



AIA Minnesota

A Society of The American Institute of Architects

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Contact: Jennifer Gilhoi
Phone: 612-338-6763, Email: gilhoi@aia-mn.org

AIA Minnesota Announces The Weidt Group as Recipients of the 2003 Firm Award

Minneapolis, Minnesota - The American Institute of Architects Minnesota will give its 2003 Firm Award to The Weidt Group, Minnetonka. The award is presented to firms that have contributed to the advancement of the profession in the areas of technology, service and design. Since 1977, The Weidt Group has led the local, national and international architectural profession in one of architecture's most significant changes in the last 26 years: the formal incorporation of sustainability into the design process.

Through leading-edge sustainable-design research and consultation, software development and energy analysis, the firm provides design assistance to architects, engineers, private corporations and public utilities in order to make buildings more environmentally appropriate. In collaboration with more than 150 architecture and engineering firms throughout the United States, for example, The Weidt Group has helped reduce air pollution by over 209 thousand tons each year while saving building owners and operators more than 15 million dollars annually.

Firm President John Weidt, AIA, commented, "I can think of nothing more gratifying than to be recognized as a group for the work we have done. We know that for us to receive this honor must mean that the results of our associations with extraordinary clients and colleagues have been well received over time. Seeing years of research done in collaboration with government, corporate, utility and university clients implemented in buildings designed and built within our community is incredibly rewarding. Though we now work nationally, there is no place better to be appreciated than at home. Our purpose for over 26 years has been to help make buildings better environmental citizens. Thanks to all of those we work with, our purpose is being fulfilled."

In recognition of its work, the firm has received numerous other honors, which include: two awards from the AIA Committee on the Environment's Top 10 for Earth Day 2002 for the Tofte Cabin with Sarah Nettleton Architects and the Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities with RDG/Bussard Dikis Architects; an AIA Honor Award in 2002 for Meredith Publishing Company with HLKB Architects; an Illumination Design Award in 2002 for the UW-Whitewater Field House with Hammel, Green and Abrahamson; and the Council of Facility Planners International's Project of Distinction 2002 for Jordan Park Schools with Kodet Architectural Group.

David Eijadi, AIA, Vice President at the Weidt Group, noted several factors that he believes set the firm apart from previous recipients of the Firm Award. "To say that we were surprised would be an understatement. I think that we are one of the smallest firms ever to receive this recognition and we have one of the highest percentages of in-house engineers of firms ever to receive this honor. Most significantly, it seems that no other AIA Minnesota member firm that has received this honor has had the opportunity to work with so many other AIA member firms. To work closely with so many in the community and then be given this appreciation is very humbling. We can only properly receive this in the spirit of gratitude toward our clients and collaborators."

The Weidt Group is also a founding member of Building Energy Performance Standards (BEPS), the ASHRAE 90.1 Committee, the NFRC, and members of the International Program for Measurement and Verification Protocols (IPMVP) for new construction; developed the first parametrically driven CAD symbol library in the industry for Andersen Windows; participated in the federal Department of Energy's Whole Building Design Round Table; pioneered building- and product-software modeling technologies for the architectural/engineering industry; has more than five LEED-certified consultants on staff; and was a principle contributor to the new Minnesota Sustainable Building Guide.

The Weidt Group will be officially presented with the 2003 Firm Award at the AIA Minnesota Awards Celebration at the University Club downtown St. Paul on December, 5, 2003.

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.

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