

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AIA Southwest Michigan
c/o Progressive AE
1811 4 Mile Rd NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49525

Contacts:

Mike Ingberg
248-855-6777
mingberg@marxlayne.com

Sara E. Temple, AIA
616-447-3349
temples@progressiveae.com

AIA Southwest Michigan Announces Design Award Winners

Kalamazoo, Mich.— (Dec. 17, 2008) — The American Institute of Architects Southwest Michigan recognized seven architecture firms at its 2008 Design Awards. Of the seven honorees, five companies hail from Kalamazoo, Mich., with the sixth and seventh residing in Battle Creek, Mich., and St. Joseph, Mich., respectively.

The event, which showcases the talents of southwest Michigan's top architectural design firms, honored **Kingscott Associates, Inc.** and **Architecture + design** by presenting each with the organization's highest accolade given for excellence, the Honor Award. **TowerPinkster**, **Diekema Hamann Architecture** and solo practitioner **Nelson Breech Nave, AIA**, were recognized with Merit Awards followed by **Slocum Associates Inc.** and **Allegretti Architects, Inc.** as honorable mention selections.

The design awards program encourages AIA members to strive for design excellence in a wide variety of building types, and offers an opportunity to share thoughts and celebrate the value of architecture within our communities. It is the mission of AIA Southwest Michigan to assist the professional architectural community in achieving the highest level of practice possible and to strive for creative solutions to new commissions.

Twenty-one project entries were submitted by area architecture firms under three categories: New Construction, Existing Projects and Un-Built Projects. Jurors from the AIA Indianapolis reviewed the submittals and bestowed awards.

The criteria for design excellence included demonstrated skill and sensitivity to the functional and technical requirements of the project, the contribution the project made to the surrounding physical and social context, and the overall harmony and design consistency. Each entry was judged based on the merit of the architect's solution and the apparent success with which the project added to the discourse of design in our community. The Honor Award was the highest award given for excellence, followed by the Merit Award and, finally, the Honorable Mention award.

Kingscott earned its Honor Award distinction for its development of Gull Lake High School in Richland, Mich., while Architecture + Design's work for the Battle Creek Downtown Partnership helped this firm collect its acknowledgment.

TowerPinkster was recognized for a Merit Award for its work on Prairie Ridge Elementary in Kalamazoo while Diekema Hamann earned its honor through its efforts on Gazelle Sports/One DeVisser Place in Kalamazoo. Nelson Breech Nave, AIA, was honored for his work on the 401 East Michigan Avenue Building.

Slocum earned distinction for its work on the James C. Gillingham Academic Center on Beaver Island in Michigan. Allegretti's efforts on a private residence in Bridgman, Mich., helped earn the firm its recognition.

###