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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Design Excellence as a Catalyst to Rejuvenate Cities

**TWIN CITIES TO HOST NATIONAL DESIGN CONFERENCE SEPT 27-30, 2007.** Commensurate with this year's AIA150 celebration, the AIA Committee on Design (COD) is focusing on waterfront cities during their two design conferences, each with their own ideas competition. The COD's spring conference was held in Miami, and over the weekend of September 27 - 30, COD moves to Minneapolis for its fall conference, *On the Waterfront: Renaissance Through Design Excellence*.

Local architect, E. Tim Carl, AIA, LEED AP, HGA Architects, and Michael Ross, FAIA, HGA Architects, Los Angeles, co-chaired the conference and worked with AIA National and the AIA Minnesota Committee on Design to create an itinerary. "Minnesota is pleased to host this conference to showcase the talent and accomplishments of the architectural community as well as highlight the unique individuals that bring more design depth to our cities on a national scale," said Carl. The stimulating line-up for the conference includes featured keynote Rich Varda, FAIA, Target Corporation, presentations looking at the cities' architecture like the Walker Art Center Expansion with John Cook, AIA, HGA and Andrew Blauvelt, Curator, The Walker Center, and tours of the Minneapolis Downtown Library and Mill City District.

Friday afternoon includes tours of AIA Honor Award projects designed by Minnesota architects: Dayton House (Wallace Dow, 1890; VJAA restoration design, 2007); Streeter House (David Salmela, FAIA, 2004); and Bigelow Chapel, United Theological Seminary (HGA, 2004; Joan Soranno, AIA and John Cook, AIA), and a 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. reception at Vincent James Associates Architects (VJAA).

Saturday evening from 5:30 - 7:30pm will feature a Young Architects show and reception at the Soap Factory, exhibiting the culmination of this conference's ideas competition, *The Napkin Sketch*. The public is also welcome to attend this and view the sketches and work of five selected architects including Eric Amel, AIA, HGA (Best of Show), Stephen Dwyer, AIA, HGA, Mark Stankey, AIA, James Dayton Design, Matthew Kreilich, AIA, Julie Snow Architects and Markian Yereniuk, AIA, HGA.

Sunday's conference wrap-up takes place at Rapson Hall Auditorium, University of Minnesota College of Design, with introduction by Tom Fisher, Assoc. AIA, Dean of the College of Design and a panel discussion, including Renee Cheng, AIA and Minnesota National AIA Honor Award winners Ralph Rapson, FAIA, David Salmela, FAIA, Vincent James, FAIA Joan Soranno, AIA, and Tom Meyer, FAIA; on what they saw and heard at the conference as well as their impressions of Minneapolis/St. Paul architecture.

For more information see [www.aia.org/ev\\_cod\\_fall07\\_conf](http://www.aia.org/ev_cod_fall07_conf). For media passes, please contact Emily Dowd at [dowd@aia-mn.org](mailto:dowd@aia-mn.org) or 612-338-6763.