

June 21, 2016
For immediate release

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Excellence Beyond Design Shown in AIA Minneapolis Merit Award Winners

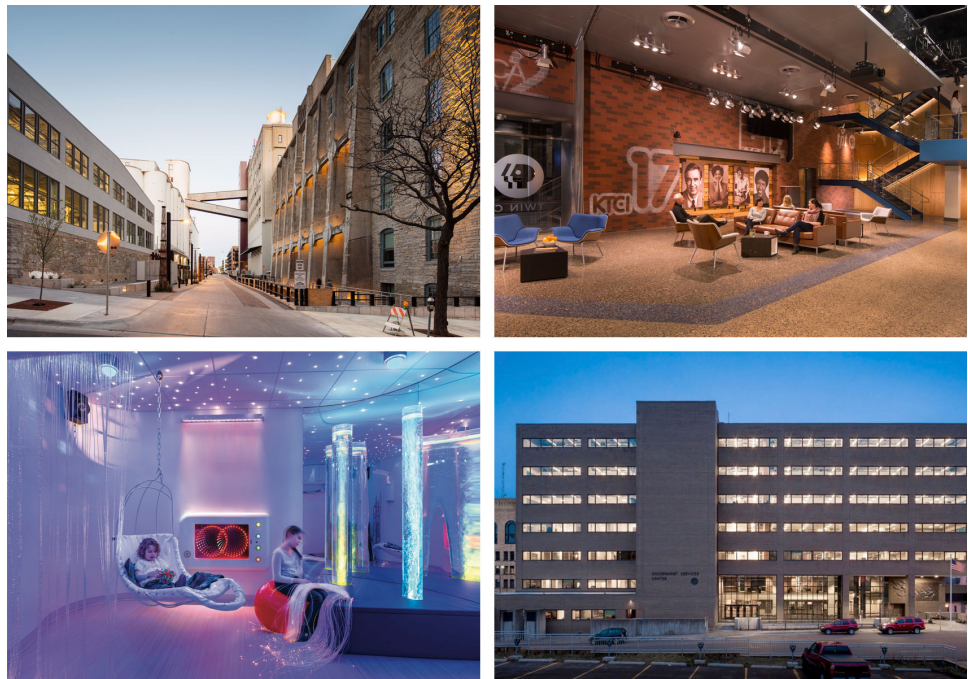
MINNEAPOLIS, MN -- AIA Minneapolis awarded four Merit Awards to projects designed by AIA Minneapolis architects that tell a story of excellence beyond design; reflecting the variety of forces that shape a building. Unique in its approach to creating a jury, the Merit Award encompasses the views of business professionals, real estate developers, community advocates, and academic leaders, as well as architects.

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Top left to bottom right: A-Mill Artist Lofts; Twin Cities PBS (TPT); Kiran Stordalen and Horst Rechelbacher Pediatric Pain, Palliative and Integrative Medicine; and St. Louis County Government Services Center

2016 AIA Minneapolis Merit Award recipients:

BKV Group's **A-Mill Artist Lofts** is an adaptive reuse of a historic landmark; creating affordable-artist apartments that are located in the St. Anthony Falls Historic District of Minneapolis. The A-Mill Artist Lofts received the additional honor of being selected for the **2016 Michael L. Schrock, AIA, Merit Award** (see description below).

Cunningham Group Architecture, Inc.'s **Twin Cities PBS (TPT)** is a redesigned space that captures the essence of contemporary public-media, while serving as a neighborhood hub for the Lowertown community of St. Paul.

Perkins+Will's **St. Louis County Government Services Center Renovation** is a high-performance re-stack and renovation project that features daylight-filled and shared-perimeter spaces; it reinvigorates a previously underperforming office building in Duluth.

U+B Architecture & Design's **Kiran Stordalen and Horst Rechelbacher Pediatric Pain, Palliative and Integrative Medicine** is a state-of-the-art clinic designed as a calming and anxiety-reducing healing environment of pediatric pain management, located within the Minneapolis Children's Hospital.

The **Michael L. Schrock, AIA, Merit Award** was created to honor Mike Schrock, AIA, who tragically passed away in 2008. This is an additional honor awarded within the context and structure of the AIA Minneapolis Merit Awards to the winning project that most embodies Michael's 7 Rules of Architecture:

1. Know where you are from.
2. Know who you are.
3. Know why you are.
4. Respect your benefactors.
5. Honor the environment.
6. Architecture must serve those who occupy it.
7. There is beauty in functional, economical, safe, environmentally responsible, owner-driven architecture.

The Merit Award jury included: Lorraine Frias, UnitedHealthcare; Jody McGuire, AIA, University of Minnesota – College of Design; Cory Miller, Ackerberg Group; Cordelia Pierson, Minnesota Environmental Fund; and Michael Schellin, AIA, AIA Minneapolis President. The jury reviewed how well the entries achieved client/team satisfaction, technical innovation, environmental responsibility, budget/business success, community impact, and the architectural solution.

The Merit Awards were presented to recipients at the AIA Minneapolis Chapter Luncheon in June at International Market Square in Minneapolis. Learn more about the awards at <http://www.aia-mn.org/about/chapters/aia-minneapolis/minneapolis-events/merit-awards/>

AIA Minneapolis is the largest chapter in Minnesota with more than 1,600 members. Centered in Minneapolis, the chapter territory includes the southwestern portion of the state. As a large chapter, AIA Minneapolis participates with other large AIA chapters nationwide to focus attention on significant issues facing AIA members. The chapter provides leadership, networking, and outreach opportunities for its members. Learn more at [aia-mn.org/about/chapters/aia-minneapolis](http://www.aia-mn.org/about/chapters/aia-minneapolis)

*AIA Minnesota, founded in 1892, is dedicated to strengthening our communities, improving our built environment, and providing architecture resources for exceptional design. For more information on the organization and Minnesota architectural firms, visit www.aia-mn.org and pick up a copy of *Architecture Minnesota*, the award-winning architectural magazine of the Midwest.*

