



PRESS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

AIA MICHIGAN ANNOUNCES YOUNG ARCHITECT AWARDS

May 5, 2015 Detroit, Michigan- The American Institute of Architects Michigan will present its Young Architect of the Year Awards to Kurt Neiswender, AIA, Tracy Sweeney, AIA and Daniel Tyrer, AIA at the annual Celebration of Architecture on June 5 at the Woodward Garden Theater. The Young Architect Award is given to architects under 40 years of age in recognition of proficiency and exceptional accomplishment and who have made significant contributions to the profession in an early stage of their careers.

Kurt Neiswender is an Architect in the city of Flint with Sedgewick & Ferweda Architects. Kurt is also an Adjunct Faculty Member at the University of Michigan - Flint Earth and Resource Science Department. He is an active member of the American Institute of Architects and holds the positions of Young Architect Regional Director for the Michigan region, and Flint Chapter Director. Most recently he has been appointed to the Imagine Flint - Environmental Features, Parks, and Open Space Implementation Task Group. Kurt Neiswender received his Bachelors of Architecture from the University Of Southern California School Of Architecture and a Masters of Urban Design from Lawrence Technological University with a concentration in Sustainable Urbanism.

Kurt has a passion for design of the built environment. His motivation is to constantly challenge the status quo by exploring systemic solutions that create better and more resilient buildings by design, and communities that have strong sense of place. Throughout the past two years he has worked on numerous projects that blur the distinction between architecture and urban design. It is his position that both are important and equally integral to the prosperity of the city place.

Tracy Sweeney is an architect, graphic design ninja, and creative secret agent with more than 14 years of professional design experience, first as a part of Fanning Howey's Library Design Group, and now with Harley Ellis Devereaux's Corporate and Commercial Studio. Adept at visual representation, community engagement, consensus-building and creative problem-solving, she has enjoyed the privilege of helping many communities to realize their visions for inspiring, flexible, and forward-thinking public and educational facilities. Tracy was licensed in the State of Michigan in 2009, and received her LEED AP credential in the same year.

Through her involvement with AIA Detroit, she has regularly focused her volunteer efforts on the advancement of young professionals, including her role as one of the founding members of the Emerging Professionals Committee, engagement with ARE Detroit prep workshops, support of the Government Affairs Committee's efforts to amend timing requirements for the Architectural Registration Exam, and participation in portfolio review and peer-mentoring activities. She is 2014-2015 Chair of the Architectural Alumni Cabinet at Lawrence Technological University, and looks forward to the opportunity to interact with students from her alma mater, including her regular participation as a guest critic for design studio juries.

A firm believer in the interdisciplinary nature of design, Tracy has participated on design teams for DIFFA and Finish2Fashion, and also dedicates time to serve as Chair of the AIA Detroit PechaKucha Night Detroit Committee, acting as MC of the quarterly events. In 2008, the Emerging Professionals Committee teamed with Detroit Synergy to make Detroit one of over 800 cities worldwide to host PKN, an international presentation event that celebrates creative work of all kinds. This fruitful partnership has

resulted in 23 successful official local events to date, as well as a number of special promotional nights to benefit worthy causes.

Tracy has been a passionate advocate for the professional value that architects bring to their clients, most notably through involvement with the Michigan Library Association Strategic Partner Task Force, a group assembled to examine potential synergies between the Association and its (non-library) professional and vendor membership.

Dan Tyrer is a Senior Design Architect with GMB Architecture + Engineering with offices in Holland and Grand Rapids, Michigan, as well as Indianapolis, Indiana. Dan was an associate AIA member prior to becoming a licensed architect in the state of Michigan in 2009, and has since been a professional AIA member, which includes currently acting as Vice President and President-elect for AIA Grand Rapids. In addition to licensure, he is also a LEED Accredited Professional, and has achieved EDAC certification for Evidence-Based Design in healthcare. Dan has led the architectural design for multiple projects receiving AIA Grand Rapids and AIA Michigan Honor Awards. He has a Bachelor of Science in Architecture from Lawrence Technological University, a Masters of Architecture from the University of Michigan, and now lives in Grand Rapids along with his wife and two children.

Dan is focused on building a strong conceptual basis for all his work, and believes that the most effective architectural strategies for addressing client needs integrate all building systems into a cohesive finished solution. Along with practicing architecture, he also investigates conceptual ideas through photography, designing and building furniture, and participating in numerous design competitions and exhibitions, including ArtPrize in Grand Rapids. He is a proponent of urban development, and his academic studies, as well as professional work, focus on growing and revitalizing urban areas, including projects in the cities of Detroit, Grand Rapids and Holland, Michigan. To further satisfy his interest in the role of architecture in urban development, Dan enjoys traveling to experience cities all over the country, and around the world.

The American Institute of Architects Michigan, headquartered in the historic Beaubien House across from the Renaissance Center in downtown Detroit, established its awards program to bring to public attention the value and importance of architectural excellence and to recognize those whose notable achievements encourage all to make excellence in architecture the standard. Visit www.aiami.com or call 313.965.4100 to learn more.

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