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LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE MAGAZINE

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HERE WE GROW AGAIN



# THE 2011 ASLA AWARDS

## THE STUDENTS

No problem too large

## THE PROS

Cities win big

## THE LANDMARK AWARD

What the San Diego River says today





## HONOR AWARD

### THE STEEL YARD, PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

The jury called it “the next generation of Gas Works Park.” Like the pioneering Seattle landmark by Richard Haag, FASLA, the Steel Yard transforms an abandoned industrial site into a lively public space that says something about its rough-neck past and serves as a catalyst for urban revitalization.

Acquired to serve as the headquarters of an arts-based nonprofit, the 3.5-acre former home of Providence Steel & Iron was a known brownfield. Remediation included soil removal along with treatment of the remaining soil with a binder; a foot-deep layer of clean fill soil or pavement now caps the entire site. So close to the Woonasquatucket River, stormwater filters through a system of bioswales and permeable surfaces. Buildings designated as historic landmarks have new roles: The original fabrication facility became a café and work space for artists; a brick office building now hosts commercial rental spaces; and another structure holds workshops. Recycled materials—five tall cranes, most emphatically—add striking reminders of the industrial past. “Urban wild” vegetation, such as sumac and other native plants and grasses, have been reintroduced, mainly to enclose interior spaces and screen adjacent properties. A turfed central space can stage large events such as car rallies and farmers markets or provide seating for lounging and viewing music, art, dance, movies, or other events.

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