



AIA Minnesota

A Society of The American Institute of Architects

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Architect of Distinction and Emerging Talent Award Recipients Announced

Minneapolis, Minnesota – AIA Minnesota and *Midwest Home* are pleased to announce the 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. After careful consideration, the jury awarded the Architect of Distinction honor to Dan Nepp, AIA, TEA 2 Architects, Inc., Minneapolis, Minnesota. Todd Hansen, AIA, Albertsson Hansen Architecture, LLC, Minneapolis, 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.

Nepp's designs feel genuine and harmonious inside and out, expressed with a consistent integrity in relation to landscape and site. "There is a nice scale variety in projects shown," the jury noted, "The architect was sensitive to scale, employed a joyful use of materials and used modernist concepts to breathe new life into projects." The houses appear more lived-in -- inhabiting is accepted and embraced, the designs are not distracting so as to lose the architecture. "It's obvious the architect engaged with each client," commented the jury, "but did not give into every whim. There is thoughtful balance. As a result, the designs seem energetic, more consistent and complete."

Hansen's work showcases all of the traditional expectations of the whole, yet clearly, a modern sensibility comes through. "The architect dealt with light and materials in subtle ways and demonstrated attention to detail in clean but comfortable and contemporary ways," said the jury. Hansen uses a thoughtful and sophisticated approach; the design is completely worked out. The jury also liked the way he focused on unusual elements in the design, which made all the difference in creating a point of view.

The 2008 Jury included Tom DeAngelo, FAIA, principal, Architectural Alliance; Geoffrey Warner, AIA, principal, Alchemy, LLC; Julia Robinson, professor at the College of Design, School of Architecture (C Des), University of Minnesota; and Chris Lee, editor of *Midwest Home*.

Nepp and Hansen will be recognized in a March 10 presentation at the University of Minnesota's Rapson Hall. A scholarship, funded by *Midwest Home*, will be given to the college in the Architect of Distinction's name. The awards will be followed by a lecture by Alice Friedman, Grace Slack McNeil Professor of American Art, Wellesley College, titled, *New Light on New Canaan: Philip Johnson's Glass House/Guest House*.

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The lecture and announcement will be held on Monday, March 10 at 5:30p.m. at Rapson Hall, 89 Church St SE, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Admission is free and tickets are not required. Parking is available in Church St Garage, 80 Church St SE.

The Architect of Distinction, open to registered architects with 15 or more years of practice, required five projects to be submitted. The Emerging Talent of the Year, open to registered architects with 10 or fewer years of practice, required three projects to be submitted. Feature stories on the design philosophies and work of Dan Nepp and Todd Hansen can be seen in the March 2008 issue of *Midwest Home* on newsstands now.

*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.*