



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

Matrix

AIA MINNESOTA MATRIX NEWSLETTER

July 2023

Summer Recharge

by Sam Olbekson, AIA, AICAE, NOMA, AIA Minnesota President



Summer has always been a time for me to think about time away from buildings and how I can spend as much time outdoors as possible with my family. I am energized by the experience of a backpacking trip high into the mountains, or a long canoe portage through the wilderness, or simply working in my garden. Time away from work is an important way to replenish and reflect, especially when experiencing a new landscape or new part of the world for me. Lately it has been more challenging to find these opportunities though, and I often find myself planning fewer vacations and then planning those around Zoom meetings, mid-vacation deadlines, or Wi-Fi availability.

A week and a half before the national AIA Conference last month I was on a road trip to camp and hike in Colorado and Utah with my daughter Mia. We were kicking off her summer break from high school and I had planned our itinerary route, tent nights, and hotel nights around several important Zoom meetings I couldn't miss. On our second morning of travel, I opened up my laptop to catch up on some work and to prep for a meeting and the unthinkable happened: my laptop screen flickered a few times, distorted my work into alarming (but interesting) fractal patterns, and then slowly faded into a dark empty screen. No combination of restarting, control-alt-deleting, or hard booting brought it back to life.

In spite of how serious I tend to be, I'm also an "oh well" type of person and instead of panic I felt a big wave of relief and packed up my disabled laptop for the rest of the trip. A few calls later, work output expectations were adjusted, and meetings were rescheduled. I was now on a real vacation away from work, a fortunate accident that allowed me to immerse myself into the incredible scenery around me and to be present in the moment with my daughter.

After a great weeklong trip and a long drive home to Minneapolis I turned around a day later and headed off to San Francisco for the national AIA Conference with a broken laptop. Luckily, I had a few months left on my warranty and I my laptop was fixed while I was at the conference. I was still energized from my trip and was ready to be energized again by the Conference.

The AIA National Conference was held June 7-10 in San Francisco this year with 15,000 attendees from more than 70 countries, 475 exhibiting companies, and of course a great contingent of AIA Minnesota members representing our state and local chapters. There were many highlights worth mentioning:

- Five AIA Minnesota members were elevated to [Fellowship](#);
- Two AIA Minnesota members received the [AIA Young Architects Award](#);
- Six projects designed by Minnesota architecture firms received national awards (two [AIA COTE Top Ten Awards](#), two [ALA/AIA Library Awards](#), and two [Architecture Awards](#));
- Representatives from the AIA Minnesota board of directors and other Minnesota delegates attended the Annual Business Meeting and provided input to help shape AIA national policies and elect new leadership; and
- Connecting with our community at the AIA Minnesota reception and other formal and informal gatherings.

While there were major keynote speakers and a range of valuable educational sessions and social activities, what really resonated with me at the conference was the opportunity to connect as a group, create new connections and to strengthen relationships within our AIA Minnesota and local chapter membership. Meeting in person to have thoughtful discussions, think about how we can make our profession more meaningful and relevant, and how we can create greater value for our members were ongoing topics that we can continue at our own A'23 MN Conference on Architecture at the Depot in Minneapolis from November 13-15.

I look forward to continuing discussions on important topics that matter to our communities, our profession, and for our membership to reconnect and make new connections in person. I hope you all are finding time to disconnect, replenish, and reenergize yourself this summer in whatever ways that work best for you. And I hope you find a way to pack up your laptop for a while without it breaking!

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE IN ARCHITECTURE



Celebrate With AIA Minnesota on August 17

In 2023, AIA Minnesota will celebrate the achievements of our members throughout the year by hosting several more impactful, meaningful events rather than a single event at the end of the year.

We'll celebrate our AIA Minnesota Young Architects, Next Gen, Collaborative Achievement, Louis Lundgren, and Residential Architect of Distinction recipients. Join us on the patio of the Crown Roller Mill in Minneapolis for our next gathering to uplift members of our community for their contributions! Enjoy refreshments and connect with colleagues. [Register »](#)

Limited sponsorship opportunities are available to showcase your company at this event. Contact [Pam Nelson](#) for more details.

A'23 MN: THE MINNESOTA CONFERENCE ON ARCHITECTURE



A'23 MN Moves to the Depot November 13–15, 2023

The Minnesota Conference on Architecture is on the move! Join us at the Depot Minneapolis November 13–15, 2023, for inspiring continuing education opportunities, a reinvigorated exhibit hall experience, great food, a variety of beautiful spaces, and new opportunities to connect with friends and fellow members of Minnesota's architecture community.

We're so excited and hope you are, too! Click [here](#) for exhibit and sponsorship information, and reserve your booth now!

A'23 MN Call for Proposals is Now Closed

The Conference CE Committee is currently reviewing the more than 70 proposals and ideas received and selections will be made in the next 2-3 weeks. A wide assortment of programming will be chosen for presentation including LU credits, HSW credits, and ethics.

Questions? Contact [Deanna Christiansen](#) or [Angie McKinley](#).

CALL TO ACTION

Opening for Submissions July 10: AIA Minnesota Firm Award

The AIA Minnesota Firm Award, given biannually, is the highest honor bestowed by the association, recognizing an AIA Minnesota member firm that has made outstanding contributions to the advancement of the profession of architecture.

The Firm Award Selection Committee evaluates candidates based on how well they meet program criteria, which include how firms:

- demonstrate great depth and breadth in their work;
- have a cumulative effect on the profession of architecture in Minnesota;
- produce work that is a product of a collaborative environment;
- consistently address the future of architecture while honoring its tradition;
- transcend or unite specific areas of expertise; and
- become widely known—by architects, designers, educators, and the public—for the quality of their work.

Entries will be accepted until **Friday, September 1 at noon**. [Learn more »](#)

Three Award Programs Close for Submissions July 21

Collaborative Achievement Awards submissions are due **Friday, July 21 at 12:00 pm (noon) CST**. [Learn more and submit »](#)

The Louis Lundgren Award for Service submissions are due **Friday, July 21 at 12:00 pm (noon) CST**. [Learn more and submit »](#)

25 Year Award submissions are due **Friday, July 21 at 12:00 pm (noon) CST**.

[Learn more and submit »](#)

EP Friendly Firm Award Accepting Submissions

Does your firm support young professionals? The EP Friendly Firm Award program is now accepting submissions from firms who demonstrate a commitment to supporting early career professionals. [Learn more and apply for the award »](#)

NORTH STAR STORY MAP

What Place Has Shaped Your Life?

The [North Star Story Map](#) is live! 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



AIA Accreditation Achieved

AIA Minnesota and each of the three local chapters – AIA Minneapolis, AIA Northern Minnesota, and AIA St. Paul – are proud to be “Nationally Accredited Components of AIA.” Every three years, AIA components are examined on service delivery via the component accreditation process and meeting the core member services standards. The AIA Core Member Services (CMS) program lays the groundwork for component excellence by ensuring that all members receive a consistent level of service, and that each component thrives as a nonprofit corporate entity.

Honor Awards Informational Meetings

Is your firm planning to submit a project or two to the 2023 [AIA Minnesota Honor Awards](#) program? If so, please join us for one or both of the following virtual sessions:

INFO MEETING ON NEW HONOR AWARDS SUBMISSION REQUIREMENT

Wednesday, July 12, 3:00 pm

[Register »](#)

New in 2023, AIA Minnesota Honor Award entrants are required to fill out the Common Application for Design Awards (Common App) for each submission, alongside the PDF awards booklet. Come learn more about this [new requirement](#).

HONOR AWARDS OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, August 3, 3:00 pm

[Register »](#)

Josh Ekstrand, AIA, will share Ryan A+E's approach to creating the Downtown East Urban Master Plan entry, which won a 2022 Commendation for Excellence in Design for Economy. And MSR Design's **Chris Wingate, AIA**, will walk attendees through the Common App, a new requirement for Honor Awards submissions.

Submissions for the 2023 Honor Awards will open August 1 and close at 12:00 noon CST on Friday, September 29, 2023. [Learn more »](#)



The 2023 *ENTER* Print Annual Is Out

The [2023 ENTER print annual](#) features an array of in-depth articles on the challenges and opportunities of shaping a better built environment for Minnesota. It also includes photo-rich profiles of notable new buildings, a special section on the recipients of 2022 AIA Minnesota design awards, and directories of Minnesota architecture firms and other building-project consultants.

All AIA Minnesota members will receive a copy in the mail. The publication can be purchased [online](#) for \$18 plus shipping and handling. For a discount on bulk orders, email editor [Chris Hudson](#).

ENTER Advertising Opportunities

Align with great design and cutting-edge features on the built environment in Minnesota. ENTER digital ads start at \$495 per week. Contact [Pam Nelson](#) to reserve your space.

MINNESOTA ARCHITECTURAL FOUNDATION

Women's Leadership Summit Scholarships

The Minnesota Architectural Foundation's (MAF) Beverly Hauschild-Baron Leadership Fund (BHB Fund) will be awarding up to three (3) scholarships in an amount up to \$1,000 each toward expenses to attend the 2023 AIA Women's Leadership Summit in Boston, MA, September 12–14. Applications are due by Friday, July 14! [Learn more about the BHB Fund and apply today »](#)

Rapson Award Announcement

Jesse Zeien, AIA has been named recipient of the 2023 Ralph Rapson Traveling Study Award. The MAF Rapson Fellowship awards a \$15,000 prize to the winner of a two-part competition to advance the recipient's education in architecture through foreign or domestic travel-study under a theme of discovery. [Learn more about the design competition and view the finalist submissions »](#)

LEADERSHIP FORUM



(Above, left to right: speakers James Garrett, Jr., AIA, NOMA; Amy Kalar, AIA, NOMA; Sarah St. Louis, Assoc. AIA; and Elizabeth Turner, AIA)

Advocacy as a Leadership Skill

Four panelists shared an advocacy story that showed how their values were reflected in their work as an advocate in the June Leadership Forum session.

James Garrett, Jr., FAIA, NOMA, shared his work on a project for which he was an advocate for the end user client and human dignity in design, even on a tight budget. **Amy Kalar, AIA, NOMA**, shared a personal story that exemplified the importance of being an advocate for yourself in order to be of service to others. **Sarah St. Louis, Assoc. AIA**, spoke of her personal motivation and passion for advocating for the disabled and their accessibility needs. **Elizabeth Turner, AIA**, talked about her passion for climate advocacy and her work for equity in the profession, as well as ways to build a community of advocates to both amplify the message and share the workload. All of the advocates share their stories of persistence, challenges, and successes.

One member of the cohort said, “I enjoyed the broad perspective of what advocacy is. It helped me to realize how advocacy applies to me even if I’m not lobbying my senator. I also liked the idea that we need self-advocacy before we can advocate for others.”

The afternoon was spent focusing on Brene Brown’s book *Dare to Lead* and was coordinated and led by half of the Leadership Forum cohort. The session focused on components of trust and exploring what is meant to say, “Trusting others begins with trusting yourself first.”

CONTINUING EDUCATION

One Year to Minnesota License Renewal

The deadline to renew your Minnesota license is one year away on June 30, 2024. Assess how many credits you still need to fulfill the AELSLAGID license requirement and plan to attend the A’23 MN Conference on Architecture in November. And, make use of the AIA Minnesota [on-demand webinars](#) to meet this requirement.

Four new on-demand webinars are now available from presentations recorded at the A’22 MN Conference providing both ethics and HSW credits.

- **Ethics: Designing/Constructing Public Projects through an Equity Lens** – 2.0 LUs and ethics [Details and registration »](#)
- **Code Provisions for Mixed Occupancies** - 1.5 HSW LUs [Details and registration »](#)
- **The Ethics of Ableism** - 2.0 HSW LUs and ethics [Details and registration »](#)
- **(Sustainable) Design is in the Details** - 1.5 HSW LUs [Details and registration »](#)

Questions? Contact [Deanna Christiansen](#) or [Angie McKinley](#).

NATIONAL & LOCAL CHAPTER UPDATES

AIA NATIONAL

REGISTER FOR WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP SUMMIT 2023

September 12-14, Boston

Women's Leadership Summit, founded by AIA, is a premier event that brings together the industry's largest network of diverse women in architecture, design, and the allied building industries. It exists to support and empower women on their leadership journeys and break down the barriers that get in their way. Focused on networking, leadership training, business development, gender equity, and personal empowerment, WLS helps women manifest the careers they want while making a difference in the world. [Learn more »](#)

AIAU: FUTURE-PROOFING EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS: ADAPTIBLE ENVIRONMENTS FOR SUPPORTING COMMUNITY CRISES

Tuesday, July 11, 1:00-2:00 pm (1 AIA LU)

UC Health has received congressional funding for this project through the CARES Act as it will benefit the readiness of the only Level 1 Trauma Center in Cincinnati to better serve the community with a future-proof, resilient facility. Upon completion, the space activation methodologies will be folded into regional readiness training for emergency scenarios and serve as an example of the future of Level 1 Trauma Centers. [Register »](#)

AIAU: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI): RHETORIC AND REALITY

Wednesday, July 12, 1:00 - 2:00 pm (1 AIA LU)

Learn how AI can provide value in contract document management. [Register »](#)

LATEST RESIDENTIAL FIRM TRENDS

The [AIA's Home Design Trends Survey](#) is a recognized source of emerging trends in residential design and business conditions at residential firms. The latest release shows trends relating to accessibility remain popular along with outdoor spaces. Meanwhile, project billings, inquiries, and design contracts showed modest weakness in Q1.

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 Architecture, Design for Aging, Interior, Justice Facilities, Regional & Urban Design Awards, and the 25 Year Award. [Submit today »](#)

MANAGE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

Review your contact preferences, education, licenses, career, and contact information online. Log into [aia.org](#), choose "My Account" in the upper right-hand corner, and in the red "Manage" tile, click "Edit" to verify and provide missing information.

AIA MINNEAPOLIS

LUNCHEON: MINNEAPOLIS MERIT AWARDS 2023

Thursday, July 20, 12:00 pm

[Register to attend »](#)

Join us as we recognize the 2023 AIA Minneapolis Merit Award projects! The jurors will share their insight about each project, and award winners and clients will also be present.

- **LEO A DALY's** Anoka-Ramsey Community College School of Nursing and Business
- **Alliance's** Center for Performing Arts Addition
- **JLG Architects'** Frogtown Community Center

- **Bentz Thompson Rietow's** Hennepin County North Regional Library Refurbishment
- **LEO A DALY's** MNHS Historic Fort Snelling Historic Restoration and Visitor Center
- **Alliance's** MnDOT Safety Rest Areas at Clear Lake and Des Moines River



AIA MINNEAPOLIS GOLF OUTING IS APPROACHING!

Monday, July 24

Majestic Oaks Golf Course

Golf registration is now full. There are limited sponsorship opportunities still available. [Click here](#) for sponsorship opportunities.

Contact [Pam Nelson](#) for more information.

AIA NORTHERN MINNESOTA



AIA NORTHERN MINNESOTA GOLF FUNDRAISER

Thursday, July 13

Enger Park Golf Course

Register for the annual AIA Northern Minnesota Golf Fundraiser! Have fun playing 18 holes of golf and raising money for the AIA Northern Minnesota scholarship fund. Space is filling up, so sign up now! [Sign up by July 6 »](#)

Already registered directly to Shane Nies, AIA? [Pay easily online here »](#)
When you pay online, you'll also have the opportunity to add on the CEU and awards dinner (see below).

***NEW* Lunch & Learn & Golf**

Join us for continuing education before hitting the links: General Commercial Buildings with Insulated Concrete Forms. This program is designed to give participants a general overview of building commercial buildings with Insulated Concrete Forms ICF and show the benefits that they can provide during the design and construction phase. The course will also highlight the benefits to the building occupants and owners.

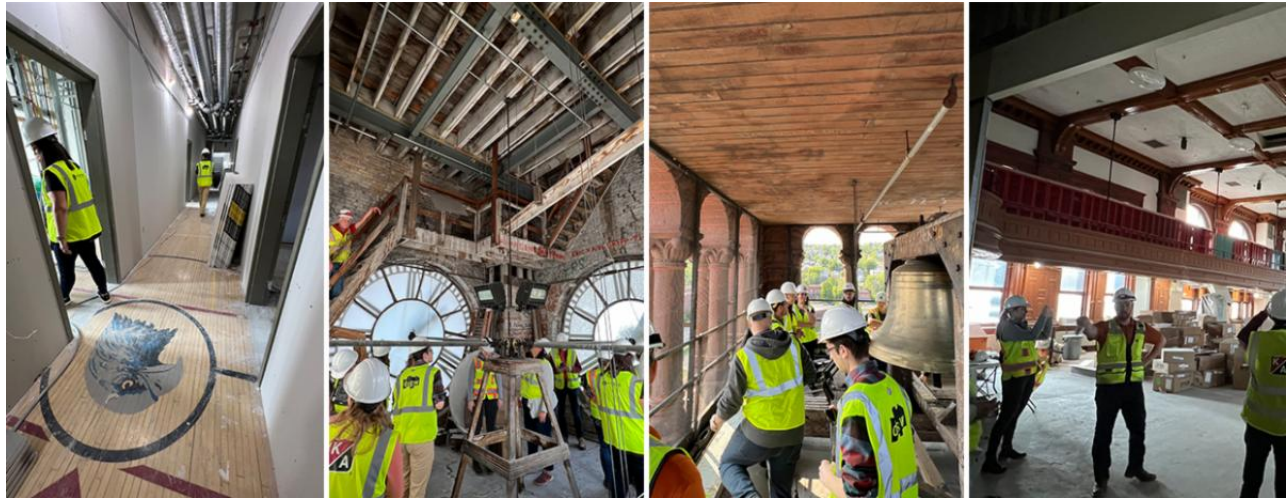
Lunch & Learn registration includes boxed lunch. Email [Shane Nies, AIA](#), with any dietary restrictions. When you register or pay online, be sure to select the Lunch & Learn option (for the total number of people attending the Lunch & Learn) in addition to the sponsor level you are registering or paying for.

Dinner with Awards Program

Stay after the golf tournament for a steak* dinner and awards program! When you register or pay online, be sure to select the dinner option (for the total number of people attending the dinner) in addition to the sponsor level you are registering or paying for. *Email [Shane Nies, AIA](#), with any dietary restrictions.

Special Raffle Prize Package

We have a new prize package this year that you can buy raffle tickets for at the golf outing: a private sauna session (valued at \$395) from [Cedar & Stone!](#)



HISTORIC CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL HARD HAT TOUR

Thank you to everyone who joined AIA Northern Minnesota for a hard-hat tour of Historic Central High School in Duluth, and a special thank you to Kraus-Anderson for opening up the site and giving the tour. Seventeen people joined us to learn more about the project, which is a conversion of the brownstone structure into multifamily housing.

COMMITTEE AND KNOWLEDGE COMMUNITY UPDATES

ARCHITECT LICENSING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, July 13, 12:00 pm (NOTE RESCHEDULED DATE)

[Virtual Meeting](#)

ARE 101 Panel Discussion Recording Available

The ARE 101 took place on March 21st with four panelists sharing their experience taking the Architecture Registration Exams and recently passing all six. Panelists included **Eden Garton, Assoc. AIA**, Mitlyng Design and Architecture; **Hans-Christian Karlberg, Assoc. AIA**; **James Matthes, AIA**, New Studio Architecture; and **Celina Nelson, AIA**, Collage Architects. The discussion was moderated by **Matt Wingard, Assoc. AIA**, SALA Architects. Visit [ARE 101 Recording](#) to access the recording of this session.

ARCHITECTURE IN THE SCHOOLS COMMITTEE

ON HIATUS

BUILDING CODES KNOWLEDGE COMMUNITY

OPEN FORUM

Wednesday, July 12, 12:00 pm

[Virtual Meeting](#)

Bring your code questions, experiences, and updates to share. Also bring ideas for topics you'd like to see covered at future meetings.

COMMITTEE ON DESIGN

Thursday, July 13, 12:00 pm

[Virtual Meeting](#)

COMMITTEE ON EQUITY IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT (EBE)

Wednesday, July 19, 8:30 am

[Virtual Meeting](#)

COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT (COTE)

Friday, July 14, 12:00 pm

[Virtual Meeting](#)

COUNCIL OF FIRMS KNOWLEDGE COMMUNITY

HAPPY HOUR

Monday, July 10, 4:30 - 6:30 pm

[Graze Provisions + Libations](#)

EMERGING PROFESSIONALS COMMITTEE

Tuesday, July 11, 12:00 pm (meetings are held quarterly)

[Virtual Meeting](#)

ENTER COMMITTEE

Friday, July 28, 12:00 pm

[Virtual Meeting](#)

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Tuesday, July 18, 12:00 pm

[Virtual Meeting](#)

Did you miss the legislative session recap? [View the summary and session recording »](#)

HEALTH DESIGN KNOWLEDGE COMMUNITY

Thursday, July 27, 4:00 pm

[Virtual Meeting](#)

HOUSING ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

NO MEETING IN JULY

LAKE SUPERIOR DESIGN RETREAT COMMITTEE

Monday, July 17, 11:30 am

[Virtual Meeting](#)

MINNESOTA DESIGN TEAM COMMITTEE (MDT)

Committee Meeting

Wednesday, July 19, 4:30 pm

[Virtual Meeting](#)



MDT had a successful exhibit hall booth at last month's League of Minnesota Cities conference (pictured)! MDT members **Katie Kangas, AIA**, and **Beth Evanson Makhoul, AIA**, led conference attendees who stopped by through a miniature "Dotmocracy" activity and had thoughtful discussions about how MDT can help Minnesotan communities.

RESIDENTIAL ARCHITECTURE COMMITTEE

Tuesday, July 11, 12:00 pm

[Virtual Meeting](#)

TECHNOLOGY IN ARCHITECTURE PRACTICE KNOWLEDGE COMMUNITY

NO COMMITTEE MEETING IN JULY

The TAP KC leadership has been connecting with other AIA Minnesota committees and knowledge communities to promote a cross-disciplinary discussion. Our goal is to have an active discussion with each group and, in turn, share knowledge that helps advance their goals and contributes to an alignment with the outstanding technology goals of the AIA in general. We invite all AIA Minnesota members and firms to reach out to us if you have areas of technology that you would like to see addressed.

TAP KC co-chairs: [Rachel Riopel, AIA](#), and [Adam Wilbrecht, AIA](#)

WOMEN IN ARCHITECTURE COMMITTEE

Wednesday, July 19, 12:00 pm

[Virtual Meeting](#)

Three FAIA Legacy Project documentaries will be screened as part of the [2023 Red Cedar Film Festival](#) in Menomonie, WI, on Saturday, July 22 at 5:00 pm. The documentaries feature **Sarah Nettleton, FAIA**, **Su Blumentals, FAIA**, and **Rebecca Lewis, FAIA**.

The FAIA Legacy project is an effort of the AIA Minnesota Women in Architecture Committee and aims to amplify the achievements of Minnesota's 20 (and counting) female Fellows.

PEOPLE & FIRMS

Jim Lammers, FAIA, will have travel sketches on display in a gallery exhibition at the [Phipps Center for the Arts](#) in Hudson, Wisconsin. The show runs from July 14 to September 10.

WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!

Malcolm Brom, Assoc. AIA
 Katherine Kennedy, Assoc. AIA
 Andrew Kocer, Assoc. AIA
 Jonathan Meyer, Assoc. AIA
 Miles Michlitsch, Assoc. AIA
 Margaret Morgenstern, Assoc. AIA
 Matthew O'Keefe, AIA

Hannah Packard, AIA
 Derek Rondin, Assoc. AIA
 Nardos Shitta, Assoc. AIA
 Marco Vincent, Assoc. AIA
 Htet Oo Wai Yan, Assoc. AIA
 Brian Welp, Assoc. AIA

IN MEMORIAM

A celebration of life for **Rebecca Lewis, FAIA**, will take place on August 4 in Duluth. [Learn more »](#)

AFFILIATED ORGANIZATION NEWS & EVENTS

[PASSIVE HOUSE BOOT CAMP SEPTEMBER 11-14 »](#)

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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AUGUST Matrix editorial deadline is Friday, July 21.
SEPTEMBER Matrix editorial deadline is Friday, August 18.

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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