



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Chicago, February 17—Archeworks and UrbanLab have been named recipients of the **2009 Latrobe Prize** from the American Institute of Architects. The official announcement was made on Friday, February 6th in Washington, D.C.

The prestigious Latrobe Prize, which carries a \$100,000 award, is given once every two years to an architect or group of architects for an innovative research proposal. This year's Latrobe Prize theme was "Change That Matters". The proposal, submitted jointly by Archeworks and UrbanLab, was titled "Growing Energy/Water: Using the Grid to Get Off the Grid", and builds upon the award-winning Growing Water concept, which envisions Chicago developing into a sustainable urban model for addressing the global water scarcity dilemma. The Growing Energy/Water investigation will dive into the social and environmental value of Blue/Green Infrastructure in the city of Chicago.

"We're hopeful this project will help set Chicago on the path to a low-carbon, resource-rich, prosperous future by validating that blue/green infrastructure can be a long-term financial and social asset," says Martin Felsen, director of Archeworks and principal at UrbanLab. "We are grateful to the AIA for recognizing the importance of sustainable infrastructure for Chicago and all cities in the 21st century."

The research project undertaken by students at Archeworks, an alternative design school, and the architects at UrbanLab, an architecture and urban design firm, will focus on how better to take advantage of existing infrastructure: roadways, sidewalks, alley-ways and public parks (the "public-way"), which comprise more than a quarter of the land in a city such as Chicago. The research project will illustrate the unrealized potential of the public way infrastructural grid, and give policy makers the validated information they require for recommending utilizing the grid to:

- Drastically reduce our reliance on non-renewable, non-local energy sources;
- Sustain water resources, and;
- Contribute to our city's overall health, financial well-being and quality of life.

The goal of the research project is to create a metrically based predictive modeling tool to provide decision makers with the data necessary to invest in an entirely new form of infrastructure that is more financially, ecologically and socially beneficial to all. The prize will support Archeworks' research projects and operations.

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About Archeworks: Archeworks vision is to design and implement 21st century blue/green infrastructure that serves everyone. In place of a traditional curriculum, students work in multidisciplinary teams with nonprofit partners to create design solutions for social and environmental concerns. Archeworks was founded in 1993 by internationally known architect Stanley Tigerman, FAIA and award winning designer Eva Maddox FIIDA, and is located in River North, Chicago's cultural arts district. Students meet and work in Archeworks's unique studio building, designed by Tigerman. Archeworks has worked with over 75 partners and has completed more than 40 design projects, addressing subjects focusing on community-based design initiatives.