



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

AIA MICHIGAN ANNOUNCES NEW FELLOW

February 27, 2014 - Detroit, Michigan- The American Institute of Architects has named the 2014 College of Fellows inductees and AIA Michigan is pleased to announce that Celeste Allen Novak, FAIA, is the sole Michigan recipient of this honor. Through national, state and local leadership in the AIA and allied organizations and as a community advocate and author, Celeste Allen Novak has influenced over two-million professionals towards an ever increasing commitment to environmental stewardship. She will be honored at the annual AIA Michigan Fellows Reception in May and at the AIA National Convention in June in Chicago.

As Regional Director to the National Board from 2005- 2007 and as AIA Michigan President and active member of her chapter, Celeste Allen Novak has connected members, allied organizations and communities toward sustainable initiatives. As a member of the SDIG committee Celeste Allen Novak led and wrote the evaluation of green rating systems, published by the AIA in 2007, broadening the profession's understanding of sustainability matrixes. She has held numerous AIA state and local chapter positions, initiating the first Michigan's COTE committee. From 2007 - 2008 she represented the AIA as a member of the NCARB's National Sustainable Architecture Task Force, resulting in changes to NCARB's Model Regulations on sustainability as well as influencing Student Performance Criteria of the National Architectural Accrediting Board's (NAAB). Celeste continues to provide expertise as an AIA observer on NAAB accreditation teams and has recently been nominated to chair future teams.

Author and educator with over two million readers, her articles both online and in print on sustainable design and practices have provided insights into the practical application of design methods and materials. She has published over 50 articles and webinars for various magazines and online websites including Architectural Record, McGraw Hill and Green Source magazine. These articles have provided over 50,000 continuing education credits in the past three years. Her article on Rainwater Harvesting was acclaimed the most read continuing education article by Architectural Record for 2012. She is lead author of the book, *Designing Rainwater Harvesting Systems: Integrating Rainwater into Building Systems*, to be published by John Wiley & Sons, in early 2014. A member of AIA Michigan's mentoring program, she is an active mentor to over 20 women architects in the past eight years. She lectures on the environment, women in architecture, design assistance, art in architecture, water conservation and sustainability at the AIA National Convention, Grassroots, and numerous state and local venues. She recently taught environmental planning in China, leading students there to reflect on sustainable initiatives in their communities. As an adjunct faculty at several Michigan Universities, she has led students in service design and planning projects for nonprofits in Detroit and other communities. These initiatives have provided design services for nonprofit organizations in need. She pioneered new curriculum in deconstruction, sustainability ethics, and environmental planning.

As an inaugural committee member for the AIA Sustainable Design Assessment Team (SDAT) program, Celeste developed templates, agendas and review parameters for the initiation of this program. Celeste led SDAT's in Tucson and Oklahoma City developing strategic plans for problems ranging from urban brownfields to an entire Arizona region. She influenced the initial visioning in 2011 of the strategic framework plan currently being used in Detroit to select neighborhoods for redevelopment. In 2011 and 2012, she pioneered an initiative with the International Sister City program developing an exchange of architects from Tübingen, Germany who shared discussions, lectures and initiatives based on sustainable development and planning.

Celeste Allen Novak has designed large and small mixed use and commercial projects from the adaptive re-use of existing buildings, to canopies of re-cycled auto glass for an artist's kiln. She has led project teams in the design of many sustainable projects including one-half million sf of mixed-use, multi-storied, brownfield redevelopment projects as a project architect and associate for SmithGroup before starting her unique private practice. She organized and led the United Way Non-profit Facilities Finance Fund in renewable energy charrettes and sustainability audits, resulting in the ability of over thirty organizations throughout the city, to capture dollars and expand their social missions. She initiated and led the visioning for the Warrior Institute for Rehabilitation and Optimal Conditioning connecting veterans organizations with planning officials to begin this needed Veteran's project. As an Enterprise Foundation Green Facilities Coordinator she has incorporated the model of the SDAT to facilitate sustainable initiatives in Cleveland, Toledo and Detroit for large housing and medical facilities.

Celeste Allen Novak provides a national voice for architects. She is a leader in her profession through her writing, teaching and practice as she pursues her activism and passion for sustainability.

The American Institute of Architects Michigan, headquartered in the historic Beaubien House across from the Renaissance Center in downtown Detroit, is dedicated to bringing 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.

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