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For Immediate Release

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AIA Minnesota Recognizes 2003 Special Award Recipients

Minneapolis, Minnesota – The American Institute of Architects Minnesota (AIA MN) Awards Committee selected three Special Award recipients for 2003: Andersen Corporation; The Minnesota Department of Building Codes; and Jim Erchul, Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Housing Services.

The Special awards, reviewed and selected by the AIA Minnesota Awards Committee members, recognize individuals and organizations going beyond what others in their profession are doing to successfully collaborate with architects and/or make a significant contribution to the built environment. Architecture is a collaborative effort and relies on the talents and commitment of many individuals working together to achieve a common goal.

Awards Committee Chair, Raymond A. Dehn, Associate AIA, commented, “This year’s Special Award winners are individuals and teams that have went above and beyond their job descriptions. We are awarding them for their collaboration with architects to interpret laws governing the architectural profession, and their vision and action to create affordable housing benefitting numerous communities.”

Andersen Corporation celebrates 100 years in 2003. During this year, they are building 100 Habitat for Humanity homes. This impressive example of their commitment to the community is led by past CEO Donald Garofalo and current CEO, Jim Humphrey. These leaders have inspired their employees through their environmental stewardship programs and development of the company’s window safety program that has become the industry model. Andersen has been a partner to the architectural profession not only through quality craftsmanship, but through their community outreach that betters the built environment. Architect David Loehr, AIA, Walsh-Bishop noted, “For the last 100 years, our community has benefited greatly from their existence. We look forward to fostering this professional partnership for another 100 years.”

The Minnesota Department of Building Codes lead by Tom Joachim have always made themselves available to help architects in the interpretation of building codes. Understanding these complex codes are imperative to an architect’s design. This team’s willingness to work with architects on the AIA Minnesota Building Codes Committee to explain the issues, interpret the codes, and discuss the affects on design phases of current and future architectural projects,

was particularly crucial this year given the new International Building Code and the Minnesota State amendments to this code. They allowed architects to have a voice in the laws governing architectural practice. Marlene Evenson, AIA, an architect with DLR Group and AIA Minnesota Building Codes Committee Chair praised them, “The tremendous amount of teamwork, give-and-take by all entities, and the awareness of issues architects face by Tom and his staff enabled a dialogue that brought these issues to the forefront in interpreting the codes.”

Jim Erchul, Executive Director of the Dayton’s Bluff Neighborhood Housing Services (DBNHS) since 1991, has 25 years of work experience in construction and affordable housing project and program development and management. Under Jim’s leadership, DBNHS has been directly responsible for the rehabilitation, new construction and assisted purchase of 1,352 housing units (ownership and rental), primarily in the city of St. Paul’s Dayton’s Bluff and Payne/Phalen neighborhoods through its investment of nearly \$52 million. LHB’s Richard Carter, AIA, explains their 10-year partnership with Jim, “He is the ideal client. He clearly understands and appreciates the role that architecture brings to the many housing projects he has worked on. The longevity of our relationship has resulted in a proven track record to deliver affordable housing to the community.”

The Special Award categories are Contractor, Educator, Consulting Architect, Client, Interior Design, Consulting Engineer, Landscape Architect, Product Representative and Open including: community leadership, community organizations, individuals, projects by out-of-state architects, historic preservation efforts, architectural photography, and craftsmanship.

The award recipients were presented with their awards on Friday, December 5th at the AIA Minnesota Awards Celebration at the University Club downtown St. Paul.

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 website at www.aia-mn.org and pick up a copy of Architecture Minnesota, the award-winning architectural magazine of the Midwest.

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