



American Institute of Architects Elevates Four Minnesota Architects to the College of Fellows

*AIA Fellowship Recognizes Significant Contributions to
Profession of Architecture and Society*

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For immediate release:

MINNEAPOLIS – February 10, 2017 – The 2017 Jury of Fellows from the American Institute of Architects (AIA) elevated 178 AIA members to its prestigious College of Fellows, an honor awarded to members who have made significant contributions to the profession. The Fellowship program was developed to elevate those architects who have made a significant contribution to architecture and society and who have achieved a standard of excellence in the profession. Election to fellowship not only recognizes the achievements of architects as individuals, but also their significant contribution to architecture and society on a national level.



2017 AIA Minnesota Architects Elevated: *(pictured above left to right)*

William Blanski, FAIA, design principal, HGA Architects and Engineers

Through his passionate leadership and unique perspective, Bill Blanski has advanced excellence in architecture across the country by providing beautiful and functional solutions for the complex and diverse communities he serves.

Renée Cheng, FAIA, professor and associate dean of research, University of Minnesota School of Architecture

Renée Cheng connects profession and academy, analyzing and promoting innovative practices, new forms of representation and alternative project delivery

methods to facilitate critical discourse in the profession and advance innovation in education.

Timothy Dufault, FAIA, president and CEO, Cuningham Group

Through his visionary leadership, Tim Dufault has advanced the work of talented architects around the country by leading the dialogue on the design of educational environments and the impact they have on learning.

Peter G. Smith, FAIA, president and CEO, BWBR

Pete Smith is passionate about developing leaders within the profession and in sharing creative strategies for sustainable business leadership, client service, and design. He proves that business success and distinguished architecture are simultaneously possible.

Out of a total AIA membership of over 90,000, approximately 3 percent are distinguished with the honor of fellowship and honorary fellowship. The elevation to fellowship is conferred on architects with at least 10 years of membership in the AIA in one or more of the following nomination categories:

1. Promoted the aesthetic, scientific, and practical efficiency of the profession
2. Advanced the science and art of planning and building by advancing the standards of architectural education, training or practice
3. Coordinated the building industry and the profession of architecture through leadership in the AIA and other related professional organizations
4. Advanced the living standards of people through an improved environment
5. Made the profession of ever-increasing service to society

Included in the list below are the newly elevated members, their component affiliation and category for which they were elevated.

The 2017 Fellows will be honored at an investiture ceremony at the AIA Conference on Architecture in Orlando, Florida.

About The American Institute of Architects

Founded in 1857, the American Institute of Architects consistently works to create more valuable, healthy, secure, and sustainable buildings, neighborhoods, and communities. Through nearly 300 state and local chapters, the AIA advocates for public policies that promote economic vitality and public wellbeing. Members adhere to a code of ethics and conduct to ensure the highest professional standards. The AIA provides members with tools and resources to assist them in their careers and business as well as engaging civic and government leaders and the public to find solutions to pressing issues facing our communities, institutions, nation and world. Visit www.aia.org.