

Architecture and preservation awards

National Trust for Historic Preservation Honor Award, 1999

UW Tacoma's campus in Tacoma's historic Warehouse District earned an Honor Award from the National Trust for Historic Preservation in 1999. National Trust President Richard Moe called the UW Tacoma campus “a model for rehabilitation around the country,” and said “the university's creative re-use of these historic buildings shows how accommodating preservation can be.”

American Institute of Architects Honor Award for Urban Design, May 1999

The campus received an AIA Honor Award, considered the profession's highest recognition of design excellence. AIA judges noted that the UW Tacoma campus is the centerpiece of an urban renaissance, combining culture, education and commercial revitalization with a grand program of historic preservation.

American Institute of Architects Award of Merit, December 2002

The AIA's Seattle chapter gave LMN Architects an Award of Merit for their work on UW Tacoma's Keystone Building. Jurors said the building, completed in late 2001, “takes full advantage of a tight urban space with transit connections that lend vigor and viability to its function. With its muscular trusses, it participates in the character of the site, adding a contemporary response to traditional building forms and adapting their vocabulary to new uses.”

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification, July 2004

The U.S. Green Building Council honored UW Tacoma's Phase 2B project with a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) silver certification, which recognizes sustainable design and a commitment to environmental responsibility. The Phase 2B project — the Mattress Factory and Cherry Parkes buildings — was recognized for several innovative design features and construction methods, including the re-use and restoration of 100-year-old facades; ivy walls and other passive cooling strategies; use of renewable or salvaged materials; and reduction of water and power usage. This was the first LEED certification granted in the UW system and in the city of Tacoma.

Sierra Club Best New Development, December 2005

The UW Tacoma campus was recognized by the Sierra Club as one of the nation's 12 best new developments. The group said the campus is “a bustling addition to Tacoma,” bringing thousands of students, faculty and staff to the neighborhood each week and adding to the growing demand for retail, housing and further development in the area. The Sierra Club noted UW Tacoma's re-use of existing buildings and partnerships between city, state and community groups have created an accessible, pleasant urban campus.