

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 12, 2000

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**THE SKIDMORE, OWINGS & MERRILL (SOM) FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES
WINNER OF THE CHICAGO INSTITUTE FOR ARCHITECTURE AND URBANISM (CIAU) AWARD**

CHICAGO, IL – The Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM) Foundation announces the winner of the 2000 Chicago Institute for Architecture and Urbanism Award. Endowed by funds from the Institute, the award has been established by the SOM Foundation to encourage writing and research on the question of how architecture, urban design and physical planning can contribute to improving the quality of life in the American city.

The CIAU Award program, which provides \$5,000 total in prize money, honors the best unpublished essay or research paper addressing the question of how to redirect the physical development of American cities and their regions toward sustainability. Papers are nominated by accredited U.S. graduate programs in architecture, urban design, or physical planning, and must be written by faculty or students in these fields.

The 2000 award goes to **Brenda Scheer, Associate Professor in the School of Planning at the University of Cincinnati**. Ms. Scheer's paper, entitled *The Anatomy of Sprawl*, proposes using the discipline of urban morphology to bring insights into the subject of modern suburban development. This technique looks at the differences in the rate of change for the different elements of community development. Those uses and geographic areas that are more "elastic" are seen as the proper and practical focus for on-going upgrading and redevelopment. The jury felt this paper provided useful insights in addressing suburban development problems. Its methodology could also be applied to many urban settings and even within different cultures.

SOM Foundation

Since 1980, the SOM Foundation has awarded \$887,000 to 113 students, faculty and young professional engineers. The fellowship 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 is the first two-time recipient of the prestigious AIA Architecture Firm Award. Some of the firm's design projects include the Sears Tower (Chicago), the John Hancock Center (Chicago), Lever House (New York), the 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.