



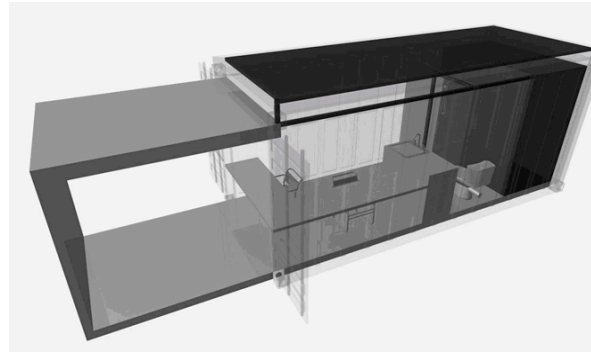
**AIA Minnesota**

A Society of The American Institute of Architects

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Images available upon request



*Young Architect Award winner, John Dwyer, AIA, Shelter Architecture, has been involved with the Clean Hub (at right), where he has worked on the design of a small scale, portable, completely sustainable infrastructure building.*

## **AIA Minnesota Announces 2008 Young Architects Award Recipients**

Minneapolis, Minnesota -- The American Institute of Architects (AIA) Minnesota Awards Committee has selected Nancy Blankford, AIA (HGA), John Dwyer, AIA (Shelter Architecture), Matt Kreilich, AIA (Julie Snow Architects), and Michael Schellin, AIA (Kodet Architectural Group) as recipients of 2008 Young Architects Award.

The award is given to architects who are members of AIA Minnesota, have been licensed for less than 10 years, and have shown exceptional leadership in service to the profession, the community, design, planning, and education. A submission for the Young Architect Award includes letters of recommendation from AIA Minnesota member architects and the candidate's clients, as well as project summaries highlighting the architect's particular contributions, photos and drawings, and documentation of other achievements. This year's jury consisted of 2008 Committee On Design (formerly Awards Committee) Chair Nathan Knutson, AIA, and committee members Tim Carl, AIA, Jay Sandgren, AIA, Raymond Dehn, Assoc. AIA, Tom Sopcic, AIA, Ed Kodet, FAIA, and Heidi Neumueller, Assoc. AIA.

**Nancy Blankford, AIA**, is a graduate of Tulane University and has worked at HGA in Minneapolis for 11 years. She was the 1997 recipient of the AIA Minnesota Ralph Rapson Travel/Study Fellowship and traveled to the Three Gorges Dam region of China. "Nancy has excelled throughout her young career in the classic role of project architect, bringing to it a thoughtful and skilled understanding of the relationship of details to broader design and construction issues," said juror and Committee on Design chair Nathan Knutson, AIA. Nancy has participated in two National AIA Honor Award projects, as well as several AIA Minnesota Honor Award projects. As a Project Architect, her approach to collaborative design is to seek solutions with integrity and clarity while also being inspirational. She has been an active participant of the AIA Minnesota Committee On Design for four years, as well as volunteering her time in the community. Nancy has also taught several undergraduate studios at the University of Minnesota, which she says, "has allowed me to renew my dedication to architecture, as well as a way to be personally involved in the mentoring of young people entering our profession."

**John Dwyer, AIA**, is a graduate of the University of Minnesota and is founder and owner of Shelter Architecture, a Minneapolis-based firm. Although Shelter is a relatively new firm, John and the firm were responsible for designing one of the first LEED Platinum certified homes in the country. John has also been involved with the Clean Hub, where he has worked on the design of a small scale, portable, completely sustainable infrastructure building. In November

of 2005, two months after Hurricane Katrina, John was invited to New Orleans as a representative of Architecture for Humanity and the University of Minnesota. Over the next two years, John made nine trips to New Orleans and did pro bono work for several residents. Since then, John has been focusing on design as a means of leveraging economies and collaborating with other designers to redefine living in the developed world that sequesters carbon, improves personal health, and stabilizes the housing market. "John's outstanding and creative work in extending architecture through volunteerism is outstanding. He truly sets the best example for a young architect who is committed to the future of the profession," said juror Ed Kodet, FAIA.

**Matt Kreilich, AIA**, is also a graduate of the University of Minnesota. He has worked for several notable Minnesota firms, including Station 19 Architects, Leonard Parker Associates, HGA, and currently works for Julie Snow Architects. His work has focused primarily on public and cultural sector projects, including 2006 Honor Award winning projects; the Benedicta Arts Center and the Museum of the North. Over the past three years, Matt has lead design efforts for a new Land Port of Entry in Warroad, Minnesota. The project has been received GSA design excellence recognition and is in line to receive a LEED silver rating. Juror Ed Kodet commented, "Matt demonstrated an exciting body of work in his artistic contribution to architecture. He is a young architect that has taken the art of architecture and set the example for all in the profession." Recently, Matt has been involved in volunteering his time to the Theatre de la Jeune, a Tony Award winning theater, with the design of a new lobby and was published in *Architecture Minnesota* as "Showcase on a Shoestring."

**Michael Schellin, AIA**, is a graduate of North Dakota State University and has worked for Kodet Architectural Group for 9 years. Mike has been extremely instrumental in many AIA Minnesota efforts, including the Committee On Design, Convention Committee and multiple sub-committees, Public Awareness Committee, Convention Programs Committee, and the Emerging Professionals Committee. "Early in his development as an architect, Mike has assumed a significant office leadership and management role coupled with an active participation in the AIA on both the local and national level," said juror and Committee on Design chair, Nathan Knutson, AIA. He was a member of the design team for 2006 AIA Minnesota Honor Award winning project, St. Croix Lutheran High School Chapel and has served as Project Architect for the Minnehaha Academy Renovation and Master Plan, and the Deadwood Recreation Center, in Deadwood, South Dakota. "Mike is confident, good-natured and well-spoken," said James Wald, Director of Finance and Operations at Minnehaha Academy. "[Mike] has a presence that encourages everyone to be a part of the process, leaving all involved to feel that their contribution was valued."

Nancy Blankford, John Dwyer, Matt Kreilich, and Michael Schellin will be recognized at the annual AIA Minnesota Awards Celebration on Friday, December 5, 2008. AIA Minnesota Young Architects Award winners are encouraged to submit their work for the national award, as well. Since the AIA Young Architect Award's inception in 1993, AIA Minnesota architects have dominated the winners at a national level.

The twelve AIA Minnesota architects who have received an AIA National Young Architect Awards include: Vicki L. Hooper, AIA, 1993; Joan M. Soranno, AIA, 1993; William A. Blanski, AIA, 1995; Michael Fischer, AIA, 1996; Robert Rothman, AIA, 1996; Jeffry Kagermeier, AIA, 2001; Mohammed Lawal, AIA, 2002; Paul Neuhaus, AIA, 2003; Janis LaDouceur, AIA, 2004; and James Dayton, AIA, 2005, and Philip Koski, AIA, 2007, and Michael Meehan, 2008.

*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.*