



AIA Minnesota

A Society of The American Institute of Architects

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For Immediate Release

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AIA Minnesota's 2006 Annual Convention & Product Exposition "In the Mix"

Minneapolis, Minnesota - "In the Mix," the theme of this year's convention, held at the Minneapolis Convention Center, November 14-17, 2006, inspires attendees to consider how our communities might change if architects are increasingly involved as community leaders and decision makers. How will this impact our communities? Over the four-day convention, programs will encourage architects to become more engaged in the external community; create more livable communities through architects taking a leadership role in sustainable design; and explore the role of the architect in the future. The exhibit hall furthers the theme through displays related to architects as volunteers and showcases collaborations with architects including an exhibit of landscape architecture.

Media, design professionals and the public are encouraged to attend the convention. Below is a summary of information related to programs (keynotes in orange), the exhibit hall and the AIA150 celebrations planned for 2007. For more information, go to www.aia-mn.org.

Programs

All About Cities

We're addressing a diverse number of city-issues including grassroots neighborhood planning and design and rural design. These programs present model concepts for cities and define roles for Minnesota leaders at the city, community and professional levels alike.

Twin Cities Transportation Future, Event 4, Tues, Nov 14

Learn how the Twin Cities stacks up nationally and review the linkages between transportation, land use, development and livable communities.

Bassett Creek Valley: Grassroots Urban Design, Event 7, Tues, Nov 14

Bassett Creek Valley is infamous for the Minneapolis impound lot but with a foundation of grassroots community dedication and a recent urban design effort, transformation of this 230-acre contaminated industrial area is soon to begin.

From Sidewalk to Skyline – Reinventing the 21st Century American City, Event 17, Tues, Nov 14

Will Bruder is known for inventive cultural buildings, multiuse multifamily housing and concern for the

quality of life in the contemporary urban fabric. His firm has won more than eighty design awards and been published extensively around the globe.

Rural Design and UMore Park, Event 22, Weds, Nov 15

What is rural design and what are the issues facing rural Minnesota? What are the design strategies that can help rural citizens shape their future? Find out why attention to rural design is so important.

Green Urbanism: The Role of Cities in Advancing Sustainability, Event 28, Weds Nov 15

Tim Beatley believes that cities hold much potential for addressing global environmental issues, for reconnecting us to nature and to each other, and for dramatically reducing our ecological footprints while at the same time creating highly livable environments. Find out what he calls Green Urbanism.

Rewarding Architecture

Each year we honor our award-winning architects and projects. AIA Minnesota stands out on the national level. What is it about Minnesota that inspires the high quality design and craftsmanship the jurors continue to see in the contributions and projects of Minnesota architects?

The Young Architects in the Profession, Event 3, Tues, Nov 14

Hear how AIA Minnesota's 2006 Young Architect, Paul Whitenack, AIA, is guided in practice and how architecture has impacted him personally. In addition, three past Young Architects will share their continuing professional success stories — each taking a very different path rooted in the philosophies that made them AIA Minnesota Young Architects.

Honor Award Jurors Show and Tell, Event 40, Thurs, Nov 16

The jurors for our annual awards program, also keynote presenters, will talk about their practice and projects through a presentation of their work. The jurors include Ann Beha, FAIA, Founder and President of Ann Beha Architects, a Boston-based architectural firm specializing in contemporary design and in the preservation and adaptive reuse of existing buildings for cultural and educational clients; Michael McInturf, Associate Professor of Architecture in the School of Architecture and Interior Design at the University of Cincinnati and principal of Michael McInturf Architects, a well-respected leader in advancing digital design and developing critically distinguished work; and Pierre Thibault, RAIC, Pierre Thibault Architecte, Quebec, distinguishing his practice since 1988 through environmentally incisive responses to the needs of clients in urban, regional and wilderness settings.

Honor Awards Announced! , Event 41, Thurs, Nov 16

Who won and why? Arrive early to see the array of work – nearly 130 submissions – of AIA Minnesota architects. The jury will announce this year's winners and explore the quality of Minnesota architecture in an in-depth analysis of submitted work.

Seeing Green

Sustainability, woven into many of the programs, is discussed in terms of renewable or energy-efficient ideas.

Transformation to a Better Energy Future, Event 9, Tues, Nov 14

This presentation will provide an overview of a better and smarter energy future that architects are helping to build — a future grounded in the efficient use of clean and renewable energies. What is driving the transformation that's now taking place?

Renewable Energy Systems for Commercial Buildings, Event 20, Weds, Nov 15

This program explores how to specify buildings that are able to meet much of their own energy needs by using solar electric systems, and solar thermal systems integrated with heat pumps, thermal storage and earth tubes.

Minnesota Green Communities for Affordable Housing, Event 33, Thurs, Nov 16

Minnesota Green Communities is an initiative designed to foster the creation of affordable, healthier, and more energy-efficient homes throughout Minnesota. This program will give a general overview of the Green Communities Criteria, present case studies, and provide detailed cost benefit information when following the Green Communities Criteria for affordable housing.

Cool, New and Noteworthy

Light Orchestration: Integrating Electric Lighting and Fabric, Event 34, Thurs, Nov 16

Fabric is playing an increasingly important role in innovative solutions to integrating electric light with buildings and landscapes. Design concepts are discussed that explore light's potential for orientation, the creation of atmosphere, enhanced visual texture and sense of time, as well as the molding and shaping of electric light and its interplay with buildings and the environment.

Exhibit Hall

This year's products exposition and exhibit hall displays are also centered around the convention theme of architects in the mix and effecting change in their communities. Well over 200 product lines and a variety of professional services can be explored during the exhibit hall hours, Tuesday, November 14, 4:30 -7:00p.m., Wednesday, November 15, 11:15a.m. – 2:30p.m. and 3:45 – 6:00p.m., and Thursday, November 16, 10:45a.m. – 2:00p.m. Representatives, including craftspeople such as stone carvers, tile makers, and large-scale decorative painters; as well as artistic performances from professionals and art students set the stage for an interesting mix.

This space also demonstrates how Minnesota architects are involved in their communities through non-product related displays, including a display of the Louis Lundgren Award recipients, a program celebrating ten years of rewarding architects' volunteerism; and a display by the Minnesota Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (MASLA), recognizing landscape architecture's contribution towards connecting our communities. Programs will be available to easily guide the public and architects on a path through the exhibit hall.

AIA 150

In anticipation of AIA national's sesquicentennial, 150 years of AIA in 2007, programs tied to the initiatives include keynote RK Stewart, FAIA, the 2006 First Vice President/President-elect of AIA (Event 10, Tues, Nov 14); keynote Timothy Beatley, a Teresa Heinz Professor of Sustainable Communities in the Department of Urban and Environmental Planning, School of Architecture at the University of Virginia (Event 28, Weds Nov 15); and the program **Traveling into the 21st Century along the Central Corridor with LRT** (Event 35, Thurs Nov 16), a look at the 11-mile transit route between Minneapolis and St.Paul.

AIA Minnesota's annual convention is one of the largest and most successful conferences organized by any AIA component, consistently delivering high-quality programs, engaging keynote presentations, insightful exhibits, and an Exhibit Hall filled with products, services and information.

For more information go to www.aia-mn.org.

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.