



December 2, 2008
For Immediate Release

Contact: Stephanie Pelzer
Phone: 612-338-6763
Email: pelzer@aia-mn.org
Images available upon request
Photo: courtesy of Three Rivers Park District



AIA Minnesota Announces 2008 Special Award Recipients

Minneapolis, Minnesota – AIA Minnesota announces it's 2008 Special Award recipients. The Special Award seeks to encourage, stimulate and recognize exceptional contributions of individuals and organizations outside of the architectural profession that improve the quality of our physical environment. Because architecture is a collaborative effort, it relies on the talents and commitment of many individuals working together to achieve a common goal. AIA Minnesota is pleased to present four individuals and one organization with Special Awards this year.

David Macdonald, PE, Mattson Macdonald Young Structural Engineers

For over 30 years, Macdonald has served the architectural profession as a structural engineer. He is one of the principals of Mattson Macdonald Young and his creativity, skill and clever solutions have attributed to their great success. Macdonald's knowledge is combined with talent and an understanding of the architect's vision to create architecture that is recognized by his peers. His experience includes all phases and types of structural building systems. Macdonald is an active committee member with CASE and is a frequent guest lecturer at the University of Minnesota.

Joon Mornes, Architecture & Landscape Architecture Library, University of Minnesota

Joon Mornes has served as the librarian of the architecture and landscape architecture library for over 20 years and has overseen the establishment of one of the premier libraries of its kind in the country. She has built a remarkable collection of books and related materials available to the entire architecture community as well as to the faculty and students of the University. Joon has provided a physical environment in the library conducive to creativity, an exhibition space for the presentation of artwork and design sketches by faculty and students.

Senator Yvonne Prettner Solon, Minnesota State Senator, District 7

Senator Yvonne Prettner Solon, Chair of the Senate Energy, Utilities, Technology and Communications Committee, authored and successfully passed legislation based on AIA's Architecture 2030 Challenge of achieving carbon neutral buildings by the year 2030. Called "Sustainable Building 2030," this new Minnesota law will transform the building industry by instituting design standards for new state

buildings that will dramatically reduce energy consumption over the next quarter century. The bill provides an energy reduction schedule, leading to 90% reductions in energy use by 2025.

Marc Swackhamer, Assistant Professor, University of Minnesota-College of Design

Marc Swackhamer is an Assistant Professor of Architecture at the University of Minnesota. In his ongoing research, he examines the relationship between performance and ornament as specifically developed through digital production and fabrication techniques. He recently fabricated and installed Disperse, an acoustic wall installation, in Rapson Hall at the University of Minnesota. Marc has, over the past three years, developed studio and seminar coursework on the topic of biomimetics. Student work from this effort won a 2007 AIA COTE (Committee on the Environment) national education award. He worked with School Head, Renee Cheng, on a new chapter for the re-designed Architectural Graphic Standards, 2007 edition on the topic of emerging technology. In the fall semester of 2006, he was accepted as an Associate Member of the University of Minnesota's Digital Design Consortium where he conducted research in the area of digitally produced modular wall systems.

Three Rivers Park District

Three Rivers Park District has established a reputation for the advancement of the natural environment through good design and stewardship. They have served with distinction nationally as a park district that provides exemplary public service. As a client, they utilize qualification based selection of architects to provide professional reinforcement, good design, and project leadership.

Winners will receive their awards at the annual AIA Minnesota Awards Dinner on December 5, 2008 at the McNamara Alumni Center at the University of Minnesota.

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.