



AIA Minnesota

A Society of The American Institute of Architects

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Immediate Release

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New Trends, Technology and Design at the 69th AIA Minnesota Convention

Minneapolis, Minnesota - The 69th AIA Minnesota Convention & Exhibition Hall* will take place from Tuesday, November 18 through Friday November 21 at the Minneapolis Convention Center. The theme of the convention, "Essential Architecture," reflects the idea that architecture is essential to so many facets of life: from preserving our history to sustaining our planet for the future, from ensuring our welfare to fostering economic vitality.

The convention features an impressive mix of keynote speakers and a wide variety of networking events and educational seminars focused on new trends, technology and design in architectural practice. The seminars highlighted below would be of interest to the media and general public. They address a range of topics from the future of energy and Minnesota housing trends to award-winning Minnesota architecture and a tour of the new Minneapolis Convention Center Auditorium.

Tuesday, November 18:

Event 4, 8:30a.m. – 10:00a.m.

Reflections: The Ralph Rapson Traveling Study Fellowship

Co-sponsored by the Minnesota Architectural Foundation

The Ralph Rapson Traveling Study Fellowship was established to recognize the contributions and leadership of Ralph Rapson, FAIA. It supports study and travel by a young architect who is selected through a competition. Five recipients will share their work, stories and images from their travel and reflections on what this fellowship has meant to them and their careers.

Event 11, 3:00p.m. – 4:30p.m.

Keynote Address: Essential Architecture Through Cultural Relevance

This keynote presentation will address Essential Architecture as practiced by Hsin-Ming Fung, Director of Design at Hodgetts + Fung Design Associates, Culver City, California.

Wednesday, November 19:

Event 24, 2:00p.m. – 3:15p.m.

Keynote Address: Honor Awards Announced!

Co-sponsored by the AIA Minnesota Awards Committee

Who won and why? A facilitated discussion with the jurors will explore the quality of Minnesota architecture and an in-depth analysis of submitted work.

Event 28, 3:30p.m. – 5:00p.m.

Keynote Address: Jurors Show and Tell

Co-sponsored by the AIA Minnesota Awards Committee

This program features three architects, serving as this year's AIA Minnesota Honor and Divine Detail Award jurors, who will talk about their practice and projects through a presentation of their work.

Event 30, 7:00p.m. – 8:30p.m.

Keynote Address: The Artistic Dividend: The Hidden Contributions of Architecture and the Arts to the Regional Economy

This keynote address is a part of the lecture series "Architects Shape the New Minneapolis"; organized by the Weisman Art Museum with partners: AIA Minnesota, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Children's Theatre Company, Guthrie Theater, and the Minneapolis Public Library; and sponsored by Target Stores with support from the Target Foundation.

Ann Markusen, director of the Project on Regional and Industrial Economics at the U of M Humphrey Institute for Public Affairs, will show that artistic activity, including architecture, is a major and varied contributor to economic vitality.

Thursday, November 20:

Event 36, 7:30a.m. – 8:30a.m.

A State of the Art Auditorium – Tour and Discussion

Hear about, tour, and experience the Minneapolis Convention Center's new Auditorium.

Event 46, 2:00p.m. – 3:30p.m.

The New Generation: Young Firms

This program will highlight the unique stories of young, adventurous architects who accepted the risk and headed out on their own. They will share their unique stories, their vision, their work and the challenges they faced in starting a firm.

Event 49, 3:45p.m. – 5:00p.m.

Keynote Address: Fierce Conversations: A Way of Conducting Business, An Attitude, A Way of Life

Co-sponsored by the Minnesota Architectural Foundation, with funds provided by the Beverly E. Hauschild-Baron Leadership Fund

Fierce Conversations, Inc., is an internationally recognized leader in executive education focused on achieving results through skillful and courageous dialogue. This keynote address will explore the power of each conversation and how it can move us closer or further away from our stated business and life goals.

Friday, November 21:

Event 53, 8:30a.m. – 10:00a.m.

Minnesota Housing Trends

Co-sponsored by the AIA Minnesota Housing Advocacy Committee

This panel will discuss housing trends in Minnesota such as changes in the marketplace, changing demographics, neighborhood and housing preferences, and affordability issues.

Event 57, 10:15a.m.-11:45a.m.

Creating a Stable Energy Grid and Powering Buildings with the Latest in Clean, Green, Renewable Sources

Co-sponsored by the AIA Minnesota Committee on the Environment

Join us for a discussion on energy, architecture and how you can participate in shaping a quality, secure future for the country, yourself and our children. Architects will gain a clear understanding of their important role in shaping America's energy future and how they can act immediately and effectively to participate.

Event 61, 12:00p.m. – 2:00p.m.

Keynote Address & Lunch: How Would Nature Build? Biomimicry and the Art of Well-Adapted Design

Biomimicry is a design discipline that seeks sustainable solutions by emulating nature's time-tested patterns and strategies. Janine Benyus will describe what's new in the field, and engage us in a discussion of what kind of buildings might be possible if we begin to ask, "What would nature do here?"

Please visit our web site at: www.aia-mn.org for a complete listing of seminars and speakers. Press should contact Jennifer Gilhoi (gilhoi@aia-mn.org) if they wish to attend. Tickets are available if programs are not already full.

The annual event attracts more than 2,000 architects, engineers, interior designers, landscape architects, construction managers, contractors, builders, facility managers and other professionals in the building industry. In addition, the Exhibit Hall will feature more than 200 companies displaying the latest in design and technology.

The **AIA Minnesota Annual Awards Celebration** takes place on Friday, December 5, at the University Club in Downtown St. Paul. During this event, Honor Awards, Divine Detail Awards, Young Architect Awards, and Special Awards will be presented. The Firm Award will be presented to The Weidt Group, Minnetonka, Minnesota. In addition, Ed Sovik, FAIA, with SMSQ Architects, Northfield, Minnesota will be presented with the 25-Year Award for The Christiansen Hall of Music at St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota, completed in 1976.

**The Exhibition Hall is open selected hours on Nov 18, 19 and 20. Check web site for more information.*

The American Institute of Architects Minnesota, founded in 1892, is committed to improving communities through excellence in architecture and design. The organization also promotes cooperation among architects, engineers, contractors and others throughout the construction industry.

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