



February 9, 2011
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT
Jennifer Gilhoi
gilhoi@aia-mn.org

AIA Minnesota's Annual Lake Superior Design Retreat Offers Perspectives from National Design Leaders



Minneapolis, Minnesota – The 23rd annual Lake Superior Design Retreat (LSDR) will take place at Fitgers Inn, Duluth, Minnesota, on February 25 and 26, 2011. More than 120 architects and non-architects alike attending this year will once again have the chance to retreat and be enlightened. “Many of those signed up have come

to one or more previous retreats,” says LSDR Committee Chair Joan Bren, AIA, Kodet Architectural Group. “After they’ve attended, they can’t wait to come back. They look forward to sharing new ideas in a relaxed informal atmosphere.”

True to LSDR’s format, an unexpected mix of six creative professionals will share their stories and talents. The convergence of themes and ideas provide excitement and open up new ways of thinking, the goal of the retreat. “You can be sure people will be buzzing about the design for the car that can fly!” says Bren. LSDR again will host a great mix of design professionals coming together to be inspired by creative thinkers, great camaraderie, outdoor activity, new spaces and places and the following line-up of speakers:

Edith Ackermann is a developmental psychologist, an educator and researcher. She is a Visiting Scientist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, School of Architecture. She currently serves as a consultant for the LEGO Learning Institute. Learninginstitute.lego.com

Sam Bousfield is CEO of Samson Motorworks and inventor of the Switchblade™. The Switchblade is a 3-wheeled car, part motorcycle, and part plane allowing you to fly out from a local airport, land at your destination, then drive to the front door! Samsonmotorworks.com

Chris Downey is an architect, planner and consultant who lost his sight in 2008. His 20-year career has encompassed a broad range of award-winning projects including the Great Lakes Aquarium in Duluth. He is currently consulting with the SmithGroup in association with The Design Partnership on the design of the Polytrauma and Blind Rehabilitation Center for the Veterans Administration Palo Alto Health Care System. architect4theblind.com

Debra Frasier is a children’s book author and illustrator who will discuss how a book becomes a community event. *On the Day You Were Born* became an opera. Her most recent project, *A Fabulous Fair Alphabet*, is a book, a video, an education project, a study of typography, and a game played at the State Fair. See more on her web site at Debra Frasier. Debrafrasier.com

Jerry Messman, AIA, is a Consulting Partner with BSB Design in Tampa, Florida. He is the designer of the Abod house with an interest in low-cost housing solutions for developing countries. Abodshelters.com



Dr. Norbert E. Yankielun, P.E. is the author of the book *How to Build an Igloo*. Yankielun has participated in several Arctic and Antarctic expeditions. He is a former research engineer for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory (CRREL).
doctorwhy.com

Friday afternoon presentations are followed by a reception and bonfire at Figtgers Inn and dinner.

More presentations and a tour of Loll Designs are offered on Saturday. The Retreat concludes with a panel discussion with all speakers, identifying the threads of thought that always seem to weave their way through the discussions at this event.

For more information or to attend, contact Deanna Christiansen at AIA Minnesota at christiansen@aia-mn.org. For details and registration information, go to www.aia-mn.org/lldr

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.