



**For Immediate Release**

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## **Iowa Architecture Firms were honored with the AIA Iowa Excellence in Design Awards**

Des Moines, Iowa (October 16, 2009) – The American Institute of Architects, Iowa Chapter (AIA Iowa), has named five Iowa buildings and four Iowa architecture firms winners of the 2009 AIA Iowa Excellence in Design Awards held Friday, October 16, at the Central States Region/AIA Iowa (CSR/AIA Iowa) annual awards recognition at the Capital Square Atrium in Des Moines. The purpose of the AIA Iowa Excellence in Design Awards is to recognize excellence in architecture and emphasize its importance in the community and the profession.

The “Blue Ribbons and Blues” awards recognition was held in conjunction with the CSR/AIA Iowa Annual Convention held Thursday, October 15, and Friday, October 16, 2009, at the Polk County Convention Complex in Des Moines. The 2009 Convention, “Stir”, focused on how architects are redefining their roles and professions to create intelligent, workable solutions for an increasingly diverse and globalized society. The AIA Iowa Education Award, AIA Iowa Allied Member Excellence in Craft Awards, and AIA Iowa Medal of Honor were also presented at this event, as well as, the Central States Region Excellence in Design Awards.

### **MERIT WINNERS:**

AIA Iowa Firm Member, OPN Architects, Inc., located in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, received a Merit Award for their design of the John Deere Harvester Works Visitor’s Center and Offices in East Moline, Illinois. Jury comments included, “This is an exemplary transformation of the type of industrial building that usually blights landscapes throughout America.”

The AIA Iowa Firm Member substance of Des Moines, was the design team for the Jasper Winery in Des Moines, and won a Merit Award. One comment from the jury was, “This project demonstrates how a low construction budget can lead to good architecture: with a sense of modest means, exposed structure, and a well organized plan.”

The College of Design Addition – Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa, designed by AIA Iowa Firm Member RDG Planning & Design of Des Moines earned a Merit Award. One member of the jury stated, “The building is a simple, articulated volume, its hovering green roof plane reminding us that sustainability will be architecture’s paramount responsibility in the coming decades.”

Des Moines AIA Iowa Firm Member substance received a Merit Award for their work on the Weigel Residence in Copper Mountain, Colorado. Comments from the jury included, “The house is beautifully crafted, its slender columns elegantly supporting the slender roof. The inside provides a contemporary interpretation of a rustic material palette and connects well with the wooded exterior.”

HLKB Architecture, a Des Moines AIA Iowa Firm Member, won a Merit Award for their design work on a speculative development building entitled Stonebrooke 3 (H3) in West Des Moines. “The carefully composed and articulated skin using wood, weathering steel, and glass, defies the building’s big-box nature and all the bad connotations that come with it”, said one jury member.

Since 1857, the American Institute of Architects has represented the professional interests of America’s architects. AIA Iowa, headquartered in Des Moines, is a statewide affiliate of the national AIA. AIA members express their commitment to excellence in design and are proactive in the design of livable communities. Members adhere to a code of ethics and professional conduct that assures the client, the public, and colleagues of an AIA member architect’s dedication to the highest standards in professional practice. For more information, go to [www.aiaiowa.org](http://www.aiaiowa.org) or call (515) 244-7502.

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For interviews with the award winners or additional photos, please contact Marisol Molstre at (515) 282-7145 or e-mail her at [m.molstre@essmanassociates.com](mailto:m.molstre@essmanassociates.com).