



Susan Doban Architect honored recently by Preservation League

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A model development block project designed by architectural firm, Susan Doban Architect, PC, was presented with the Preservation League of New York State's Excellence in Historic Preservation Award recently, at the Preservation League's annual meeting and awards ceremony.

The project, New Rochelle Business Improvement District Model Development Block in Westchester County, was presented with the statewide award as part of the league's program recognizing individuals and organizations for demonstrating an outstanding commitment to the preservation of New York State's irreplaceable architectural heritage.

Others contributing to the success of this effort in addition to Susan Doban Architect, PC, were the New Rochelle Business Improvement District, Community Preservation Corporation, and Polonia Development and Preservation Services of Queens, along with the individual building owners. Funding from the Empire State Development Corporation Main Streets Program, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and the City of New Rochelle helped support the project.

The five buildings restored in the Model Development Block project were selected because, though recognized as significant historic structures, they had been hidden for decades behind metal or stucco facades, or had lost their luster through years of neglect.

According to Susan Doban, president of Susan Doban Architect, PC, "It's gratifying on many levels to restore the underlying richly detailed terracotta, stone, and brick facades; it heightens awareness of the historic past, the labor and resources that went into the development of the earlier downtown, and, in this case, it has stimulated new pride in the downtown. The psychological ripple effect is almost palpable, and has already translated into renewed economic vigor as other property owners follow suit and new businesses are attracted to the Main Street area."

The complete list of award winners is: Webb Lofts in Buffalo, Erie County; MacNaughton House Stabilization in Newcomb, Essex County; U.S. Post Office & Courthouse, Cadman Plaza, Brooklyn, Kings County; Downtown Revitalization Program, Canajoharie, Montgomery County; Eldridge Street Synagogue, Lower East Side, New York County; Proctors, Schenectady, Schenectady County; Hotel Kirkland, Kingston, Ulster County; Model Development Block, New Rochelle, Westchester County. The Hudson Valley Chapter of the American Society of Home Inspectors will be honored for organizational excellence, and Trude Brown Fitelson of Rochester will be honored for individual excellence. Preserving New York: Winning the Right to Protect a City's Landmarks by Anthony C. Wood (Routledge, 2007) will also receive a special citation.

"Excellence in Preservation Awards are our principal means of honoring the preservation community and educating the public about the important contribution that historic preservation projects make to our quality of life throughout New York State," said DiLorenzo. "Each year, we are impressed by the number and variety of laudable projects, and this year was no exception. We are

delighted to give the New Rochelle BID's Model Development Block Project the statewide recognition it deserves."

The Preservation League's Excellence in Historic Preservation awards program is funded by a generous grant from the Arthur F. and Alice E. Adams Foundation of Miami, Florida. By leading a statewide preservation movement, sharing information and expertise and raising a unified voice, the Preservation League of New York State promotes historic preservation as a tool to revitalize our neighborhoods and communities, honor our heritage and enrich our lives.

Susan Doban Architect, PC is a Brooklyn-based architectural firm focused on historic preservation, adaptive reuse, and new construction for commercial, residential, and educational projects. In New Rochelle, the firm has created Façade Improvement Design Guidelines book using the Model Block project as a test case, and has designed more than ten projects on Main Street, including an award-winning Culinary Arts Center and two dormitories for Monroe College. In Brooklyn, the firm designed 45 apartments above Fairway market, in a 230,000 square foot Civil War era Red Hook building. The project received the Municipal Art Society of New York's Masterwork Award for Best Neighborhood Catalyst in May 2007 and a 2007 Building Brooklyn Award from the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce. The firm has worked on more than 30 capital improvement projects for the New York City School Construction Authority, including many exterior modernization and restoration projects. More information about the firm is available at 718-797-1041 or www.susandoban.com

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