



# AIA Minnesota

A Society of The American Institute of Architects

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Contact: Stephanie Pelzer  
Phone: 612-338-6763  
Email: pelzer@aia-mn.org  
*Images available upon request*



## AIA Minnesota Announces 2008 25-Year Award Recipient

*Minneapolis, Minnesota*--- Minneapolis, Minnesota – The Breck Chapel of the Holy Spirit in Golden Valley, MN, designed by John Cuninghame, FAIA, and John Quiter, AIA, of Cuninghame Group Architecture, is the recipient of the prestigious 2008 AIA Minnesota 25-Year Award.

In 1979, a fire destroyed Breck School's Chapel. A passionate alumni group felt a new Chapel was necessary to carry on the School's legacy. Within a month of the fire, an architect was assigned the project and the Chapel and School were built on a new campus.

The architects took their design cues from the School's new vision. They wanted the Chapel to be the heart of campus and allow for multiple functions, while maintaining a sacred and spiritual feeling. With the move to the new 51.5-acre campus, designers and architects took into consideration the potential for future growth, and flexibility. At the time it was built, the 22,000-square-foot, 1,100 seat Breck Chapel was Minnesota's largest Episcopal worship space.

The complex sits on a picturesque site of wetlands and natural vegetation. The Chapel is the focal point of the entire campus and serves as a music room, lecture hall, study area, and worship space. A gallery in the back of the Chapel serves as a place to display student art as well as hold gatherings before and after events. The Chapel continues to be a spiritual and cultural center for the Breck community, both past and present.

Established by AIA Minnesota in 1981, the 25-Year Award recognizes exemplary architectural projects that have withstood the test of time. Jurors for this year's 25-Year Award were Phillip Koski, AIA, of Leo A. Daly; College of Design faculty member Marc Swackhamer, AIA; and Roxanne Nelson, AIA, of Target Architecture.

The jurors were impressed by the agelessness of the building itself, noting that it exists and functions today almost exactly as it did in 1982 when it was built. "The materials are rich and simply detailed," commented one juror. The relationship between the plan, section and elevation was clear and, coupled with the quality of the daylighting and flexible separations between gathering space and gallery, the interior spaces were seen by the jury as "compelling and very successful". Noting the period in which the project was designed, one juror commented, "the project shows restraint to build a timeless building in the 1980s."

*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](http://www.aia-mn.org) and pick up a copy of *Architecture Minnesota*, the award-winning architectural magazine of the Midwest.*

AIA Minnesota  
275 Market Street, Suite 54  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55405  
612-338-6763  
[www.aia-mn.org](http://www.aia-mn.org)