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THE SKIDMORE, OWINGS & MERRILL FOUNDATION AWARDS TRAVELING
FELLOWSHIP IN URBAN DESIGN

Jan Leenknecht is 2003 recipient

CHICAGO, IL -- The Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM) Foundation announced today its 2003 Urban Design Traveling Fellow: Jan Leenknecht, a 2003 Urban Design graduate from Columbia University. The SOM Foundation awarded a \$7,500 fellowship to Leenknecht to complete his self-determined travel itinerary to study the King's Dyke in Bangkok and the Great Green Wall of China to "try to find and document similarities and conflicts between local micro scale flood and dust protection solutions and the government-driven protection programs."

Philip Enquist, FAIA, Urban Design Partner for Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP Chicago, chaired the 2003 Urban Design Jury. Joining Mr. Enquist on the jury were Linda Searl, FAIA, President of Searl & Associates and Joseph Valerio, FAIA, Principal of Valerio DeWalt Train Associates.

Searl commented, "Jan is very sophisticated in his views and attitudes about his prior education and how he would like to apply it to this endeavor. This was very impressive to the jury."

Valerio continued, "He took his experiences in school and used them to focus on two cities he feels are struggling with environmental issues in different ways, but both dealing with the creation of city edges. We think his proposed study promises to add real value to urban design."

"Jan not only has a very strong portfolio of work, but he has also identified a very interesting travel itinerary which will address issues applicable to many cities throughout the world," finished Enquist.

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 travel. 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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