



**AIA**  
New York State

# 2020 DESIGN AWARDS

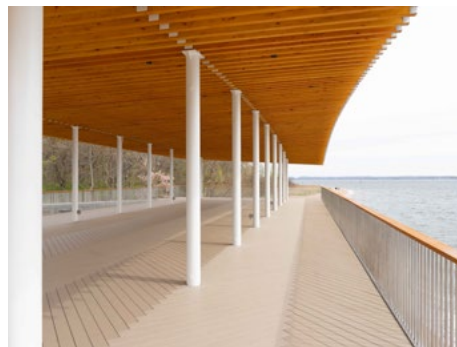
DESIGN

CITATION

# CONFERENCE HOUSE PARK PAVILION

STATEN ISLAND, NY

SAGE AND COOMBE  
ARCHITECTS



*“Approach presents  
an interesting  
gradation of porosity.”*

*Jury Comment*

*Photo Credit: ©Andrew Kao*

Located at Ward’s Point, the “south pole” of New York City, the 4,500 square foot Conference House Park Pavilion complements the 17th century Conference House, a National Landmark, and provides a dramatic view of Raritan Bay. Replacing a deteriorated neo-Victorian-style pavilion that had been demolished, it salvages the existing pile structure while elevating the deck eight feet to achieve the new Design Flood Elevation following Superstorm Sandy. The new pavilion is a simple form, allowing a view of the Bay without overshadowing the historic setting. It is a space for public assemblies and events, with stone seating reminiscent of colonial field walls and weirs, segmenting a system of bioswales that improve site drainage. Composed of yellow cedar and heat-formed polycarbonate gutters, the roof features a limited palette inspired by the simple elegance of the historic house. Each beam has a common elevation but is rotated about that point to create a vault in the form of a sail. Curving the water facing edge and holding the land-borne side as a straight line creates a

complex curved surface from the simple geometries of circle and line. The simplicity of the form is juxtaposed against a dynamic shape that reads differently as one moves through the space it defines. The structural beams ride above the roof surface—creating a light, airy feeling when viewed from below. To maximize natural light, the pockets between the rafters are roofed by a half round formed translucent gutter that sheds water to the harbor or rain garden on the shore. The deck is composed of composite plastic lumber in a herringbone pattern, evoking a grand room and the rippling water below. Lighting is distributed in an abstract constellation—a continuation of the stars in the night sky above. The new pavilion provides a fully accessible space, connecting to the park with a ramp inspired by the nautical forms of a gangplank. A space for all, Conference House Park Pavilion will be an amenity cherished by the public for years to come.