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**THE SKIDMORE, OWINGS & MERRILL FOUNDATION AWARDS TRAVELING**

**FELLOWSHIP IN INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE**

**Matthew Hufft is the 2000 recipient**

CHICAGO, IL -- The Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM) Foundation announced today its 2000 Interior Architecture Traveling Fellow: Matthew Hufft. The SOM Foundation awarded the fellowship to Matthew to complete his self-determined travel itinerary, specifically designed to complement his college studies and professional interests.

“Matthew’s strong intellectual concepts could be found in the work itself and in his travel objectives,” said Jury Chair Nada Andric, Associate Partner, Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP. “His work is focused and has a point of view. He will make an inspired and thoughtful professional.”

“He has a bright, inquisitive mind and a mature intellectual level for his level of study,” added Bob Kleinschmidt, principal of Powell-Kleinschmidt.

Rounding out the three-person jury was John Zukowsky, the Curator of Architecture at the Art Institute of Chicago. “In the interview Matt showed himself to have multi-faceted interests; it was obvious that these interests influenced his decision to become an interior architect. He demonstrated that consistency in his professional work, including how he designs, and he articulated that consistency well.”

Matthew is a 2000 graduate from the University of Kansas. His travels will take him to Japan, China, the Philippines and Thailand to study “exterior and interior rooms” and how these “rooms” influence the planning of interior spaces.

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 \$887,000 to 113 students, faculty and young professional engineers. 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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