



Sharon Prince, CEO and Founder of Grace Farms, opens the sold-out Design for Freedom Summit in March. (photo by Melani Lust)

Design for Freedom Projects Announced at Grace Farms

[Design for Freedom \(DFF\) pilot projects](#) were announced at [Grace Farms'](#) Summit 2025 held on March 27. The projects include the 1,900-square-foot Battery Field House, designed by [WXY](#) in partnership with [the Battery Conservancy](#) and [NYC Parks](#). Created in collaboration with landscape architects [Starr Whitehouse](#), MEP engineers [Plus Group](#), and structural engineers [McLaren](#), the design repurposes the existing structure, wrapping it in a living screen that enhances accessibility, resiliency, and functionality. The renovated facility will house offices and upgraded staff amenities, accessible family restrooms, and is expected to open in early 2029. In addition, [Slade Architecture](#), is working on the design of The Grace Farms Rest House project that will provide tea and coffee farmers worldwide with ethically designed, sustainably built places that offer safety, respite, and community spaces. In 2020, Grace Farms launched Design for Freedom, a collaborative global movement to eliminate forced labor in the building materials supply chains. The first DFF

Guidance & Toolkit provides resources professionals can use to prioritize ethical supply chains and is available for [download](#). This year, the annual summit was held in the SANAA-designed River Building on 80 acres of farmland outside of New Canaan, CT. The 550 construction and design leaders along with 75 students representing 25 universities who attended were greeted by the long-term exhibit [With Every Fiber](#), designed by [Studio Cooke John Architecture + Design](#) with [Pentagram](#), that aims to inspire understanding and care about the materials that make up the built world around us.