

Bowen to Receive Gold Medal



Gary Bowen, FAIA, will be awarded the Harry F. Cunningham Gold Medal for Architectural Excellence in the State of Nebraska. The Gold Medal is the highest honor that AIA Nebraska can bestow and is awarded in recognition of the most distinguished achievement in architecture or service to the profession of architecture in the State of Nebraska. Bowen, a Principal of Bahr Vermeer Haecker Architects, has been practicing architecture since 1964. The award will be presented at the AIA Nebraska Excellence in Design Awards Banquet on September 24, at The Nebraska Club, Lincoln.

The Harry F. Cunningham Gold Medal for Architectural Excellence in the State of Nebraska commemorates the achievements of Harry Francis Cunningham who came to Nebraska as lead architect for Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue's office during completion of the tower phase of construction for the State Capitol following Goodhue's death in 1924. It was Goodhue's revolutionary building design which won the nationwide competition in 1920 for the creation of the state house in Lincoln. Cunningham subsequently established the first school of architecture at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

"His ageless design style is seen in cities across the country, and his hand has touched dozens of communities through out Nebraska. Gary's humble approach to seeking excellence in the design of buildings, places and quality of life is what endears him to clients and fellow professionals, and inspires those he mentors and serves. His efforts designing master plans, architecture and furniture, as well as his talent as a watercolorist and renderer, demonstrate this while adding positively to people's lives," said nominator Paul Jeffrey, AIA, President, Bahr Vermeer Haecker Architects.

An alumnus of Page (NE) High School, Gary went on to graduate from the University of Nebraska College of Architecture with a Bachelor of Architecture (1964) and Master of Architecture (1974). While pursuing his degrees Gary also worked for a number of firms - F.W. Horn Associates (Quincy, IL); Howell Killick, Partridge & Amis (London) and Leo A Daly (Omaha, Washington, DC and Los Angeles, CA). He was also a Partner with Hartman, Morford, Bowen in Omaha, before joining Bahr Vermeer Haecker in 1974. Married to his wife Beth for 47 years, Gary has two daughters, Ann and Leslie, and three grandsons.

While the quality of Gary's work speaks for itself (over 60 AIA awards, magazine features and community awards), the variety of his architecture is notable. Gary has worked with hundreds of clients through the years to design their churches, libraries, homes, civic buildings, schools, child development centers, country clubs, banks and offices.

AIA Nebraska President Larry Jacobsen, AIA, adds, "Gary has, over the years, demonstrated not only excellence for design (based on his 60+ AIA design awards), but also leadership and guidance for the architectural profession in Nebraska, serving as an effective mentor in working with the emerging professionals, and a strong advocate for all the arts. His designs, contributions to the profession and passion for arts and architecture have all reflected integrity of the highest level, and serve as an inspiration to all of us."