

HIPPO READERS' BEST OF

A photograph of a modern multi-story building at dusk. The building features a prominent section with a colorful, multi-colored glass facade in shades of red, orange, yellow, green, and blue. The rest of the building is constructed of brick and has many windows illuminated from within, casting a warm glow. The sky is a deep blue with some light clouds. In the foreground, there is a street with a 'ONE WAY' sign pointing right and a few cars. The overall scene is a mix of modern architecture and traditional brickwork.

2012



COOLEST-LOOKING BUILDING

Best of the Best: New Hampshire Institute of Art, 88 Lowell St. in Manchester. The New Hampshire Institute of Art opened the 88 Lowell St. building in December 2009. The brick building in front of 88 Lowell St. was the first high school in the Queen City, and to accommodate the new building, workers moved the old building 33 feet forward and lowered it slightly in order to create enough space for the six-story building behind it. The buildings are now literally connected by a two-story connector that makes the traffic flow continuous, said NHIA President Roger Williams. “Once you’re inside, it sort of reads and functions as one building, but if you look at it from outside, it’s clearly two buildings,” Williams said. “I guess you could say the highest priority was to make the space functional and efficient and as energy-efficient as possible.” But the building, which incorporates alternative energy systems such as geothermal heating and cooling, rainwater collection, and a photovoltaic collection system, also makes a visible statement architecturally speaking, Williams said. “Obviously it’s a somewhat unusual mix of buildings in the immediate vicinity, but to me, it sort of fits in a kind of interesting way.... It makes a very positive statement about...a college that is interested in aesthetics and a sort of community improvement. ... It just makes sense on a whole lot of levels.” The basement and the first two floors are classrooms and studios, the top four floors are dormitories, and the building operates at a quarter of the cost of any of the Institute’s other buildings, thanks to its energy-efficient characteristics. As Williams put it, “it’s very functional.” Students living in the building enjoy it as well, with features like a kitchen, lounge and dining space, as well as fantastic 180-degree views of the city, Williams said. The building is a candidate for a Gold LEED certification. Photo courtesy of Rixon Photography.

Best of Nashua: The Hunt Building “Everybody knows the Hunt,” said Carolyn Mortellaro, administrator of Hunt Memorial Building, 6 Main St. in Nashua. Visually, the building is a dominant landmark in Nashua. The Gothic architecture really stands out, Mortellaro said. The city closed the building for 10 months last year and spent \$1 million on renovations to the entire interior, including repairs due to mold and disrepair. “We’re so excited about the transformation,” Mortellaro said. “All of a sudden it came to life. It’s so bright and cheerful.... It’s going to be a gem in Nashua for many more years to come.” The Hunt, which has six levels, currently has six offices. The main level is rented out for private functions. The building received some money through the state’s “Moose Plates” program to offset the cost of a new elevator. PSNH provided rebates for some new lighting. “It was built in 1903, so it wasn’t very energy-efficient,” Mortellaro said, adding she gets a lot of inquiries about the building from interested residents and visitors. “Just because of the architecture, people are very curious. People are always wanting to get inside.” Several community events, such as the Winter Holiday Stroll and Taste of Downtown, feature the building. The building is open for tours by appointment. Visit www.huntbuilding.org
Photo courtesy of Carolyn Mortellaro.

Best of Manchester: City Hall

Sitting on Elm Street in Manchester’s downtown, Manchester City Hall, which was completed in 1845, is characterized by its Gothic Revival architectural style, marked by buttresses and arched windows. The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
Photo by Jeff Mucciarone.



Best of Concord: Statehouse Proudly overlooking Concord’s downtown as well as the Merrimack River, the New Hampshire Statehouse’s golden dome has long served as a major landmark for residents and tourists alike. The building’s large columns — as well as a replica of the original wooden eagle, which sits atop the dome — have overlooked many a rally or protest on the lawn of the capitol building. The Statehouse in Concord was erected in 1816, at a cost of \$82,000, according to the state Almanac. The building underwent renovations and expansions from 1864 to 1866 and in 1938. The state’s first Statehouse was built in Portsmouth in 1758. Courtesy photo.

