

AIA Wisconsin News Release

Wauwatosa Architect Kevin Connolly, AIA, Receives Profession's Top Honor: 2011 AIA Wisconsin "Golden Award"

Madison (April 25, 2011) — Architect Kevin J. Connolly, AIA, Wauwatosa, has been selected to receive the 2011 "Golden Award" from AIA Wisconsin, the state society of The American Institute of Architects (AIA). The Golden Award is the highest honor the state architects' society can bestow upon a member architect.

Connolly is being recognized by AIA Wisconsin for his volunteer leadership of the Institute and demonstrated commitment to advancing the architectural profession. Connolly has served The American Institute of Architects in leadership positions at the local, state and national level. He also has championed effective initiatives to increase public awareness about architecture and to share information on innovative firm management strategies and project delivery tools with his fellow architects.



Kevin J. Connolly, AIA

The Golden Award will be formally presented to Connolly during a special awards program on May 4 at the Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center in Madison. The event is being held in conjunction with the 2011 AIA Wisconsin Convention & Expo. The first Golden Award was presented by the Wisconsin Society of Architects in 1986. Connolly is the twenty-fourth Wisconsin architect to receive the award.

"Looking at his record of service to the organization and contributions to the profession, you would think that the Golden Award was created with Kevin Connolly in mind," 2011 AIA Wisconsin President Thomas Hirsch, FAIA, Madison, commented in announcing the selection. "Throughout his career, he has remained actively engaged in guiding initiatives to enhance public awareness of the profession and encouraging the adoption of innovative firm and project management practices."

Kevin Connolly is the president of Connolly Architects, Inc., a Milwaukee firm he formed in 1983 that provides healthcare and commercial design services. He also is a consultant on building information modeling (BIM) and integrated project delivery (IPD), having developed the BIM Guidelines and Standards used for state and university building projects in Wisconsin. Connolly received his undergraduate and graduate degrees in architecture from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

In the 1980s, Connolly coordinated the popular LEGO "Fun & Draw" area at Summerfest for AIA Southeast Wisconsin. He served as president of the local AIA chapter in 1990 and as president of AIA Wisconsin in 1995. Connolly recently completed a three-year term on the national AIA Board of Directors, representing AIA members in Wisconsin, Minnesota, South Dakota and North Dakota. Two years ago, illustrating his commitment to the profession and its future, he coordinated an intensive three-day free educational opportunity on virtual modeling and documentation coordination for unemployed architects in the Milwaukee area.

AIA Wisconsin also plans to recognize Madison architect Frank Dropsho, AIA, for his significant contributions in creating the Golden Award in 1984 and guiding this important awards program over the next 27 years. The special award will be presented to his family during the AIA Wisconsin Annual Meeting on May 4 at Monona Terrace.

With over 1,300 members, AIA Wisconsin is the statewide professional society representing architects, architectural interns, students and allied design and construction industry leaders. AIA Wisconsin members include architects in private practice, business, industry, government and education.

Media Contacts	Downloads
William Babcock, Hon, AIA, (608) 257-8477 Kevin J. Connolly, AIA (414) 289-0900 ext 303	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Release (PDF)• Press Photo

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