

# SKIDMORE, OWINGS & MERRILL FOUNDATION

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **THREE RECENT ARCHITECTURE GRADUATES HONORED WITH TRAVEL FELLOWSHIPS**

CHICAGO, IL – The Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM) Foundation today announced the winners of its annual traveling fellowship competition. These fellowships and study grants offer recent graduates the rare opportunity to complete self-determined travel itineraries that complement their college studies and professional interests. Only a handful of such awards exist and to date, the Foundation has given more than \$1 million to architecture, design and engineering students.

### *The Winners*

**Cathlyn Newell, M. Arch., Rice University** is the recipient of the grand **SOM Prize**—a \$50,000 research and travel grant created this year to celebrate the Foundation's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The special prize enables Ms. Newell to do in-depth research, collaborate with other designers, and pursue independent study outside the realm of established patterns. She will visit six Nordic countries to study the effects extreme weather conditions have on the design of structures and building sites. Her research has timely implications as architects and engineers grapple with the aftermath of recent natural disasters and continue to expand on the promise of environmentally conscious design. Ms. Newell currently is an entry-level designer with Office dA in Boston.

"I am intrigued by the atmosphere of a site, the weather patterns, time of day, and seasons, and, more importantly, how the amplification of these forces impacts our experience of a place," said Ms. Newell. "This fellowship is an incredible opportunity to build on my research and begin to understand how architects can create structures that fully study, integrate and celebrate the natural forces that are already present."

**Changhak Choi, M. Arch., Columbia University** and **James Meyer, B. Arch., University of Arkansas** each have won a \$10,000 travel fellowship. Mr. Choi will study in Berlin and Shanghai to compare and contrast the reciprocal relationship between a city's architecture and its master plan. Mr. Meyer, an intern at the University of Arkansas' Community Design Center, plans to travel in the United States, Europe and Asia to analyze public spaces in old, new and "global" cities.

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In addition to the traveling fellowships, the jury has given a \$1,000 special recognition prize to **Jonathan Muecke, B. Arch., Iowa State University** for his tactile and poetic exploration of what it means to be an architect.

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### *The Jury*

The winners were chosen by Ross Wimer, partner, Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP; Jeanne Gang, principal, Studio/Gang Architects; Doug Garofalo, principal, Garofalo Architects; John Ronan, principal, Ronan Architects; and Martha Thorne, executive director, The Pritzker Architecture Prize.

For more information, visit [www.somfoundation.som.com](http://www.somfoundation.som.com) or call Susan Larson, executive director, at 312/427-4202.

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### *The SOM Foundation*

The mission of the SOM Foundation Traveling Fellowship Program is to assist young architects, designers, and engineers in expanding their professional education through the observations of culture, history, building and design that can only be achieved through travel. Prior Fellows have traveled to Vietnam, China, India, Japan, the Philippines, Russia, Scandinavia, North Africa and the Mediterranean as well as throughout Europe and the United States.

The Foundation also offers a \$10,000 Structural Engineering Traveling Fellowship, a \$10,000 United Kingdom Award, and a \$10,000 China Prize, bringing the total value of the awards and travel fellowships to \$100,000 annually.

The programs of the SOM Foundation are funded through an endowment established by the partners of the architectural firm Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP (SOM). The Foundation's activities are wholly separate from those of the firm.

Founded in 1936, Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP is one of the world's leading architecture, urban design, engineering, and interior architecture firms. SOM has designed many of the world's major buildings, including the Sears Tower and John Hancock Center in Chicago; and Jin Mao Tower in Shanghai. The firm has provided planning services for distinctive urban places such as

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London's Canary Wharf, Chicago's downtown and Ho Chi Minh City's Saigon South. SOM maintains offices in Chicago, New York, San Francisco, Washington DC, London and Shanghai.