

# Restore Oregon honors historic preservation efforts

*DJC Portland*

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*BY: [Inka Bajandas](#)*

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**Restore Oregon** recently honored seven projects for outstanding efforts related to historic preservation. The nonprofit held its first **DeMuro Awards** ceremony last week and hopes to hold the event annually, Executive Director Peggy Moretti said.

The awards are named for late developer Art DeMuro, who was president of Portland-based **Venerable Properties Inc.** He had an honorable passion for restoring older buildings, including the **White Stag Block** in Portland, Moretti said.

“We just felt it was a great opportunity to honor his memory,” she said. “There is a lot of good (preservation) work going on, and the more we spotlight it, the more people see the possibilities.”

Five of the award winners were: the Astoria Train Depot in Astoria, built in 1925 and restored this year into the **Barbey Maritime Center for Research and Industry**; the **Burkes-Belluschi house** in Portland, a residence built in 1948 and restored in 2011; and a former **U.S. Forest Service** ranger station in Sisters, built in 1936 and repurposed in 2011 into a vacation rental; the **Ladd Carriage House** in Portland, built in 1883 and repurposed into a restaurant this year; and the **Oswego Iron Furnace**, built in 1866 and restored in 2010 into an educational and tourist destination.

Two projects at **Oregon State University** in Corvallis received awards. One, **Furman Hall**, was built in 1902 and restored in 2011. The project, including restoration of the building’s stone exterior, was designed by Portland-based **FFA Architecture and Interiors**.

“(OSU) went to extraordinary measures to maintain the historic integrity,” Moretti said.

Although not a preservation project, OSU’s **Hallie E. Ford Center for Healthy Children and Families** received a DeMuro Award because it was designed by Portland-based **THA Architecture** to fit in with neighboring historic buildings, Moretti said.

“The way they designed that was a home run,” she said. “They made a compatible new building with historic context. They had a lot to consider, and we just thought they did a wonderful job.”

When reviewing award nominations Restore Oregon looked at how projects addressed historic preservation challenges, Moretti said.

“Our criteria had to do with creative problem-solving,” she said. “We looked at the craftsmanship and the respect for the historic fabric.”