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AIA Minnesota Announces 2009 Young Architect Award Recipients



Rosemary Dolata, AIA



Steven Dwyer, AIA



Ali Heshmati, AIA



Nathan Johnson, AIA

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA The American Institute of Architects (AIA) Minnesota Committee on Design has selected Rosemary Dolata, AIA (AEON), Steven Dwyer, AIA (HGA), Ali Heshmati, AIA (Laboratory for Environments, Architecture and Design, Inc.), and Nathan Johnson, AIA (4RM+ULA, LLP) as recipients of 2009 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 2009 Committee On Design Chair Nathan Knutson, AIA, and committee members Nancy Blankfard, AIA, Raymond Dehn, Assoc. AIA, Nina Ebbinghausen, AIA, Meredith Hayes Gordon, Assoc. AIA, Daniel Kodet, Assoc. AIA, Ken Koense, AIA, Philip Koski, AIA, Jeffrey Mandyck, AIA, Heidi Neumueller, Assoc. AIA, Jay Sandgren, Michael Schellin, AIA, and Tom Sopoci, AIA.

Rosemary Dolata, AIA, is a graduate of the University of Minnesota and is currently working at AEON, which is a nonprofit developer, owner and manager of high quality, affordable homes, as a project manager. Rosemary has been the driving force behind AIA Minnesota's Housing Advocacy Committee for over 15 years. "Rosemary has excelled throughout her architectural career, advocating affordable housing in both the community and the profession, bringing attention to the most basic needs of shelter," said juror and Committee on Design member Nina Ebbinghausen, AIA. Rosemary is a former Policy Forum Fellow with the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs and former instructor at the University of Minnesota. She has been actively involved within her community by serving on the Kingfield Neighborhood Association for over seven years, and has assisted in the development of affordable housing within her own neighborhood. As a volunteer design charrette for the AIA Search for Shelter for 18 of the 22-year history of the event, Rosemary has exhibited exceptional leadership and insight connecting volunteer design professionals and students with agencies serving the homeless. Rosemary is currently completing her master's degree in sustainable design from the University of Minnesota, and states that her goal is to "create positive ripples that will continue to inspire change long after I've departed."



Steven Dwyer, AIA, is a graduate of the University of Minnesota and has worked as a senior associate at HGA in Minneapolis since 2000. Steven is an award winning architect and leader specializing in nonprofit work. His work ranges from the prestigious 2006 National AIA Honor Award winning Bigelow Chapel, the award winning Chaffey College Center for the Arts, Sijiquing Corporate Campus Master Plan in Beijing, the Visual and Performing Arts Center in Marianna, Florida among many others. Steven was selected as an Emerging Voice by AIA National Committee on Design in 2007, and was awarded the Interfaith Forum on Religion, Art and Architecture Honor Award along with multiple other design awards. Steven has also served as an adjunct professor in practice at the University of Minnesota, along with a frequent guest critic and lecturer. He is an active committee member on both the award winning AIA Minnesota *Architecture Minnesota* Committee and the Committee on Design. Steven's exceptional ability to integrate a client's vision and resources into thoughtful and innovative design solutions excels beyond expectations. Steven's passion and philosophy as a designer is to improve the human condition to enrich life and promote the architectural profession. "Steven's superior and innovative work in broadening architecture through nonprofit projects is outstanding. He sets the best example for a young architect who is committed to the future of the design profession," said juror and Committee on Design Chair Nathan Knutson, AIA.

Ali Heshmati, AIA, is a graduate of the University of Minnesota and is founder and president of Laboratory for Environments, Architecture and Design, Inc., (LEAD Inc.). Ali has distinguished himself within the architectural profession by receiving local, national and international recognition of his extraordinary work. Ali's projects include the 2009 AIA National Small Project Honor Award winning Dar Luz, GLOW 2008 in the Netherlands, award winning Kvinherad Kulturskulesenter Cultural School, in Husnes, Norway, AIA National Small Project Honor Award winning Tempo, a public art installation in Husnes, Norway, AIA Minnesota Minneapolis Merit Award winning Art of Chiropractic Clinic and Gallery in Minneapolis, and infinitely more. Ali has devoted many hours of his time to the University of Minnesota, serving as an adjunct professor in practice and was voted by the undergraduate students as one of the most influential faculty members at the university. Recognizing Ali for this award "sends an important signal that architects, as creative thinkers, can make contributions at a wide range of scales, with many different kinds of projects internationally," states College of Design Professor and Dean, Thomas Fisher. Ali's firm, LEAD Inc., is a group of architects and educators who engage in the research, conceptualization and realization of environments, architectural projects, as well as design of ordinary objects. Through their work, the firm expects to contribute significant value to the built environment, while reducing cost and ecological footprint. "What separates Ali from many of our peers is his attention to detail and his ability to know when to move beyond a typical architectural solution," says Committee on Design Member, Raymond Dehn, Assoc. AIA.

Nathan Johnson, AIA, is a graduate of Cornell University in Ithaca, New York and has been co-partner of 4RM+ULA architecture since 2007. Nathan was elected president of the Assembly of Architects (AoA) in 2006, a group of professionals of color interested in positively impacting urban communities through mentoring, advocacy and community service through the promotion of architecture. Nathan has participated in multiple design charettes hosted by the AoA and helped organize a 10-week course for 4th grade students at Benjamin E Mays School in St. Paul, assisted in establishing a student chapter of AoA at the University of Minnesota, and volunteered with St. Thomas University students in a project management class. Beyond his work with AoA, Nathan also serves as an adjunct professor in practice at the Minneapolis Community and Technical College (MCTC) and recently took over the majority of the 4th semester classes. Nathan's dedication to



community service and strong work ethic contribute to the success of the profession and the mentorship of his students. "He believes that the individual act of making a building must be both transformative and enduring, and take part in a collective effort to support all levels of life, work and creativity," states former colleague and principal of BKV Group, William Baxley. Juror and Committee on Design Chair Nathan Knutson says, "Nathan's strong involvement to the community and teaching is consistent throughout his architectural career, and has shown what a true citizen architect is capable of accomplishing."

Rosemary Dolata, Steven Dwyer, Ali Heshmati, and Nathan Johnson will be recognized at the annual AIA Minnesota Awards Celebration on Friday, December 4, 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 fourteen 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, Michael Meehan, 2008, Matthew Kreillich, AIA, 2009, and Michael Schellin, AIA, 2009.

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.