

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Alaina Gonzales
303.446.2266, ext. 116
alaina@aiacolorado.org
www.aiacolorado.org

Christopher Herr, AIA, Recognized with The American Institute of Architects (AIA) 2011 Young Architects Award

Denver (Feb. 28, 2011)—The American Institute of Architects (AIA) announced the 11 recipients of the AIA 2011 Young Architects Award. Young Architects are defined as professionals who have been licensed 10 years or less regardless of their age. This award honors individuals who have shown exceptional leadership and made significant contributions to the profession early in their careers. The Young Architects Awards will be presented to the recipients at the AIA 2011 National Convention and Design Exposition in New Orleans. AIA Colorado North member Christopher Herr, AIA, principal at Studio H:T, Boulder, Colo., was the only Colorado recipient of this award in 2011.

Herr is a man of many participations and interests, ranging from playing the horn in a symphony orchestra to teaching at the university level to standing as a leader in a design practice that breaks new ground in sustainability and alternative building systems.

Herr has always been consumed with concepts of sounds and space. Starting off pursuing a degree in horn performance, he then turned to acoustics. At last he found what he was looking for in architecture, earning a master's degree in architecture from the University of Florida with a specialization in architectural acoustics.

Herr co-founded Studio H:T in 2002, a firm at which he still serves as principal. Herr describes the firm as a fruitful collaboration – one that values exploration, contribution, research, teaching and, above all, design. Indeed, the firm's outlook holds research and innovation as crucial parts of design, all of it a way to create places and functionality that serve people and enrich their lives. On AIA regional, state and local levels, the firm has received 19 design awards and three honor awards thus far.

Additionally, Herr, a U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC)-certified Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design Accredited Professional (LEED AP), has engineered the firm to contain like-minded individuals who value green initiatives. The firm promotes low-tech solutions and makes educating clients about green building a top priority. The projects boast green technologies including green roofs, solar hot water systems, photovoltaics, modular construction with reduced factory waste, engineered passive solar strategies, greywater systems and energy efficient fixtures for both lighting and plumbing.

“I am thrilled to receive this award. I owe a great deal of gratitude to the amazing people I work with everyday at Studio H:T - the passionate, collaborative atmosphere that permeates the studio is absolutely critical to the innovative work and, without it, this award would certainly have been out of reach. Giving back to the community through teaching and outreach is incredibly invigorating, and I feel fortunate to have the opportunity contribute to the University of Colorado's design programs. I am humbled to be surrounded by great people, practicing one of the noblest professions, utilizing exceedingly innovative methods, at one of the most interesting times in history,” said Herr.

Herr holds important the idea of helping and fostering the creativity of young people who are interested in the power of architecture. As a result, his firm is involved in high school intern programs, job shadow programs and strong intern mentoring.

Herr's community involvement stretches into many different arenas: he participates in the Longmont Symphony Orchestra, the Medicine Horse program, Habitat for Humanity and the Feed Denver program. He is also a member of Architects and Planners of Boulder, which is a community activist group that provides opinion and insight to the city staff and council as they shape public policy.

-more-

Last but certainly not least, Herr serves as adjunct faculty at the University of Colorado Denver and the University of Colorado at Boulder. Along with his business partner, Brad Tomecek, AIA, Herr introduced a widely-recognized Design-Build Studio, the results of which have received awards in both the state and region for their design and execution.

About AIA & AIA Colorado North

For 150 years, members of The American Institute of Architects (AIA) have worked with each other and their communities to create more valuable, healthy, secure and sustainable buildings and cityscapes. AIA members have access to the right people, knowledge and tools to create better design, and through such resources and access, they help clients and communities make their visions real. AIA Colorado North is one of four chapters within the AIA Colorado Component. This chapter is comprised of members from nine counties in northeastern Colorado, including Boulder, Larimer, Weld, Morgan, Logan, Washington, Yuma, Phillips and Sedgwick.

-###-