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MEDIA CONTACT:

Helen Phung
SOM Shanghai
+86 21 5466 6888
helen.phung@som.com
www.som.com

SOM Foundation Awards \$20,000 to China Prize Winners

Shanghai, China (April 1, 2008) – The SOM Foundation has awarded two grants in the amount of \$10,000 each for the China Prize, a traveling fellowship given to outstanding Chinese national students of architecture or urban design from an accredited architecture school in China.

The 2007 Prize was awarded to Zhu Haohao of Southeast University and the 2008 Prize was awarded to Wang Baozheng of Peking University Graduate School of Architecture. The winners were selected because their entries demonstrated appropriate solutions of architecture and design based in traditional methodology.

The jury for the China Prize consisted of industry professionals and educators that are active in China including Qingyun Ma, dean of the School of Architecture at the University of Southern California, founder and design principal of Shanghai Architectural Enterprise MADA s.p.a.m. and Professor Qing Chang, director of Tongji University School of Urban Planning.

“The China Prize is an innovative and enriching program that motivates young people to pursue travel while building their careers in architecture and design,” says Brian Lee, design partner at SOM and judging jury member of the China Prize. “The SOM Foundation is pleased to be able to support such important work.”

“The shortlisted entries were very impressive and demonstrate a promising future for China in design and urban planning,” said Ma. “We selected students based on their skills and how their intended travel would benefit their career in architecture.”

“Relevance and commitment to China and its future, in addition to skill and originality, were all considered in our evaluation,” said Chang.

The SOM Foundation, supported by the SOM partnership, is a non-profit organization and has no business affiliation with SOM. Its goal is to broaden the cultural and aesthetic horizons of students through travel and study fellowships. Since 1981, the

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Traveling Fellowships have been awarded to outstanding students in Architecture and Urban Design programs from American universities. The China Prize began two years ago has been awarded to two students to date. The selection process is through an anonymous evaluation of portfolios by distinguished jurors. Historically, the juries have been especially interested in work that reveals an interest in a full range of issues, including social as well as aesthetic and technical concerns.

About SOM

Founded in 1936, Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP is one of the world's leading architecture, urban design, engineering, and interior architecture firms. SOM's sophistication in building technology applications and commitment to design quality has resulted in a portfolio that features some of the most important architectural accomplishments of the 20th century. Examples include the Sears Tower and John Hancock Center in Chicago; Jin Mao Tower in Shanghai; Canary Wharf in London; the Washington Mall and Constitution Gardens in Washington D.C.; and the Lever House in New York City. Currently, the firm maintains offices in Chicago, New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Washington DC, London, Hong Kong, and Shanghai.

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