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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**THE SKIDMORE, OWINGS & MERRILL FOUNDATION  
ANNOUNCES SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN FELLOWSHIP AWARDS**

CHICAGO, IL -- The Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM) Foundation announced today it is making major changes to its fellowship competition awards in order to respond to current architectural design and its related fields. "The Foundation has reviewed the relevancy of our fellowship structure and felt that making these changes will keep the fellowship competitions more in line with what is currently happening with the interdisciplinary nature of the design educational system and degree programs. We wanted to create a design category that mirrors the integrated fields of architecture and urban design study and a category that is more comprehensive of what constitutes an interior environment." said Brian Lee, Chairman of the Foundation. "We also wanted to allow more students access to competition participation, so we are expanding the number of students a school is allowed to nominate."

Beginning with the spring 2005 competition, the Foundation will combine the Architecture and Urban Design juries into one. The two architectural fellowships of \$15,000 each, one on the Bachelors level and one on the Masters level of study, will continue to be offered, but schools will now be allowed to nominate four Bachelor level students and four Master level Architecture students. The \$7500 Urban Design Fellowship will continue to be awarded as it has been previously. One jury will review the Architecture and Urban Design entries and select the three winners. This will allow students to submit portfolios that feature both Architecture and Urban Design projects should they so desire.

In addition to the Architecture and Urban Design award changes, the Foundation has made the decision to revise and rename the Interior Architecture Fellowship. This fellowship will now become a Design Fellowship and will include the areas of interior environment, furniture and product design, lighting and environmental graphics.

The Building Systems Technology Research Grant will not be awarded in 2005 and will no longer be administered by the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers. Instead, it will reappear in the fall of 2005 as a Building Technology fellowship, the parameters of which will be released at a later date. The Structural Fellowship and the United Kingdom awards remain unchanged.

Information on the Architecture, Urban Design and Design awards will be sent to schools at the end of February. In the meantime, the Foundation encourages students and schools to visit the organization's web site where the most current information can be found along with winning entry images and fellowship final report research documentation which can be used for educational purposes.

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), San Francisco International Airport (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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