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

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

Kyle Reynolds is 2003 recipient

CHICAGO, IL -- The Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM) Foundation announced today its 2003 Interior Architecture Traveling Fellow Kyle Reynolds, a recent graduate of the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee School of Architecture and Urban Planning. The SOM Foundation awarded the \$7,500 fellowship to Kyle to complete his self-determined travel itinerary to Japan where he will study how cultural variables and limitations on available space influence interior architecture in Japan.

Jurors of this year's Interior Architecture competition included Cindy Coleman, Partner at Frankel + Coleman and Gary Wheeler, Principal Managing Director Chicago, Perkins & Will. Jaime Velez, Principal Interior Design Chicago of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP, was Jury Chair.

"Kyle's degree in architecture, combined with his double minor in urban planning and structural engineering will serve to make him a one-of-a-kind practitioner," said Coleman, who noted that Kyle's ability to communicate his complex ideas, combined with his seriousness about the subject of interior architecture and his ability to research design issues so thoroughly, make him a true standout in the field.

Wheeler continued, "Kyle's mind works in remarkable complex ways when it comes to creating a design; bringing the program needs to the forefront with out sacrificing the design intent. He also understands that people need to use space in multiple ways and embraces this notion of complexity to his designs. He said in his interview that if he won the fellowship and traveled to Japan that he didn't want to insert himself into the culture, but instead wanted to observe it. That's an important skill for a designer."

Velez agreed, "I appreciated his statement that he wanted to get lost in Japan and see what he finds. A great deal of learning will occur when he simply allows himself to observe how others live and use space. Another interesting aspect is that Kyle is able to blend his strong systematic approach with a free innovative methodology very well. He's found a way to unite the two and has a unique design process all his own."

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 SOM Foundation has given more than \$1,000,000 in educational awards 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.

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