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AIA Minnesota Announces 2014 25 Year Award Recipient Christ Church Lake Forest, Illinois



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MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA AIA Minnesota is proud to announce that **Christ Church Lake Forest, Illinois**, designed by HGA Architects and Engineers (HGA), is the recipient of the **2014 AIA Minnesota 25 Year Award**. Project team members from HGA include: Ted Butler, FAIA, principal, and design team: John Justus, AIA, Tom Johnson, Bob Rothman, AIA, and John Olfelt, AIA.

Established by the American Institute of Architects Minnesota in 1981, the prestigious 25 Year Award annually recognizes one exemplary architectural project that has withstood the test of time. Recipients must be completed building projects, either individual buildings or groups of buildings, completed at least 25 but not more than 50 years ago, designed by firms with architects registered and practicing professionally in Minnesota.

Founded in 1980, Christ Church Lake Forest grew from 17 to 100 members when it began planning a new 1,000-seat Meetinghouse on a 10-acre site north of Chicago in 1985. Originally gathering in rented spaces and congregation's homes, the church sought a new home reflecting its Congregational 18th-century New England heritage. The master plan creates a formal campus of three wood-clad parish houses surrounding a Meetinghouse with soaring bell tower. Resembling a New England village with gabled roofs, dormers and white-painted clapboard siding surrounded by lawns, berms and trees along an entry drive, the campus serves as a gateway to the North Shore suburb and its legendary estates. The parish houses face a courtyard connected by walkways leading to the Meetinghouse. Parking is integrated into the landscape within two lots north and south of the buildings to reinforce the bucolic setting and visual connection to the community. The first phase included the Meetinghouse and one parish house. With growth to 1,600 weekend attendees, the church added two more parish houses, finished the Meetinghouse balcony seating, and added risers. Sunday ministry has evolved from a traditional Congregational preaching and hymnal singing to a more contemporary worship style and a blend of traditional and contemporary music. As such, the Meetinghouse's acoustics and liturgical setting have been modified to accommodate greater acoustical variation with updated sound and video presentation systems. Christ Church Lake Forest is an important landmark because of its scale, flexible planning, and contemporary interpretation of a traditional American building form, providing a gateway into Lake Forest from the Interstate highway. Planned for incremental growth, the campus met the church's request for a "striking simplicity of the design growing out of their functional utilitarianism."



The AIA Minnesota 25 Year Award jury was comprised of Twin Cities architectural experts, including: Ted Davis, FAIA, RSP Architects; Julia Robinson, FAIA, School of Architecture - College of Design, University of Minnesota; and Meredith Hayes Gordon, AIA, Perkins+Will.

Some of the jury comments were:

It gives... *“A sense of a village and a variety of space. Should a carriage be pulling up to the building or a car?”*

“It’s gotten better over time.”

“The building is even more stunning today than 25 years ago.”

Project principal consultants include: R. Lawrence Kirkegaard and Donald Manhard & Associates.

More information regarding AIA Minnesota’s 25 Year Award may be found at [http://www.aia-mn.org/get-involved/aia-minnesota-awards/25 Year-award/](http://www.aia-mn.org/get-involved/aia-minnesota-awards/25-Year-award/)

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