

Matrix is the official newsletter of The American Institute of Architects Minnesota



AIA MINNESOTA MATRIX NEWSLETTER

January 2025

Renewal

by Mary-Margaret Zindren, EVP/Executive Director



In the context of architecture, the renewal architects and designers bring about through a project is about more than dealing with worn materials or changing use of space. The renewal of built spaces is a manifestation a deeply human need.

Change just happens. Renewal, by contrast, is intentional change designed to bring about specific, positive aspirations. Renewal is born of care and optimism. It's about what is

envisioned to keep a community connected and whole and vital over time. It's about moving from feeling tired to feeling energized and alive.

Renewal is my wish for you as an individual as you begin this new year. Your work is critical to the lives and livelihoods of so many and to the future of this planet. And you are also more than your work – you are a whole person. Feeling energized and alive ideally comes about through both your professional life and the other ways you take time to nourish your mind, body, and spirit.

At AIA Minnesota, we are here to support your renewal as you chart your way through your career – through connection, learning, mentorship, leadership opportunities, and more – and to support the renewal of the profession of architecture and the built environment in ways that reflect the values and aspirations of this architecture community and the public we all serve.

AlA Minnesota as an organization also has its own need for renewal. Founded in 1892, we are considered a "mature" nonprofit, in organizational development speak. This stage of development requires periodic renewal in order to serve our mission across generations; in order to remain relevant to, supportive of, and energizing for the ever-changing membership of this Minnesota architecture community.

We are embarking on an important time of renewal for the organization. The input

received from members at the AIA MN Annual Conference in November has been tremendously helpful in jump starting this effort. **If you haven't yet taken the survey that was promoted at the Conference, do so today!** In February, the staff team will begin preparing to support the AIA Minnesota Board of Directors as we dive into this work in earnest.

Renewal is often in the eye of the beholder. One person's feeling of renewal can be another's feeling of loss. This is true buildings and neighborhoods. It's true of associations, too.

Generational changes, societal changes, and changes within the context of how architecture is practiced must all shape what we do at AIA Minnesota and how we do it. While every aspect of the renewal to come may not please everyone, know this:

Every member's experience matters.

We want you to feel listened to and cared for.

We want your AIA Minnesota membership to fill you with pride.

Every day, we renew our commitment to you.

We are in your corner, not just rooting for your success but doing all we can to make it real.

Happy (re)new year!

AIA AWARDS



Thomas Fisher, Assoc. AIA, Receives 2025 AIA/ACSA Topaz Medallion for Excellence in Architectural Education

Congratulations to AIA Minnesota member **Tom Fisher, Assoc. AIA**, on receiving the 2025 Topaz Medallion! Tom is just the second Minnesotan to be recognized with this prestigious honor; only **Ralph Rapson** has been honored with this award in prior years.

Jurors recognized Tom's work in academia, as well as his extensive publishing catalogue. His mentorship and contributions to AIA and AIA Minnesota were also celebrated. Read the release »

Watch for information about a special celebration to honor Tom in the weeks to come.

CALL TO ACTION

Firm Assessments are Due January 31

Attention Firm Principals and Marketing Staff: Firm Assessments have been emailed to the firm contacts and are due on January 31, 2025. Firm Directory Profile Questionnaires will be emailed in early January 2025. Firms must pay 2025 Firm Assessments and complete the Firm Directory Profile Questionnaire in order to be listed in the AIA Minnesota Firm Directory that will be published in an annual print publication of ENTER and on the AIA Minnesota website.



Volunteer for Search for Shelter 2025

Each year at Search for Shelter, volunteer architects, landscape architects, interior designers, and students create pro bono solutions for design projects submitted by Minnesota affordable housing and/or homeless nonprofit organizations. Design volunteers work in teams to create viable, graphic solutions and plans, to serve as visual tools

for agencies to use in obtaining further project funding, to promote their organization, and to serve as preliminary development/building plans.

The 2025 Search for Shelter design charrette will take place Saturday, February 1 – Saturday, February 8. The event includes in-person kickoff and closing gatherings, with teams working virtually, in-person, or in a hybrid format based on their preferences. Volunteers with all experience levels are welcome. Learn more and sign up »

AIA Minnesota Future Forward: Take the Survey Today!

AIA Minnesota is YOUR organization! How would you shape it to focus on the efforts you believe matter most?

The <u>AIA Minnesota Future Forward Survey</u> is the way to tell us. This survey is an opportunity for you to share your thoughts on the issues that matter most to you — whether it's the direction of our organization, the challenges facing the profession, or the opportunities you see for growth. Your insights will be crucial as we plan for the future and ensure AIA Minnesota remains a strong, relevant, and supportive organization for years to come.

Complete the survey by January 31, and encourage AIA Minnesota members in your networks to do so as well. We need as many perspectives as possible to inform the work of reshaping our priorities for the future of your organization.



Lake Superior Design Retreat

Watch for registration to open very soon for the Lake Superior Design Retreat (LSDR) on March 7 & 8, 2025, at Zeitgeist Arts in Duluth! Sign up here for our mailing list to be the first to hear updates and when registration is open.

Five out of six speakers are confirmed! Meet:

- <u>Bradley Greenwald</u> has performed opera, theater, music-theater, concert and recital repertoire with several Twin Cities' arts organizations. Bradley is the recipient of a Minnesota State Arts Board Fellowship in music, the McKnight Fellowship for Theater Artists, and a 2006 Ivey Award.
- Ali Heshmati, AlA, is a senior architect at Henning Larsen and a founding partner at Laboratory for Environments, Architecture, and Design (LEADinc), a collaborative interdisciplinary firm with studios in USA and Norway. LEADinc is a progressive design laboratory whose guiding principle is the idea that creative architecture is rooted in the process of research, discovery and critique of existing conventions.
- <u>Sarah Kraning</u> is an American abstract artist with <u>synesthesia</u>. Born with various auditory-based forms of the rare trait, Sarah experiences sound as color, texture, and motion. Her work is inspired by her multi-sensory experiences of sound.
- Ray Mattison is the lead designer at Duluth-based <u>Design Eye Q</u>, a creative industrial design studio. Design Eye Q has an exceptional product implementation record leveraging foundations in aesthetics, functionality, technology, and ergonomics.
- Kate Buehler McWilliams is an artist and historian who builds medieval
 musical instruments. These instruments—rebecs, vielles, citoles, and others—
 are precursors to the modern violin and guitar. She has built close to 100
 instruments in her woodworking shop in Shoreview, selling them to performers
 and universities worldwide.

Interested in sponsoring LSDR? Reach out to **Ann Mayhew** to learn more.

Submit a Design Proposal for the U.S. Pavilion at La Biennale de Venezia



The Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design at the University of Arkansas, in partnership with DesignConnects and Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, invites architects, designers, artists and creatives from across the United States and its territories to submit exhibit design proposals for PORCH: An Architecture of Generosity, the U.S. Pavilion exhibition at

the 19th International Architecture Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia.

PORCH focuses on the representation of the U.S. through the contemporary manifestation of the porch in American architecture – a quintessential constructed place that is at once social and environmental, tectonic and performative, hospitable and intimate, generous and democratic. The U.S. Pavilion's theme highlights an enduring American architectural typology that persists across scales, geographies, communities, construction methods and histories. PORCH also complements the Biennale Architettura 2025's theme, Intelligens: Natural. Artificial. Collective., spotlighting architecture's role in addressing climate change and fostering forward-looking solutions for adaptation and renewal.

Proposals are due January 17. View submission guidelines and learn more »

Create a Company Profile to Access STEM SciTech Internship Program (Minnesota DEED)

The SciTech Internship Program is a FREE small business resource here to make hiring interns easier and more affordable! <u>Create a company profile</u> and gain access to an exclusive candidate pool of pre-vetted college STEM talent, all of which are eager for hands-on opportunities at innovative companies like yours!

- DEED recruits on your behalf, pre-vetting students and coaching them on how to apply
- You make the hiring decision!
- Every hire reported reserves a grant that will reimburse you for 50% of what you pay your intern (up to \$2,500 back per student hired).
- Architecture is considered one of the eligible industries. Also included are IT/cybersecurity/AI, engineering, life sciences, medical devices, manufacturing, construction/civil engineering, and renewable energies.

<u>Watch DEED's program trailer</u> to hear from employers currently benefitting from the program. Learn more at <u>SciTechMN.org</u>.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2025 Legislative Session Begins with Uncertainty

The 2025 Minnesota legislative session will begin on January 14 with major confusion about leadership structure. A DFL/Republican tie in the House led to a plan for shared leadership that was thrown into disarray by a court decision in late

December that will give Republicans control of the chamber until a special election on January 28. The <u>passing of Senator Kari Dziedzic</u> in late December also created a tie in that chamber until a January 28 special election. Other election challenges and court cases are ongoing that could further impact the balance of power in both chambers in coming months.

All of this upheaval is taking place against a backdrop of a challenging economic forecast and a requirement for the legislature to pass a budget. AIA Minnesota and its lobbying team are following these developments closely and will continue to navigate this changing situation as best we can to advocate on the issues most important to the profession. Stay tuned for more updates! If you have questions, please contact Sheri Hansen.



AGC Minnesota 2024-2025 Construction Industry Assessment Released

Thank you to the firm leaders, architects, and designers who contributed to the AGC construction industry assessment this year. An optimistic trend for the 2025 construction season is present with strong market fundamentals being held in check by the long-standing drags of a tight labor market, increased labor costs, and inflation concerns. High levels of optimism from architects may yield future opportunities in the commercial

sector; plus lower interest rates, steady project funding projections, and the adoption of new technologies are all strong positive markers for the coming year.

There is a growing move to require workers to return to the office even though a tight labor market requires employers to be creative to attract and retain talent. The overall cost of labor remains a significant concern, yet employers are having to increase compensation as the most effective tool to build and sustain strong front office talent. Read the full report »

ENTERmn.com: The Best Place to Find Insightful Content on the Built Environment!

Do you want to reach community leaders and influencers in the build environment? Your ad on entermn.com will put your message and brand in front of our captive audience. Select your frequency from monthly quarterly or just on occasion. Reach 3700+ subscribers for only \$495 per issue. Contact Pam Nelson to reserve your space for 2025. Reserving spots now!

2025 ENTER Print Annual Publication – coming out in May 2025 Include this in your ad budget for 2025!

Reserve your ad now in this once-a-year print publication featuring thought-provoking articles, inspiring community profiles, and a showcase of the 2024 Honor Awards projects. The AIA Minnesota Firm Directory and Consultants Directory are also included. Reach AIA Minnesota members, project partners, C-level executives, legislators, corporate decision makers, and the larger community of targeted influencers in this high-quality magazine. Watch for details on advertising and

directory information to come in January or contact <u>Pam Nelson</u> to reserve your space for the 2025 issue now.

MINNESOTA ARCHITECTURAL FOUNDATION



Ralph Rapson Traveling Study Fellowship

Ralph Rapson Traveling Study Award Information

The Minnesota Architectural Foundation (MAF) invites AIA members or AIA Associate members, 40 years of age or younger to apply for the 2025 Ralph Rapson Traveling Study Award (RRTSA). This prestigious award offers a \$15,000 grant to support travel and study. Learn more and apply today!

- Application period: January 1 February 13
- Competition dates: Thursday, February 20 Tuesday, March 4
- Initial jury: Thursday, March 13
- Final jury: Thursday, March 27

CONTINUING EDUCATION



CE for AIA Membership Renewal

Did you know that you can check the credits that have been recorded to your AIA transcript? Click here.

New On-Demand Webinars Now Available

AIA Minnesota just opened up three new on-demand webinars from presentations at the A'23 MN Conference!

Means of Egress: A General Introduction 1.5 HSW LUs

<u>Do Designers Know Best? Fighting for the Design Solutions We Believe In</u>

1.25 LUs and Ethics

Local Lessons from the COTE Top Ten 1.5 HSW LUs

- Click on the links above to see a description for each.
- Use the registration form at the bottom of each page to sign up for the webinar.
- Watch for an email with a link and password to access the webinar.
- The ten-question quiz must be completed and passed in order to receive credit.
- Please note if you attended these programs at the 2023 Conference, you are not able to receive credit again.

Questions? Contact Deanna Christiansen, Hon. AIAMN

NATIONAL & LOCAL CHAPTER UPDATES

AIA NATIONAL

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE DUE JANUARY 15.



AIA Q4 2024 HOME DESIGN TRENDS SURVEY RELEASED

The Q4 2024 home design trends survey includes information on neighborhood and community design as well as visual depictions of home design trends, and links to data stretching back to 2019. <u>View the interactive survey</u> »

12 AIA AWARDS PROGRAMS CLOSE JANUARY 8

AlA Awards are your opportunity to enhance your visibility, gain prestigious industry recognition, and establish your work as a benchmark of excellence and innovation. Currently accepting submissions: COTE Top Ten Award, AlA/ALA Library Building Award, Architecture Award, Collaborative Achievement Award, Design for Aging Review Award, Education Facility Design Award, Healthcare Design Award, Housing Award, Interior Architecture Award, Justice Facilities Review Award, Regional & Urban Design Award, and the Small Project Award. New this year, you can submit the common application to save time and money when submitting a project in multiple award categories.

AIA 2030 BY THE NUMBERS (RY23) PUBLISHES KEY REPORTED FINDINGS ON THE INDUSTRY'S PATH TO NET ZERO

The AIA 2030 Commitment has released its latest edition of the <u>2030 By the Numbers (RY23</u>). This report highlights major improvements in reported embodied carbon data, increases in net zero projects and projects with renewable energy projects, and two firm case studies that show firm culture is at the heart of improving practice and design outcomes.

UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

We want to make sure we stay connected! If you've moved, changed companies, or retired, or if your member record contains outdated or incorrect information, this is a perfect time to make those updates. Log into your profile »



AIA MINNEAPOLIS

MINNEAPOLIS PRESERVATION AWARDS CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The submission window for the 2025 Minneapolis Preservation Awards will **open on January 8**. The program recognizes the architects, developers, volunteers, enthusiasts, and preservation professionals that protect and celebrate the city's built history. Award categories include preservation projects, additions to historic structures, small projects or details, new construction in historic districts, advocacy, and leadership. Projects in all categories except for the new Legacy Impact Award must have been completed within the last five years. Submitting is free, and **entries are due Friday, February 14**, **at noon Central time**.

<u>Learn more</u> about the Minneapolis Preservation Awards, its new Legacy Impact Award, and submitting an entry.

The Minneapolis Preservation Awards celebration will be held on the evening of Thursday, March 13, at The Capri Theater. Reserve your spot!

GOLF OUTING: SAVE THE DATE! Monday, July 28 Majestic Oaks Golf Club

AIA NORTHERN MINNESOTA

ATTEND THE 37th ANNUAL LAKE SUPERIOR DESIGN RETREAT

March 7-8, 2025 at Zeitgeist Arts in Duluth Visit LSDR for more info

AIA ST. PAUL

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: THE FUTURE OF DOWNTOWN ST. PAUL - ROLES FOR THE ARCHITECTURE COMMUNITY - A HANDS-ON JUMP START Thursday, January 23, 3:30pm 4RM+ULA

Join in this activation session with Joe Spencer, President of the Saint Paul Downtown Alliance, which builds on the AIA St. Paul Annual Meeting in November. We will dive deeper into the challenges and opportunities facing the people and the built environment of downtown St. Paul, and actively explore ways that our architecture community and the AIA St. Paul chapter can be

activated to design and realize a strong path forward. Register »

AIA ST. PAUL PRIZE ANNOUCEMENT

AIA St. Paul Chapter is thrilled to announce the results of the 2024 AIA St. Paul Prize design competition. In late December, a jury of Tim Shortreed, AIA, Jacob Mans, AIA, Yonggyun Noh, Oleg Kozlovskii, AIA, and Alan Howell, AIA reviewed the submissions and was deeply impressed by the exceptional quality of work presented.

Winner: "Rondo Poetry District" by Evan Hall, AIA

The winning submission, **Rondo Poetry District** captivated the jury with its innovative concept of transforming poetry into form. The design's focus on processing loss through poetry ties beautifully into the competition's theme, connecting the past and future of the community. By prioritizing poetry as the central element, the proposal invites the community to carry the vision forward without forcing definitive architectural forms, allowing poetry to shape the space. This idea of turning poetry into physical models is both imaginative and profound, earning the top spot in this year's competition.

The jury also extends acknowledgement to the honorable mention finalists, **Austin Autrey**, **Jason Jirele**, and **Jakob Mahla** and **Derek Ronding**, **Assoc. AIA**.

View all the submissions »

COMMITTEE AND KNOWLEDGE COMMUNITY UPDATES

ARCHITECT LICENSING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 8, 12:30-1:30 pm Virtual Meeting

ARCHITECTURE IN THE SCHOOLS COMMITTEE

Thursday, January 9, 8:30 am Virtual Meeting

BUILDING CODES KNOWLEDGE COMMUNITY

Wednesday, January 8, 12:00 pm

Virtual Meeting

Open Forum: Bring your code questions, experiences, and updates to share.

COMMITTEE ON DESIGN

Thursday, January 9, 12:00 pm <u>Virtual Meeting</u>

COMMITTEE ON EQUITY IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT (EBE)

Tuesday, January 21, 3:30 pm Virtual Meeting

COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT (COTE)

Friday, January 10, 12:00 pm

Virtual Meeting

Danny Desjarlais, Project Manager for the Lower Sioux Industrial Hemp Program, has been the lead on multiple hempcrete projects utilizing all methods of installation. Hempcrete is a bio based insulating building material made from hemp and lime. In this presentation, Danny will share the benefits of using natural materials in the construction industry.

View a film about hempcrete »

COUNCIL OF FIRMS KNOWLEDGE COMMUNITY

Monday, January 13, 12:00 pm

Virtual Meeting

Our discussion will identify topics of importance to our profession in 2025. AIA MN president **Jennifer Christiaansen, AIA**, will be joining us to share additional perspectives on AIA Minnesota's goals and focus for the year.

EMERGING PROFESSIONALS COMMITTEE

Tuesday, January 14, 12:00 pm (meetings are held quarterly) <u>Virtual Meeting</u>

EMERGING PROFESSIONAL FRIENDLY FIRM PROGRAM

The EPC hosted a presentation at the A'24 MN Conference on results from past Friendly Firm Award winners and ways to support emerging professionals. The presentation slides can be found at this <u>link</u>. Applications for the 2025-2026 Emerging Professional Friendly Firm Award will be available in January. **New this year: there will be a June 1 deadline to apply.**

Firms with an office in Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota, or South Dakota are eligible to apply. Visit the website »

ENTER COMMITTEE

This committee meets at noon on the fourth Friday of even-numbered months. Next meeting:

Friday, February 28, 12:00 pm Virtual Meeting

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Tuesday, January 21, 12:00 pm Virtual Meeting

HOUSING ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 8, 12:00 pm

Virtual Meeting

SEARCH FOR SHELTER 2025

February 1-8, 2025

Join us for our annual design charette! In-person opening and closing events will bookend a week of virtual or hybrid team work. All levels of experience are welcome! Volunteer »

Know an agency that works in housing and needs free design service? Encourage them to apply! Applications are due January 11. Apply »

LAKE SUPERIOR DESIGN RETREAT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, January 21, 11:30 am (note new meeting date) Virtual Meeting

ATTEND THE 37th ANNUAL LAKE SUPERIOR DESIGN RETREAT

March 7-8, 2025 at Zeitgeist Arts in Duluth Visit LSDR for more info

MINNESOTA DESIGN TEAM COMMITTEE (MDT)

RETREAT FOCUSED ON TOURISM

Saturday, January 18, 8:30am

International Market Square

Join the AIA Minnesota Design Team Committee for our annual retreat! Explore the intersection of design and community engagement through the lens of tourism with industry experts from diverse organizations. Network, learn, and enjoy food. <u>Learn more and register</u> »

RESIDENTIAL ARCHITECTURE COMMITTEE

Tuesday, January 7, 12:00 pm Virtual Meeting

WOMEN IN ARCHITECTURE COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 15, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm HYBRID MEETING

In-Person location: Pope Design Group

Virtual Meeting Link

Join us in person to celebrate our 2024 accomplishments and plan for 2025! Note the extended timeframe for this meeting. Join us online if you can't make it in person! Watch for more details and a formal agenda via email in the week prior to the meeting.

Don't miss the "Converging of Times" exhibit in the Coffman Art Gallery, featuring the work of committee member **Debanjana Chatterjee**, **AIA!** Through mixed media illustration — photography, digital sketch, and lithography — her work depicts the dilemmas of a woman living within different layers of society; the notion that women go unnoticed, are overworked, and underpaid. She reflects on how women are psychologically struggling every day. **The exhibit runs through February 2, 2025**.

CITYPARK designed by HOK and **Snow Kreilich Architects**, received the prestigious Prix Versailles Award. **Learn more** »

Bryan C. Lee, Jr. FAIA, NOMA, partner of AIA Minnesota in the development of the 21st Century Development framework and a past keynote speaker at the AIA Minnesota Annual Conference – has received the AIA Whitney M. Young, Jr. Award. The award distinguishes an architect or architectural organization that embodies social responsibility. Learn more »

WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!

Arno Adkins, AIA
Davis Bach, Assoc. AIA
Alli Benson, Assoc. AIA
Daniel Dorr, Assoc. AIA
Frances Gonzalez, Assoc. AIA
Westin Hammerstrom, Allied Member of

AIA Minnesota

Colin Lewis, Assoc. AIA Kelly Mortensen, Assoc. AIA Amanda Nonnemacher, Allied Member of AIA Minnesota

Channing Wilson, Allied Member of AIA Minnesota Cortney Woodis, Allied Member of AIA Minnesota

AFFILIATED ORGANIZATION NEWS & EVENTS

UMN CONVERGING OF TIMES EXHIBIT OCTOBER 1 - FEBRUARY 2 »

CERTIFIED PASSIVE HOUSE DESIGNER COHORT JANUARY KICKOFF: The CPHD course is the premier core Passive House professional training for architects, engineers, consultants, developers, policymakers and more. The course is supported by the 30+ year history of global technical leadership and scientific research of the Passive House Institute. The course is structured to be flexible in timing, yet get you to the exam date prepared for the test and ready for designing and building. The course kicks off January 16, with a test goal in April. Learn more »

LEADING GREEN: Advance your career today and take advantage of the USGBC's reduced fee of \$100 to take the exam online from the comfort of your own home. With instruction from a USGBC Faculty member, this is the most efficient way to ace the test and make a positive impact on your professional life. Don't miss out—reserve your spot now! **Cost**: \$200 with the coupon code 'sust' for \$100 off! (Non-members \$300) Save your seat by registering here for our live or self-paced options https://leadinggreen.com/online

UMN ONLINE RESOURCES

Visit the College of Design's online calendar for regular updates on activities.

UMN CAREER AND INTERNSHIP RESOURCES

Employers with jobs, internships, or smaller, project-based micro-internships are encouraged to post opportunities for students and recent grads at <u>careerhelp.umn.edu</u>.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Visit the <u>AIA Minnesota Events Calendar</u> for more information about upcoming events. For events not sponsored by AIA Minnesota, please check directly with sponsors for up-to-date information about cancellations, postponements, or virtual meetings.



published by AIA Minnesota. Matrix is

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AIA Minnesota Matrix Editor Sheri Hansen

FEBRUARY Matrix editorial deadline is Friday, January 17. **MARCH** Matrix editorial deadline is Friday, February 21.

Please submit content to *AIA Minnesota*.

Get updates on events, activities, and the latest architectural news from AIA Minnesota and its chapters on social media. Don't forget to tag us on your news to share!

Facebook Twitter LinkedIn

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