

SKIDMORE, OWINGS & MERRILL FOUNDATION

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SOM FOUNDATION NAMES 2006 STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING TRAVELING FELLOW

CHICAGO, IL – The Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM) Foundation today announced it has awarded a \$10,000 Structural Engineering Traveling Fellowship to **Wil Srubar**, a recent graduate of **Texas A & M University**. This annual fellowship offers Mr. Srubar the rare opportunity to complete a self-determined travel itinerary to gain a critical appreciation of the aesthetics of buildings, bridges and other structures by experiencing them first hand.

The Winner

A first-generation college student, Mr. Srubar received a bachelor's degree in civil engineering with honors in June of this year. He graduated with minors in English and architectural history and completed a senior honors thesis entitled *Architecture and Engineering: Assessing the Importance of Aesthetic Design in Structural Engineering Curricula*. At graduation, Texas A & M honored him with the Craig C. Brown Outstanding Senior Engineer Award.

Mr. Srubar plans to travel to throughout Western Europe to study the development of vaulted roof systems and bridges, including masonry arched structures, domes, thin-shelled concrete vaults, and various steel, concrete and cable-stayed bridges.

The Jury

The jurors for this year's fellowship were William Baker, partner, Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP; Shankar Nair, principal and senior vice president, Teng & Associates; and Susan Conger-Austin, associate professor, Illinois Institute of Technology.

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.

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The Foundation awards travel fellowships totaling \$100,000 annually. Its programs 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, SOM 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 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.

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