

July 11, 2002

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

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

Natalie Klinck is 2002 recipient

CHICAGO, IL -- The Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM) Foundation announced today its 2002 Interior Architecture Traveling Fellow: Natalie Klinck of Harvard University's Graduate School of Design. The SOM Foundation awarded the \$7,500 fellowship to Natalie 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 Orlando Diaz-Azcuy and Zahid Sardar, Design Editor for the *San Francisco Chronicle*. Tamara Dinsmore, Interior Design Associate Partner for Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP, was Jury Chair.

The jury commented, "We had a very difficult decision to make between the three finalists which also included Seth Hoffman and Wen Liang, both of the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. All three will go far in the field of Interior Design. But, in the end, we were especially captivated by Natalie's determination to utilize technology as a visionary tool and not only as a means of production." Klinck is a 2002 graduate. Her travels will take her to various US locations and to Japan, where she will study textiles and their use as building materials.

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.

The Skidmore, Owings & Merrill Foundation acknowledges United Airlines for allowing the Foundation to be a part of its *Reach for the Skies* program. Because of United's generosity, the Foundation is better able to maintain its focus of giving to education for the improvement of society through enhanced environmental design.

With these awards, the SOM Foundation tops \$1,000,000 in educational awards given to students, faculty and 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 (SOM). Established in 1936, 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 Tower (San Francisco) and the Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre Extension (Hong Kong). The Foundation's activities are wholly separate from those of the firm.

###