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

**Anita Licis and Joon Paik are the 1999 co-recipients**

CHICAGO, IL -- The Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM) Foundation announced today its 1999 Interior Architecture Traveling Fellows: Anita Licis and Joon Paik. The SOM Foundation co-awarded fellowships to these two students to complete their self-determined travel itineraries, specifically designed to complement their college studies and professional interests.

"This year the jury chose to award two students because to choose between such talented students with such different points of design view was to choose between the soulful and the cerebral," said Jury Chair Jaime Velez, Associate Partner, Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP.

"By co-awarding the fellowship, the jury chose to celebrate and acknowledge two very talented individuals with two very promising careers," added juror Ariane Steinbeck, Senior Vice President, The Gettys Group. Licis and Paik each received a \$3,750 fellowship.

University of Massachusetts/Amherst graduate student Anita Licis received the travelling fellowship based on her artistic portfolio work. The jury commented that her work was "poetic with a high level of plasticity and featured ideas that were extremely three-dimensional and sculptural."

"Licis' design work represents a lyrical expression—an extension of herself—as it relates specifically to her vision of interior architecture and design," commented juror Julie Lasky, Editor-in-Chief, *Interiors* magazine. "Her proposed travel reflects the relationship between design and political culture and shows sensitivity to social issues, which the jury applauds." Licis will be traveling to Eastern Europe, Finland, Great Britain, Italy, France, Spain, and Greece.

Joon Paik, a graduate student at Harvard University, is the co-recipient of the traveling fellowship for his "intriguing and magical work." "Although not readily evident, there was a sense of humor and an element of surprise reflected within his portfolio, which demonstrated his continuing interest in interior versus exterior architecture," said juror Gary Lee, Partner, Gary Lee & Partners. "Paik proved himself to have a good understanding of both the historical and current interior versus exterior debate, and his portfolio expressed it in an original way. The jury was pleased with his earnest need to find his own answer to this debate within the realm of interior architecture and design." Paik will be traveling to Austria, France and possibly Egypt.

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. Established in 1936, Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP (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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