

Roberta Feldman Receives Distinguished Service Award

Photo by Bill Grech



The AIA Chicago board of directors selected Roberta Feldman to receive the chapter's 2008 Distinguished Service Award. This award recognizes individuals and organizations that have given outstanding service to the Chicago architectural community as a whole, including service to the profession, public service or education.

"I am honored to be recognized by my peers,

especially as a community design activist. I hope this recognition entices others to join me in working for social and economic

justice by design," Feldman said.

A professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago in the College of Architecture, Feldman co-founded the college's City Design Center in 1995. The City Design Center is a multi-disciplinary research, education and service program whose mission is the study and practice of design in the public interest. She has focused on affordable and public housing design and has co-authored books on the subject, including *The Dignity of Resistance: Women Residents' Activism in Chicago Public Housing* (Cambridge University Press, 2004). Feldman earned a doctorate in environmental psychology in 1986 from the City University of New York and a M.Arch. degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1976.

"Roberta's impressive credentials in both architecture and environmental psychology are a powerful combination; she has both the knowledge of what ought to be done and the knowledge of how to get things done and uses this knowledge to bring good design to those most in need of it," said Trish VanderBeke, AIA, of P.K. VanderBeke, architect, and a past member of the AIA Chicago board.

Feldman was a founding editor of the *Journal of Architectural and Planning Research* and serves on the journal's editorial board. She is also a trustee of the Graham Foundation.

The award was presented to Feldman at the chapter's holiday party and meeting Dec. 4, 2008.

Danish Entrée Copenhagen tour impresses Design & Historic Resources KC and Committee on Design

A year and a half of planning by chapter member T. Gunny Harboe, AIA, of Harboe Architects, culminated in a tour of Copenhagen Aug. 31 - Sept. 4. Among the 116 AIA members attending, Chicago represented the largest chapter contingent with 16 members present.

"We wanted to maximize the immersion in Danish architecture and culture," Harboe said, explaining the tour- and lecture-intensive schedule that immersed attendees in Copenhagen's architecture. Notable tour stops included UNESCO World Heritage Site Kronborg Castle, Arne Jacobsen's private house, Jørn Utzon's Bagsvaerd Church, Henning Larsen's Opera House and Daniel Libeskind's Jewish Museum.

Harboe, who has served in a multitude of leadership roles within the AIA since 1991, most notably as a former Chicago chapter president in 2000 and an AIA National board of directors member in 2004, was tapped to chair the trip's planning committee due to his "Danish connections." (Harboe speaks fluent Danish and studied at the Royal Academy in Denmark.) Carol Bentel, FAIA, chair of the national Committee on Design, and Sharon C. Park, FAIA, chair of the national Historic Resources Committee, served as planning committee co-chairs.

"I've been on three trips—Amsterdam, Prague, and Copenhagen—and it's the best thing AIA offers in terms of immersion in culture and gaining access to sites," said Dan Wheeler, FAIA. Wheeler described how Copenhagen "has experienced tremendous growth



Tour members, from left: Harry Hunderman, FAIA; Deborah Slaton; James Nagle, FAIA; Robert Allen, AIA; Andrew Metter, FAIA; Ellen Mills, AIA; Jeanne Gang, AIA; James Broughton, AIA; Julie Wheeler; Lynn Meyers, AIA; Dana Terp, AIA; Linda Searl, FAIA; Peter Landon, FAIA; T. Gunny Harboe, AIA; Joe Valerio, FAIA; Dan Wheeler, FAIA; Thomas Rossiter, FAIA. (Not pictured: Ralph Johnson, FAIA; and John Myefski, AIA.)

along the waterfront in the past 10 to 15 years and some of the city's architecture seemed to be hitchhiking on earlier work done in Amsterdam as well as imported talent." But he thinks that "it's clear that the Danes have leapfrogged to the forefront."

Wheeler especially enjoyed seeing BIG- Bjarke Ingels Group's "Mountain Dwellings," a multi-unit residential project, and the field trips to see Jacobsen's work, although for him the highlight of the trip was seeing the Utzon housing. Wheeler also enjoyed pedaling through the "incredibly bike-friendly" city and said the cyclist-friendly attitude is "something to push more here." He plans on attending next year's trip to Berlin and encourages others to attend. The Berlin/Dessau trip is Sept. 6 - 11, 2009. aia.org/cod. → **Lara Brown**