

AIA NEW HAMPSHIRE

PRESS RELEASE

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High res digital photos of John Merkle and his work are available: Call 357-2863 or email office@aianh.org

John W. Merkle AIA Wins 2010 Clinton Sheerr Award for Excellence in Architecture

Manchester, NH — The 2010 Clinton Sheerr Award for Excellence in New Hampshire Architecture was bestowed on John W. Merkle AIA, of Exeter, NH, at the 26th annual awards program of the New Hampshire Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA NH), January 15. The award honors and promotes New Hampshire architects and their architecture that exemplifies excellence in design at the highest level. In naming the winner, Christopher P. Williams, the 2007 recipient of the award, noted that "Merkle is an architect with a solidly rooted interest in preservation who has been key to saving numerous historical structures and has given major amounts of time to the support of preservation and other architectural efforts throughout the state of New Hampshire."

In 1984 Merkle co-founded TMS Architects and in the years since has carved out a niche in the field of historical preservation, committing himself and his firm to saving and restoring some of New England's most significant historical landmarks. His work has included the restoration of The Wentworth By The Sea Hotel, New Castle, NH; The Music Hall and the Portsmouth Discovery Center in Portsmouth; the American Independence Museum, Exeter, NH; and the Bridges House, the New Hampshire Governor's residence in Concord, to name a few.

Merkle's history of volunteerism is legendary. Always enthusiastic and willing to help, he has assisted restoration projects and various preservation groups from all over the state and the region and has made additional significant contributions to the field by his participation in numerous non-profit organizations. He has served on the boards and as president of AIA New Hampshire, AIA New England, and the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance. He was chair of Exeter's Historic Commission, and is currently on the Board of Directors for the Castle Preservation Society, and serves as an IDP (Intern Development Program) Sponsor of NCARB (National Council of Architectural Registration Boards).

Over the years Merkle has also mentored many young professionals and has been generous in his time with students. At TMS he has empowered his employees, helping to create dynamics in which younger architects and interns are encouraged to flourish and learn, both in the profession and in the community.

Merkle is deeply concerned that his passion for historic preservation not end and is working closely with members of his firm to imbue a sense of the value of our New England heritage that he has worked

to protect for so long.

The Clinton Sheerr Award for Excellence in New Hampshire Architecture is named after Clinton Sheerr AIA, a well-known New Hampshire architect who died in 1997 and who exemplified the spirit of great passion for beauty and design, a dedication to the community, and the tenacity to follow one's tasks and dreams. He was responsible for designing numerous award-winning New Hampshire buildings and was active in professional and community organizations. It is his example that sets the standard for the award.

The New Hampshire Chapter of the American Institute of Architects manages the Award, and the funds are held by the NH Charitable Foundation. Nominations can be made to the AIANH office by December 1 of each year and are viewed by a jury.

For more information on the Award and to read about past recipients, please go to: www.aianh.org/clinton_sheerr.asp

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