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Edward Kodet, Jr., FAIA, is AIA Minnesota's 2010 Gold Medalist



MINNEAPOLIS, MN Edward Kodet, Jr., FAIA, will be awarded the 2010 AIA Minnesota Gold Medal, AIA Minnesota's highest award bestowed on an individual member. It serves as recognition for a lifetime of distinguished achievement and significant contributions to architecture.

Kodet founded Kodet Architectural Group, Ltd., in Minneapolis, Minnesota in 1983, after 13 years of experience as a firm partner at a previous firm. Kodet's achievements as an architect and educator along with his service to the profession over his career have proven exemplary and inspirational, noted the jury.

At the beginning of his education, with an undergraduate degree in architecture from the University of Nebraska, he was encouraged to attend graduate school for architecture at the University of Minnesota. As a result, Kodet contacted Ralph Rapson, the head of the School of Architecture at the University of Minnesota. Rapson served as a mentor and friend throughout Kodet's career, inspiring Kodet to teach for over 20 years and pass along his experience through a great commitment to mentoring his own students at the university and employees alike. Today he is respected by students and employees; involved in his firm, the profession at the local and national level, and his community while continuing to build on an impressive design portfolio. Kodet commented that practice in combination with teaching is a pursuit to this day.

Kodet has had numerous articles written about him, he's won three national and three state AIA design awards and 17 additional design awards, while the firm continues to expand with projects in education, religious, public facility, historic restoration, recreation and retail design areas. Projects have included: Baker Golf Course in Medina, MN, French Regional Park Building, Plymouth, MN, Burroughs Elementary School in Minneapolis, MN, Whittier Elementary School for the Arts in Minneapolis, MN, and Hopkins Public Library in Hopkins, MN.

Restoration work has been a recurring theme in the projects he's taken on as well as the courses he's taught exploring ideas on Ancient Architectural History, the History of Architecture, and Structures. Notable award-winning projects include an AIA Minnesota Honor Award for St. Croix Lutheran High School Chapel (2006), an Interfaith Forum on Religious Art + Architecture (IFRAA) Honor Award for Corpus Christi Catholic Church, a Preservation Alliance Restoration Honor Award for R.F. Jones (Longfellow) House (1998) and an AIA Minneapolis Merit Award for Calvin Christian School-Edina Campus (2010).

Kodet has a history of Minneapolis community involvement. He is a charter member of the Minneapolis City of Lakes Rotary Club, serving as its first secretary /treasurer. He volunteers on



many Kenwood and Lowry Hill neighborhood committees and is a long time neighborhood advocate for good design and historic preservation.

Kodet's role as a designer and mentor has helped prepare all employees to step into leadership roles themselves, creating a successful sustainable firm while allowing him to keep ties to teaching and the profession, noted the jury. AIA activities have spanned Kodet's entire career. His involvement in the 1970's on AIA Minnesota's Legislative Committee ensured the creation of the State Designer Selection Board as well as the first statute of limitations for professional liability. In addition, Kodet's belief in addressing the organization's finances in a transparent way played out in many roles from the AIA Minnesota President in 1996 to the 2002 AIA National Vice President that has lead to the organization's financial policies and strength it has today.

Kodet is a member of AIA's College of Fellows, serving as Chancellor in 2010, and has held numerous national positions within the profession including serving as the AIA North Central States Regional Director, American Architectural Foundation as Regent and the chair of two Gold Medal and Firm Award juries, most recently as the nominator for AIA Gold Medal recipient Santiago Calatrava, FAIA. Kodet's work at the national level throughout his career would be difficult to mirror, said the jury. It's clearly inspired by his view of architecture as a passion, avocation and hobby. Kodet summarized, "AIA has always been a forum for me to advocate for the profession how the profession can enhance everyday lives, enrich cities and provide inspiration for society."

The AIA Minnesota Gold Medal was a jury comprised of Fred Bentz, FAIA, Bentz Thompson Rietow; Nancy Blankfard, AIA, HGA Architects; Eric Lagerquist, AIA, Smith Group; Linda McCracken-Hunt, FAIA, Studio Five Architects; Erin McKiel, AIA, BWBR and Rich Varda, FAIA, Target. They considered many criteria for the award including a candidate's significant contributions and distinguishing achievements, professional practice, design, education, mentorship, AIA involvement, public presence and legacy.

AIA Minnesota is proud to recognize Ed Kodet for this award. He will be presented with the award at the November 19, 2010, AIA Minnesota Awards Celebration.

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.