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The American Institute of Architects Announces Steven Dwyer, AIA as a Recipient of 2011 AIA Young Architects Award



MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA The American Institute of Architects (AIA) has selected Steven Dwyer, AIA, Hammel Green and Abrahamson, Inc., Minneapolis, MN, along with ten others nationally, as outstanding architects to receive the 2011 Young Architect Award. This award honors individuals who have shown exceptional leadership and made significant contributions to the profession early in their careers.

An excerpt from the AIA National press release (January, 2011):

Steven Dwyer, AIA

"Steven is a young architect who has found a way to excel in design, professional leadership and character," noted the award jurors. "Steven has been a go-to provider of big design ideas. He has proven himself to be someone to turn to in a pinch. He has shown extensive involvement in the Institute while consistently putting forward good design."

Steven Dwyer, AIA, sees his role in architecture through a greater connection to community. As a Senior Project Designer he believes that, as an architect, it is fundamental to see the profession as an opportunity to improve the human condition. As such, his work is a contribution he can leave behind to others, to improve the world we live in.

Since joining Hammel, Green and Abrahamson (HGA) ten years ago, Dwyer has dedicated his career primarily to cultural, educational, and non-profit clients, where he believes his passion and philosophy are in alignment to best serve the community. Originally recruited to aid in developing the concept and design of the national AIA Honor Award-winning Bigelow Chapel, Dwyer has continued to grow as Senior Project Designer, taking on key roles as senior designer for such award-winning work as the Biomass Research and Demonstration Facility at the University of Minnesota, the Visual and Communication Arts Complex at Chaffey College outside Los Angeles, and the Minnesota Zoological Garden "Heart of the Zoo" Entry Pavilion.

Since graduation, Dwyer has served as a regular guest critic at the University of Minnesota-School of Architecture, has given seminars on both physical and digital representation in architecture, and has taught as an Adjunct Assistant Professor at both the second- and third-year graduate level. Additionally, he has served as a student mentor at the University and as an Intern Development Program (IDP) mentor. Together with other young designers at HGA, he helped form co.Lab, a collaboration and experimental assemblage of interdisciplinary designers who believe design is inspired through dialogue. The mission of co.Lab is to engage, promote,



and inspire design dialogue throughout HGA and create an environment that fosters creativity and collaboration.

In addition to such astounding design work, Dwyer has actively participated in service roles to the Institute and the profession. He has been an active committee member of AIA Minnesota's Committee on Design and the award-winning AIA Minnesota publication, *Architecture Minnesota*. Most recently, he was one of three founders of a public video competition focused on raising public awareness of our built environment. Further, his commitment to the community is exemplified in volunteer work for such projects as the AIA Minneapolis Great City Design Team Charrettes, Rebuilding Together Twin Cities, The Great River Greening Project, and the Minnesota Literacy Council.

As Dwyer has progressed through his career, he increasingly views his contributions as an architect and as a citizen as indistinguishable from helping to improve the lives of both his clients and his community. This holistic view making sense of his of goals, actions, contributions, and successes in life and practice interchangeably has taken him far, and there is clearly much more to come.

The AIA Young Architects Award jurors included Edward J. Kodet, Jr., FAIA, Kodet Architectural Group, Ltd., Minneapolis, Minnesota; Chester A. Widom, FAIA, WWCOT Architecture & Interiors, Santa Monica, California; Norman L. Koonce, FAIA, McLean, Virginia; Ronald L. Skaggs, FAIA, FACHA, HKS, Inc., Dallas, Texas; and William J. Stanley, FAIA, Stanley Love-Stanley, PC, Atlanta, Georgia.

Since the programs' inception in 1993, fifteen AIA Minnesota architects have received an AIA National Young Architects Award including: Joan M. Soranna, FAIA, 1993; Vicki L. Hooper, AIA, 1993; William A. Blanski, AIA, 1995; Michael Fisher, AIA, 1996; Robert Rothman, AIA, 1996; Jeffry Kagermeier, AIA, 2001; Mohammed Lawal, AIA, 2002; Paul Neahaus, AIA, 2003; Janis LaDouceur, AIA, 2004; James Dayton, AIA, 2006; Phillip Koski, AIA 2007; Michael Meehan, AIA, 2008; Matthew Kreilich, AIA, 2009; Michael Schellin, AIA, 2009; Steven Dwyer, AIA, 2011.

The Young Architect Award is conferred, regardless of age, to those in an early stage of their architectural careers. It honors architects who have been practicing ten years or fewer and show exceptional leadership in design, education, and/or service to the profession. The Young Architect Award will be presented to the recipients at the AIA 2011 National Convention and Design Exposition in New Orleans, May 12-14.

*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.*