



January 28, 2011
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AIA Minnesota and *Midwest Home* Magazine Announce the 2011 Architect of Distinction and Emerging Talent Award for Residential Architecture



MINNEAPOLIS, MN -- AIA Minnesota and *Midwest Home* are pleased to announce the 2011 recipients of the annual Architect of Distinction and Emerging Talent of the Year Awards. The architecture honors attracted high quality submissions from some of the top talents practicing architecture in Minnesota. The jury awarded the Architect of Distinction honor to Julie Snow, FAIA, Julie Snow Architects, Inc., Minneapolis, Minnesota. Meghan Kell Cornell, AIA, Kell Architects, St. Paul, Minnesota, was recognized as the Emerging Talent of the Year. AIA Minnesota and *Midwest Home* created the award program to recognize both promising and established careers dedicated to excellence in the design of single-family homes.

Julie Snow, FAIA, Julie Snow Architects Inc., Architect of Distinction

Snow's design philosophy centers on architecture's power to transform experiences, and her submission demonstrates that transformation using restraint and very minimal means. Although her work is more rooted in new homes, Snow also put her design aesthetic to the test with a remodel of a home with a very deep floor plan, which still maintains a light-filled connection to the outdoors. The design's thoughtful and refreshing reorientation articulated a mastery of the site and cohesion among internal and external spaces.

Overall, the jury found her work to be carefully tailored for each client and successful in creating interior volumes within very small footprints. The B+W Home, for example, allows a view into full-time living and activity, while its great courtyard space provides a seamless outdoor experience.

"There is a refined level of detail throughout each project," said the jury, noting that overly reduced design has the potential to come across as too sterile. Snow expertly balances detail with simplicity to create visually striking design. As one juror said of the home she designed and carefully sited on the cliffs of New Brunswick, "While in this home, you might feel like you are sitting on the edge of the rock without feeling the wind."



Meghan Kell Cornell, AIA, Kell Architects, Emerging Talent

Cornell believes that home means comfort and security, and her designs balance the warmth of comfort with clean, modern lines. Her simple forms often include an unexpected texture, form, or color to create spaces with playful, livable charm.

Her work highlights the relationships between the structure and the land, always allowing for plenty of natural light. All the projects in her submission demonstrate a great attention to detail, adept skill in organizing the spaces, and connectivity to the outdoors. "She clearly demonstrates a mastery of the fundamentals of architecture, as well as an evolving portfolio of work," said the jury.

The 2011 jury included Tom Ellison, AIA, principal, TEA 2 Architects; Christian Dean, AIA, principal, CityDeskStudio, Mark Tambornino, AIA, architect at Albertsson Hansen Architecture and architecture professor at the University of Minnesota's College of Design (C Des) and Chris Lee, editor of *Midwest Home*.

Snow and Cornell will be recognized at an April event, date to be announced. More program information at www.aia-mn.org/int_committees/dist-emerge.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.*