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The Wisconsin Society of The American Institute of Architects (AIA) recognized the significance of this integrated approach by naming ZDG the 2000 AIA Wisconsin Architecture Firm Award winner. The Architecture Firm Award is the highest honor that can be bestowed on an AIA member firm and recognizes significant contributions in the following areas of architectural practice: architectural design; building technology; education and research; community leadership; public service and awareness; service to the AIA; and other significant contributions to the advancement of the architectural profession.

Jury members praised the firm for "consistently demonstrating a strong commitment to design and detail," supporting environmentally sensitive architecture and encouraging community service and continuing education among employees.

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AIA Wisconsin
Architecture Firm Award Jury Members:
Katherine C. Lyall, University of Wisconsin System
Brian C. Rude, Wisconsin Senate
Edward J. Kodet Jr., FAIA, Kodet Architectural Group, Ltd.
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Excellence in Architecture

Eight building projects have been recognized for excellence in architectural design as part of the 2000 AIA Wisconsin Design Awards program.

This year’s award-winning architecture highlights thoughtful and innovative design solutions for diverse types of buildings by architects who are members of AIA Wisconsin. The buildings recognized this year include a small rural private residence nestled in a wooded moraine, a new community recreation center in a municipal park, an expansion of a county facility into a state-of-the-art exhibition hall, a restoration and renovation of a five-story historic building into office space for an architectural firm, a new research facility for a growing biotechnology company, a daylit city hall on a narrow urban infill site, a new utility company garage and reporting facility, and an innovative winery constructed using a unique modular building design.

The architects and projects selected to receive Honor Awards for overall design excellence were: KEE Architecture, Inc., Madison, for its designs of both the Frank Goodman Residence in Albany and the Warner Park Community Center in Madison; and Strang, Inc., Madison, for its design of the Alliant Energy Center, formerly the Dane County Expo Center Exhibition Hall, in Madison.

The following architects and projects received Merit Awards for excellence in particular aspects of architectural design: Eppstein Uhen Architects, Inc., Milwaukee, for its restoration of the 333 East Chicago Street building in Milwaukee; Flad & Associates, Madison, for its design of the ZymoGenetics Nelson Site Laboratory Expansion in Seattle, Washington; Hoffman Corporation, Monroe, for its design of the Brodhead City Hall; Potter Lawson, Inc., Madison, for its design of Madison Gas & Electric Company’s Fitchburg Reporting Site; and Workshop Architects, Inc., Milwaukee, for its design of a winery in northern Wisconsin.

The 2000 AIA Wisconsin Design Awards were presented to the architects, building owners and general contractors at a special awards ceremony on April 12 at the Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center in Madison. The annual Design Awards program represents the highest recognition given for excellence in architectural design by AIA Wisconsin.

A distinguished jury of three architects from outside of Wisconsin selected the eight award-winning projects from a total of 96 building projects submitted by AIA Wisconsin members. Members of the 2000 Design Awards jury were: Frank Grauman, AIA, with Bohlin Cywinski Jackson, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania; Cal Lewis, FAIA, with Herbert Lewis Kruse Blunk Architects, Des Moines, Iowa; and Amy Weinstein, FAIA, with Weinstein Associates Architects, Washington, DC.

The co-chairs of AIA Wisconsin’s 46th annual Design Awards program were James Rasche, AIA, Mequon, and Katherine Schnuck, AIA, Whitefish Bay.
Frank Goodman Residence

Architect
KEE Architecture, Inc.

Owner
Frank Goodman

Contractor
Frank Goodman

Location
Albany, Wisconsin

This 1,600 square-foot home, with an adjacent garage/workshop, is nestled near a crook in the forested edge of a 15-acre site in southern Wisconsin. The design references whitewashed midwestern farm homes of the early 20th century, with wrap-around wooden porches, gables, dormers, metal roofing, and board and batten siding. The living room provides views through and past the surrounding property owned by the DNR to distant moraines.

Jury Comments

"This project has a very admirable simplicity in all its elements. The quality is consistent at all scales, from the extensive and elegant site plan right down to the extraordinary detailing of the structure. It looks like a great place to be."
Warner Park Community Recreation Center

Architect
KEE Architecture, Inc.

Owner
City of Madison

Contractor
GWJ Construction Services

Location
Madison, Wisconsin

The community was invited into the design process for this 31,600 square-foot recreation center located in an established lakeside city park. It includes a gymnasium, fitness room, game room, seniors offices, community rooms with outdoor terrace, kitchen, meeting room, craft rooms, child care and community lounge. The gymnasium mass is embedded in a drumlin, tying the building and land together. The interior "tree" columns evoke the woods outside. The location of the reception area promotes an awareness of other patrons and the services offered at the center.

Jury Comment
"The entire experience of the building is very lyrical. There's a richness and warmth and a homey community feeling about it that is very inviting. It's a very robust assemblage of modest materials, which have a real structural and symbolic content."
This building uses a whole series of very simple, but memorable, devices to fill people into a very rich interactive interior. While the pallet of materials is modest, the result is very dynamic. There is a real strength in its rhythm, which helps break down the scale of the lobby area.

Architect
Strang, Inc.
Owner
Dane County Expo Center
Contractor
Kraemer Brothers, Inc.
Formerly
Dane County Expo Center Exhibition Hall
Location
Madison, Wisconsin

This 218,000 square-foot exhibition hall expansion includes 100,000 square feet of unobstructed exhibit space, support offices, meeting rooms, food service areas, storage and a large new lobby and pre-function space. A 22-foot cylindrical chandelier creates a central focus in the lobby's rotunda, providing an anchor for the entire complex. The project accommodates multiple shows simultaneously and supports the rapid transition of people, exhibits and equipment.
Merit Award

333 East Chicago Street

Architect
Eppstein Uhen Architects, Inc.

Owner
Monarch Properties

Contractor
Bergthammer Corporation

Location
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Built at the turn of the century, this five-story building, once the home of a shoe company, was restored and renovated into offices for the architectural firm’s growing staff. The interior renovation and restoration of the 43,000 square-foot historic structure respects its deep-toned cinnabar brick, sturdy Douglas fir timbers and rugged cast iron and steel. Evidence of the building’s proud history was preserved throughout the renovated interior, from shoe tacks in the columns to the archaeological ghost of an original staircase.

Jury Comment

"Everything was done well. The architect did an extremely complete job of utilizing all of the existing building’s best features to advantage, while carefully avoiding conflict between new work and old. It demonstrates a commitment to a quality work environment."

Merit Award

ZymoGenetics Nelson Site Laboratory Expansion

Architect
Flad & Associates

Owner
ZymoGenetics

Contractor
Lease Crutcher Lewis

Location
Seattle, Washington

This new research building had to relate to the biotech company’s existing facilities in a recently renovated historic building across the street as well as to the surrounding residential neighborhood. The exterior of the new building reflects elements of its historic neighbor. Carved into a steeply sloping site, much of the mass of the research facility is hidden. Lightweight materials appear to enclose the space in a random artful way.

Jury Comment

"The design is a very sensitive regional response. It reflects a contextual sensibility to the development pattern and age of the city. Rather than trying to match the original existing building, it utilizes similarity, scale and rhythm."
Jury Comments

Brodhead City Hall

"This project illustrates the great value that an architect can bring to a project, regardless of the budget. It is conspicuous for its modesty. The imagination to use the front façade to imply a taller building is very creative and very well done."

Architect
Hoffman Corporation
Owner
City of Brodhead
Brodhead, Wisconsin
Contractor
Advanced Building Corporation
Location
Brodhead, Wisconsin

Located on the city’s historic Exchange Square, the new Brodhead City Hall incorporates daylighting techniques to provide a light-filled interior for a building on a narrow urban infill site. The two-story building contains 5,200 square feet on the first floor and 1,680 square feet on the second floor for future city needs. The massing of the south-facing clerestory, however, creates the appearance of a three-story building between the adjacent two- and four-story buildings. The fenestration patterns of the new City Hall are derived from the rhythms of these neighboring buildings.

Jury Comments

MG&E Fitchburg Reporting Site

"This project reflects the care and passion required to make something out of a building type that often is not done well. The architect found a couple of solutions that allowed the building to become very special, such as the long gentle slope of the roofs, the manipulation of exterior materials and the introduction of high natural light."

Architect
Potter Lawson, Inc.
Owner
Madison Gas & Electric Company
Contractor
Building Systems General Corporation
Location
Fitchburg, Wisconsin

This 30,000 square foot satellite facility for a utility company houses a garage for service vehicles, equipment storage, locker room, break room and space for filling out service reports. Located on a narrow, but visible, site across from a new residential area, the city and neighboring property owners blocked initial attempts by the company to use a pre-engineered metal building. The design solution, conceived as two intersecting volumes, successfully balances the available budget for the building with the aesthetic concerns of the neighborhood and municipal officials.
Northern Wisconsin Winery

Architect
Workshop Architects
Owner
Private Winery
Contractor
Math Starck & Sons, Inc.
Location
Baileys Harbor, Wisconsin

The challenge of this project was to design and construct a building, where wine could be produced, tasted and sold, in a very short period of time. The building also includes the living quarters for the master winemaker, which allows him to literally oversee the entire operation. A unique project delivery system was used to develop a modular building design that allowed the building shell to be assembled on site in a week.

Jury Comment
“It was a joy to look at this project and see that the building and the process of its creation were one and the same. There was a great deal of skill and technical virtue in the design solution. The live/work component of the project also is commendable.”

General Jury Comments

EDITOR: The following are general comments about projects submitted for the 2000 AIA Wisconsin Design Awards program. Members of the 2000 Design Awards jury were: Frank Grauman, AIA, Bohlin Cywinski Jackson, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania; Cal Lewis, FAIA, Herbert Lewis Kruse Blunck Architects, Des Moines, Iowa; and Amy Weinstein, FAIA, Weinstein Associates Architects, Washington, DC.

Lewis: It is sometimes difficult to deal with historic restoration projects in the context of a design awards program. There were several projects that came very close to receiving recognition because they did an extraordinary job of historic preservation; but they ultimately did not receive an award because of the decisions that were made regarding the new portions of the work. Although the effort put into saving those facilities was fantastic, you really are more obligated than normal to do any new intervention into that piece of architecture just extraordinarily well and consistent with the original ideas.

Grauman: The infrequency of residential awards in this mix simply reflects the circumstance that very few were submitted. All the residential projects were done with great priority of thought and follow through.

Weinstein: There were a lot of great projects to think about. I’m really impressed with the program. I feel that it is impossible to overdo the drawings and descriptive graphics, which would explain very quickly to a jury exactly what’s going on. There were several points during the day where we were frustrated because there were floor plans but not a section. Every submission should have a full site plan, full plan and a section so the jury does not have to struggle.

Lewis: What I do think is good is that the awards reflect a broad range of projects all the way from a convention center, with its complexity and scale issues, to a simple almost agrarian residence, with its own unique set of circumstances, to urban context buildings to free-standing buildings out in a park. It really was not a pre-judice to either a style or type of architecture, but, in viewing each project and how it solved it’s particular problems, the jury recognized the ones that solved their problems the very best and most completely.

Grauman: I think the statistics are very encouraging. If I’m correct, you have almost 10% participation. That’s encouraging. Many architects are doing work and feel good about it.

Lewis: I would hold up two particular examples to challenge the architects that it isn’t the glamour or scale of the project that makes it worthy of an award. The power company building and the little modest house are two examples because they didn’t require anything that any architect doing any of the projects for this awards program didn’t have available to them. The city hall is another example of the type of projects we all have in front of us almost every day. If we want to do work that is extraordinary, that is valued by our community and our peers, we all have those opportunities every day. It’s a matter of effort. It’s a matter of commitment. It’s a matter of a belief that it’s possible.

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Grauman: If I’m correct, you have almost 10% participation. That’s encouraging. Many architects are doing work and feel good about it.

Lewis: I would suggest that these projects would win awards in pretty much any awards program that I have participated in. I know they would have held up to the standards of the various other states. These projects meet that high-end criterion without a doubt.

Grauman: You get the sense from the modest projects we spoke so nicely about earlier that there’s a great likelihood these architects aren’t in the award-winning mafia, where people are using difficult circumstances to show what they can do.

Lewis: I think it behooves all of us to make the most out of our opportunities as practicing professionals. You do what you have the opportunity to do; and you do it as well as you possibly can.
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Give Something Back

I'm honored to receive this award. I would like to dedicate the award to professional architectural education in Wisconsin.

Architectural education actually began during the early 1920s when firms like Eschweiler & Eschweiler Architects initiated a program where an apprentice worked alongside architects and draftsmen to qualify for registration. Formal registration started between 1915 and 1919. From these achievers came a demand for more formalized architectural education and, in 1947, Layton School of Art offered the Beaux-Arts program of architectural design. At that time, the Beaux-Arts system was being taught at the Universities of Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, Notre Dame and Yale and was considered a solid classic architectural training.

To this day it is still offered at many architecture schools. From that humble beginning, a demand rose that a school of architecture be offered in Wisconsin. Thus, 30 years ago, UW-Milwaukee offered a course in architecture featuring architecture and urban design.

Five Wisconsin architects formed a group to start an architectural school, simply addressing architectural design. The architects were Mark Pfaller, Allen Strang, Mike Meyer, William Wenzler and myself. At the same time, MSOE began forming an architectural engineering school. Today, both schools offer programs to prepare students for licensing. And, in just 30 short years, UWM has developed into a nationally recognized university in architectural design.

This is important only to the extent that we don't want to forget our upward climb to greater awareness. We must continue to nurture the gifts from talented architects and educators.

I always remember my father saying, "A good farmer always puts something back into the soil."

I therefore ask that this recognition charge our graduates and students to make their contribution to perpetuate and inspire the education of our profession. Thank you.

EDITOR: This article was developed from comments presented by George A.D. Schuett, FAIA, in accepting the 2000 golden Award at the 2000 AIA Wisconsin Convention. Parti’00: Inspire.
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The following report on the status of the adoption of national model building and fire codes in Wisconsin was presented to the Commercial Code Council at its August meeting.

The Department of Commerce Secretary announced in 1995 that the department would consider adopting a model code when there was a national consensus on a single model code. Since then, the three model code agencies have formed a single organization, the International Code Council, and developed a suite of integrated model codes, including the International Building Code (IBC) and the International Fire Code (IFC).

The department, with the assistance of advisory committees, decided to adopt the IBC model code for buildings as a replacement for a state developed code, one of two remaining in the nation. Both the department and the Commercial Code Council established a policy to adopt the national code with a minimum of amendments, now labeled as “Wisconsinisms.” Adoption of the IBC has the support of all major segments of regulators and industry, including fire service, at this time.

At the request of the fire service, both the department and the Commercial Code Council opted to delay adoption of a national fire code until a comparative analysis could be completed on the IFC and NFPA fire codes, which is estimated to be completed in the December 2000-March 2001 period. The comparison between the current Wisconsin building/fire codes and the IFC has been completed.

Because a fire code is integral to the building code, it is necessary to adopt the new building and fire codes simultaneously. As a result, with the recommendation of both the Fire Safety subcommittee and the Commercial Code Council, the department agreed to write an interim fire code until the analysis is completed and a decision as to the appropriate fire code was made. One of the motivations for adopting this strategy was to avoid a dispute at the time that the IBC building code is adopted. The current plan is to advance the IBC and the state fire code to public hearings this winter.

Once the comparison between the IFC and NFPA code is completed, the state would consider one of four options:

1. IFC – result would be an integrated fire/building code with few “Wisconsinisms.”
2. State Fire code – result would be an integrated code with many “Wisconsinisms.”
3. NFPA 1 and NFPA 101 – result would be overlapping and conflicting codes, with the conflicts resolved by application of the stricter code provisions and/or many “Wisconsinisms.”
4. Drop the effort to adopt a model code at this time.

Current Status & New Developments

The Wisconsin interim fire code is under development by department staff. It will not be as robust as either the IFC or NFPA codes. Approximately 130 “Wisconsinisms” have been identified to redirect references to the IFC contained in the IBC to the Wisconsin fire code.

The Fire Chiefs Association has recently voted to support the NFPA 1 and 101 over the IFC. The support is based on the belief that the NFPA has greater affinity with the fire service than the ICC and not because of technical problems with the IFC.

NFPA has announced that it is developing a building code as a step to creating a full suite of building codes. They are modifying both their NFPA 1 and 101 codes to integrate them with the Western Chiefs Fire Code and the Epcot building code. These two developments make the plan to complete a technical comparison between the IFC and NFPA codes impossible at this time because the new NFPA documents are not available. The creation of a NFPA suite of codes means that there will be two national building codes and increases the potential of a dispute over adopting the IBC in Wisconsin.
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A large and increasingly growing resource for product performance data and material samples is the World Wide Web. According to the American Institute of Architects, almost 90% of firms use the Web to research product specifications and 81% obtain technical support via the Web. Firms use the Web to supplement other research sources, including the firm’s materials library, sales representatives, trade associations and magazine articles.

While the Web is an important tool, one must learn how to navigate through the myriad of useless and non-architecture-related sites. The first step is to become acquainted with search engines. Search engines provide general-purpose searching and instant access to Web sites. There are two types of search engines: those that search only site titles (such as www.infoseek.com) and those that search text on individual Web pages (such as www.yahoo.com). While searching the Web requires some skill, it is also part luck. The key is to filter out the information you don’t want. I recommend reading the “help” or “search tips” section on the home page of the search engine you are using. It will provide helpful hints, shortcuts and advice for searching. A few basic tips that I find useful:

- When searching a phrase, contain all of the words in quotation marks. For example, a search for “wool carpet” will result in only those pages related to wool carpet and not those related to wool sweaters and nylon carpet.

- When searching keywords keep in mind that there will be acceptable variations of words. For example, use the words floor, floors, and flooring. Keywords may vary from site to site.

A good way to avoid searching the entire Web is to become familiar with on-line databases and directories. Many of these databases are free while some are subscription-based. These sites usually offer search capabilities by keyword, CSI division or trade name. They provide links to manufacturer Web sites, professional services and industry news (see sidebar for a list of useful sites). Since some of the sites are free-based, you’ll want to determine if paying for the service is right for your firm. Small firms may find that paying for a database is well worth it since someone else has done much of the legwork and it saves on the cost of expanding a library. Just remember: not all manufacturers that produce a material will be listed in every database. It may benefit you to search multiple databases for the same information. Also, if you pay for access to a site it’s a good idea to periodically review your registration—you may be able to find the same information on a free site.

Web sites maintained by trade associations and professional organizations are also useful research tools. Sites like www.e-architect.com (national AIA site), www.aiaw.org (AIA Wisconsin) and www.csinet.org (Construction Specifications Institute) provide links to industry news and continuing education opportunities. The banner advertisements found on some of these sites are direct links to manufacturer Web sites.

Another way of searching for up-to-date information is to go directly to a manufacturer’s Web page. If you are unsure of the Web address and you don’t want to use a search engine, try keying in the manufacturer name followed by .com. You might luck out. Once you locate a manufacturer’s home page, quickly evaluate it. While many manufacturers maintain active Web sites, too few of them contain comprehensive product information. The best manufacturer sites will contain full product specifications, dimensions and pricing, CAD details, quality photographs, on-line literature and sample requests, on-line technical support, links to trade associations and contact information. Think of the manufacturer’s Web site as the equivalent to the binder that would be placed in your library. I encourage you to talk to sales representatives about ways to improve the Web sites created by their companies. Manufacturers need to remember that the Web is another selling tool, in the same vein as binders and samples.

Keep in mind the limitations of using the Web as a resource. Obviously, computers are not tactile and color capability will differ from monitor to monitor. Also, manufacturers may not adequately update their site or monitor email requests resulting from your search. Most manufacturers are good about replying to requests, but use caution.

Keep in mind that while the Web will not replace your existing library, it can be a valuable supplement to it. The Web is filled with millions of pages of priceless information and even more junk. The searching skills you develop will help you sift through the useless pages and find the beneficial ones. Manufacturer Web sites and on-line databases are tools that can lead to immediate access to specification information for your next project.

EDITOR: The author is the materials resource librarian at Flad & Associates.
The second annual Arts & Crafts Conference at the historic Hotel Pattee in Perry, Iowa. Uniting The Useful With The Beautiful: The Architecture Of The Arts And Crafts Movement.

Scheduled Speakers Include:
Margaret Richardson, Chairman of the Lutyens Trust and Director of the Sir John Soane Museum in London, will discuss The Craft Architects.
James Macaulay, Research Fellow at the Mackintosh School of Architecture in Glasgow, discusses the importance of 19th Glasgow on Arts and Crafts design.
Richard Guy Wilson, who has contributed to numerous exhibition catalogs, explores whether there is a unique American style.
Honourable Philip Howard, whose family has lived at Naworth Castle since the 1300s, will discuss current restoration of Naworth Castle of Philip Webb's 19th century additions.
Wendy Hitchmough, author of "The Arts & Crafts Home," examines the importance of C.F.A. Voysey's work on American design.
Edward Cullinan, a leading British architect, discusses Tradition and Nostalgia in Contemporary Arts & Crafts architecture.

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For information, contact Elaine Hirsch Ellis, Conference Director, at (877) 797-6886 or via e-mail at artconf@aol.com.

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**Fall Workshop**

Reserve Friday, October 27, for the 2000 AIA Wisconsin Fall Workshop at the Heidel House Resort & Conference Center in Green Lake. The full-day program, “Masonry Today & Tomorrow,” will feature presentations by experts on key masonry concepts, trends and details. The International Masonry Institute is sponsoring this informative overview of masonry topics.

“This year’s program offers Wisconsin architects a unique opportunity to learn about the latest masonry products, gain practical information on design and detailing, participate in hands-on demonstrations and discover a variety of cutting-edge design applications,” according to Patrick Conway, AIA, Mount Horeb, chair of the 2000 Fall Workshop and the Wisconsin area director of market development for the IMI. AIA members also will earn six learning unit and health, safety and welfare hours for AIA Continuing Education System (CES) requirements.

David Sovinski, national director of market development and technical service for the International Masonry Institute, will present an overview of new and innovative products, procedures and delivery systems for masonry construction. Here’s a golden opportunity to expand your repertoire of the latest masonry products and their uses.

Bob Coy, vice president for planning and marketing at the IMI, will describe how today’s masonry materials respond to the diverse requirements of its end users. Coy oversees IMI’s industry, market and technical research, and this session will prove invaluable as you explore the market for masonry materials and learn how exceptional products are the result of listening to the right people – the customer.

Patti Fasan, an international ceramic tile consultant and the executive director of the Ceramic Tile Contractors & Industry Association of British Columbia, will demystify the selection process for ceramic tile and enhance your understanding of its unique characteristics, environmental advantages and efficiency. This presentation will provide you with the tools to market sustainable designs that incorporate this age-old product.

Architect Pat Conway’s session will enable you to become the resident specialist on flashing and moisture control for your firm’s masonry projects. This primer is complete, including best flashing practices, recommendations and critical locations.

The evaluation and restoration of existing masonry can present critical design considerations. Join architect Maria Viteri, AIA, director of marketing for the International Masonry Institute in the mid-Atlantic region, to learn how to identify and remedy the effects of movement and moisture penetration by using industry guidelines and current best practices.

Wynn Jones, a fifth-generation mason and president of the Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local #9, will demonstrate the many faces of masonry. This session will offer a variety of hands-on examples, including raked back cavity wall base, steel lintel detail, floor and wall tile installation, injected foam insulation and thin stone veneer.

The luncheon program for the Fall Workshop will feature the presentation of this year’s Wisconsin Golden Trowel Awards, which recognize outstanding achievement in masonry design. For information on the International Masonry Institute awards program, contact IMI/Wisconsin at 608-437-6871 or 800-IMI-0988.
Additional information about the 2000 Fall Workshop, including registration materials, will be arriving soon at a mailbox near you. Sign up early because participation will be limited to the first 150 registrations received.

Golden Award
The Golden Award, established in 1986, is the highest award that AIA Wisconsin can bestow on one of its members.

The purpose of the Golden Award is "to recognize an individual architect who has performed most distinguished leadership and service to AIA Wisconsin over an extended period of time, such services exceeding those expected in any official capacity, and by leadership has advanced the cause of our profession and provided an inspiration to his/her fellow practitioners."

The criteria established for the award are as follows:

• The AIA Wisconsin Golden Award winner shall be a past or present member of The American Institute of Architects and AIA Wisconsin. Recipient of the award may be living or dead.
• The Award is to be considered an Architecture Award and shall be given to an architect for distinguished service to the profession of architecture and AIA Wisconsin over an extended period of time.
• Candidates should not be on the AIA Wisconsin Board of Directors at the time of their nomination.
• Nominations may be made by an Architect member of AIA Wisconsin. A nomination form is available from the AIA Wisconsin office.

Golden Award recipients include: David E. Lawson, FAIA; Paul H. Graven, FAIA; Mark A. Pfaller, FAIA; Wayne E. Spangler, FAIA; Leonard H. Reinke, FAIA; Nathaniel W. Sample, FAIA; Gary V. Zimmerman, FAIA; John P. Jacoby, FAIA; Noble E. Rose, AIA; Douglas H. Smith, AIA; George A.D. Schuett, FAIA; Nathaniel W. Sample, FAIA; Harry A. Schroeder, AIA; John P. Jacoby, FAIA; Noble E. Rose, AIA; Douglas H. Smith, AIA; George A.D. Schuett, FAIA.

Members are encouraged to contact the AIA Wisconsin office for nomination materials and other information on the Golden Award. The deadline for nominations for the 2001 Golden Award is November 15, 2000.

Firm Award
The Architecture Firm Award is the highest honor that AIA Wisconsin can bestow on a member-owned firm.

Its purpose is to recognize an AIA Wisconsin firm for outstanding achievement in the advancement of the architectural profession. Award criteria include significant contributions in one or more of the following areas of practice: architectural design, building technology, education and research, community leadership and public service, and service to the AIA.

Wisconsin-based firms that have provided architectural services in Wisconsin for a minimum of ten consecutive years and who have at least one principal that is an Architect member of the AIA and AIA Wisconsin are eligible.

Past recipients of the AIA Wisconsin Architecture Firm Award include Kahler Slater, Milwaukee, Flad & Associates, Madison, and the Zimmerman Design Group, Milwaukee.

For further information on award criteria and nomination requirements, please contact the AIA Wisconsin office.

Statute of Repose
Last year, AIA Wisconsin and a coalition of design and construction industry groups filed a friend of the court brief with the Wisconsin Court of Appeals to protect the state's statute of repose which limits the "long tail" of liability faced by architects and others in the building industry.

The case involves an individual injured in a 1995 fall from a ladder on the roof of a building completed in 1978 who is challenging the constitutionality of Wisconsin’s new and improved statute of repose, which was enacted in 1994 after a multi-year lobbying campaign.

In January, the Court of Appeals asked the Wisconsin Supreme Court to take the case. In May, the Supreme Court advised the Court of Appeals that it was holding the request in abeyance pending its opinion in a separate case involving the statute of repose for medical malpractice claims.

This July, the Supreme Court, in a 5-2 decision, upheld the five-year statute of repose for claims against medical professionals. This may be a positive development in terms of the court’s view on the state of repose for improvements to real property, which bars legal action against architects and others after ten years from the date of substantial completion.

AIA Wisconsin received an AIA Government Affairs Assistance Grant to support its efforts to protect the statute of repose for the state's design and construction industry.

Contractor Immunity
A year ago, AIA Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Association of Consulting Engineers filed a friend of the court brief with the Wisconsin Supreme Court in support of the governmental contractor immunity defense established by a 1996 Court of Appeals decision.

The Supreme Court case involved a patient at a county mental health facility who was injured while attempting to escape via a third floor window. The architect, contractor and window fabricator involved in the lawsuit argued that they were protected by governmental contractor immunity because the county requested operable windows for therapeutic purposes in spite of the risk of escape attempts. The immunity defense applies when reasonably precise aspects of a project are directed by the governmental authority after being advised of the potential dangers by an independent professional contractor.

The Supreme Court, in its opinion issued in June, did not address the validity of the governmental contractor immunity defense. So, the good news for architects is that the immunity defense stands. (The Supreme Court did not have to consider the immunity
defense issue because it ruled that the escaping patient was more at fault for his injuries than anyone else.)

AIA Wisconsin received an AIA Government Affairs Assistance Grant to help fund the legal expenses related to filing the friend of the court brief.

Florida Requirements
Are you licensed in Florida? If you are, you may want to investigate a new Florida law that requires the state to establish its own system for monitoring compliance with continuing education requirements by July 2002.

The new Florida requirements are expected to create serious record keeping and reporting headaches for architects and continuing education providers, particularly those located outside of the state. For AIA members, it will mean having to duplicate reports on continuing education activities.

For information and sample letters encouraging Florida to reconsider implementing its new continuing education requirements, go to the AIA's website (www.e-architect.com).

Alonzo Robinson, AIA
Wisconsin's architectural profession has lost one of its important pioneers. Alonzo Robinson, AIA, Milwaukee, died in June at the age of 77.

In 1956, Robinson became the first African-American to be registered as an architect in Wisconsin. Born in North Carolina, he moved to Milwaukee after graduating from Howard University with a degree in architecture.

Early in his career, Robinson designed mostly black churches in the central city. In 1972, he founded Alonzo Robinson Architect and Sons, the state’s oldest black-owned architecture firm, where he continued to design both commercial and residential buildings until his death. In 1998, he retired after 23 years as a managing architect for Milwaukee County.

Projects he worked on include the Vel Phillips YWCA, Polish Association of America headquarters, Doyne Park Shelter house, Hillcrest Nursing Home, Milwaukee Fire Department administration building and McKinley Marina.

"By his presence and the work that he did, he opened the door for others to come through, like me," according to AIA Wisconsin Board member Walter Wilson, AIA, Milwaukee, president of The Wilson Firm. "He was a man who went through a lot, but he always maintained his dignity."

"You build something and it becomes part of you," Robinson once said, comparing architecture to a kind of religion with its own rules and rewards. The profession will miss him, but his pioneering legacy will provide inspiration for future generations of architects.

Meeting Reports
AIA Wisconsin members have been active this summer, participating in numerous committee meetings and roundtables. The following provides brief reports on these activities.

At the Board of Directors meeting in June in Oshkosh, members reviewed proposed revisions to national AIA public policies on licensing, received status reports on long-range planning action plans, discussed local Chapter events, and received an update on UWM School of Architecture & Urban Planning programs from Dean Greenstreet. In addition, Board members participated in a roundtable discussion on plan review and code interpretation issues.

AIA Wisconsin Secretary/Treasurer Gary Gust, AIA, Menomonie, attended the AIA State Government Network meeting in Minneapolis. Topics discussed by AIA representatives from over 40 states included design/build for public projects, the International Building Code and licensing of interior designers.

The Public Awareness Committee, chaired by Thomas Hirsch, AIA, Madison, has been meeting regularly via telephone conference calls. Topics covered during recent meetings include recognizing members for community leadership and public service, enhancing publicity for state and local AIA programs and establishing a speakers bureau.

The AIA/AGC Liaison Committee, co-chaired by Jerry Schwoch, AIA, Madison, meets every other month to discuss issues of mutual interest. Recent meetings have addressed indemnification and other onerous contract provisions proposed by owners as well as the perceived decline in the quality of documents. The June meeting in Eau Claire revisited document quality issue. AGC representatives offered to help educate owners about the value of paying architects higher fees and allowing them adequate time to prepare documents.

In July, representatives of the Design Awards, Golden Award and Firm Award Committees discussed ideas for enhancing the value and improving the coordination of these important AIA Wisconsin programs.

The "millennium" Convention Committee, chaired by Joe Powelka, AIA, Sun Prairie, met in July to kick off planning for the 2001 state conference, which is scheduled for May 2 & 3 in Madison. The initial focus is on developing a program that will address sustainable design and client needs and expectations.

AIA Wisconsin representatives met with members of the Wisconsin Association of Consulting Engineers to establish a regular dialogue on interprofessional issues. For example, AIA and WACE representatives discussed collaborating on a conference this fall with the Division of Facilities Development that would address state project close-out issues.

The AIA/DFD Liaison Committee, chaired by Mark Kraft, AIA, Madison, met in early August with State Building Commission staff to discuss issues of mutual interest. Topics on the agenda included WisBuild, A/E selection and evaluation process, design/build, quality of documents and addenda, copyright ownership and consultant evaluations. Developing an educational program on the selection process and how to work with the state was discussed.
AIA Wisconsin members met with representatives of the Safety & Buildings Division to discuss plan review and code interpretation concerns. The transition to the International Building Code and proposed changes to signature requirements for the plan review application form also were discussed. It was the consensus of the group that regular meetings to discuss code-related issues would be worthwhile.

Representatives of AIA Wisconsin, Wisconsin Association of Consulting Engineers, Associated General Contractors and Associated Builders & Contractors have been meeting in an attempt to establish a design and construction industry position on proposed legislation that would allow local governments to use design/build.

The annual AIA Wisconsin long-range planning retreat is scheduled for September 14 & 15. This year’s retreat will explore the future of professional organizations and what types of programs and services members will be expecting.

Public Service
Architects are civic-minded people and natural leaders. An objective of the AIA Wisconsin Public Awareness Committee is to recognize members serving on state and local boards, commissions, committees and task forces and to encourage others to take on similar community leadership roles.

The following AIA Wisconsin members responded to a recent Hotline newsletter request for information on public service:


Thomas Hirsch, AIA, Mayor’s Advisory Committee on Affordable Housing, City of Madison.

Richard C. Lundeen, AIA, Historical Preservation Commission, City of Sheboygan.

Patrick B. McGowan, AIA, Plan Commission, City of Stoughton.

Gunnar Prawitz, AIA, Chairman, Building Review Board, Village of Brown Deer.

Michael A. West, AIA, Building Board, Village of Fox Point.

AIA Wisconsin is pleased to salute and recognize these members who contribute significantly to the well-being of their communities.

Of course, there are many more AIA Wisconsin members actively involved in community leadership and public service. If you are one of these members, please fax, (608) 257-0242, or email, aiaw@aiaw.org, a brief description of your public service involvement to the AIA Wisconsin office. Thank you.

Consultant Directory
Wisconsin Architect will be publishing its second annual "Consultant Directory" in this year’s final issue of the magazine.

The directory is designed as a resource for architecture firms and their clients. To be listed, a company must offer services to design and construction professionals in Wisconsin.

Please recommend this unique opportunity to your consultants. The more quality consultants listed in the directory, the more valuable this resource becomes for everyone. For more information, contact Brenda at (608) 257-8497 ext. 102.

People & Places
James P. Schlueter, AIA, Green Bay, and D. Thomas Kincaid, AIA, Lake Geneva, have been approved for Emeritus membership in The American Institute of Architects. Congratulations!

A. James Gersich, AIA, Madison, has been elected president of HSR Associates. Sheila J. Ace, Assoc. AIA, Madison, has joined HSR as director of business services.

Michael J. Jelinek, Assoc. AIA, Madison, has joined Strang, Inc., as a designer.

Colleen L. O’Meara, AIA, Madison, has joined Kahler Slater as the general manager of the Madison office.

Richard A. Gilbertsen, AIA, Watertown, has joined Flad & Associates.

George R. Mattheis, AIA, Appleton, and Paul W. Hemauer, AIA, Stockbridge, have been promoted to associates at Miller Wagner Coenen/McMahon, Inc.

Peter L. Hargreaves, AIA, Waukesha, has joined Peter Schwabe, Inc.’s design/build team as architectural project manager.

Paul W. Powers, AIA, Oconomowoc, is the new manager of public and commercial architecture at Mead & Hunt.

Graef Anhalt Schloemer and Associates, Inc., announced the appointment of Joseph Schuller, AIA, Milwaukee, as an associate with the firm.

Kevin E. Rolling, AIA, Green Bay, has been hired as a project architect at Martinson Architects, Inc.

Henry Kosarzycy, AIA, Greendale, is the new agent monitor with the Safety and Buildings Division of the Wisconsin Department of Commerce.

Membership Action
Please welcome the following members to AIA Wisconsin:

AIA
Charles F. Aldrian, AIA—SE
Stephen J. Alexander, AIA—SE
Armin C. Bischoff, AIA—SE
John J. Cronin, AIA—SE
Eugene R. Guszkowski, AIA—SE
Gregory A. Schumacher, AIA—SE

Professional Affiliate
Michael J. Jelinek Assoc. AIA—SW
Eugene R. Krueger, Assoc. AIA—SE
Troy Wohlt, Assoc. AIA—SE

Student
Mari Lynn Haugh—SW
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