

July 15, 1999

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Contact: Lisa Westerfield
Administrative Director
SOM Foundation
312.427.4202
somfoundation@som.com

**THE SKIDMORE, OWINGS & MERRILL FOUNDATION AWARDS TRAVELING
FELLOWSHIP IN URBAN DESIGN**

Michael Laviano is the 1999 recipient

CHICAGO, IL -- The Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM) Foundation announced today its 1999 Urban Design Traveling Fellow: Michael Laviano, a December 1998 Urban Design graduate from the University of California at Berkeley. The SOM Foundation awarded a \$7,500 fellowship to Laviano to complete his self-determined travel itinerary specifically designed to complement his college studies and professional interests.

"The jury chose to give Michael the award because his portfolio subject in itself featured a unique design opportunity common to many urban settings," said Jury Chair John Kriken, Partner, Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP.

"Michael showed great skill in looking at a very complex and large geographical area and was able to find a comprehensible order to it," added Richard Bender, Dean Emeritus of the Department of Architecture at UC Berkeley.

Jeff Oberdorfer, Principal Architect of the San Jose Redevelopment Agency, commented, "In his interview, Michael showed a unique talent for communicating urban design ideas clearly and persuasively." Michael tentatively plans to travel to Southeast Asia this fall where he will study waterfront development and usage.

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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