



AIA
Washington DC

AIA|DC Announces Second Annual Architectural Journalism Prize Winner

The Sarah Booth Conroy Prize Rewards Journalists and Critics Who Write About the Design of DC's Urban Environment

WASHINGTON, DC—March 1, 2017—AIA|DC announces the second annual winner of **The Sarah Booth Conroy Prize for Journalism and Architectural Criticism** to reward reportorial or critical excellence in fostering a better public understanding of architecture and urbanism in Washington DC. This year's winner, Amanda Kolson Hurley, writes a column on design in DC called Concrete Details for the *Washington City Paper*. She is also a contributing editor for *Architect* and a regular contributor to *The Atlantic's* online publication *CityLab*. Hurley is the former executive editor of *Architect* magazine, the magazine of the American Institute of Architects (AIA), and has written in recent years for publications that include *The Atlantic*, *Foreign Policy*, *The Washington Post*, *The American Scholar*, *Curbed*, and *Wallpaper*.

The \$5,000 prize seeks to raise Washington's status as a design city by rewarding journalists and critics who write about the design of DC's urban environment.

Mary Fitch, AICP, Hon. AIA, Executive Director of AIA|DC is honored to announce that this year's **Sarah Booth Conroy Prize for Journalism and Architectural Criticism** goes to Amanda Kolson Hurley, Fitch says that Hurley's writing is "not only about architecture, but why it is important."

Hurley will be presented with the prize during Architecture Month in April, where she has been invited to speak at a public lecture. Her talk "The Overlooked Architectural Opportunities of Suburbia," will take place on April 4 at the District Architecture Center, in which she will argue that the suburbs can and should be a realm of innovation.

The Conroy Prize jury, Shalom Baranes, FAIA; Claire Conroy, journalist, editor, and daughter of Sarah Booth Conroy; and Scott Frank, ARGO Communications, convened February 2, 2017. The jury was pleased by the many great submissions received from a variety of journalists, "people were coming at design journalism from different directions with submissions from a blogger, a writer for the Wall Street Journal, and from our own local paper."

Hurley's submission stood out because of her witty and approachable writing style. The jury thought that "even if you don't care about architecture, you'd pick up one of her articles because of her lively prose." Her prominent body of work looks at pertinent topics such as glass box architecture in "Ban the Box," what the color of your house says about you in "Grayed Expectations," and "Gallaudet University's Brilliant, Surprising Architecture for the Deaf" about DeafSpace. Sign up for Hurley's lecture and also go on a tour of the Gallaudet University master plan during Architecture Month. Learn more at bit.ly/ArchMonth2017.



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About Sarah Booth Conroy:

Sarah Booth Conroy (1928 - 2009) wrote on architecture and city history for the Washington Post for more than 30 years. Mrs. Conroy was the first winner of the Glenn Brown Award, an award given by AIA|DC and the Washington Architectural Foundation to an individual who has improved the quality of life in DC and raised awareness of architecture and its benefits to society.

About AIA|DC:

Founded in 1887, the Washington Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA|DC) serves the Nation's Capital. It advances the value of architecture for its members, the profession of architecture, and the community by providing advocacy, leadership, and resources for architects to design a better world. AIA|DC was intimately involved in the design and planning of Washington, and continues to play an active role in city development today. For more information, please visit www.aiadc.com

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