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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Homeowners in North Minneapolis are Offered Design Assistance to Rebuild Their Homes

### **REBUILDING IT RIGHT**

restoring community and architectural richness to the northside

### **MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA**

The American Institute of Architects (AIA) Minneapolis and AIA Minnesota have launched an initiative called "Rebuilding it Right" to assist north Minneapolis homeowners impacted by the recent tornado. Its mission is to organize the architecture and allied professions to advocate for quality and architecturally appropriate design for homes devastated by the May 22 tornado in north

Minneapolis by partnering with non-profits, coordinating with city officials, collaborating with contractors and vendors and providing design/architectural assistance to homeowners.

The initiative is a compassionate response to recapture and solidify the beautiful, historic architecture present in the neighborhood, and to consider possibilities for entire sections to allow for greener technologies and smarter urban design. Implementing these larger picture design ideas could benefit not only the immediate homes in the vicinity, but the city as a whole.

In addition to thinking about design for the collective community, Rebuilding it Right will also help homeowners on an individual basis. We recognize that often homeowners whose homes have sustained minor or moderate damage due to a storm, are not likely to contact an architect. In response, the initiative will offer a connection to local architects who will provide their services at no cost to assist homeowners in rebuilding efforts so the character and quality the home is maintained. Design team efforts will be tailored to fit the needs of each home and situation and homeowners can expect one to three meetings with their team of volunteers.

Rebuilding it Right, led by AIA Minnesota and AIA Minneapolis, is working in conjunction with the ongoing Northside Community Recovery Team efforts, the City of Minneapolis, USGBC-Minnesota, Architecture for Humanity - Minneapolis/ St. Paul, The Assembly of Architects, Rebuilding Together Twin Cities, Preservation Minneapolis, American Society of Landscape Architects Minnesota and several local and state organizations. The group held a kick-off meeting on June 14 at the University of Minnesota, Urban Research Outreach/ Engagement Center at 2001 Plymouth Ave N. in Minneapolis with nearly 50 people in attendance. To date, over 60 volunteers have committed to working with homeowners and community members as the task of rebuilding moves forward.

**Rebuilding It Right** is committed to the long-term rebuilding efforts of the northside and is positioned to assist with both the immediate and long-term needs of the northside community. The initial phase of the program will run through August 31, 2011. If you are a homeowner affected by the tornado who would like to find out more about the program, please contact AIA Minnesota at 612-338-6763 or [dehn@aia-mn.org](mailto:dehn@aia-mn.org) so a design team can evaluate your project.

*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](http://www.aia-mn.org) and pick up a copy of Architecture Minnesota, the award-winning architectural magazine of the Midwest.*