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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AIA Minnesota Announces 2011 Special Award Recipients

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA – AIA Minnesota announces it's 2011 Special Award recipients. The Special Award seeks to encourage, stimulate and recognize exceptional contributions of individuals and organizations outside of the architectural profession that improve the quality of our physical environment. Because architecture is a collaborative effort, it relies on the talents and commitment of many individuals working together to achieve a common goal. AIA Minnesota is pleased to present one individual and one organization with Special Awards this year.



Damon Farber, FASLA, Damon Farber Associates

Damon Farber, FASLA, has a strong history of service to our design community. He built his firm, Damon Farber Associates, on the premise that good design always matters and team collaboration is the best way to achieve excellence. Farber is a registered landscape architect with 30+ years of experience and has spoken extensively about urban design and landscape architecture through numerous affiliations and organizations. His commitment to both quality and design integrity has resulted in more than 45 professional honors and awards since founding his firm. Farber has been an open collaborator with the architectural profession and has been actively engaged as a member of numerous organizations throughout the community.

THE MCKNIGHT FOUNDATION

McKnight Foundation

The McKnight Foundation is a Minnesota-based family foundation established in 1953 and seeks to improve the quality of life for present and future generations through grant making, coalition-building, and encouragement of strategic policy reform. Recently, McKnight has focused on the promotion of high quality and innovative design for affordable housing. McKnight supported the Rose Architectural Fellowship in Minnesota, which allows fellows to work deeply in communities for three years, to execute projects with best possible designs, meaningful community engagement, and the most advanced green building features. They also sponsored the first Affordable Housing Design Leadership Institute, which brought national designers together to raise design standards to produce more livable, sustainable and resource-efficient housing for low and moderate-income families. McKnight hosted the Innovation Beyond the Façade initiative where local architects analyzed projects that could translate to supporting high-quality design in affordable housing in the Twin Cities. They've also commissioned research from the University of Minnesota College of Design to explore barriers to design innovation in affordable housing. McKnight's commitment to strive for design excellence truly has benefited the profession and numerous communities within the Twin Cities.

Winners will receive their awards at the annual AIA Minnesota Awards Dinner on December 2, 2011 at McNamara Alumni Center in Minneapolis.

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.