

TRAIN & PARTNERS' WINS STATE HONOR FOR EXCELLENCE IN HISTORIC PRESERVATION

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Charlottesville, Virginia (**December 5, 2007**) – **For the first time in its 93-year history, the Virginia Society of the American Institute of Architects awarded 2007 honors for work in saving historic structures.** The Institute singled out Train & Partners Architects for the restoration of Lexington Presbyterian Church in Lexington, Virginia.

Kirk Train and historic preservation studio head Brian Broadus accepted this Honor Award at the annual Visions for Architecture Gala held in the State Capitol in Richmond on November 9. Also present to receive the Award were Church Pastor William M. Klein and his wife Deborah.

Lexington Presbyterian was built in 1843 from the designs of Thomas U. Walter, famous for designing the cast-iron dome of the United States Capitol. The church was devastated by fire in July 2000 when a workman stripping paint accidentally ignited century-old woodwork.

The VSAIA awards committee was “impressed that [in the restoration] Train & Partners used the materials that were there originally, rather than substitutes.” Since historical drawings for the church are not known to exist, the architects gathered clues from the wreckage and recreated much of the structure from scratch.

“Historic preservation is about gratitude, acceptance, and affirmation. The Lexington congregation gratefully accepted their building, no matter how damaged, as a gift from their forebears. They didn’t discard it as a current nuisance,” remarked Brian Broadus. “What resulted from the restoration was a stronger, safer, warmer, and more solid building than has stood on the site since 1844.”

