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For Immediate Release

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Images available upon request



Voices and Vision at the 74th Annual AIA Minnesota Convention

Minneapolis, Minnesota – The 74th annual AIA Minnesota Convention will take place Tuesday, November 11 – Friday, November 14, 2008, at the Minneapolis Convention Center. Over two thousand people are projected to attend – 1,600 attending programs and the exhibitions, while another 500 will just visit the exhibit hall, which hosts over 250 companies as well as a variety of exhibits. The programs, centered around the theme **Voices with Vision**, encourages architects to envision the future and carry a voice by leading the discussion and shaping responses to global change.

The collective voices as architects are both diverse and visionary and can lead to progressive solutions on issues that are wide open for exploration. In architects' pursuit to lead communities and collaborate with design-related professionals in unconventional ways, it is good to have a questioning approach. Architects want to shape the emerging information management tools of the industry; lead the discussion to develop new cross-disciplinary models, and play a central role in the solutions to the challenges of youth, diversity and education in our profession.

This year's Convention offers more continuing education seminars than any other year. Forty-nine programs and five keynote addresses will cover issues including building green infrastructure, geothermal energy, senior housing, designing workspaces for up to four generations, solar homes, neighborhood revitalizations and a vision for light rail.

The variety of convention programs allows something for everyone. Architects, required by law to maintain their license through continuing education credits, can attend programs to learn about more technical aspects of architecture as well as programs of interest to them. Design professionals, the media and general public can attend the keynote presentations that have more universal appeal and additional seminars based on discussion topics that engage them. Registration is available for a convention package, a series of programs or one event. Media passes and more program information/ speaker contacts are available by contacting Jennifer Gilhoi at 612-338-6763 gilhoi@aia-mn.org.

Keynote Presentations

Keynote presenters are selected on the basis of the popularity of their particular cause/issue, theme relevance, and their credibility and presentation style. With a state program that rivals the best AIA component conventions around the country, these presentations by speakers of a national convention presentation caliber draw up to 400 people.

Of the five keynotes this year, Marvin Malecha, FAIA, the 2008 AIA first vice president/president-elect and 2009 Institute president, and Dr. Richard Farson, touch on the profession and practice areas; while the following three keynotes are more design-related and of interest for the media and public as well as architects and related design professionals:

Event 7 – Keynote Address: MACRO to micro – Performance Based Architecture

Tuesday, November 11, 2008

3:00 pm – 4:30 pm

This keynote address will explore Performance Based Architecture as a design process by reflecting on the work of Grimshaw. With offices distributed around the world, the architectural firm has acquired a global appreciation and respect for the wealth of approaches that can be used to design buildings. Grimshaw strives to use resources efficiently and to push the performance capacity of architecture, believing that by considering the performance of a building one can best access its sustainability. How efficiently a building makes use of resources is a key criterion to access its environmental performance.

Presenter:

Andrew Whalley, AIA, Partner in Charge of Grimshaw's New York office, which is currently one of eight architectural practices selected for major public projects under Mayor Bloomberg's design excellence program, is this program's keynote presenter.

Event 26 – Keynote Address: Articulating the Everyday

Wednesday, November 12, 2008

6:00 pm to 7:30 pm

Marlon Blackwell's work is born out of a goal to enrich the experience of the everyday world by simply 'building well'. The firm seeks to provide their clients an architecture that can be felt as much as it is understood, as immediate and tactile as it is legible, contributing to the fundamental civic dignity of communities. For his lecture, Blackwell will discuss his design work as interplay between details, form, and place, challenging the conventions and models that often blind us to other possibilities.

Presenter:

Marlon Blackwell, AIA, born in Munich, Germany in 1956, is an architect and tenured professor at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, Arkansas. Work produced from his private practice, Marlon Blackwell, Architect, has received national and international recognition through numerous AIA design awards and architectural publications including *Architecture*, *Detail*, *Dwell*, *Architectural Record*.

Event 43 – Keynote Address: Jurors Show and Tell

Thursday, November 13, 2008

3:30 pm to 5:00 pm

This keynote address features three architects who will serve as this year's AIA Minnesota Honor Award jurors. They will talk about their practice and projects through a presentation of their work.

Presenters:

Merrill Elam, FAIA, is a principal in the firm of Mack Scogin Merrill Elam Architects, in Atlanta, Georgia. Their work has received six National AIA Awards for Excellence, and their current projects include the Yale University Health Services Center in New Haven, Connecticut; the Gates Center for Computer Science at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; and the new U.S. Federal Courthouse in Austin, Texas.

Bruce Fowle, FAIA, is senior partner and co-founder of FXFowle Architects in New York City, New York. FXFOWLE Architects is a thirty year old architectural, interior design, planning, and urban design firm committed to design excellence, social responsibility, and sustainability with offices in New York and Dubai. His design leadership has shaped many of the firm's recognized work and has earned numerous major awards, including a National AIA Honor Award for Design for the Condé Nast Building at 4 Times Square – the first green skyscraper in the United States.

Sebastian Schmaling, AIA, is co-founding principal of Johnsen Schmaling Architects in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Recent honors include two National AIA Housing Design Awards, four Honor Awards and three Merit Awards from the AIA Wisconsin, the 2008 Architectural League of New York's Emerging

Voices Award, a *Contract* National Interior Design Award, an *Architectural Record* Interiors Award, as well as the Project of the Year Award from *Residential Architect* and the Home of the Year Award from *Custom Home*.

The Exhibit Hall

The exhibit hall features displays of awards and themed projects from AIA Minnesota, its chapters and its 22 committees. It's a lively center of activity that hosts well over 200 product lines and a variety of professional services during the exhibit hall hours, Tuesday, November 11, 4:30 - 7:00p.m., Wednesday, November 12, 11:15a.m. – 2:30p.m. and 3:45 – 6:00p.m., and Thursday, November 13, 11:30a.m. – 2:00p.m. Here are some of the exhibit hall highlights:

- ✓ View the work of David Salmela, FAIA, recipient of the 2008 AIA Minnesota Gold Medal
- ✓ Place a bid at the Minnesota Architectural Foundation Silent Auction featuring eco-friendly items
- ✓ Behold the 2007 AIA Minnesota Honor Awards
- ✓ The 2008 Ralph Rapson Travel & Study Fellowship Competition Display
- ✓ AIA Minnesota's 25-Year Award recipient for 2008
- ✓ A special exhibit of AIA Minnesota's Louis Lundgren Award
- ✓ Visit the U of M College of Design Exhibit
- ✓ Preservation Alliance of Minnesota's "10 Most Endangered Buildings"
- ✓ "Dimensions" showcasing the talent of our Emerging Professionals
- ✓ The Exhibit Hall — an education in itself!
- ✓ Pay tribute to our friend and colleague, Ralph Rapson, FAIA

For more information, to see the full program descriptions and to register, go to www.aia-mn.org/convention

*The American Institute of Architects Minnesota, founded in 1892, is dedicated to strengthening our communities, improving our built environment and providing exceptional design. For more information on the organization and Minnesota architectural firms, reference our Web site at www.aia-mn.org and pick up a copy of *Architecture Minnesota*, the award-winning architectural magazine of the Midwest.*