



Professor Daniel Harding Wheeler, FAIA Honored with Nathan Ricker Architecture Educator Award

Wheeler recognized for dedication to UIC School of Architecture, Interim Director for Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in Fine Arts and consulting architect and educator for Auburn University's Rural Studio.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Springfield – AIA Illinois has selected Daniel Wheeler FAIA as the recipient of the 2017 Nathan Clifford Ricker Award, recognizing his dedication and outstanding talent as an architecture educator. The award will be presented on November 15th at UIC, Rm 1300, Architecture + Design Studios, 845 W. Harrison St, in Chicago.

As a founding principal of Wheeler Kearns Architects, Chicago and Professor of Architecture at the University of Illinois, Chicago (UIC), Dan works diligently to heighten awareness of how architecture can elevate experience as an ever-optimistic endeavor. Dan received his education at the Rhode Island School of Design, through which he had the opportunity to spend two years in Rome. Prior to establishing his own practice, he was an Associate and Studio head at Skidmore, Owings and Merrill, Chicago, from 1981-87.

Wheeler was a recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts Traveling Fellowship in 1980, AIA Chicago Young Architects Award in 1985, an AIA Fellowship for Design in 1998, and was named the Chicago Tribune's "Chicagoan of the Year," in Architecture, in 2008. He lectures regularly and frequently sits on professional and academic juries. His prolific work and influence on the profession spans the gamut of project types, from public institutions, to non-profit organizations and private commissions. It is said that Daniel Wheeler is an artist who draws to see, to test, to explain and to build places of authenticity.

Well known in Chicago and beyond as both an educator and practicing architect, Dan Wheeler has built a phenomenal reputation at UIC, where students speak of him with great reverence and respect. "Warm, generous, selfless, motivating, and inspirational," with "infectious energy and optimism," are some of the superlatives used by former students and colleagues to express Dan's commitment to the ethic of work, and his talent as an architect and artist with genuine passion for teaching.

In addition, Dan's designs have had a tremendously positive influence on our communities. In particular, two recent designs offer strong social impact examples for students. The first is Inspiration Kitchens, a project which involved the transformation of single-story building and the improvement of three vacant lots into an 80-seat restaurant offering subsidized meals to working poor families and market rate meals to

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the general public. The second is Lakeview Pantry, a rehabbed building striving to provide social service programming and a dignified, positive shopping environment for Chicagoans receiving food assistance.

Wheeler is a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects and has been licensed to practice in Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, and Wisconsin. His professional affiliations include elected AIA Chicago Chapter Bridge Program Mentor, AIA National Committee on Design; Visiting Architect, The Rural Studio, Auburn University; Advisory Committee, Chicago Architectural Club; Marwen Foundation, Architecture Program Advisor; Trustee, Grant Review Committee Graham Foundation; Board Member, Architecture and Design Society of the Art Institute; Trustee and Director Architecture Alliance - Chicago Historical Society.

This AIA Illinois award is named in honor of Nathan Clifford Ricker, who received his graduation certificate on March 12, 1873, making him the first person to earn a degree in architecture in the United States. Ricker established the curriculum and chaired the University of Illinois Department of Architecture, also founded in 1873. In 1885, Ricker's text, *Elementary Graphical Statistics and Construction of Trussed Roofs*, was the first book published by a U of I faculty member. In 1890, he developed the first architectural engineering curriculum and served as dean of the University of Illinois fledgling College of Engineering.

The American Institute of Architects

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AIA Illinois is the state component of the American Institute of Architects, representing more than 4,000 architects and architectural interns on issues of statewide importance to the public and the profession.

For more information about AIA Illinois, visit www.aiail.org.

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