

# THE GOLDSTEIN MUSEUM OF DESIGN

364 McNeal Hall, 1985 Buford Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55108 <http://goldstein.cdes.umn.edu>

## PRESS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 20, 2007

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### TWO EXHIBITIONS EXPLORE AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN MINNESOTA AND THE NATION

Saint Paul, MN— Although some people believe that good design is a luxury available only to the wealthy or to members of an elite, some of today's most gifted architects are designing attractive homes for low-income families, demonstrating that low-cost does not have to mean low-quality. ***Leading from Policy to Practice: Minnesota Affordable Housing*** and ***Affordable Housing: Designing an American Asset*** on view at the Goldstein Museum of Design from April 21 to July 1, 2007 reveal that good design is possible within the tight budget of low-cost housing. The exhibitions also explore the extended benefits of good design for residents and their communities.

***Leading from Policy to Practice: Minnesota Affordable Housing***, curated by Marilyn Bruin, University of Minnesota Associate Professor of Housing Studies, presents ten case studies of affordable housing in Minnesota. A symposium on June 19-20 will feature funders, developers, builders and policy-makers for a lively exploration of the state and future of Minnesota affordable housing. This exhibition reflects the leadership role that Minnesota has played in affordable housing policy development. For decades, Minnesota has been the birthplace of innovation in affordable housing. The combination of collaboration; innovative design; an active philanthropic community; and creative city, county, and state governments provides a creative environment to explore solutions for affordable, appropriate housing for all residents.

The ***Affordable Housing: Designing an American Asset*** traveling exhibition and associated tour were organized by the National Building Museum, Washington, D.C., and made possible by generous grants from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Fannie Mae Foundation, and NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®. The original exhibition ***Affordable Housing: Designing an American Asset*** was on view at the National Building Museum from February 28 to August 8, 2004. More than a dozen current projects from across the U.S. are featured in the exhibition, which places the projects within the historical context of affordable housing.

To be considered affordable, according to HUD, a housing project must have at least 20 percent of its units available to families making less than 50 percent of the median income for the area, assuming that no more than 30 percent of a family's income is spent on housing. Therefore, someone earning minimum wage (\$5.15/hour) should spend no more than \$257.50 per month in rent and utilities. As there is no county in America where a household with one wage earner at this income level can afford even a modest one bedroom apartment (*The State of the Nation's Housing*, Joint Center for Housing Studies, 2003), a complex system of subsidized affordable housing has developed.

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Projects in both exhibitions reflect this complex financial structure and demonstrate an understanding that affordable housing can be a beneficial component for any community. Low-income families benefit from income-integrated communities for education, job opportunities, and quality of life. The communities benefit from the addition of individuals and families from different backgrounds, contributing to richer social experience.

***Leading from Policy to Practice: Minnesota Affordable Housing*** features the project such as Frogtown /Affordable Housing Initiative in Saint Paul which developed prototype houses that integrated affordability with sustainable design, healthy performance based construction, social and cultural responsiveness, and design excellence. Housing designs responded to the cultural heritage of residents of Saint Paul's Frogtown neighborhood, home to a large Hmong population. Other Minnesota projects include Nicollet Meadows and Washington Terrace in Saint Peter; Gateway: Franklin at Portland and St Barnabas in Minneapolis; Liberty Plaza in Saint Paul; Oakwood Terrace in Walker; Emma's Place in Rogers; Cloverdale in Chaska; and Jonathan in Carver County.

***Affordable Housing: Designing an American Asset*** illustrates the wide variety of styles, sites, programs, demographics, and sponsorships in contemporary affordable housing. Dove Street Independent Housing in Albany, New York, by Dorgan Architecture & Planning, received unanimous support from its surrounding community and serves people living with AIDS and their caregivers. The architects worked closely with AIDS advocates to understand the housing and other needs of this particular population. Other projects include Colorado Court in Santa Monica, California; Westbury in Portsmouth, Virginia, by Urban Design Associates; and the Howard University/LeDroit Park Revitalization Initiative in Washington, D.C., by Sorg and Associates, PC.

*Affordable Housing: Designing an American Asset* was curated by Ralph Bennett, AIA, and Isabelle Gournay, Ph.D., both professors of architecture and architectural history at the University of Maryland, College Park, for the National Building Museum. At the National Building Museum, Matt Kuhnert, Coordinating Curator, and Shelagh Cole, Traveling Exhibitions Manager, coordinated the exhibition. Pat Chester of Chester Design Associates was the exhibition and graphic designer.

These exhibitions and programs are sponsored by NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®, Saint Paul Area Association of REALTORS®, Wells Fargo Bank N.A., Minnesota State Arts Board in cooperation with the Minnesota State Legislature, the Friends of the Goldstein, the College of Design, and the University of Minnesota.

The National Building Museum is America's premier cultural institution dedicated to exploring and celebrating architecture, design, engineering, construction, and urban planning. The Museum has become a vital forum for exchanging ideas and information about such topical issues as managing suburban growth, preserving landmarks, and revitalizing urban centers. The Museum is located at 401 F Street NW, Washington, D.C. Museum hours: Monday through Saturday from 10 am to 5 pm and Sunday from 11 am to 5 pm. Admission is free. For information call 202.272.2448 or visit <http://www.nbm.org/>.

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### OPENING AND RELATED PROGRAMS

Friday, April 20      Opening party: Goldstein Museum of Design Gallery,  
241 McNeal Hall, 6:00 -8:00pm  
***Leading From Policy To Practice: Minnesota Affordable Housing and  
Affordable Housing: Designing An American Asset***

Saturday, April 21      Exhibitions open to the public

June 19-20              *Affordable Housing Symposium*; U of M Continuing Education and  
Conference Center  
Join funders, developers, builders and policy-makers for a participatory  
conversation on the state and future of Minnesota affordable housing.  
Keynote address by Dr. Sherry Ahrentzen, Associate Director for  
Research, Stardust Center for Affordable Homes and the Family at  
Arizona State University

### VISITOR INFO

The Goldstein Museum of Design is located at 241 McNeal Hall,  
1985 Buford Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55108.

### Gallery Hours

Monday-Wednesday, & Friday	10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Thursday	10:00 am - 8:00 pm
Saturday-Sunday	1:30 pm - 4:30 pm

### Admission and Parking

Admission to the Goldstein Museum of Design is free. The gallery is on the second floor of McNeal Hall on the Saint Paul campus of the University of Minnesota. Parking in the nearby Gortner Ramp at 1395 Gortner Avenue is \$2.50 per hour (daily maximum of \$12.00). Parking on Sundays is free (except for special events). The parking ramp and the Museum are both handicapped accessible.

### Tours

Groups are invited to schedule a tour of the exhibition at least three weeks in advance. Tours generally last one hour and can be tailored to meet your group's needs. Tours may include gallery activities or a visit to the Museum's Research Center. Contact us at (612) 624-7434 or [gmd@umn.edu](mailto:gmd@umn.edu) to schedule a tour or for additional information.