



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

*Project: Pierre Bottineau Library, Minneapolis, MN
Architect: RSP Architects, Paul Whitenack, AIA
Photographer: George Heinrich*



AIA Minnesota Announces 2006 Young Architects Award Recipient

Minneapolis, Minnesota -- The American Institute of Architects (AIA) Minnesota Awards Committee has selected Paul Whitenack, AIA, RSP Architects, Minneapolis, as the recipient of a 2006 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/or education.

The submissions included letters of recommendation from AIA Minnesota member architects and the candidates' clients; project summaries highlighting the architects' particular contributions; photos and drawings; and documentation of other achievements. The jury consisted of Awards Committee Chair E. Tim Carl, AIA; Award Committee Members: Nancy Blankford, AIA, Francis Bulbulian, AIA, Raymond Dehn, Assoc. AIA, Rob Grundstrom, AIA, Nathan Knutson, AIA, Victor Pechaty, AIA, Craig Rafferty, FAIA, Jay Sandgren, Allied AIA, and Tom Sopoci, AIA.

Paul Whitenack, AIA

Paul has been a major contributor to award-winning renovations and major additions to some of Minnesota's best-known cultural and architectural landmarks including the Grain Belt Brewhouse, winner of the 2005 National Historic Preservation Trust Award; the Pierre Bottineau Library and additions to the Minneapolis Institute of Arts and the Children's Theatre Company. From his Master of Architecture and Urban Planning degree from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee to his nearly seven years with Minneapolis firm RSP Architects, he has been guided by a dedication to preservation, sustainability and planning.

The jury could see a passion for preservation early in this architect's career with his purchase of an original waterworks facility in Hartland, Wisconsin, and his three years personally reconstructing the building for office use. They commented, "Paul shows a very believable commitment to restoration and adaptive reuse. Even at the onset of his career, he was mature enough to choose a direction and see it through to completion."

As Paul has advanced over the years, his leadership abilities, intense focus and sensitivity to detail have allowed him to play the unheralded role of project architect so well. "It's a role absolutely critical to the success of a project," noted the jury. One nominator said, "Paul possesses all of the critical skills of an excellent architect, with a vast technical understanding of building systems, materials and elegant details." The jury was equally impressed with his ability to successfully carry

out diverse and balanced roles as a project architect, design collaborator, planner, construction administrator and owner's representative with a passion for sustainability (LEED accredited in 2005), preservation and community.

This year's Young Architects Award winners will be recognized at the annual AIA Minnesota Awards Celebration on Friday, December 1, 2006. 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 ten 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.

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.