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For immediate release

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Excellence Beyond Design Shown in AIA Minneapolis Merit Award Winners

MINNEAPOLIS, MN -- AIA Minneapolis awarded six Merit Awards to projects designed by AIA Minneapolis architects that tell a story of excellence beyond design; reflecting the variety of forces that shape a building. Unique in its approach to creating a jury, the Merit Award encompasses the views of business professionals, real estate developers, community advocates, and academic leaders, as well as architects.

The American Institute of Architects

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Top left to bottom right: Be The Match; DC Group Office Headquarters; Fireman's Park & Chaska Curling and Event Center; Sandcastle; South Minneapolis Office; and Twin Cities Academy

2017 AIA Minneapolis Merit Award recipients:

Perkins+Will's **Be The Match** is a leading edge, flexible workplace located in the North Loop that demonstrates commitment to the well-being, productivity, and enrichment of their employees.

UrbanWorks Architecture LLC's **DC Group Office Headquarters** located in North Minneapolis, this "expand in place" office creates a vision of modern industrial workplace, strengthens its presence in the community, and develops long-term sustainable architecture.

292 Design Group's **Fireman's Park & Chaska Curling and Event Center** stimulates economic development, provides recreation opportunity, celebrates traditions and history, while creating an engaging community gathering space.

LOCUS Architecture's **Sandcastle** is a destination restaurant and terrace pavilion that respects the historical context of the original building located on Lake Nokomis in Minneapolis.

LOCUS Architecture created an eco-friendly **South Minneapolis Office**, transformed from a long vacant and neglected party supply store and dry cleaning drop off site, now a building that exemplifies strong commitment to urban reuse and revitalization.

Kodet Architectural Group, Ltd.'s **Twin Cities Academy** features efficient solution, technological enhancements, and a cost-effective building located on the former Cemstone site on the east side of St. Paul. The Twin Cities Academy received the additional honor of being selected for the **2017 Michael L. Schrock, AIA, Merit Award** (*see description below*).

The **Michael L. Schrock, AIA, Merit Award** was created to honor Mike Schrock, AIA, who tragically passed away in 2008. This is an additional honor awarded within the context and structure of the AIA Minneapolis Merit Awards to the winning project that most embodies Michael's 7 Rules of Architecture:

1. Know where you are from.
2. Know who you are.
3. Know why you are.
4. Respect your benefactors.
5. Honor the environment.
6. Architecture must serve those who occupy it.
7. There is beauty in functional, economical, safe, environmentally responsible, owner-driven architecture.

The Merit Award jury included: Kim Bartmann, restaurateur; Gretchen Camp, AIA, AIA Minneapolis President and ESG; Stephen Knowles, AIA, Dunwoody College of Technology; Bill Mague, The Soap Factory; and Chris Osmundson, Alatus, LLC. The jury reviewed how well the entries achieved client/team satisfaction, technical innovation, environmental responsibility, budget/business success, community impact, and the architectural solution.

The Merit Awards were presented to recipients at the AIA Minneapolis Chapter Luncheon in June at International Market Square in Minneapolis. Learn more about the awards on the [AIA Minneapolis website](#).

AIA Minneapolis is the largest chapter in Minnesota with more than 1,600 members. Centered in Minneapolis, the chapter territory includes the southwestern portion of the state. As a large chapter, AIA Minneapolis participates with other large AIA chapters nationwide to focus attention on significant issues facing AIA members. The chapter provides leadership, networking, and outreach opportunities for its members.