

FC Times

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University Park at MIT Receives Highest Award for Excellence

University Park at MIT has been awarded the Urban Land Institute (ULI) 2004 Award for Excellence! In an unprecedented first submission to the ULI, University Park at MIT has come away as one of ten award recipients who were deemed “best-of-the-best” of the numerous candidates vying for an award.

Out of hundreds of submissions from around the world, only ten projects are selected by the ULI for this honor. University Park at MIT is very proud to not only be one of the top projects chosen for recognition, but to be chosen on their first submission, as projects are often submitted more than once before they are selected. The 2004 Awards for Excellence winners were selected by a jury of renowned land-use development and design experts, which included James F. Porter, partner, Altoon & Porter Architects, LLP, architect on the Victoria Gardens project.

During a gala awards ceremony at the fall meeting of the ULI in New York City, Gayle Farris, president, Forest City Boston, accepted the award on behalf of the Boston office and gave an acceptance speech. Peter Calkins, Frank Wuest and Dave Finnegan were also present to celebrate the victory.

“I am thrilled about this award,” Gayle Farris said. “University Park has been a 20-year labor of love that turned a blighted urban area into a 24-7 research park, while adding much needed housing for the Cambridge community. I want to thank all those who have been part of the Forest City team

during this project and I would especially like to thank the Ratners for all their support over the years,” she added.

The competition, established in 1979, is based on ULI’s guiding principle that the achievement of excellence in land-use practice should be recognized and rewarded. ULI’s Awards for Excellence recognize the full development process of a project, not just its architecture or design. The criteria for the awards include leadership, contribution to the community, innovations, public/private partnership, environmental protection and enhancement, response to societal needs, and financial success.

Projects were evaluated on the basis of financial viability, the resourceful use of land, design, relevance to contemporary issues, and sensitivity to the community and environment. Each contributes to a live-work-play environment and is designed to complement and enhance the greater community. Throughout the program’s history all types of projects have been recognized for their excellence, including office, residential, recreational, urban/mixed-use, industrial/office park, commercial/retail, new community, rehabilitation and public projects.

Congratulations to Gayle Farris, Peter Calkins and the rest of the team in Boston who created and implemented this outstanding project!

For more information on the award, go to: http://experts.uli.org/DK/Press/2004/ex_Press_PR_033fst.html

University Park at MIT, in Cambridge, Mass., a previously blighted 27-acre site was reenergized by blending

diverse uses to create a vibrant urban campus. A three-way partnership, an investment of \$560 million and a 20-year effort culminated in a 2.3-million-square-foot mixed-use campus with biotechnology research facilities and office, residential, retail and hotel uses in a master-planned campus that has become the heart of Cambridge’s intellectual “Mecca”.