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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



Clare Midtown

Photo: Brandon Stengel

**AIA Minnesota & The McKnight Foundation Announce that
Cermak Rhoades Architects and Clare Housing, Inc. receive the
2014 Affordable Housing Design Award for Clare Midtown**

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA - At a reception held on Thursday, May 1, AIA Minnesota and The McKnight Foundation announced that **the architectural firm, Cermak Rhoades Architects and their community partner, Clare Housing, Inc., received the 2014 Affordable Housing Design Award for the Clare Midtown project located in Minneapolis.**

Recognized for the award was **Todd Rhoades, AIA**, principal, Cermak Rhoades Architects, and **Chuck Peterson**, Executive Director, Clare Housing, Inc., and their project teams. The Clare Midtown project was selected from 13 affordable housing design award submissions. This is the second time that Cermak Rhoades Architects has received this award recognition, receiving the 2012 Affordable Housing Design Award for their design of Catholic Charities' Higher Ground - Homeless Shelter & Permanent Housing Project located in Minneapolis.

Tom Hysell, 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 third 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."*

"Every exceptional home stands on a foundation of exceptional design," said **Kate Wolford**, president of The McKnight Foundation. *"We're delighted to honor the creative minds behind some of Minnesota's most innovative affordable housing projects. This annual award underscores our conviction that high-quality design is crucial in building communities that are functional, beautiful, and livable for all."*



The project team included: Todd Rhoades, AIA, Michelle Baltus Pribyl, AIA, Matt Finn, Assoc. AIA, Emily Timm, Assoc. AIA, all of Cermak Rhoades Architects; Frerichs Construction; Spencer Jones Landscape Architect; Pierce Pini; Mattson Macdonald Young; and Emanuelson-Podas, Inc.

All of the award submissions were reviewed, and the recipient project selected, by an esteemed panel of jurors, including: **Jamie Blosser, AIA**, Director, Atkin Olshin Schade Architects, Santa Fe; **Marvin Meltzer, AIA**, Principle, Montroy Andersen DeMarco, New York; and **Roger Tucker, AIA**, Executive Director, environmentalWORKS, Seattle.

Jurors remarked, "...the designers took a difficult site and made it a community asset. Money was put where it most mattered." They felt the project fit well into its context and into the surrounding community. They also remarked that, "This project was respectful...it is difficult to satisfy program requirements while still creating a comfortable home."

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?

Award recipients will be featured throughout the following year and receive their award at the December 5, annual 2014 AIA Minnesota Awards Celebration. The Clare Midtown project will be included in an AIA Minnesota's Housing Advocacy Committee 2015 Search for Shelter event. Project boards will be displayed at the AIA Minnesota's 2014 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.

See the video on the 2013 Affordable Housing Design Award recipient – Renaissance Box at <http://vimeo.com/81410111> or video on the 2012 recipient - Higher Ground – Homeless Shelter & Permanent Housing Project 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.