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**THE SKIDMORE, OWINGS & MERRILL FOUNDATION AWARDS FIVE TRAVELING
FELLOWSHIPS IN ARCHITECTURE**

CHICAGO, IL -- The Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM) Foundation announced today its 1999 Architecture Traveling Fellows: Chaewon Kim from the Southern California Institute of Architecture, Ryan Robinette from Kansas State University, Brian Burke from Rice University, Michael Hamilton from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, and Bailey Heck from the University of Virginia. The SOM Foundation awarded these fellowships to allow these students to complete self-determined travel itineraries specifically designed to complement their college studies and professional interests.

The overall quality of submissions and range of design explorations impressed the 1999 Traveling Fellowship jury. Diversity in the study of architectural pursuits indicated a healthy balance of theory and craft. While there were several exquisitely presented portfolios, the jury was looking for those applicants who communicated an enthusiasm and commitment to the exploration of particular architectural ideas. Both originality of thought and the capability to develop a concept were presented and seriously evaluated.

Bachelor of Architecture Traveling Fellowships

“Chaewon demonstrated a commitment to using architecture to build bridges between Eastern and Western cultures. Her poetic abstraction of the layering, brevity and accessibility in children’s literature was a fresh approach,” said juror Peter Pfau of Pfau Architecture. Kim is interested in integrating Zen philosophy and architecture and was selected as a \$5,000 Bachelor of Architecture Fellowship co-winner.

“Ryan’s intensity and thoughtfulness was evident in both his work and words,” said juror Bill Leddy of Tanner, Leddy, Maytum, and Stacey. “He is a strong form maker. Ryan presented a sophisticated portfolio showing his interests and skills in multidisciplinary design and the arts and proposed a well-conceived travel and study plan to investigate Eastern European artists, architects, and designers.” Robinette was designated as a \$5,000 Bachelor of Architecture Fellowship co-winner.

Master of Architecture, First Professional Degree Traveling Fellowships

Brian Burke, nominated by Rice University, was the recipient of the largest 1999 fellowship funding. “Brian’s compelling projects and design explorations fascinated the jury. Exhibiting many layers of meaning, the beautifully presented work was intellectually stimulating and skillfully refined. His portfolio and discussion of work made a very articulate statement about how architecture can find symbiotic relationships through technology and science to give new meanings to a solution,” commented Jury Chair Brian Lee, Partner of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP. Burke was awarded a \$10,000 Master of Architecture, First Professional Degree Fellowship.

The University of Nebraska at Lincoln’s Michael Hamilton was a Master of Architecture, First Professional Degree co-winner. In reviewing Hamilton’s work, Pfau commented, “Michael’s understanding of mechanical and construction technologies was evident in the quality of his work and his “obsession with making.” His designs explored the joints between materials, forms and spaces.” This attention to, and continued interest in, architectural detail is the basis of Hamilton’s proposed study of the works of architect Carlos Scarpa. The jury awarded Hamilton a \$5,000 Master of Architecture, First Professional Degree Fellowship.

Bailey Heck, from the University of Virginia, was this year’s second co-winner of a \$5,000 Master of Architecture, First Professional Degree Fellowship. “The jury was impressed with Bailey’s interest in architecture that is generated in response to nature. His work showed a sensitivity to site and a thoughtful integration of architecture and landscape. Bailey’s well-crafted projects explore a sustainable design that is rich with meaning,” said Leddy.

“With regard to the competition entries as a whole, we, as a jury, particularly noticed the use of digital technologies to produce an intoxicating assemblage of imagery,” commented Lee. “In the end, the jury was most drawn to those students whose work exhibited a thoughtful search for architectural meaning, using any or all tools before them. This year’s finalists demonstrated considerable talent in those respects. Each of the finalists was worthy, but we selected the winners due to their perceived character and drive, emotional and intellectual maturity, and passion for architecture. Each of the Fellowship winners was evaluated on their promise and potential to benefit from further growth through travel and independent study.”

Lee continued, “This year’s submissions of Master of Architecture, Second Professional Degree portfolios were few in number and, as a group, not as strong as the First Professional Degree applicants. For those reasons the Jury, after reviewing all portfolios, elected to select additional co-winners in the Master of Architecture, First Professional Degree category.”

The mission of the SOM Foundation Traveling Fellowship program is to assist young architects, engineers and urban planners in expanding their professional education through the observations of foreign culture, history, building, and design that can only be achieved through travels. Prior Fellows have traveled to China, India, Japan, the Philippines, and Russia, as well as throughout Europe and the United States.

Since 1980, the SOM Foundation has awarded more than \$700,000 to 80 students. The programs of the SOM Foundation are funded through an endowment established by the Partners of the architectural firm Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP (SOM). Established in 1936, SOM is the first two-time recipient of the prestigious American Institute of Architects Architecture Firm Award. Some of SOM's design projects include the Sears Tower (Chicago), John Hancock Center (Chicago), Lever House (New York), Bank of America World Headquarters (San Francisco) and the Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre Extension (Hong Kong). The Foundation's activities are wholly separate from those of the firm.

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