects in New England, the Philadelphia-based jury of Frank Grauman FAIA, Principal of Bohlin Cywinski Jackson; Alan Metcalfe AIA, Principal of Metcalfe Architecture & Design; and Cathrine Veikos AIA, Assistant Professor of Architecture at the University of Pennsylvania selected 21 projects to be recognized. This is the second award in as many years that Pickard Chilton's work has been recognized with an award from AIA New England.

In summarizing this year's award-winning designs, jurors noted "a strong sense of materiality and attention to the more experiential aspects of architecture. Projects reflected a strong trend line toward an environmental and social agenda."

Regarding BG Group Place, jurors stated that it resolves "the problem of capping a tower, creating a nice point of visual relief" and that the design is "a refreshing way of enlivening the Houston skyline."

"We sought to provide the tower and its tenants with an elegant and unique identity within the Houston skyline," said Jon Pickard FAIA, RIBA, Principal of Pickard Chilton. "We are delighted to have the jurors recognize this signature design element."

Completed in February 2011, BG Group Place is located on downtown Houston's historic Main Street and serves as the headquarters for BG Group, an international natural gas company. It is the first LEED-CS Platinum certified high rise in the state of Texas.

"To have a recently completed project receive such immediate recognition is an honor," said William Chilton FAIA, RIBA, Principal of Pickard Chilton. "We trust that it acknowledges the project's significant advances in both design and sustainability."

The design awards were presented at the AIA New England Conference and Design Awards in Northampton, Massachusetts on October 15, 2011.

ABOUT PICKARD CHILTON

Pickard Chilton is an international architectural practice noted for its expertise in the design of large, complex buildings including corporate headquarters, high rise commercial office towers, hotels, academic, and health care facilities. Headquartered in New Haven, Conn., the firm's completed projects include: 1180 Peachtree in Atlanta, GA; BG Group Place in Houston and 300 North LaSalle in Chicago. Current projects include

PICKARD CHILTON

Eaton World Headquarters in Cleveland, Devon World Headquarters in Oklahoma City as well commercial developments in Washington, DC, Calgary, and Kuala Lumpur. Visit www.pickardchilton.com for more information.

ABOUT AIA NEW ENGLAND

AIA New England represents over 5,000 AIA Members and Associate Members in the eight New England chapters. The mission of AIA New England is to promote the strengthening of the New England states as a region. Each year, one of the eight New England AIA chapters hosts the AIA New England Annual Conference and administers the related design awards program. This year the Western Massachusetts chapter of the AIA hosted this year's AIA New England Conference and AIA New England Design Awards on October 14-16, 2011. Visit www.aianewengland.org for more information.