

AIA St. Paul Chapter Announces Design Competition Results

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA –AIA St. Paul, a chapter of AIA Minnesota, is pleased to announce that **Michael Hara, Assoc. AIA, of HGA, was awarded first place and \$1,500 for the 2015 St. Paul Prize design competition.**



This year's design challenge was to create a 21st Century Recreation Center on an existing site in the Lowertown District of Downtown St. Paul. Lowertown is a rejuvenated warehouse district that over the past 30 years has transformed from a neglected industrial sector into a vibrant downtown neighborhood. It has attracted new development, nightlife, cultural offerings, workplaces, and a new mix of residents, artists and entrepreneurs of different generations and backgrounds, to the east side of downtown Saint Paul.

This new recreation center is intended to provide a new indoor place for those who work, live, and visit the neighborhood to exercise, socialize, and enjoy life. It includes a climbing wall, exercise spaces, swimming facilities, and a running track. It also features gathering spaces, and a public-use art workshop and exhibition area.

The design competition is open to emerging architectural professionals that have graduated with an accredited professional architecture degree in the last seven years. First place and \$1,500 was awarded to **Michael Hara, Assoc. AIA, of HGA**. Honorable Mentions were awarded to: **Nate Steuerwald, AIA, of VJAA** and **Ryan Fugleberg of Pope Architects**.

The jury met in October to review the competition entries. Jurors included: Lucy Thompson, Principal City Planner, City of St. Paul; Pablo Villamil Assoc. AIA, and David McKay, 2014 St. Paul Prize winners; Phil Briggs AIA, AIA St. Paul Board member, and Duane Kell, FAIA.

The winning St. Paul Prize design submittals will be on display at the 2015 AIA Minnesota Convention, November 10-15, at the Minneapolis Convention Center. The winners will be presented their awards at the AIA St. Paul Holiday Party on Friday, December 11, at 413 on Wacouta Event Center in St. Paul. All submissions will be on display in January 2016 at AIA Minnesota, 275 Market Street, Suite 54, Minneapolis. For more information on the projects and to view images, visit www.aia-mn.org.

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 <http://www.aia-mn.org>. Pick up a copy of Architecture Minnesota, the award-winning architectural.