



Hahne's building wins a 'Smart Growth Award' for quality planning

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The Hahne's building is not quite ready for its tenants to move in, but the development is already winning awards.

Yesterday, New Jersey-based land use organization New Jersey Future announced the winners of its 15th annual Smart Growth Awards competition. The annual contest recognizes "the best in quality planning and development in the state," and the Hahne's redevelopment project was one of them.

"We had an extraordinary number of entries this year," said New Jersey Future Executive Director Peter Kasabach, according to a statement. The Hahne's building edged out its competition because it represents the successful "redevelopment of an iconic, landmark building into a vibrant mix of housing, educational and retail uses, connecting the university district and the downtown."

The 115-year-old building and former high-end department had been defunct for nearly three decades before developers broke ground on the new project. Whole Foods will anchor the retail mix in the building, housing is under construction facing Halsey Street, and the space will also house Express Newark, a "community collaboratory" that will served as a hub for a broad array of Newark-based creators, with Rutgers-Newark as anchor institution.

Hahne's joins Military Park (2015), the Riverfront Park redevelopment and public access plan (2014), and Teacher's Village (2013) as previous Newark-based honorees.