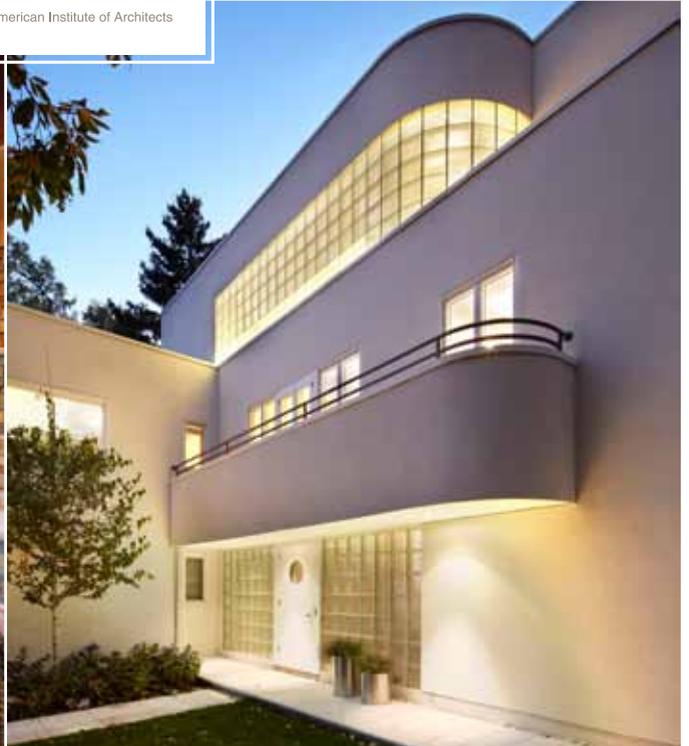
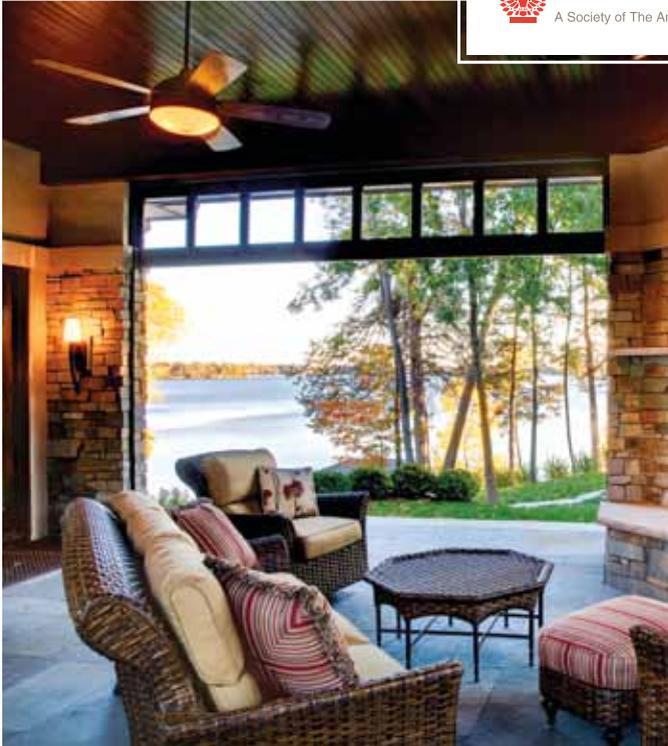
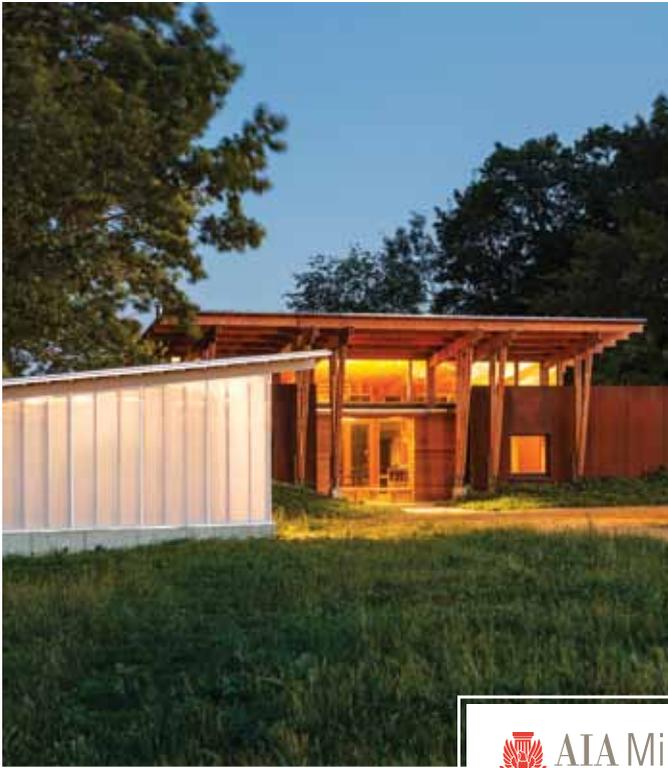


TOP LEFT: THE EDGE HOUSE/SALA ARCHITECTS PHOTO BY TROY THIES; TOP RIGHT PHOTO DESIGN BY TEA2 ARCHITECTS;  
BOTTOM LEFT PHOTO DESIGN BY SMUCKLER ARCHITECTURE; BOTTOM RIGHT PHOTO DESIGN BY PETERSEN/KELLER ARCHITECTURE



# THE GUIDE TO GOOD DESIGN 2013

## About AIA MN

The American Institute of Architects Minnesota is the professional association for architects in Minnesota. With over 2,200 members statewide, it is a state component of the national AIA. AIA helps to build awareness of architecture, and serves as the voice of the architectural profession and the resource for its members in service to society. AIA Minnesota member architects are licensed by the state of Minnesota and adhere to the AIA Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct, assuring clients, the public, and colleagues of their dedication to the highest standards of professional practice.



## WHO IS AN ARCHITECT?

**A**rchitects meet rigorous educational requirements, pass a licensing exam, complete continuing education, and keep their license current. Architects are the only people—who by training and through education—are licensed by the state to prepare plans for the construction of most buildings. They are trained to solve complicated problems addressing the needs of the owner, the resources available, the

restrictions of legal regulations, the selection of appropriate materials, and the design of energy-efficient structures. As licensed professionals, they must protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public, coordinating the multiple parts and systems in buildings—making them safe for their inhabitants.

Trained in design, the professional practice of architecture encompasses historic, cultural, construction, material and aesthetic considerations.



TOP PHOTO DESIGN BY SWAN ARCHITECTURE; BOTTOM PHOTO BY BILL OLEXY, MODERN HOUSE PRODUCTIONS, DESIGN BY QUIGLEY ARCHITECTS



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*An example of what an AIA architect can do for you!*



## EDGE HOUSE

*David O'Brien Wagner, AIA, & Chris Meyer, AIA, SALA Architects*

Conceived as a refuge for urban life, the rural setting is what drew the owners to Pepin, Wis. as the perfect spot to build their weekend retreat. The project rests on a seam between two influences: agricultural land on one side; the Mississippi River corridor on the other. The circumstance is of an edge condition—a negotiated pull between two powerful sites. The four-acre parcel, while picturesque on its own, is part of a subdivision of properties that once made up a larger single farmstead extending up close to the river bluff. Before the current owners bought the land, a former developer had cut a 100-foot gash in the tree canopy to open views to the river. This pre-existing condition formed the basis of response to the site: to fill the gap with an elongated bar. The highly inventive and thoughtfully crafted architecture includes a semi-solid wall used to fill the negative space between the edge of the trees, the ground plane below, and the canopy above.



The property consists of a machine shed and tool shed—situated to offer privacy from the road—and living shed opening southward to take advantage of views and solar access. A single-sloped roof makes the most of direct sunlight, while operable windows provide cross ventilation. To the north, a tall, thick steel wall shelters living spaces from harsh weather. A wood and glass enclosure rises up as a glowing welcome to visitors. For more information about SALA Architects, visit [www.salaarc.com](http://www.salaarc.com) or call 612-379-3037.



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## THE BENEFITS OF WORKING WITH AN AIA PROFESSIONAL

**A**rchitects work with clients to understand their needs, desires, and resources, to use them wisely, and develop a plan that adds value to their investment.

An architect can work with you to:

- Evaluate a new home site or an existing house
- Measure and prepare plans of an existing house
- Define the project, the functions, area requirements and relationships between the spaces
- Coordinate site design and building systems such as structural, mechanical and electrical
- Evaluate building materials and energy efficient assemblies

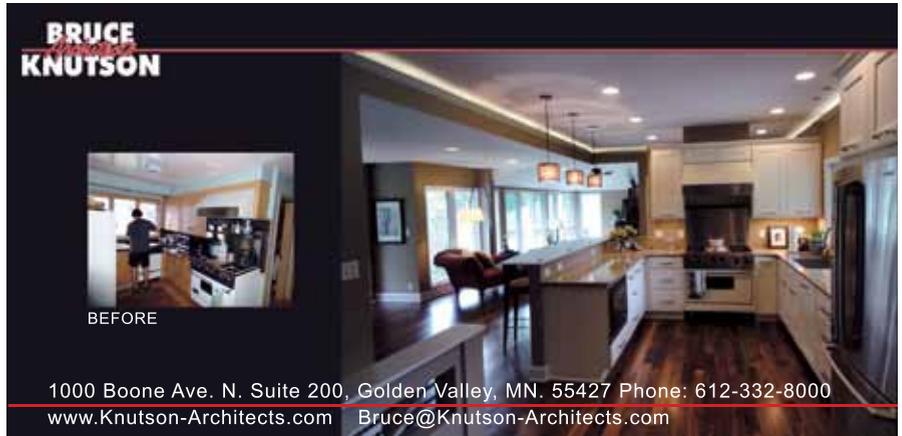
### • Assist with zoning requirements and building permit approvals

Throughout the design process, your architect works with you in a step-by-step process starting with the larger design issues and moving toward detailed construction drawings and specifications. An architect will guide you through planning, design, and construction to arrive at a solution that reflects your needs and desires, maintains the integrity of the design, acknowledges your budget, and ensures that you receive the best value for your investment.



## ARCHITECTS ARE YOUR ADVOCATES

An AIA architect's education, training, experience, and vision serves to not only maximize your investment, but also provides a more creative, functional, pleasing and lasting environment. An AIA architect will act as your agent, representing your best interests, protecting the integrity of your project throughout the entire design and build process. An AIA architect will work with you, tailoring the design to suit your personality, lifestyle, needs, and budget. They are trained to see the big picture, find a balance between function, aesthetics, economics and numerous city, state, and environmental codes and regulations.

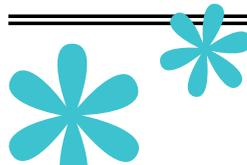


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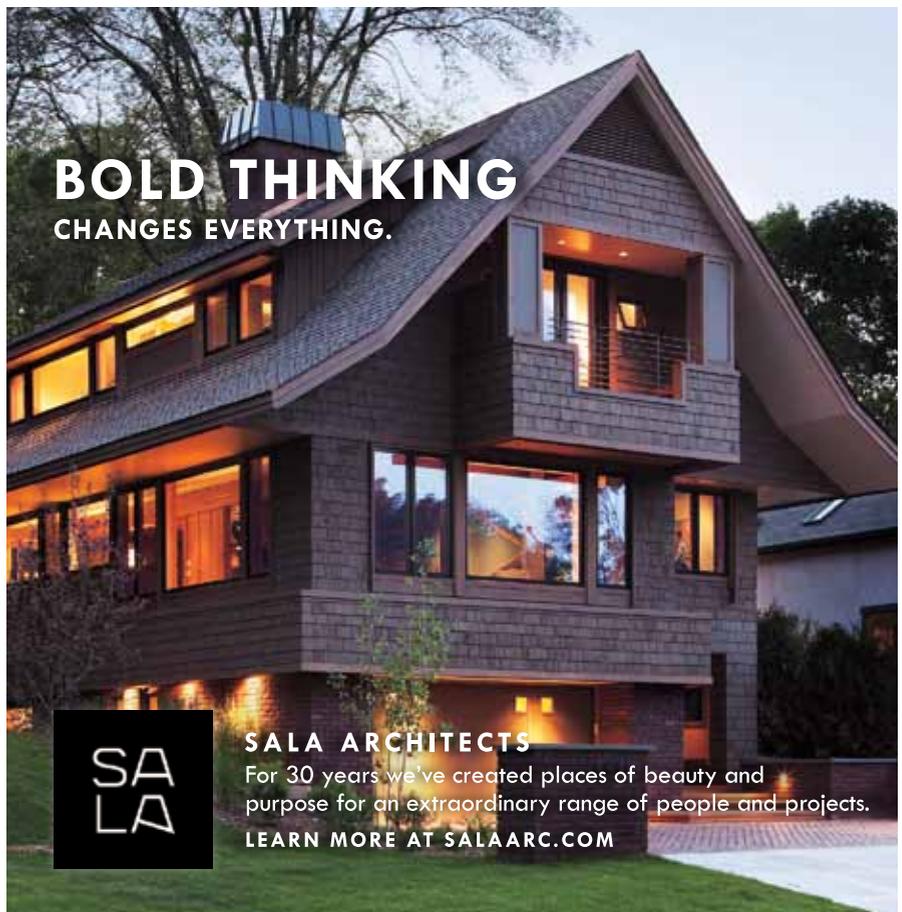
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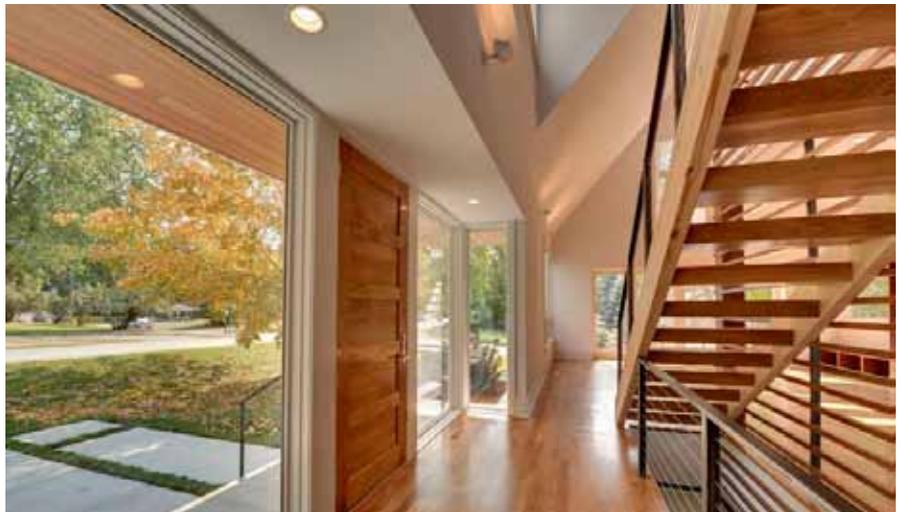
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## WORKING WITH AN ARCHITECT: WHAT TO EXPECT

### STEP 1: Site and Programming

Programming is the process of discovery. The initial conversation and work focuses on identifying the homeowner's vision, goals, and priorities. Depending on the homeowners' needs and the scale of the project, architects are also trained to research codes, zoning, and building requirements, make recommendations on soil testing, and coordinate surveys. Site planning can be a significant consideration or focus on a very specific aspect including light, views, drainage, landscaping, privacy, and connections. An open discussion on budget expectations is critical to a successful project.

### STEP 2: Schematic Design

Schematic design is focused on developing broad ideas, and defining the direction and the scope of work to be included. This includes identifying challenges and opportunities, as well as developing potential options. Typically this will include site and/or floor plans, exterior views, and may include modeling or other work that explores the overall design of the project.

### STEP 3: Design Development

Refinement, exploration, and research occurs during this phase—including elements such as window selection, defining details and finishes, researching different interior and exterior materials, plumbing selections, and other necessary systems. The architectural drawings will typically include refined floor plans, exterior and interior elevations, and sections and preliminary details.



#### STEP 4: Preparation of the Construction Documents (CDs)

Construction documents are the graphic (drawings) and written (specifications) directions of how things are to be built. This defines the quality and level of craftsmanship, coordination of structural, mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems and relationship to the site. Work focuses on refined, detailed drawings including floor plans, elevations, building and wall sections, and details required for permit, pricing, and construction.

#### STEP 5: Bid Process and Selecting a Contractor

Architects can help a client find qualified contractors, including any contractors that a client would like to have bid on their project. This may occur during an earlier step, if a contractor is selected early on, or after the construction documents are completed. The architect can help clients evaluate bids, clarify questions, define schedules and coordinate contracts.

#### STEP 6: Construction Phase – Contract Administration

In this phase the architect makes site visits as defined in the contract and works with the contractor to coordinate construction through completion of the project. This includes: coordinating structural and other construction questions, and review of window, cabinetry, plumbing and appliance selections. The architect reviews pay requests, issues change orders, and acts as the owner's agent to help assure a successful project.

As a collaborative process, you and your architect can determine what services outlined above are appropriate for your budget and project.

## CONTACT AIA MINNESOTA

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