

Iowa

# Architectural Foundation

## about the foundation

The Iowa Architectural Foundation (IAF) is a charitable organization established in 1989 to promote awareness of the contribution of architecture and community design to the quality of life in Iowa.

The organization is governed by a volunteer Board of Trustees composed of architects and business leaders statewide with daily administration of the Foundation and its programs entrusted to a full-time Executive Director.

IAF receives direct financial support from individuals, businesses, corporations, foundations, and architectural firms who believe in the Foundation's mission. Contributions made to the Foundation are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

For the latest news and updates on the Foundation and its programs, visit [www.iowaarchfoundation.org](http://www.iowaarchfoundation.org)

## 2009 program highlights

The **Architecture in the Schools (AIS)** Committee refocused its efforts on youth education in 2009. After a comprehensive review of programs, the committee decided to create and implement new programs that reached out directly to Iowa's schoolchildren.

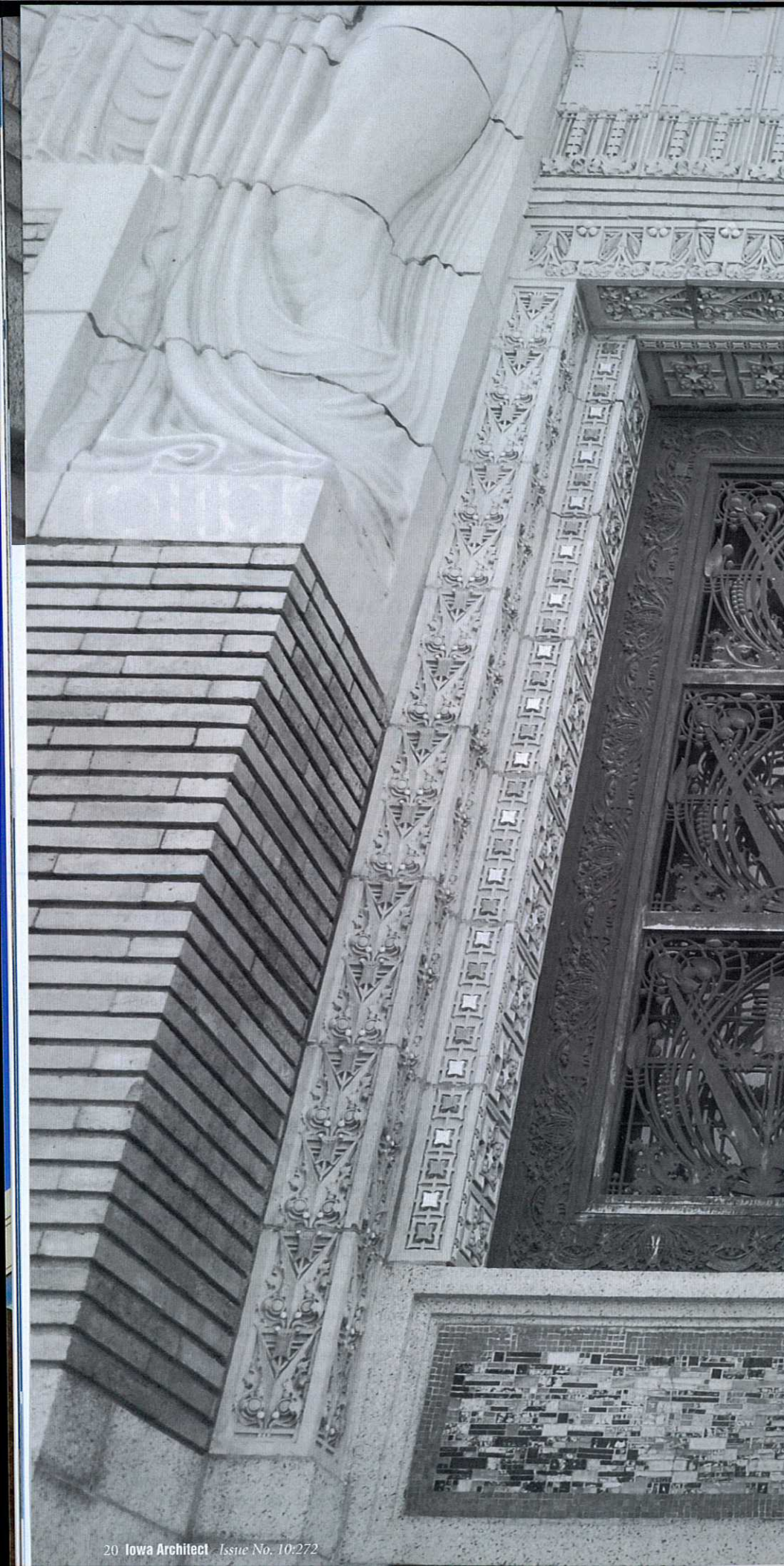
The Architecture by Children Drawing Contest was launched in late February as a statewide contest for children in grades K-6 to draw their favorite public building. More than 360 announcement packets were sent to all members of the Arts Educators of Iowa, community-based arts councils, as well as to those public libraries with a dedicated children/youth section in the top 100 Iowa communities by population. Both Iowa Energy and First Federal Savings Bank of Iowa served as prize sponsors. When the contest concluded, the Foundation received nearly 250 entries from 42 communities across the state. ArKIDtec-Sure! is a new program designed to bring an introductory presentation on architecture and design to students in 4th through 6th grades. The goal of ArKIDtec-Sure! is to bring the concepts of architecture, engineering, and sustainability to a basic level of understanding that is fun and entertaining. The program was unveiled at the Art Educators of Iowa annual conference in early October. Over 200 students were reached in the first year of this program.

A condensed version of ArKIDtec-Sure! was presented as a breakout session to those schoolchildren attending the George Washington Carver programs at the State Historical Museum in April. Another breakout session on Iowa Architecture was presented in October. Nearly 500 elementary school children from the Des Moines metropolitan area participated in these sessions.

In June, AIS partnered with another Foundation committee to support an IAF presence at ArtFest Midwest, an art show held at the Iowa State Fairgrounds the same weekend as the Des Moines Art Festival. The booth featured an interactive children's activity – asking children to draw what they thought the school of the future would look like. The organizers of ArtFest Midwest were so impressed with our booth that IAF has been invited back in 2010.

**Architectural Walking Tours** finished 2009 with an expanded scope of work and a new name. Now known as Architecture in the Community (AIC), the group concluded the walking tour season with an annual attendance of 119 – making 2009 the 3rd-highest year for attendance since tours started in 2002.

AIC's newest program — the Architecture Month Lecture Series — was launched in April and May to commemorate Iowa Archi-



ecture Month with partial underwriting from Humanities Iowa. The topic for the inaugural series was 100 Years of Iowa Architecture. Originally designed to promote awareness of the summer walking tours of downtown Des Moines, the committee has decided to continue the program in coming years as yet another way to educate the public about the contributions of architecture and design.

The **Community Design Excellence Awards** were founded in 2000 to recognize governmental organizations or subdivisions, non-governmental not-for-profit organizations, and/or local citizen groups for significant achievements in the promotion of new quality architecture, preservation of existing quality architecture, or community design. The 2009 nomination cycle resulted in four nominations. A three-person jury unanimously awarded this year's honor to the Conrad Public Library with the award presented during the annual banquet of the Iowa League of Cities in late September.

Conrad Public Library constructed a new building and was selected for the building's impact upon the community and the quality of life. Since opening, the library created new jobs, has been used for an increasing number of community-based events, and exceeded visitation estimates within the first five months of operation.

The **Community Design Program (CDP)** started in 2001 to assist rural communities with urban planning and design issues by recruiting volunteer teams of design professionals, including Iowa State University students, to assist community leaders with design challenges using a transparent and inclusive charrette process.

CDP assisted the community of Macedonia (population 321) in July on ways to revitalize their downtown area. Crescent (population 537), a community along the Old Lincoln Highway, was visited in late October for conceptual ideas for improvements throughout the community.

# contributors

## Special Thanks

Every effort has been made to list all of our contributors accurately. We apologize for any omissions and errors. Please contact the Foundation with any corrections. An asterisk (\*) designates a firm who supported the Foundation by making the suggested contribution for each employee.

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