



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

Matrix

AIA MINNESOTA MATRIX NEWSLETTER

January 2023

We Are All Related

By Sam Olbekson, AIA, NOMA, AIA Minnesota President



A beautiful aspect of Anishinaabe culture is that there is no word for “architecture” or even “art” in traditional Ojibwe language. This reflects a world view where beauty, function, and cultural meaning are interwoven seamlessly into culture and daily life, rather than being compartmentalized into separate and distinct concepts.

Everything is related.

Many years ago, I asked an elder how I might say “architect” in Ojibwe. I was given the phrase “Nimazini bii-aanan chi-waakaa’iganan ge-ozhichigaadegin mii iiw enanokii’yann” or “I draw the houses, the ones that will be built, for my work.” I was told to keep that phrase close to me to remind myself of who I am and that I must bring this knowledge back home to help rebuild our community. Years later a different Ojibwe speaker created and suggested the phrase Ozhiga’igewi-mazinibii’igewinini, or “he who designs/illustrates construction.”

I know that if I asked other traditional speakers for a phrase to describe architecture, I would get a different answer from each of them based on their individual perception of what we do. There is no one word or phrase for architect in Ojibwe. A lesson I take from that is we all can uniquely define for ourselves what this profession means to us and why we do what we do. Reducing the opportunities of our profession down to one label perhaps misses a chance to create greater meaning or intention in our role as community-builders. We could all create a meaningful phrase that is unique, complex, and more accurately describe the heart, aspirations, and purpose of each of our efforts.

On another occasion many years ago, an elder who heard I was studying

architecture abruptly stopped a group conversation, told me to get into his pickup truck and promptly drove me across the reservation to where the government-provided public housing was sited. Pointing at the dilapidated living conditions and with anger in his eyes he said, “we need you to come back and do something about this!” That is a powerful moment in my life and is still a big part of what gets me out of bed every day. Another elder in my community told me to stop making buildings out of rectangles and that we needed more circles. Another told me to make sure to build in a way that does not hurt the earth. Another elder told me to make sure everyone has a home—everyone. The lesson here is that elders seem to like to tell me what to do...

What we do is much more complex and impactful than simply drawing houses or illustrating construction and I still look for a definition of architecture that captures the heart of what I really am trying to contribute. Architecture and other related design professions play a vital role in keeping culture alive. We are storytellers and culture keepers. We are artists and meticulous detailers. We are dreamers and innovators. We are community-builders. And we are still responsible to make sure everyone has a home.

AIA Minnesota is a strong and resilient community. We are all related, and we all are incredibly important to our professional community and to the communities and people we serve. What is the meaningful and aspirational phrase you would create for what you do? Whatever that is for you, thank you sincerely for what you do for our profession! I invite you to be an active and involved member of AIA Minnesota and our local chapters and I look forward to continuing serving our community with you in 2023.

Chi-miigwetch!
Sam

CALL TO ACTION

Firm Assessments Due January 31

Attention Firm Principals and Marketing Staff: Firm Assessments have been emailed to the firm contacts and are due on January 31, 2023. Firm Directory Profile Questionnaires will be emailed in early January 2023. Firms must pay 2023 Firm Assessments and complete the Firm Directory Profile Questionnaire in order to be listed in the AIA Minnesota Firm Directory that will be published in an annual print publication of ENTER and on the AIA Minnesota website.



Government Affairs Updates

2023 Legislative Session Begins

January 3 marks the beginning of the 2023 legislative sessions. 70 new legislators will be starting their careers this session, which means a significant portion of AIA Minnesota's advocacy work will be establishing relationships with new members on key committees. In addition, the state will be identifying ways to utilize a \$17.6 billion budget surplus, and additional funds from federal programs this year.

The [2023 Legislative Agenda](#) continues to focus on creating progress on our top policy priorities: climate action, affordable housing, and supporting the business of architecture. Our strongest advocacy is likely to be in two key areas to support the profession and the construction industry as a whole:

- **Capital investment:** the 2022 legislature did not complete a bonding/capital investment bill. We will be working both on our own and with our industry partners to urge a robust investment in our industry. Both chambers have indicated interest in creating a bonding bill in 2023.
- **Historic Preservation Tax Credit:** the 2022 legislature also failed to preserve the Historic Preservation Tax Credit, which lapsed in June 2022. We will be highly engaged in efforts to restore the credit and remove the sunset provision to avoid a future expiration of this important tool for communities and the economy.

There is always need for architects to share their knowledge and experience with legislators during the session; if you are interested in participating in our advocacy efforts, please join us for a Government Affairs Committee meeting (details below) or contact [Sheri Hansen](#).

Search for Shelter



Search for Shelter 2023 Goes Hybrid

Search for Shelter will include a combination of in-person events and virtual work in 2023.

- **Friday, February 10:** In-person kickoff event at Rapson Hall, University of Minnesota
- **Friday, February 10-Saturday, February 18:** Team work
- **Saturday, February 18:** In-person closing presentation at Dunwoody College of Architecture

Team members are expected to volunteer for approximately 20 hours during the duration of the event. Schedules will be set by each team as suits their group.

[Volunteer for Search for Shelter »](#)

Know a Minnesota affordable housing nonprofit that needs free design work? Encourage them to submit their project for Search for Shelter! Applications are due January 13. [Apply »](#)



BuildingGreen and AIA Minnesota
a partnership benefitting members

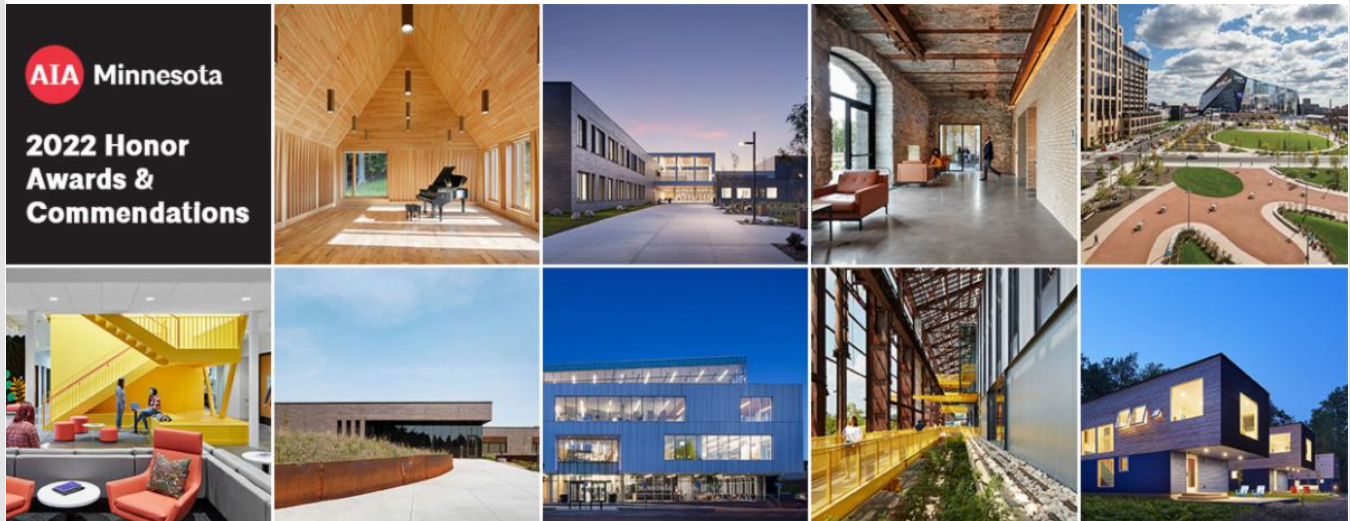
Free Subscription to BuildingGreen Sustainable Design Resources

AIA Minneapolis – in collaboration with AIA Northern Minnesota and AIA St. Paul – is excited to announce that all AIA Minnesota members can now enjoy a FREE one-year subscription to the online content of [BuildingGreen](#), a company that provides a robust online repository of reports, articles, and webinars on all sustainable design topics. [Learn more and begin your subscription »](#)

Hennepin County Offers Building Reuse Grants

Hennepin County has grants available to developers and property owners for deconstruction and [used building materials installation](#). Grants are available for [residential](#) and [commercial](#) deconstruction. [Learn more »](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Three Projects Receive 2022 Honor Awards, Six Receive Commendations for Achievement in the Framework for Design Excellence

Congratulations to the recipients of Honor Awards and Framework for Design Excellence Commendations for 2022. [Learn more »](#)

enter

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2023 ENTER Print Annual Publication – coming in April! Include this in your ad budget for 2023!

Reserve your ad now in this once-a-year print publication featuring thought-provoking articles, inspiring community profiles, and a showcase of the 2022 Honor Awards projects. The AIA Minnesota Firm Directory and Consultants Directory are also included.

Reach AIA Minnesota members and the larger community of targeted influencers in this high-quality magazine. Contact [Pam Nelson](#) to reserve your space for the 2023 issue today!

MINNESOTA ARCHITECTURAL FOUNDATION



Highland Park Water Tower Kits for Sale

To benefit the Clarence Wigington Architectural Scholarship, the Minnesota Architectural Foundation (MAF) will be selling model kits of the St. Paul Highland Park Water Tower - \$35/kit. Designed by Clarence Wigington in 1928, the model measures 12" tall and 4" wide. Contact the MAF to purchase your kit at MAF@MinnesotaArchitecturalFoundation.org.

LEADERSHIP FORUM

LEADERSHIP

F O R U M

2023 Participants Selected

Congratulations to our 16 participants of the 2023 Leadership Forum!

Brice Aarrestad, AIA, DLR Group
Amanda Arnold, AIA, Allliance
Tu-Anh Bui Johnson, Assoc. AIA,
NOMA, Wold Architects and
 Engineers
Jeremiah Collatz, AIA, NOMA,
 Perkins&Will
Sara Curlee, AIA, BWBR
Shauntel Fett, AIA, JLG Architects
Jenna Johansson, AIA, HGA
Kate Lohrenz, AIA, HGA

David McWilliams, AIA, Miller
 Dunwiddie
Justin Merkovich, AIA, ESG
 Architects
Michael Mettee, AIA, Cuningham
Beth Roloff, AIA, MSR Design
Kaitlin Schalow, AIA, HGA
Lyssa Washington, Assoc. AIA,
NOMA, 4RM+ULA
Natalie Wiersma, AIA, NOMA,
 Design by Melo
Aaron Wockenfuss, AIA, RSP
 Architects, Ltd

CONTINUING EDUCATION

NEW ON-DEMAND WEBINARS AVAILABLE EARLY 2023

Four programs were recorded at the A'22 MN Conference with the plan to make them available as on-demand webinars for those who missed them. The same number of credits will be provided on-demand as were provided at the Conference. When available, details will be posted [here](#).

Ethics: Designing/Constructing Public Projects through an Equity Lens
 2.0 LUs and Ethics credits

Code Provisions for Mixed Occupancies

1.5 HSW LUs

(Sustainable) Design is in the Details

1.5 HSW LUs

The Ethics of Ableism

2.0 HSW LUs and Ethics credits

LAKE SUPERIOR DESIGN RETREAT



Lake Superior Design Retreat

FEBRUARY 24-25, 2023 • FITGER'S INN, DULUTH

Pictured above: speakers Maddy Bartsch, Brian Grandison, Julia Greer, Peter Mui, and David Thomas.

February 24-25, 2023

Fitger's Inn, Duluth

After two years of a virtual “retreat,” the Lake Superior Design Retreat is going back to Duluth for an in-person event at Fitger’s Inn. Registration will be opening in early January! Watch [our website](#) for details.

We are excited to announce one more of our six speakers:

Maddy Bartsch (they/she) is a farmer, educator, and organizer of decentralized textile economies based in Minneapolis. Maddy has helped a broad range of clients navigate local textile economies through projects like the Minnesota Hemp Wool Project, the TRF Regional Fiber Sourcebook, the National Mill Inventory Survey, and as a Yarn Incubator for Fibershed. In addition to fiber systems, Maddy’s work includes tackling food systems as the Community Connector for the Cannon River chapter of the Sustainable Farming Association. More recently, Maddy received a Farmer-Rancher SARE grant which has enabled them to focus on two years of research around building a natural dye cooperative in the Midwest. Maddy is cofounder and co-president of the Three Rivers Fibershed and teaches and speaks on the topic of local fiber systems and sustainable textiles to learners of all ages

throughout the Midwest.

Interested in sponsoring the 2023 Retreat? Contact [Ann Mayhew](#) or [Deanna Christiansen](#).

NATIONAL & LOCAL CHAPTER UPDATES

AIA NATIONAL



**Let's design a better world, together.
Renew your AIA membership >**

2023 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE DUE JANUARY 15. aia.org/renew

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 Education Facility Design, and AIA/ALA Library Building Awards. [Submit today »](#)

MANAGE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

Update your contact preferences, education, licenses, career, and contact information online. Visit myprofile.aia.org.

AIA MINNEAPOLIS

VIRTUAL LUNCH PROGRAM: 2022 AIA MINNESOTA HONOR AWARDS

Thursday, January 19, 12:00 pm

In this two-part series, hear the stories behind the projects that were recognized with 2022 AIA Minnesota Honor Awards and Framework for Design Excellence Commendations. Honor Award projects will be spotlighted at the January program and Commendations will be featured in February. [Register »](#)

AIA ST. PAUL

2022 ST. PAUL PRIZE DESIGN WINNER ANNOUNCED

AIA St. Paul is pleased to announce that **Yonggyun Noh** is the winner of the 2022 St. Paul Prize Design Competition. [See the announcement »](#)

COMMITTEE AND KNOWLEDGE COMMUNITY UPDATES

ARCHITECT LICENSING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Committee Meeting

Thursday, January 5, 12:00

[Virtual Meeting](#)

2023 ARE 5.0 Scholarship – expanded eligibility

The AIA Minnesota Architect Licensing Advisory Committee coordinates awarding one scholarship per year to cover the costs of all sections of the Architect Registration Exam. Test fees currently total \$1,410 for all six divisions of the 5.0 exam. *Eligibility has been expanded to include both AIA Minnesota and MSP NOMA licensing candidates.* Visit the [ARE Scholarship](#) page for full details. Deadline is January 31, 2023. Questions? Contact [Deanna Christiansen](#).

For more information and resources to guide your licensure, visit the AIA Minnesota website pages for [AXP](#) and [ARE](#).

ARCHITECTURE IN THE SCHOOLS COMMITTEE

ON HIATUS

BUILDING CODES KNOWLEDGE COMMUNITY

Wednesday, January 11, 12:00 pm

[Virtual Meeting](#)

COMMITTEE ON DESIGN

Thursday, January 12, 12:00 pm

[Virtual Meeting](#)

COMMITTEE ON EQUITY IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT (EBE)

Wednesday, January 18, 8:30 am

[Virtual Meeting](#)

COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT (COTE)

Friday, January 13, 12:00 pm (11:45 am for networking)

[Virtual Meeting](#)

COUNCIL OF FIRMS KNOWLEDGE COMMUNITY

Monday, January 9, 12:00 pm

[Virtual Meeting](#)

EMERGING PROFESSIONALS COMMITTEE

Tuesday, January 10, 12:00 pm (meetings are held quarterly)

[Virtual Meeting](#)

ENTER COMMITTEE

Friday, January 27, 12:00 pm
[Virtual Meeting](#)

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Tuesday, January 17, 12:00 pm
[Virtual Meeting](#)

The 2023 legislative session gets underway on January 3. View the [2023 legislative agenda](#).

HEALTH DESIGN KNOWLEDGE COMMUNITY

ACCESSIBLE DESIGN AWARENESS *EXPERIENCE*

Thursday, January 26, 4:00 pm
[Virtual Meeting](#)

Join us for an interactive virtual workshop with ADA exhibit designer, Amanda Collen, NCIDQ, DLR Group, as she shares her research and findings and we learn how to apply it to the built environment.

HOUSING ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 4, 12:00 pm
[Virtual Meeting](#)

Search for Shelter planning is underway! Join us for updates and to learn how you can support the event.

Search for Shelter 2023
February 10-18
Hybrid Event (In-Person kickoff and closing, hybrid work period)

Know an agency that needs free design service? Encourage them to [apply](#) by January 13.

Want to volunteer for Search for Shelter? Complete the [registration form](#).

LAKE SUPERIOR DESIGN RETREAT COMMITTEE

Monday, January 9, 11:30 am
[Virtual Meeting](#)

MINNESOTA DESIGN TEAM COMMITTEE (MDT)

ANNUAL RETREAT: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT THROUGH ART AND PLACEMAKING
Saturday, January 28, 8:30 am - 1:30 pm

[Alliance](#)

Join the MDT Committee for their annual January Retreat to discuss community engagement

through the lens of art and placemaking. Local artists and professionals will be presenting. There will be morning snacks and lunch provided. [Register »](#)

RESIDENTIAL ARCHITECTURE COMMITTEE

Tuesday, January 3, 12:00 pm

[Virtual Meeting](#)

TECHNOLOGY IN ARCHITECTURE PRACTICE KNOWLEDGE COMMUNITY

NO MEETING IN JANUARY

WOMEN IN ARCHITECTURE COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 11, 8:00 am

[Virtual Meeting](#)

Quarterly Networking Social

Thursday, January 19, 4:30 pm

[Dampwerk Distillery](#)

[Register »](#)

PEOPLE & FIRMS

WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!

Chayna Claeys, AIA
Alexis Duval-Arnould, Assoc. AIA
Amber Egofski, AIA

Paul Harms, Assoc. AIA
Samuel Lauer, Assoc. AIA
Andrew Nelson, Assoc. AIA

AFFILIATED ORGANIZATION NEWS & EVENTS

2023 MINNESOTA CONSTRUCTION SUMMIT

January 17-18

RiverCentre, St. Paul

The Associated General Contractors Minnesota is hosting this event full of inspiration, education, and industry connections for everyone! Check out the [agenda](#) and [register](#) today!



GETTING TO ZERO FORUM

May 10-12, 2023

Minneapolis Marriott City Center

Early bird registration is now open for the Getting to Zero Forum, taking place in Minneapolis this spring! The event brings together the world's leading experts to share best practice approaches to reducing energy demand and

decarbonization related to policy, program, and projects. It is the only event with a broad cross-section of stakeholders focused on ambitious building efficiency goals and is an ideal venue for organizing both the policy and building communities to achieve zero carbon ambitions. Early

bird registration closes February 13. [Learn more »](#)

LEED GREEN ASSOCIATE ONLINE TRAINING RESOURCES

Leading Green will again be offering online resources to help you attain your LEED Green Associate certification. Courses run from November to February, or can be completed on demand. AIA Minnesota members paying for their own registration can get a \$50 discount. [Learn more »](#)

CBS SERIES HIGHLIGHTS ARCHITECTURE'S IMPACT ON SOCIETY

America ByDesign: Architecture shares the story behind several national projects, exploring the challenges and the triumphs of manifesting a great idea or concept, while also showcasing the people at the heart of the design process, the elements that constitute noteworthy architectural projects and the greater impact of architecture on society. The series premiered on November 12 on the CBS News Streaming Network at www.cbsnews.com/live, all CBS News mobile apps, [ByDesign's YouTube channel](#), and the www.bydesignn.global website. They will air on the Linear TV CBS broadcast in February 2023.

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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FEBRUARY Matrix editorial deadline is Friday, January 20.
MARCH Matrix editorial deadline is Friday, February 17.

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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