

SKIDMORE, OWINGS & MERRILL FOUNDATION

August 18, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SOM FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF 2009 SOM PRIZE AND SOM TRAVEL FELLOWSHIP

CHICAGO IL - The Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM) Foundation has announced that **Viktor Ramos** has been selected as the Recipient of the prestigious 2009 SOM Prize, a \$50,000 research and travel fellowship. The SOM Prize will enable Mr. Ramos, who just completed his Master of Architecture degree at Rice University, to travel to a selection of mega-cities throughout the world, in carrying out his research topic, "Solutions for a Small Planet: Exploring the Hyper-Dense."

Parsa Khalili was selected to receive the \$20,000 Travel Fellowship. Mr. Khalili, who received his M. Arch from Yale this spring, plans to carry out the research on his topic, "In Search of an Iranian Modernism," through extensive travel in Iran, with particular interest in the work of 20th century Iranian architect, Seyhoun Houshang.

A national competition for the SOM Prize, the SOM Foundation received 112 submissions from students at 43 of the US schools with accredited programs in architecture, design and urban design. The submissions were judged on the quality of the design portfolios, research proposals and travel itineraries.

This year's Jury, comprised of some of Los Angeles' most distinguished architects, Thom Mayne, Principal, Founder and Director of Design, Morphosis Architects; Barbara Bestor, Barbara Bestor Architecture; Kevin Daley, Daly Genik, Inc; and Lorcan O'Herlihy, Lorcan O'Herlihy Architects, was organized and chaired by Craig Hartman, Partner, Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP.

In the 28th year of Foundation Awards, the Fellowships continue to offer recent graduates the rare opportunity to travel in connection with carrying out in-depth research, collaborate with other designers, and pursue independent study outside the realm of established patterns. To date, the Foundation has awarded more than \$1,000,000 to architecture, design and engineering students who have gone on to distinguish themselves in professional or academic careers.

For more information, contact Nancy Abshire AIA RIBA, Executive Director, at (312) 427 – 4202 or at somfoundation@som.com.

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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 China, India, Japan, Vietnam, 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 award to an architectural student in the United Kingdom, and \$10,000 China Prize, bringing the total value of the awards and travel fellowships to a total of \$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.

Visit somfoundation.som.com for more information.