



AIA Minnesota

A Society of The American Institute of Architects

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For Immediate Release

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Images available upon request

One AIA Minneapolis Merit Award (shown right)
Project: Ripley Gardens
Architect: LHB, Inc.
Photographer: LHB, Inc.



Excellence Beyond Design Shown in AIA Minneapolis Merit Awards

Minneapolis, Minnesota - The Minneapolis Chapter of the American Institute of Architects Minnesota (AIA Minnesota) awarded five Merit Awards to projects by AIA Minneapolis architects that tell a story of excellence beyond design, reflecting the variety of forces that shape a building. Unique in its approach to creating a jury, these awards encompass the views of business professionals, real estate developers, community advocates, and academic leaders as well as architects.

This year's jury of Robert Ferguson, University of Minnesota, School of Architecture; Brent Mareck, City of Winsted Administrator; Christine Ledbetter, Star Tribune; Mary Shaffer, AIA, Target Corporation and James Lasher, LSA Design, Inc., reviewed how well the twenty-one entries achieved client/team satisfaction, technical innovation, environmental responsibility, budget/business success, community impact and the architectural solution. After creating a short-list of five projects to visit, they selected the following as award-winners:

Ripley Gardens, mixed-income housing redevelopment in the Harrison Neighborhood of Minneapolis, LHB, Inc.
Project for Pride in Living (PPL) Service Center abandoned building transformation into a non-profit agency serving low-income residence at 1035 East Franklin Avenue in Minneapolis, DJR Architecture, Inc.
Westin Minneapolis Hotel, hotel created in the nationally historic Farmer's and Mechanic's Bank building on the corner of 6th and Marquette in downtown Minneapolis, Elenss Swenson Graham Architects, Inc. (ESG)
Adopt A Room, two renewed and better models for the design of hospital rooms for long-term child patients at the University of Minnesota Children's Hospital Fairview in Minneapolis, Perkins+Will
MacPhail Center for Music, state of the art music teaching facility located in the Historic Mill District in downtown Minneapolis, James Dayton Design, Ltd.

In 2008 the Michael L. Schrock, AIA, Honor Award was created to honor Mike Schrock, AIA who tragically passed away in February. This is an extra honor awarded within the context and structure of the AIA Minneapolis Merit Awards to one project that most embodies "Michael's 7 Rules of Architecture." Those rules are, know where you are from; know who you are; know why you are; respect your benefactors; honor the environment; architecture must serve those who occupy it and; there is beauty in functional economical, safe, environmentally responsible, owner driven architecture. Ripley Gardens was the recipient of this award.

The awards will be presented at the AIA Minneapolis Chapter Luncheon on July 17, 2008, at International Market Square in Minneapolis. The event is free of charge and registration is required at www.aia-mn.org/chapters/mpls_luncheon.cfm.

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.