



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

AIA MICHIGAN ELECTS HONORARY AFFILIATES

Detroit, Michigan- May 30, 2014- AIA Michigan President Paul Dannels, FAIA, announced that two new names will be added to the role of Honorary Members of the American Institute of Architects Michigan at its annual Celebration of Architecture on June 7 at the Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum in East Lansing.

Honorary Affiliate Membership is one of the highest honors that AIA Michigan can bestow upon a person who is not an architect but who has made important contributions to the profession of architecture. The honorees; Lou Anna K. Simon and Kent Anderson have made important contributions to architecture and design in Michigan in support and promotion and in practice, respectively.

Lou Anna K. Simon, the 20th president of Michigan State University, leads the university's work to advance the common good in Michigan and around the world. Simon has engaged Michigan State University in a strategic and transformative journey to adapt the principles of the land-grant tradition to 21st-century challenges. She has expanded MSU's reach in the state and around the world by focusing the university's strengths on solutions that enhance and protect quality of life: clean and affordable energy, access to education, safe and plentiful food, and health care. She outlined these commitments and the philosophy driving them in her monograph, *Embracing the World Grant Ideal: Affirming the Morrill Act for a Twenty-first-century Global Society*.

Research at Michigan State University reflects Simon's commitment to advancing knowledge and discovery to improve quality of life. Under her leadership, MSU has expanded its research in, among other areas, biofuels and green energy, medicine and medical technology, physics and rare isotopes, safe water, and agriculture to address world hunger. With the support of external funding now exceeding \$500 million annually, Simon is helping ensure that Michigan State University makes a significant positive difference locally and globally. Stemming from this support of research, she advocates for the built environment through her support and promotion of high quality design on campus. Simon has and continues to support university projects involving both local and internationally known architects to create spaces that promote and cultivate a learning environment and to reaffirm Michigan as a leader in advanced university planning.

Kent Anderson, ASLA, LEED®APBD+C is Principal of Hamilton Anderson Associates, founded in 1994 with architect Rainy Hamilton, Jr., FAIA, to focus on urban environments and design.

For over 30 years he has breathed new life into old industrial landscapes transforming them into valuable revitalized, repurposed urban environments.

Anderson's design influence can be seen throughout Michigan including Dow Chemical Company Founder's Garden in Midland, Washington Boulevard in Detroit and the landscape design for the Broad Art Museum at Michigan State University by architect Zaha Hadid. Anderson conceptualized Campus Martius Park, as lead landscape architect for Ken Greenberg's team on the Greater Downtown Partnership Investment Strategy (1997-98), as an outdoor room at the point where Detroit's radial arterials converge resulting in the development of a new urban space, now built and popular beyond expectations. His Belle Isle Master Plan has recently garnered much attention at the local and state levels.

Anderson leads a team of over 50 landscape architects, architects and urban planners who work together to practice holistic, inspired urban design. He was principal and lead planner for three of ten sectors of Detroit's Community Investment Strategy in the mid-1990s, including the crucial central core; the first step for community-based planning in the city and precursor to his current Future City effort to "right-size" Detroit. Anderson lead landscape architecture efforts as part of the Cooper Robertson Team for the Detroit East Riverfront MP (2003), and for the Chan Krieger NBBJ team for the Detroit West Riverfront MP (2006), where he conceptualized reuse strategies for 630 acres/5.5 miles of urban waterfront. His long history of exceptional work helped realize the critically important Detroit Works Project/ Future City Plan. The 50-year vision will establish Detroit as a sustainable city with innovative, appropriately-sized infrastructure, services and development: a model for shrinking cities everywhere.

Anderson is recognized, through his work in Detroit, as a leading urban designer who understands structural problems built into the dynamics of shrinking cities. He generously shares his talents, his understanding of issues facing design in the urban environment, and his unbridled enthusiasm. Anderson is a force for good design and a cherished community asset.

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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