



Matrix is the official newsletter of
The American Institute of Architects Minnesota

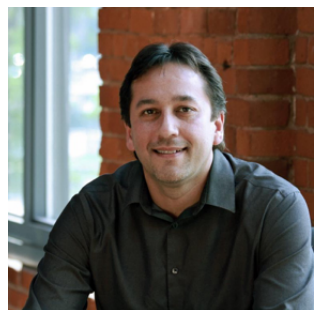
Matrix

AIA MINNESOTA MATRIX NEWSLETTER

December 2023

A Connected Profession is a Stronger Profession

by Sam Olbekson, AIA, NOMA, AIA Minnesota President



We come together as a community of professionals every fall to share experiences, to be inspired, to learn, and to connect with each other personally and professionally. This year's AIA Minnesota Conference on architecture wrapped up a few weeks ago in a new venue that provided a change of scenery while offering the same high-quality content and increased opportunities for meaningful interactions. Attendees and vendors overwhelmingly provided feedback that the new location was a great success from many perspectives. We welcome your input and stories from the event as well.

I would like to thank AIA MN staff for their tremendous effort in planning, organizing, and facilitating such a successful event. Transitioning to a new venue was a thoughtful effort in identifying potential options and then choosing a space that would be a great fit for an impactful conference experience. It was a yearlong collective effort that included leadership from staff, volunteers, and most importantly the participation and attendance of membership at the event.

Conference sessions included the impact of artificial intelligence on our profession, leadership in sustainability and regenerative design, the importance of ethics in practice, the importance of prioritizing accessibility in our built environment, and many other relevant and thought-provoking topics. We celebrated not only beauty and quality in design, but also how our efforts have a direct and powerful impact on the quality of life in our communities.

I personally enjoyed my own "aha" moments when I learned something new and surprising or heard a different and unique perspective that challenged my own way of thinking. I was reminded how actively seeking out new perspectives and

knowledge fuels my own sense of curiosity and helps me to be a more humble and thoughtful designer. The value of attending the conference is not about credits earned, but about embracing a responsibility we have as shapers of the environment to learn, understand different perspectives, and open ourselves to new possibilities as we serve the changing needs and identities of our communities.

Sharing our collective knowledge and actively discussing the important issues our communities face presents a reminder that our profession has a responsibility to be a continued leader in community-building, equity, social, and environmental justice efforts. Our design community will continually be presented with new and different challenges. When we embrace and honor different perspectives, different ways of learning, different paths to design leadership, and different ways of practicing, our profession will remain relevant and continue to lead in meaningful ways. I am thankful for the hard work, innovative thinking, and variety of perspectives shared by session presenters and speakers at the conference.

How do we extend the spirit and value of this important gathering and create a sustained way to connect and share ideas as a profession as we look forward to next year's Conference on Architecture? I extend a sincere invitation for you to be involved, to share your voice, and to offer your unique perspectives through continued participation in AIA Minnesota throughout the year. We are a stronger profession when we stay connected and I extend a sincere welcome to all to participate in events, committees, community discussions, and the many other opportunities our organization offers.

I have been honored to serve as President of AIA Minnesota this year and am thankful for the support and effort that staff, board of directors, our local chapters, and membership has provided. I am proud to be part of such a thoughtful and impactful design community.

Chi Miigwech!

CALL TO ACTION

Leadership Forum 2024 Applications Due December 11

- Candidates **must be** an AIA Minnesota or MSP NOMA member
- License is **not** required
- Minimum of 10 years' industry experience **is** required

Nine sessions will begin in January and continue through July. All but two will be full day sessions. Areas of focus on content include: leadership styles and values; self-awareness; intercultural development; communication; motivation and engagement; leadership case studies; future trends and advocacy; and application and implementation.

The application is ready. Are you ready to apply? Visit the [website](#) to access the online application. **Applications are due December 11, 2023.**

Questions? Contact [Deanna Christiansen](#).

Time to Renew? Tell Us About License Renewal Communications

AIA Minnesota is seeking information about the ways you receive communication about your Minnesota architect license renewal. Please complete this six-question [survey](#) by December 15 to help us serve you better!

Architecture In the Schools Committee Seeks Information

The Architecture in the Schools Committee seeks to engage and inspire the K-12 community through inclusive and collaborative educational programs that make architecture accessible, understandable and highly valued throughout the state. Committee members work with educators to provide useful and relevant classroom exercises introducing architectural concepts, volunteer their time to work with students on architecture-related, hands-on projects, and attend career fairs to share their experiences of being a professional architect. The committee's mission is "to equip architects and educators with the tools needed to introduce the concepts of architecture to students of all ages."

The committee needs your input! Please complete this [survey](#) to support their work with students throughout Minnesota.

Stakeholder Survey on the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation

The National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers is seeking input from a wide variety of preservationists, professionals, and other stakeholders on the efficacy of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation in their present form and application. [Learn more and take the survey](#) by December 15.



Make Your Year-End Investment in MAPAC!

Did you miss your opportunity to donate to MAPAC at A'23 MN? The Minnesota Architects Political Action Committee helps position Minnesota architects as the key voice of the design and construction industry at the Capital.

Your donations will help us build and maintain the momentum we've established at the legislature as we move toward the 2024 session; please consider a donation before the end of 2023. [Invest in MAPAC »](#)

Questions about MAPAC our our advocacy work? Contact [Sheri Hansen](#).

Dunwoody Seeks Scholarship Mentors

Dunwoody's signature scholarship programs, Women in Technical Careers and Pathways to Careers, are currently looking for mentors of all genders as well as professionals of color to work with the large number of architecture students in the program this year!

Mentors conduct in-person or virtual meetings with mentees once per month January-May 2024. The time commitment averages 1-3 hours per month.

Sign up to mentor:

[WITC Industry Mentorship Program \(women and non-binary professionals\)](#)

[P2C Industry Mentorship Program \(women, men, and non-binary\)](#)

MHP Strengthening Rural Communities Program Offers Technical Assistance

The Minnesota Housing Partnership (MHP) is seeking Requests for Technical Assistance (RFTA) from entities interested in building their capacity to address prevalent housing, community, or economic development needs. Potentially eligible recipients include Rural Housing Development Organizations (RHDOs), Community Development Corporations (CDCs), Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs), local governments, and Tribal governments. Statewide entities are not currently eligible.

As a HUD national technical assistance provider in affordable housing, MHP has made the commitment to improve the conditions of safe, affordable housing for those most impacted by economic and racial disparities. [Learn more »](#)



ANGELA W
Storyteller

NORTH STAR STORY MAP

Angela Wolf Scott, AIA, on Cold Spring Bakery in Cold Spring

North Star Story Map Story Feature: Angela Wolf Scott, AIA, on Cold Spring Bakery

“The Cold Spring Bakery has always felt like the heart of Cold Spring to me. Locally owned and in the middle of Main Street, it’s the place to get the most amazing baked goods and probably run into a cousin or two.” [See photos »](#)

A collaboration between AIA Minnesota and the Minnesota Historical Society, the [North Star Story Map](#) is a new storytelling platform for people to share their personal stories of the built spaces in Minnesota that hold special meaning to them.

[Click here to share your own story »](#)

[Click here to read stories on the site »](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Two Projects Receive 2023 Honor Awards, Five Receive Commendations

Congratulations to the recipients of 2023 Honor Awards and Commendations for Design Excellence. [Learn more »](#)

Intellectual Property Law Clinic Offers Support for Architects

The Intellectual Property (IP) Clinic at the University of Minnesota Law School provides members of the local community an opportunity to obtain legal assistance involving IP such as copyrightable works, trademarks, patents and confidentiality obligations. Legal services are provided by second- and third-year law school students under the supervision of a licensed attorney. There is no charge for participating in the IP Clinic, though clients are responsible for out-of-pocket costs (such as copyright registration and trademark application fees).

[Applications](#) are currently being accepted from interested clients for the 2023-24 Spring Semester (January-May). Please contact lawclinic@umn.edu if interested. [Learn more »](#)



**Lake Superior
Design Retreat**

February 23 & 24 · Zeitgeist Arts, Duluth

The banner features a red background with a faint image of a lake. Two circular portraits are overlaid on the right side: a woman with blonde curly hair and glasses at the top, and a man with dark hair and glasses at the bottom.

The Lake Superior Design Retreat (LSDR) is coming soon!

Mark your calendar now for **February 23 & 24, 2024**, at a NEW venue: [Zeitgeist Arts](#) in Duluth!

Confirmed speakers so far:

- [Jon Hallberg, MD](#), whose talk will focus on the influence of design on the practice of medicine
- [Tenna Florian, FAIA](#), a partner and co-leader of the [Lake|Flato](#)'s Eco-Conservation Studio

A block of rooms has been reserved for LSDR attendees at the [Sheraton Duluth Hotel](#) (right across the street from Zeitgeist) at a rate of \$179 per night. This block is available through January 23, 2024. [Make your reservation now »](#)

More details will be available soon. Make sure you're on [our mailing list](#) to be the first to hear updates and when registration opens.

enter

ENTER Advertising Opportunities

As you plan your 2024 ad budget, consider including digital ads on our [ENTER digital site](#). With new content each month, this is a great vehicle to reach architects, related project partners and community leaders. Ad rates are \$995 per month for Presenting Sponsor and \$495 for an ad block. Contact [Pam Nelson](#) for details.

A'23 MN: THE MINNESOTA CONFERENCE ON ARCHITECTURE



A'23 MN

AIA Minnesota

The Minnesota Conference on Architecture

November 13-15, 2023

Renaissance Minneapolis Depot Hotel

Thank you to all of our content contributors!

A special thanks to our speakers, panelists, keynotes, tour guides, and to all who served as hosts/moderators at the A'23 MN Conference. This year's Conference had more than 200 presenters who shared their expertise at CE programs. And each of this year's 63 programs was hosted by volunteers who served as hosts/moderators. It was an awesome team effort and we greatly appreciate each of you.

Thank you to all of our exhibitors and sponsors!

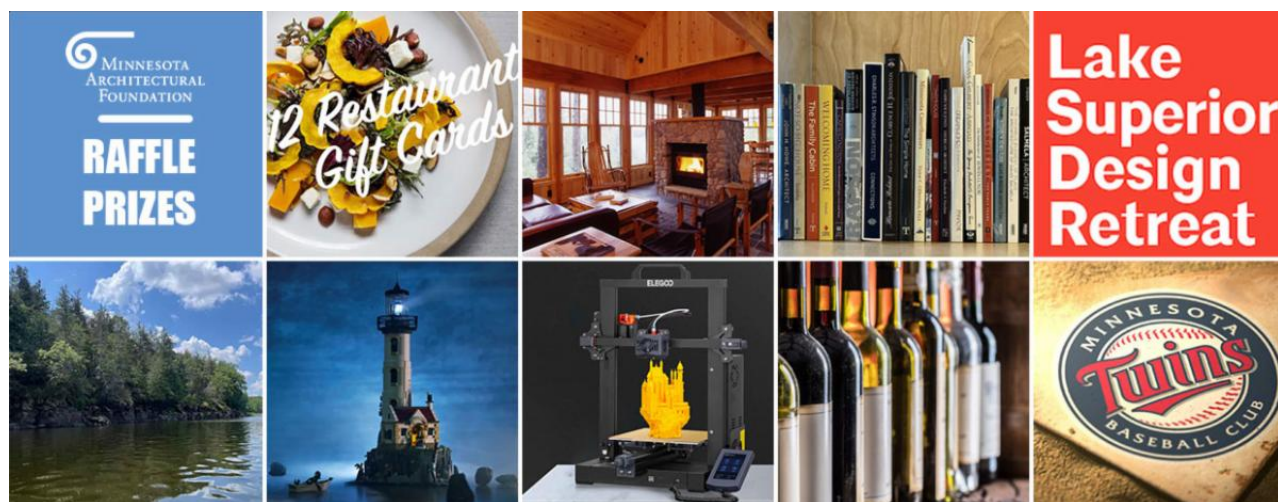
Without your support, this event would not be possible. We hope that the new

venue, exhibit hall spaces, and the programs provided the opportunity for you to engage with our attendees, showcase your products and services, and further your relationships with the architects and project decision makers.

Congratulations to our Exhibit Hall Punch Card drawing winners! Each winner receives a \$300 AmEx gift card.

- Iman Ebadi
- Jordan Metzger, AIA
- Madelyn Sundberg, AIA

MINNESOTA ARCHITECTURAL FOUNDATION



MAF Raffle Prizes at A'23 MN

Congratulations to the 2023 MAF Raffle Prize winners:

- Twins Tickets: Meghan Kell, AIA
- FAIA Wine Collection: Jacob Edwards, Assoc. AIA
- 3D Printer: Paul Nelson
- LEGO Motorized Lighthouse Set: Dillon Larson, AIA
- St. Croix River Boat Cruise: Michael Hara, AIA
- Lake Superior Design Retreat Package: Alan Howell, AIA
- Minnesota Architects Book Collection: Randy Moe, AIA
- Winter Cabinologist's Cabin Stay: Ben Walters, AIA
- 12 Restaurant Gift Cards: Julie Esch, Allied Member of AIA Minnesota

Your purchase of raffle tickets helps MAF invest in **Excellence, Leadership, Discovery, and Equity** in the profession of architecture!

Announcing 2024 Rapson Traveling Study Dates

The Minnesota Architectural Foundation's Ralph Rapson Traveling Study Award

Committee is excited to announce 2024 competition dates: **February 22 - March 5, 2024**. Applications will open in early January 2024. [Learn more about RRTSA »](#)

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Continuing Education Requirement

CE Credits Earned from the A'23 MN Conference

Please submit your attendance verification form [here](#) by Friday, December 8. Credits reported by December 8 will be recorded to AIA transcripts by December 31, 2023. Credits reported following December 8 will be reported in January 2024.

Minnesota Energy Code Update – save the date!

Friday, January 12, 11:00 am to 1:00 pm

An update on the Minnesota Energy Code will be presented early January 2024. The update will be presented by Greg Metz, Assistant Director, State Building Official, Department of Labor and Industry. More details soon.

New On-Demand Webinars Available in 2024

Four programs were recorded at the A'23 MN Conference with the plan to make them available as on-demand webinars. When available, details will be posted [here](#).

Questions? Contact [Deanna Christiansen](#).

NATIONAL & LOCAL CHAPTER UPDATES

AIA NATIONAL

AIA 2023 COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS REPORT AVAILABLE

The AIA Compensation and Benefits Report is the architecture industry's most comprehensive report on salary, hiring, and benefits trends. With over 1,100 firms reporting data on 45 unique architecture and design roles, the 2023 edition is the most robust edition in 15 years and the only report used by the Department of Labor. Get an in-depth analysis of where architecture industry compensation is headed, as well as insights on the shifting workplace cultures and evolving employee benefits that firms are offering to attract and retain top talent. [Learn more and purchase »](#)

ARCHITECTS FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

The Architects Foundation has opened applications for its Diversity Advancement and Yann Weymouth Graduate Scholarships. Application information is [available](#). Components are encouraged to share these opportunities in their communications.

The **Yann Weymouth Graduate Scholarship** offers \$5,000 and mentorship from Yann Weymouth, FAIA, to graduate students with a strong focus on sustainable, resilient, wellness, and beautiful design. [Learn more »](#)

The **Diversity Advancement Scholarship** is a multi-year scholarship and rewards up to

\$20,000 to support ethnically diverse high school and undergraduate students in architecture.

[Learn more »](#)

YAF NOW YA KNOW NEWSLETTER

The November Young Architects Forum (YAF) newsletter includes information on holiday celebrations, great reads, and continuing education opportunities. [Learn more »](#)

AIA 2030 COMMITMENT BY THE NUMBERS REPORT AVAILABLE

This year's 2030 By the Numbers (RY22), culminating data from over 23,000 projects and over 3.8 billion gross square feet, highlights progress and trends made in renewable energy, embodied carbon, building electrification, and energy modeling data! [Read the report »](#)

SUBMISSIONS OPEN FOR AIA AWARD PROGRAMS

AIA recognizes and celebrates the best buildings and spaces, and the people behind them, with some of the most prestigious awards in the built environment. Take a look at many of our awards that are currently open for submission, including the Small Project and Education Facility Design Awards. [Submit today »](#)

UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

We want to make sure we stay connected! If you've moved, changed companies, or retired, or if your member record contains outdated or incorrect information, this is a perfect time to make those updates. [Log into your profile »](#)

AIA MINNEAPOLIS

DECEMBER LUNCHEON: RECOGNITION OF 2023 FELLOWS AND AIA YOUNG ARCHITECTS

Thursday, December 14, 12:00 pm

[Virtual Meeting](#)

Please join us this December for a conversation and celebration of the 2023 AIA Minnesota Fellows and Young Architect Award Recipients! Hear from AIA Minnesota members who were inducted into the College of Fellows this year as well as those who received the Young Architects Award in 2023. Invited speakers include **Dr. Abimbola Asojo, FAIA, James Garrett, Jr., FAIA, NOMA, Richard Graves, FAIA, Todd Grover, FAIA, Nathan Johnson, FAIA, NOMA, Laura Eder, AIA, and Katie Kansas, AIA.**

HELP RECRUIT DOORS OPEN MINNEAPOLIS VENUES

Work in a cool building in Minneapolis? Know of a building or business that you think would be a great addition to Doors Open Minneapolis 2024? Email kelly@rethos.org to let us know!

We are looking for venues that are any of the following:

- Historically or architecturally interesting
- A business or organization that does or creates something unique
- Located in North or Northeast Minneapolis

JOIN THE SUSTAINABILITY ACCOUNTABILITY GROUP

If you are an AIA Minneapolis member and part of a smaller firm or sole practitioner interested in giving and receiving peer support while working to develop sustainable design capabilities, join the mailing list for the newly formed Sustainability Accountability Group. [Learn more and sign up »](#)

AIA NORTHERN MINNESOTA

NO DRAUGHTING CLUB IN DECEMBER



AIA Northern Minnesota Annual Meeting

Hard Hat Tour of the Armory + Dinner at the Pickwick

ANNUAL MEETING & HARD-HAT TOUR

On **Thursday, December 7**, join your fellow AIA Northern Minnesota chapter members for a hard-hat tour of the historic Armory in Duluth and a brief business meeting and dinner at the Pickwick.

- **3:30–4:30 pm** — Hard hat tour of the Armory (submitted for 1.0 LU)
- **4:30–5:15 pm** — Transition to Pickwick / social time
- **5:15–5:45 pm** — Annual meeting
- **5:45 pm** — Dinner

The business meeting will include voting upon the slate of candidates for AIA Northern Minnesota leadership positions and a report on chapter events, financial status, and plans for the upcoming year. [Register now »](#)

COMMITTEE AND KNOWLEDGE COMMUNITY UPDATES

ARCHITECT LICENSING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, December 6, 12:00 pm

[Virtual Meeting](#)

ARCHITECTURE IN THE SCHOOLS COMMITTEE

Thursday, December 14, 8:30 am

[Virtual Meeting](#)

BUILDING CODES KNOWLEDGE COMMUNITY

OPEN FORUM**Wednesday, December 13, 12:00 pm**[Virtual Meeting](#)

COMMITTEE ON DESIGN

Thursday, December 14, 12:00 pm[Virtual Meeting](#)

COMMITTEE ON EQUITY IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT (EBE)

Wednesday December 13, 8:30 am[Virtual Meeting](#)

COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT (COTE)

Research and Innovation Update**Friday, December 8, 12:00 pm**[Virtual Meeting](#)

We are excited to welcome two emerging design-research professionals from the University of Minnesota College of Design to share their “Hot off the Press” thought leadership and applied-research on building materials.

Joon Ta, WELL AP, LEED Green Associate, is an interior design and research practices intern with BWBR. Joon is pursuing the Master of Science in Architecture – Applied Research in Practice (MS-ARP) and will present “Forced Labor in the Building Materials Supply Chain”, which applies a social equity lens to research on modern slavery in the building materials supply chain.

Kennawak Elias Geneti, AIAS, NOMA, MArch, is a designer at Alliance. Kennawak is a candidate for the Master of Science in Architecture – Sustainable Design (MS-SD) degree, presenting his Thesis project “Optimization of Wall Assembly: Grasshopper as an Optimization Tool”, which looks at the development of a tool that enables designers to analyze and visualize Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) data to inform material optimization workflows.

COUNCIL OF FIRMS KNOWLEDGE COMMUNITY

DECEMBER SOCIAL**Friday, December 8, 7:30 - 9:00 am**[JLG Architects](#)

Join us for casual conversation, highlights/take-aways from the A'23 MN Conference, thoughts on focus for 2024. RSVP to [Nicole Washburn](#).

EMERGING PROFESSIONALS COMMITTEE

Tuesday, January 9, 12:00 pm (meetings are held quarterly)

[Virtual Meeting](#)

EMERGING PROFESSIONAL FRIENDLY FIRM PROGRAM

Does your firm provide support to emerging professionals? This award program recognizes firms in the Upper Midwest that are committed to supporting early career professionals. Firms with an office in Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota, or South Dakota are eligible to apply. [Visit the website »](#)

ENTER COMMITTEE

Friday, December 22, 12:00 pm

[Virtual Meeting](#)

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Tuesday, December 19, 12:00 pm

[Virtual Meeting](#)

HEALTH DESIGN KNOWLEDGE COMMUNITY

ON HIATUS TO REBOOT UNTIL JANUARY 2024

Next Knowledge Community Meeting:

Thursday, January 25, 4:00 pm

[Virtual Meeting](#)

HOUSING ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, December 6, 12:00 pm

[Virtual Meeting](#)

LAKE SUPERIOR DESIGN RETREAT COMMITTEE

Monday, December 18, 11:30 am

[Virtual Meeting](#)

MINNESOTA DESIGN TEAM COMMITTEE (MDT)

NO COMMITTEE MEETING IN DECEMBER

Instead, join us for an in-person social at [Malcolm Yards](#) on **Wednesday December 13 at 5:30 pm!**

Celebrate the successful visits this year and connect with your fellow MDT volunteers—or join us for the first time to learn more about the committee and program.

Bring a white elephant gift to exchange! White elephant gifts should be a re-gifted item you no longer want in your home, whether that's a book, coffee mug, or architectural oddity. No need to RSVP, but [feel free to invite your friends and colleagues »](#)

RESIDENTIAL ARCHITECTURE COMMITTEE

NO COMMITTEE MEETING IN DECEMBER

Watch your email for more details on an in-person happy hour in lieu of the committee meeting.

Next Committee Meeting:
Tuesday, January 2, 12:00 pm
[Virtual Meeting](#)

TECHNOLOGY IN ARCHITECTURE PRACTICE KNOWLEDGE COMMUNITY

NO COMMITTEE MEETING IN DECEMBER

WOMEN IN ARCHITECTURE COMMITTEE

Wednesday, December 20, 11:30 am
[Graze Provisions](#)

Join us for 2024 visioning; arrive at 11:30 to get food, meeting begins at 12:00.

PEOPLE & FIRMS

WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!

Ebtehal Bahnasy, Assoc. AIA
 Daniel Englund, AIA
 Christopher Larson, Assoc. AIA
 Ilana Levine, Assoc. AIA

Marco Maffei, Assoc. AIA
 Erik Sundmark, AIA
 Laichee Yang, Assoc. AIA

AFFILIATED ORGANIZATION NEWS & EVENTS

2024 MINNESOTA CONSTRUCTION SUMMIT

January 17-18 2024

[River Centre](#)

Please join us for the industry event of the year, bringing together construction industry professionals for two days of inspiration, education, and networking! Register by Sunday, December 3 for a \$50 discount. [Learn more »](#)

A/E PRONET SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

The A&E Practice Group at Kraus-Anderson Insurance are proud members of the a/e ProNet

Association, a group of insurance and legal professionals dedicated to serving the A&E Community, advocating for effective risk management in your business. Each year, ProNet awards several scholarships to individuals pursuing a Bachelor's or Master's degree. [Learn more »](#)

LEED GREEN ASSOCIATE ONLINE TRAINING

Leading Green is offering LEED training and exam prep this fall. Use code "sust" to receive a \$100 discount! Live and self-paced options are available. [Learn more »](#)

UMN ONLINE RESOURCES

Visit the College of Design's [online calendar](#) for regular updates on activities.

UMN CAREER AND INTERNSHIP RESOURCES

Employers with jobs, internships, or smaller, project-based micro-internships are encouraged to post opportunities for students and recent grads at [careerhelp.umn.edu](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Visit the [AIA Minnesota Events Calendar](#) for more information about upcoming events. For events not sponsored by AIA Minnesota, please check directly with sponsors for up-to-date information about cancellations, postponements, or virtual meetings.



*Matrix is published
by AIA Minnesota.*

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JANUARY Matrix editorial deadline is Friday, December 15.

FEBRUARY Matrix editorial deadline is Friday, January 19.

Please submit content to [AIA Minnesota](#).

Get updates on events, activities, and the latest architectural news from AIA Minnesota and its chapters on social media. Don't forget to tag us on your news to share!



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