



**For Immediate Release**

**Contact:** Jessica Reinert  
Phone: (515) 244-7502  
E-mail: [jreinert@aiaiowa.org](mailto:jreinert@aiaiowa.org)

## **Iowa Architecture Firms win AIA Iowa Excellence in Design Awards**

Des Moines, Iowa (September 26, 2008) – The American Institute of Architects, Iowa Chapter (AIA Iowa), has named five Iowa buildings and three Iowa Architecture Firms winners of the 2008 AIA Iowa Excellence in Design Awards held Friday, September 26, at the AIA Iowa annual Awards Celebration at the Iowa State Historical Building in Des Moines. The purpose of the AIA Iowa Excellence in Design Awards are to recognize excellence in architecture and emphasize its importance in the community and the profession.

This Awards Celebration was held in conjunction with the AIA Iowa Annual Convention held Thursday, September 25, and Friday, September 26, 2008 at the Polk County Convention Complex in Des Moines. The 2008 Convention, “Kicking Habits”, focused on kicking little habits that will solve big problems, and the tools needed today to generate change and meet the SustainAbility 2030 Challenge, a goal of creating carbon neutral buildings by the year 2030. Additional awards including the AIA Iowa Excellence in Sustainable Design Awards, AIA Iowa Education Award, and AIA Iowa Medal of Honor were also presented at this event.

### **AWARD WINNERS:**

#### **Merit Award**

The OPN Architects Offices located in Cedar Rapids, Iowa and designed by AIA Iowa Firm Member, OPN Architects, Inc. of Cedar Rapids, Iowa received a Merit Award. Jury Member Christopher Gray of Ballinger in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, commented, “The pallet of materials that were used on the interior were really compelling.”

#### **Merit Award**

The Kohout Residence located in Dakota Dunes, South Dakota and designed by AIA Iowa Firm Member,

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HLKB Architecture of Des Moines, Iowa received a Merit Award. Jury Member Christopher Gray of Ballinger in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, commented, “The success of the project was the quality of light and simplicity of the materials.”

### **Honor Award**

The McLeod Center located in Cedar Falls, Iowa and designed by AIA Iowa Firm Member, HLKB Architecture of Des Moines, Iowa received an Honor Award. Jury Member David Riz, AIA, of Karen Timberlake Associates in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, commented, “There is a clear definition between the skin and the structure and an enormous amount of day lighting, which you often do not see in sports facilities.”

### **Honor Award**

The Melrose Avenue Parking Expansion for University of Iowa located in Iowa City, Iowa and designed by AIA Iowa Firm Member, HLKB Architecture of Des Moines, Iowa received an Honor Award. Jury Member Frank Jurman, with Bolden Jackson Architects in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, commented, “This building did a very nice job of making a meaningful pedestrian experience for people as they come down from their cars, [this project] gives them a great connection with out-of-doors and with the campus.”

### **Honor Award**

The Design West Studio for Iowa State University located in Sioux City, Iowa and designed by AIA Iowa Firm Member, M+ Architects of Sioux City, Iowa received an Honor Award. Jury Member Witold Rybczynski, Professor at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, commented, “With a few simple, modest additions they turned this old [building] into a really quite wonderful space and a place where you could really image going to learn and work as a student.”

The 2008 AIA Iowa Excellence in Design Award jury was held Thursday, September 11, 2008 at the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania office of Kieran Timberlake. Jury Chair was David Riz, AIA, a Principal at Kieran Timberlake in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Jury Members, all from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania included Jon C. Jackson, FAIA, Principal of Bohlin Cywinski Jackson; Christopher Gray of Ballinger; Helene Furján, Assistant Professor, Department of Architecture at the University of Pennsylvania; an Witold Rybczynski, Professor of Urbanism and Professor of Real Estate at the University of Pennsylvania and Slate.com Architecture Critic.

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 any of the award winners or additional photos, please contact Jessica Reinert at AIA Iowa, (515) 244-7502, or e-mail her at [jreinert@aiaiowa.org](mailto:jreinert@aiaiowa.org).