



December 11, 2013
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT
Mary Larkin, Communications Director
larkin@aia-mn.org

AIA Saint Paul Chapter Announces Design Competition Results

ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA – The Saint Paul Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA St. Paul) is pleased to announce that **Jesse Zeien, AIA, of HGA, was awarded first place and \$1,200 for the 2013 St. Paul Prize design competition.**



This year's St. Paul Prize challenge was to design an outdoor concourse and plaza in the City of Stillwater, MN. The completion of the new St. Croix Crossing bridge at Highway 36 in 2016 will result in the closing of the Historic Lift Bridge to vehicular traffic, creating a two block pedestrian and bicycle oriented segment between Main Street and the Historic Lift Bridge – the project site. This site is also the intersection of the future Brown's Creek bicycle trail, connecting from the Gateway Trail to St. Paul, and the new Loop Trail, connecting the existing and new bridges on both sides of the river. The space is intended for everyday use by residents and visitors, as well as support of special outdoor events such as art and food fairs, bike races, and festivals.

The design competition was open to emerging architectural professionals that have graduated with a Masters of Architecture Degree or a Bachelors Degree with an architectural emphasis in the last seven years. First place and \$1,200 was awarded to **Jesse Zeien, AIA, of HGA, Minneapolis.** Two honorable mentions and \$250 each were awarded to **Peter Atkins, Silvercocoon Design, Minneapolis,** and **Jodi Zoerb, Assoc. AIA, Kodet Architectural Group, Minneapolis.**

Jurors comments on **Zeien's** entry included: "*Architecturally pleasing... a really nice center.*" "*I like the abstraction of nature.*" "*There are a lot of ... areas to explore. People will linger longer. It's exciting.*" "*(With) context...we usually talk about ...relationship to the building right next to us...this talks about our greater region...referencing trees, canopy, wood, the Jeffersonian grid and the striations in the landscape. It is a really interesting take on context, instead of doing something literal.*"

Seven submissions were received and judging occurred on December 3 at Gartner Studios, adjacent to the project site, in Stillwater. The jury included Meghan Kell AIA, Kell Architects; Abbi Wittman, Stillwater City Planner; Geoff Martin, ASLA, Stantec; Brian Larson, AIA, Larson Architects; and Mark Stankey, Assoc. AIA, last year's St. Paul Prize winner.

The winning St. Paul Prize design submittals will be on display at Mara Mi, 201 S. Main Street, Stillwater, MN through December 2013. All submissions will be on display at AIA Minnesota, 275 Market Street, Suite 54, Minneapolis, in January 2014. For more information on the projects and to view images, visit <http://www.aia-mn.org>

The American Institute of Architects Minnesota, founded in 1892, is dedicated to strengthening our communities, improving our built environment and providing exceptional design. For more information on the organization and Minnesota architectural firms, reference our Web site at www.aia-mn.org and pick up a copy of Architecture Minnesota, the award-winning architectural magazine of the Midwest.