

GORGE LOCAL – IN BUSINESS



Outpost, at Second and Portway avenues in Hood River, earned a national design award from WoodWorks.



Carola Stepper, LAc, RN retired, founded Cascade Acupuncture Center, LLC in 2005. She has sold the business, but continues to work as an acupuncturist at the center. Trisha Walker photo

Hood River's Outpost earns national design award

TWO OREGON STRUCTURES, including one in Hood River, have received 2021 Wood Design Awards from WoodWorks – Wood Products Council, which celebrate excellence in wood building design and spotlight its continued rise in popularity across the U.S. According to a press release, “the awards recognize building designers for their skill and ingenuity, and to showcase projects that demonstrate the attributes of wood that make it so appealing.”

The 26,000-square-foot Outpost, on Portway Avenue, received the award for Commercial Wood Design - Mid-Rise buildings.

Also honored in the Wood in Schools category: Oregon State University Forest Science Complex, Corvallis, Michael Green Architecture; structural engineer Equilibrium, a Kattera Company; contractor Andersen Construction

“This year’s award winners epitomize the innovation, resilience, and flexibility required for projects to flourish in a changing world. We’re excited to see design and development teams approaching projects holistically, with buildings that respond uniquely to their communities. From one of the most environmentally advanced education buildings in the southeast to a historic winery in Napa, Calif., wood continues to demonstrate its value as a nimble and modern building material, ushering in new precedents and challenging the public’s perception of its role in the built world,” said WoodWorks President and CEO, Jennifer Cover. “A few of this year’s winning projects were completed in 2020 despite obstacles caused by the global pandemic. Through this lens, we are more inspired than ever by the achievements in wood design — from the



Outpost, at Second and Portway Avenues in Hood River, earned a national design award, which cites the central, shared terraces — with views of Hood River and the Columbia River. The space provided Ferment Brewery patrons room to safely gather outside during the pandemic. Kirby Neumann-Rea photos

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quality of building systems to the expressiveness of the structures.”

Nominations from across the country were evaluated by an independent jury that included building company, civil design, architecture and other professionals.

National award categories also include: Multi-Family Wood Design, Commercial Wood Design - Low-Rise, Wood in Government Buildings, Green Building with Wood, Beauty of Wood, Durable and Adaptable Wood Structures

Outpost, home to Ferment Brewery and other businesses, is a mass timber and light-frame construction building erected in 2018,

by owner-developer Key Development. Architect was Skylab and structural engineer Valar Consulting Engineers, contractor was Celio Contracting Inc.

According to the press release, Outpost functions as one large structure, each of the two three-story buildings that form Outpost are aligned within the exterior envelope but separated to create a central, shared area with terraces, an outdoor fireplace and an expansive, partially covered pavilion. Locally sourced glued-laminated (“glulam”) beams are left exposed throughout, complemented with infill walls and pathways covered in Douglas fir decking. Outside, both

buildings feature naturally finished cedar on the ground floor and charred cedar cladding above. The visual distinction between upper and lower floors reveals the unique functional separation inside the building. Outpost’s ground floor houses light industrial activities — a brewery, distillery and maker spaces — while the upper floors offer retail, office and recreation spaces. Moving traditional street-level retail to the second floor means that shoppers and restaurant goers have views of the Columbia River, Mount Adams and Mount Hood, while first-floor industrial tenants have street access and double-height spaces. Exposed wood ceilings and wall surfaces help absorb and reduce noise from the industrial uses at the ground level, protecting the restaurant and office spaces above.

Cascade Acupuncture has new owner

Carola Stepper, LAc, RN retired, founded Cascade Acupuncture Center, LLC in 2005 by opening the Hood River clinic in downtown Hood River at 104 5th Street. In 2006, a second clinic was added in downtown The Dalles, inside the Medical Arts Building at 414 Washington St. The Dalles clinic moved into its own custom remodeled building at 1712 E. 12th St. in 2011 and the Hood River clinic moved into the past Hood River Physical Therapy building at 2690 May St. in 2018.

Having been in business for 15 years and having held many different roles in the company, Stepper listed The Dalles clinic for sale with the goal to cut back her workload. The goal was the continued operation of both clinics without interruption, just under new ownership. Stepper found a buyer in fall 2020 who was interested in buying both clinics, the whole company.

According to a press release, Stepper and the buyer finalized the sale in December 2020 and accomplished a successful and smooth transfer of operations. Clients continue to enjoy the clinics’ quality treatment, facilities and acupuncturists, said a press release. Stepper continues to work as an acupuncturist at Cascade Acupuncture Center; however, she has not been involved in any management or marketing decisions since the sale. Stepper said she looks

forward to more time with her partner and her friends and to pursue outdoor sports and explore the Columbia Gorge and beyond.

After a brief COVID closure in March 2020 to put their robust COVID safety supplies and policies in place, they have been safely operating since April 2020. Each treatment room and office has an FDA approved air filter which can filter and kill the COVID virus, said a press release. They have created a COVID safety video which can be viewed on their website, www.CascadeAcupuncture.org.

Cascade Acupuncture is open Monday through Friday between both locations and focus on these modalities to support their clients health journey: Acupuncture, Custom Chinese Herbs and Allergy Elimination. They practice “Distal Style” Acupuncture, which is a very effective style of Acupuncture and only uses Acupuncture points on the forearms and lower legs, never needing the painful area directly, said a press release. They operate the largest Custom Chinese Herbal Pharmacy in the Gorge, prescribing and mixing herbs in granule, meaning powder form. Allergy Elimination can address environmental and food allergies.

Cascade Acupuncture Center had a third clinic in Stevenson from 2013 until it was sold in 2016. It is now called Skamania Acupuncture Clinic.

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