

2010 Jennie Sue Brown Award Given to Rich Wagner, FAIA *Seattle Architect Earns Highest Honor for Leadership*

AIA Washington Council (AIA|WA) has awarded Rich Wagner, FAIA, the 2010 Jennie Sue Brown Award. Wagner is a Principal at Baylis Architects, one of the largest architectural firms in the Northwest.

The Jennie Sue Brown award is the highest honor that can be bestowed by the AIA|WA and is considered a "lifetime achievement."

This award is only presented to members who have made a significant statewide contribution; served the profession through increasing public awareness, political action, or government involvement; and continually enhanced the practice of architecture.

Those who nominated Wagner had this to say,

"Rich is deserving of the award because his actions representing the profession have been exemplary. Additionally, his thoughtful leadership style while being a board member for the AIA Washington Council was inspiring to all who knew him. Although Rich may not have known it, he was an encouraging mentor to many of us, in addition to his genuine compassion and friendship. "

Wagner has served as President of AIA Seattle Local Board for several terms and also served as the President of the AIA|WA (State) Board. During his time on the AIA|WA Board he helped advocate for, and defend, polices that impact the lives of state architects. Wagner's leadership facilitated:

the adoption of the Growth Management Act, a state sales tax cut of 50% for architects, the implementation of International Building Codes in Washington, and blocked the expansion of architect liability laws and tort exposure. These are just a few of the political achievements that Wagner has had. At the National and Regional level Wagner has beneficially impacted the practice as well.

At the 2001 AIA National Convention, Wagner co-introduced the Northwest & Pacific Initiative for Design and Energy Efficiency, which became the foundation of many sustainability polices adopted by the AIA. In 2006, Wagner was given the AIA National Award for Component Excellence for his leadership which enabled the AIA|WA to generate more effective member participation. Wagner's impact on the profession has been so bold that even the National CBS Evening News interviewed him on the importance of professionals being proactive instead of merely awaiting government.

All of Wagner's achievements cannot be listed here as he has been a leader for the AIA for more than 35 years. Yet, despite his amazing contributions, Wagner remains approachable and unpretentious. Wagner this to say about his being chosen as the 2010 Jennie Sue Brown recipient,

"I am truly humbled by this award. We all contribute how and where we can, but, I admit, it really is wonderful when one's efforts are noticed. Thank you for this recognition and for your continued efforts to keep Washington State a great place to practice architecture."

Through his leadership, Wagner has not only exceeded the high standards for the Jennie Sue Brown award but has also enhanced the practice of architecture and positively impacted the lives of architects.

The Mission of the AIA Washington Council is "to serve its members through influencing state government with regard to issues that impact the practice of architecture." Contact the AIA|WA at 724 Columbia St. NW, #120, Olympia, WA 98501.

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Rich Wagner, FAIA