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Excellence Beyond Design Shown in AIA Minneapolis Merit Awards



MINNEAPOLIS, MN -- The Minneapolis Chapter of the American Institute of Architects Minnesota (AIA Minnesota) awarded four Merit Awards to projects by AIA Minneapolis architects that tell a story of excellence beyond design, reflecting the variety of forces that shape a building. Unique in its approach to creating a jury, these awards encompass the views of business professionals, real estate developers, community advocates, and academic leaders as well as architects.

This year's jury of Mike Hagen, The 614 Company; Alex Hall, United Properties; Lee Helgen, City of Saint Paul; Charles Orton, AIA, AIA Minneapolis President and William Weber, University of Minnesota, College of Design – Center for Sustainable Building Research, reviewed how well the thirteen entries achieved client/team satisfaction, technical innovation, environmental responsibility, budget/business success, community impact and the architectural solution. After creating a short-list of five projects to visit, they selected the following as award-winners:

Miller Dunwiddie Architecture, Inc.'s **Silverwood Park Visitor Center**, a multi-purpose northwoods-style facility on the shores of Silver Lake, St. Anthony, MN.

Ellerbe Becket, Inc.'s (an AECOM Company) **Park Nicollet Melrose Institute**, a leading-edge, quality eating disorder treatment facility in St. Louis Park, MN.

Kodet Architectural Group's **Calvin Christian School**, a 1950's box school transformation into a dynamic K-5 educational facility in Edina, MN.

Miller Dunwiddie Architecture, Inc.'s **Mabel Tainter Memorial Theater**, a newly restored and renovated arts center located in Menomonie, WI.

In 2008 the Michael L. Schrock, AIA, Honor Award was created to honor Mike Schrock, AIA who tragically passed away in February 2008. This is an additional honor awarded within the context and structure of the AIA Minneapolis Merit Awards to one project that most embodies "Michaels 7 Rules of Architecture." Those rules are, know where you are from; know who you are; know why you are; respect your benefactors; honor the environment; architecture must serve those who occupy it and; there is beauty in functional economical, safe, environmentally responsible, owner driven architecture. Silverwood Park Visitor Center was the 2010 recipient.

The awards will be presented at the AIA Minneapolis Chapter Luncheon on June 17, 2010, at International Market Square in Minneapolis from 11:45a.m.-1:15p.m. Read more information about the awards and event at www.aia-mn.org/ext_about/local-chapters/minneapolis/merit-awards.cfm.

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.