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**THE SKIDMORE, OWINGS & MERRILL FOUNDATION AWARDS TRAVELING
FELLOWSHIP IN INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE
Hannah Swinbank is the 2001 recipient**

CHICAGO, IL -- The Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM) Foundation announced today its 2001 Interior Architecture Traveling Fellow: Hannah Swinbank of the University of Texas at Austin. The SOM Foundation awarded the fellowship to Hannah to complete her self-determined travel itinerary specifically designed to complement her college studies and professional interests.

Jurors of this year's Interior Architecture competition included Shashi Caan, Associate Partner in Interior Design at Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP New York, Dakota Jackson of Dakota Jackson Furniture, and Susan Szenasy, Editor of *Metropolis*. Stephen Apking, Interior Design Partner for Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP, was Jury Chair. Ms. Szenasy had this to say of Hannah's abilities, "I liked Hannah's work--not for its polished presentation, because on that score she still has a lot to learn--but because it seemed to have some connection to heart and spirit. Her reference to Pablo Neruda's poem, and her interpretation of space and time through a poetic lens gave me something to think about--mainly that so few designers understand the poetic, the spiritual, the emotional connection their work can have with those of us who come in contact with it. Especially when it comes to interior design, such intangibles are essential. Whenever I find an interior designer who understands us as complex beings with creative souls, that's the designer I'd like to encourage.

I also liked Hannah's modest, but very focused travel plans; and that she connected design to food and social behavior. That, too, said to me that here was a budding designer who should be encouraged to delve into uncharted depths that sorely need exploration. As someone said recently--and unfortunately I don't remember who it was and in what context--many of us are really bored with all those ego-driven, single, shiny objects that show great skill but little else. We're looking for deeper connections with our environment. Hannah and designers like her are poised to help us find those deeper connections. She makes me feel hopeful."

Ms. Caan added, "Hannah's unique talent will benefit greatly from the exposure and experience of travel and will help to round out her development in preparation for her future work. The future of our profession depends on nurturing and recognizing creativity that leads to an expression of our time. Hannah's work demonstrates that talent."

"Any design is an expression of personal sensitivities and current thinking. Hannah's portfolio exhibited a profound example of personal expression," said Mr. Jackson

Mr. Apking commented that Hannah's work represented "a thoughtful exploration of the craft of design that promises to be a sound foundation for future innovative work."

Swinbank is a 2001 graduate. Her travels will take her to Spain where she will study the social interactions that occur in Spain's native cider houses and how the interactions of strangers sharing meals there impact the design and perception of interior space.

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 \$950,000 to 117 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. Among SOM's completed work are Chicago's Sears Tower and John Hancock Center, the Lever House, the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs and the Weyerhaeuser Headquarters in Tacoma, Washington – all winners of the American Institute of Architecture's 25-year Award. Recently completed work includes the new International Terminal at the San Francisco Airport, Canary Wharf in London, the Jin Mao Tower in Shanghai and the Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Center. The Foundation's activities are wholly separate from those of the firm.

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