



For Immediate Release

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Mark C. Engelbrecht, FAIA awarded Medal of Honor

Des Moines, Iowa (September 26, 2008) – The American Institute of Architects, Iowa Chapter (AIA Iowa), has awarded AIA Iowa Member Mark C. Engelbrecht, FAIA the 2008 AIA Iowa Medal of Honor 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 Medal of Honor is to recognize an AIA Iowa Member for distinguished service to the profession of architecture.

Professor and Dean Mark C. Engelbrecht, FAIA, has been the Dean of the College of Design at Iowa State University for the last fourteen years and has had a forty-five-year career as a practitioner and educator in the profession of architecture. Engelbrecht advocates for design that is engaged with communities and placed-based, and his commitment to Iowa is without parallel. During his tenure as dean, through a wide-variety of programs, students and faculty of Iowa State University have served communities in over 80% of Iowa's 99 counties through applied research, outreach and extension activities. Calvin F. Lewis, FAIA, Professor and Chair of the Department of Architecture at Iowa State University commented that, "Dean Mark Engelbrecht has provided the most distinguished and learned leadership to the lifeblood of our profession, our educational endeavor."

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 Design Awards, AIA Iowa Excellence in Sustainable Design Awards, and AIA Iowa Education Award were also presented at this event.

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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 or call 515.244.7502.

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For interviews with the award winner, please contact Jessica Reinert at AIA Iowa, (515) 244-7502, or e-mail her at jreinert@aiaiowa.org.