

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

CHICAGO, IL -- The Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM) Foundation announces the winner of the 2003 Chicago Institute for Architecture and Urbanism Award. The last time this prize will be given, the award was endowed by funds from the Institute and was 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 American cities.

The CIAU Award program, which provides \$5,000 total in prize money, honors the best unpublished essays or research papers addressing the question of how to redirect the physical development of American cities and their regions toward sustainability.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.

This year the jury elected to recognize the paper "The Qualities of Life in a City" by graduate student Kiel Moe of Harvard University. Juror Rocco Yim, Director of Rocco Design in Hong Kong, commented, "This is a scholarly written essay that provides an insightful observation on the patterns and physical development of the sustainable metropolis as a system of 'organized complexity' that is four-dimensional."

Greg Pearce, co-designer of Hong Kong Station and Director of the Master of Interdisciplinary Design + Management program at the University of Hong Kong, continued, "This paper somehow manages to be at once didactic and poetic in its reading, and I found myself riveted by it. Its argumentation is well documented, well organized and interdisciplinary, building on the work of biologists, mathematicians, urbanists, ecologists and architects, whilst synthesizing those efforts to a new, higher ground, rooted in the predomination of the fourth dimension. There is excellent conceptual clarity and focus in the author's characterization of the sustainable metropolis as a 'material continuum' – an organic model shaped by robustness in the 'time parameter' – and of our efforts upon it as interventions into an 'epigenetic network of forces'. This paper surpasses the mark in providing enlightenment, broadening and advancement of understanding."

Steven Townsend, Chair of the 2003 CIAU Award jury and Director of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill Asia Ltd. said, "This jury was unique in that it expresses a bridge or link between America and Asia in design, design process, and our mutual direction toward elevating the awareness toward and interdisciplinary and sustainable approach in design processes in Asia – a frontier that has the current focus of American professionals. My hope is that this perspective has offered a uniquely valuable

characteristic to the judging of the submissions that is appropriate and timely to the current situation in the profession.”

SOM Foundation

The SOM Foundation has awarded more than \$1,000,000 in educational prizes to 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 (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 and John Hancock Center in Chicago, Lever House and the new AOL Times Warner project in New York, the San Francisco International Airport, the Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre Extension and the Jin Mao Tower in Shanghai. The Foundation’s activities are wholly separate from those of the firm.