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Excellence Beyond Design Shown in AIA Minneapolis Merit Awards



MINNEAPOLIS, MN -- The Minneapolis Chapter of the American Institute of Architects Minnesota (AIA Minnesota) awarded four Merit Awards to projects 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, these awards encompass the views of business professionals, real estate developers, community advocates, and academic leaders as well as architects.

This year's jury of Lisa Hsieh, University of Minnesota, College of Design – School of Architecture; John Nolan, US Bank; Scott Parkin, Verve Realty; and Paul Whitenack, AIA, 2013 AIA Minneapolis President, reviewed how well the thirteen entries achieved client/team satisfaction, technical innovation, environmental responsibility, budget/business success, community impact and the architectural solution. After creating a short-list of five projects to visit, they selected the following as award-winners:

Architectural Alliance's **MCTC Health Sciences Renovation**, a campus expansion that embraces its urban setting through renovation of two vacant buildings in Downtown Minneapolis.

Hammel Green and Abrahamson, Inc.'s **Whittier Clinic**, a pedestrian-friendly medical center that celebrates the rich cultural diversity of its Minneapolis neighborhood.

UrbanWorks Architecture, LLC's **John B. Davis Education and Service Center**, a new Minneapolis Public School District administration headquarters that houses the Northside Welcome Center, Adult Basic Education and community meeting spaces located in the heart of North Minneapolis.

Elness Swenson Graham Architects, Inc.'s **American Academy of Neurology**, contemporary, state-of-the-art, highly visible facility located within the Mill District of Minneapolis.

In 2008 the Michael L. Schrock, AIA, Honor Award was created to honor Mike Schrock, AIA who tragically passed away in February 2008. This is an additional honor awarded



within the context and structure of the AIA Minneapolis Merit Awards to a project that most embodies “Michaels 7 Rules of Architecture.” Those rules are, know where you are from; know who you are; know why you are; respect your benefactors; honor the environment; architecture must serve those who occupy it and; there is beauty in functional economical, safe, environmentally responsible, owner driven architecture. The John B. Davis Center and American Academy of Neurology are the 2013 recipients of the Michael L. Schrock, AIA, Honor Award.

The awards were presented at the AIA Minneapolis Chapter Luncheon on June 19, 2013, at International Market Square in Minneapolis. Read more information about the awards and event at www.aia-mn.org/ext_about/local-chapters/minneapolis/merit-awards.cfm.

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 www.aia-mn.org and pick up a copy of Architecture Minnesota, the award-winning architectural magazine of the Midwest.