



**PRESS RELEASE**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**AIA MICHIGAN ELECTS HONORARY AFFILIATES**

Detroit, Michigan: June 12, 2013- AIA President Tamara Burns, AIA announced that two new names will be added to the role of Honorary Members of the American Institute of Architects Michigan at its annual Celebration of Architecture on June 14 in Ann Arbor at the University of Michigan Museum of Art (UMMA).

Honorary Affiliate Membership is one of the highest honors that AIA Michigan can bestow upon a person who is not an architect but who has made important contributions to the profession of architecture. Lynne Merrill Francis, Hon. Aff. AIAMI and Michelle Saroki, Hon. Aff. AIAMI, have made important contributions to architecture and design in Michigan.

Lynne Merrill Francis has a long history with historic preservation and architecture in Michigan. Her effort to save the Howell Court House, built in 1889, was the first successful effort to restore a major county building in Michigan. She has served two terms with the Board of Commission, was the director of Governor Milliken's Community Development Cabinet and earned a Michigan Home Builders License and then a Master Gardner's certificate.

Lynne joined the AIA Michigan in 1986, where she researched and wrote the history of the AIA Michigan and became somewhat of an expert on archived records and architects. In the midst of her work with programs at AIA Michigan, the Michigan Architectural Foundation, and public outreach, Lynne could be found working to ferret out and protect the written record of its members.

Lynne currently lives with her husband Edward Francis, FAIA, in the Mies van de Rohe designed Lafayette Park in Detroit.

Michelle Saroki is a passionate advocate for the profession and employed her unique position to serve as a tireless ambassador for the AIA, for Architects, for design and for the profession. She has served the Michigan Architectural Foundation as a Public Trustee and in many other roles, such as Co-Chair of the MAF Silent Auction Committee from 2008-2011, committee member for the Dumke Open Golf Outing and she is currently working with MAF to launch the Top 100 Architecture Book Collection program.

Michelle also serves on the Birmingham Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce, the Jewish/Chaldean Art and Culture Building Bridges Committee, the Child Abuse and Neglect Council, Challenge Detroit, the Preservation Bloomfield Gingerbread Committee and works with AIAS group at Lawrence Technological University for their Freedom by Design event.

The American Institute of Architects Michigan, headquartered in the historic Beaubien House across from the Renaissance Center in downtown Detroit, established its awards program to bring to public attention the value and importance of architectural excellence and to recognize those whose notable achievements encourage all to make excellence in architecture the standard.

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