



May 16, 2013
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT

Mary Larkin, AIA Minnesota, (612) 338-6763 x 218
Communications Director, larkin@aia-mn.org
Tim Hanrahan, McKnight Foundation
Communications Director, thanrahan@mcknight.org



Renaissance Box

Photo credit: George Heinrich

AIA Minnesota/McKnight Foundation Announce that LHB, Inc. and Aeon Receive the 2013 Affordable Housing Design Award for the Renaissance Box

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA – At a reception held on Wednesday, May 15, AIA Minnesota and the McKnight Foundation announced that **the architectural firm, LHB, Inc., and their community partner, Aeon, received the 2013 Affordable Housing Design Award for the Renaissance Box project located in Saint Paul.**

Recognized at the reception was **Michael Fischer, AIA**, principal, Minneapolis office, LHB, Inc., for the LHB, Inc. team and **Alan Arthur, president**, Aeon, for the Aeon team. The Renaissance Box project was selected from 10 regional affordable housing design award submissions. The Renaissance Box project team included:

Kim Bretheim, AIA, Project Principle/Lead Designer, LHB, Inc.
Maureen Colburn, AIA, Project Architect, LHB, Inc.
Andrew Madson, AIA, Project Architect, LHB, Inc.
Ben Trousdale, AIA, Project Architect, LHB, Inc.
Roger Purdy, Project Construction Administrator, LHB, Inc.
Gina Ciganik, Vice President of Housing Development, Aeon
Pam Bookhout, Project Manager, Aeon
Frerichs Construction Company – General Contractor

Ann Voda, AIA, president of AIA Minnesota said, “We are pleased to have this opportunity to partner with The McKnight Foundation on this outstanding award, now in its second year, to recognize innovative, high-quality designs for affordable housing. AIA Minnesota architects seek meaningful ways to recognize those who are creating more affordable housing design. This award is one way we can help support our community.”

“As our region faces new challenges in changing economies, limited resources, and shifting market demands, forward-looking architectural design is more important than ever,” said **Kate Wolford**, The McKnight Foundation’s president. “In a broad sense, all McKnight’s work for sustainable regional development depends on inventive, high-quality design that strengthens systems, products, and our built environment. The 2013 AIA/McKnight Foundation Affordable Housing Design Award is one notable expression of our commitment to innovation that serves community.”



All of the award submissions were reviewed, and the recipient project selected, by an esteemed panel of jurors, including: **David Perkes, AIA**, founding director, Gulf Coast Community Design Studio & professor at Mississippi State University, Biloxi, Mississippi; **Adrianne Steichen, AIA**, senior associate, Pyatok Architects, Oakland; and **Elizabeth Miller**, executive director, Community Design Collaborative, Philadelphia.

Jurors remarked, *"This building didn't just happen to be in this location—it is an active participant within its community." They felt it is a great story to tell because of the way that the building engages with its surrounding community.*

Jurors were instructed to evaluate award submissions using the following criteria:

- **Responsiveness.** How creatively and successfully has the project responded to the needs of the client and the population served? How responsive is the project to demographic shifts and regional housing needs for affordable housing?
- **Community connection.** Was the project developed through a strong, collaborative project team? Did it show participation from the larger public, including neighbors, future users of the building, or citizens at large?
- **Long-term asset.** Did the project provide a long-term asset to the client, occupants, and the community? How did design contribute to the project's long-term financial and social viability? Did design choices support community interaction and enhance community networks?
- **Excellent design quality.** Did the project demonstrate exceptional design quality - responsive to physical and social contexts as well as to any constraints imposed by funding and regulatory agencies?

The award recipients will be featured throughout the following year. The recipients will be honored and receive their awards at the December 6, annual AIA Minnesota Awards Celebration. The Renaissance Box will be included in an AIA Minnesota's Housing Advocacy Committee event. Four-color, project boards will be displayed at the AIA Minnesota's 2013 Convention in November. A feature article with photographs will be written, to include award juror responses, for an issue of AIA Minnesota's magazine *Architecture Minnesota*.

To learn more about the award program, please visit aia-mn.org.

To get a feel for the award program, you may watch a brief video on the 2012 Affordable Housing Design Award recipient - Higher Ground Homeless Shelter & Residence at <http://vimeo.com/61378928>

*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, visit www.facebook.com/aia-minnesota, and pick up a copy of *Architecture Minnesota*, the award-winning architectural magazine of the Midwest.*

The McKnight Foundation seeks to improve the quality of life for present and future generations through grantmaking, collaboration, and encouragement of strategic policy reform. Founded in 1953 and independently endowed by William and Maude McKnight, the Minnesota-based family Foundation had assets of approximately \$1.9 billion and granted about \$91 million in 2011. Of the total, about 10 percent went to support affordable housing strategies and systems that increase family stability and link families to opportunities through transportation-oriented development, locational and energy efficiency, expanded diversity of choice, and increased access to education and employment. Learn more at mcknight.org.