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For Immediate Release

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Images available upon request

One AIA Minneapolis Merit Award (shown right)
Project: University Enterprise Laboratories
Architect: Architectural Alliance
Photographer: Architectural Alliance

Excellence Beyond Design Shown in AIA Minneapolis Merit Awards

Minneapolis, Minnesota - 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 John Comazzi, University of Minnesota, College of Design; John Fredericksen, Osseo School District; Todd Messelt, writer; Brian Tempas, AIA, Cuningham Group Architects; Ray Miller, Millerville, Inc. and Bruce Karstadt, American Swedish Institute, reviewed how well the eighteen entries achieved client/team satisfaction, technical innovation, environmental responsibility, budget/business success, community impact and the architectural solution. After creating a short-list of six projects to visit, they selected the following as award-winners:

Four Work Force Homes, affordable housing with environmentally sound construction in Saint Paul and Minneapolis, J. Steven Weeks, AIA
University Enterprise Laboratories, state-of-the-art bioscience incubator located at the intersection of 280 and University Avenue in Saint Paul, Architectural Alliance, Minneapolis
East River Mews, residential community in Prospect Park neighborhood of Minneapolis, Elness Swenson Graham Architects, Inc. (ESG), Minneapolis

The awards will be presented at the AIA Minneapolis Chapter Luncheon on July 19, 2007, at International Market Square in Minneapolis.

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.