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AIA Saint Paul's St. Paul Prize Competition Awards Designs for a Park Land Amphitheater within a Regional Park



MINNEAPOLIS, MN -- The Saint Paul Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA St. Paul) announced the results of its annual St. Paul Prize design competition on December 10, 2010.

This year's competition program included the design of a Park Land Amphitheater within a regional park for use for educational programs and entertainment events. The intended use was for educational programs and entertainment events of up to 150 people. The primary function of the Amphitheater was to provide a location for park naturalist to provide education events to general park visitors year round, seasonal educational classes to elementary aged school children's groups. Additionally the facility was intended to also function as a venue for small live entertainment events.

The design competition, open to AIA Minnesota Associate members with less than seven years of post-graduation experience, had a winning team and a team that received honorable mention this year. The first place team was comprised of Kar-Keat Chong, Assoc. AIA and Daniel Yudchitz, Assoc. AIA, both of HGA, Minneapolis; and honorable mention went to the team of Alex Kang and Ji Hun Cho, both of PDI World Group in Minneapolis.

The jurors noted that the winning entry successfully integrated the experience of the lake and the natural landscape into the amphitheatre space. They also commented, "this team chose to site the building in a unique location that demonstrated a minimal disruption to the surrounding environment." They thought the team created a boardwalk approach along to the lake to the performance area that further emphasized the existing beauty of the park. The honorable mention entry was notable for its thorough and thoughtful development of a design solution. The jury said, "This dynamic design portrays a major entertainment destination characterized by exuberant architectural forms and site development."

A total seven submissions were received and judging took place on December 2 at the offices of BWBR. The jury included Brad Krump, AIA, BWBR Architects; Nathan Johnson, AIA, 4RM & ULA, LLP; James Garrett, Assoc. AIA, 4RM & ULA, LLP; Ron Ankeny, AIA and Steve Weeks, AIA, University of Minnesota, School of Architecture.

The winning team was awarded its prize money of \$850 at the AIA Saint Paul Annual Holiday Party December 2010.

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.