



## Tom Kundig of Olson Sundberg Kundig Allen Architects Receives the AIA 2008 Institute Honor Award for Delta Shelter

New York City, January 8th, 2007

Delta Shelter, designed by Tom Kundig of Olson Sundberg Kundig Allen, has been awarded the architectural profession's highest recognition of excellence in architecture: the American Institute of Architects (AIA) 2008 Institute Honor Award for Architecture. This is the seventh major award for Delta Shelter, and one of the most prestigious awards.

The annual AIA Honor Awards program choose Delta Shelter, along with twenty-seven other recipients, from over 800 total submissions. The goal of the Honor Award program is to elevate the general quality of architecture practice, establish a standard of excellence against which all architects can measure performance, and inform the public of the breadth and value of the architecture practice.

The jury commented, "Delta Shelter artfully integrates sensitive site planning, ecological restoration, and an imaginative architectural translation of the client's aspirations for a modest tree house retreat in a magnificent mountain setting. It is more than a beautiful object. The concept, design, detailing, materials, composition, and inventiveness are all exceptional."

For more information about the award, please visit: <http://www.aia.org/>

### **About Delta Shelter:**

Set on a slight rise within a one-hundred-year flood plain in an alpine river valley, this 1,000 square-foot weekend cabin is essentially a steel-clad box on stilts that can be completely shuttered when the owner is away. Raised above the ground to minimize potential flood damage and to take in 360-degree views of the surrounding forest and mountains, the cabin was conceived as a low-tech, virtually indestructible weekend house.

The cabin is composed of three levels: the lowest level is half carport, half utility/storage room; the middle level consists of the entry, two small bedrooms and bathrooms; the top level is one large space which includes living, dining and cooking areas. Cantilevered, steel decks extend from the top and middle levels and provide space for outdoor sleeping and entertaining.

With substantial portions of the cabin prefabricated offsite—steel structure, roof, shutters, stairs—the basic frame of the house was quickly constructed. The cabin is supported by four steel columns. Floors are 3" x 6" tongue-and-groove wood car-decking, and exterior wood infill walls are clad in 16-gauge, hot-rolled steel sheets with exposed steel fasteners. One half of each exterior façade is glazed, while the other half is clad in steel. All four shutters, which measure 10' x 18', can be closed simultaneously by using a hand wheel that moves the shutters over the glazed portions of each façade. The shutters are operated by a series of mechanical devices including a hand wheel, drive shafts, u-joints, spur gears and cables.

The AIA National Honor Award is the seventh award for Delta Shelter. Other awards include: the American Architecture Award, Chicago Athenaeum, Delta Shelter, 2007; AIA National Housing Committee Award, Delta Shelter, 2007; AIA Northwest and Pacific Region Honor Award, Delta Shelter, 2007; Record House, Architectural Record, Delta Shelter, 2006; AIA Seattle Merit Award, Delta Shelter, 2006; Residential Architect Grand Award, Delta Shelter, 2006.



### **About Tom Kundig:**

Tom Kundig, a principal in Olson Sundberg Kundig Allen Architects, is fast becoming one of this country's most celebrated architects. On the occasion of his receipt of the 2007 Academy Award in Architecture, the American Academy of Arts and Letters proclaimed: "Tom Kundig's realizations have re-introduced an architecture of intensity of detail and material focus. In a world of broad-brush gesture and detail banality, Kundig's works pose a richness of material, color and texture of detail which demonstrate the life force of architecture's experiential dimensions."

In 2006, Princeton Architectural Press released *Tom Kundig: Houses*. Kundig was a finalist for the 2005 National Design Award for Architecture, sponsored by the Smithsonian's Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum and he is a recipient of a MacDowell Colony Fellowship. In 2004, he was selected as one of eight North American Emerging Architects by the Architectural League of New York and was elected to the College of Fellows by the American Institute of Architects (AIA). To date, Kundig has been awarded a total of twenty-seven AIA awards, including five recent National AIA awards (for The Brain, Chicken Point Cabin, Delta Shelter and Tye River Cabin).

Kundig's work has been published in over 250 publications worldwide, and he has served as a university studio critic throughout the United States and in Japan. His award-winning work has been widely exhibited in North America, most recently at the American Academy of Arts and Letters in New York.

Raised and educated in a tradition of art fabrication, Tom Kundig's designs successfully combine art, craft, and the human experience of space. He is internationally recognized for his sense of the American West landscape and for his integration of elegant architecture with the exploration and reinvention of parts of architecture that are overlooked or "forgotten," such as doors, windows or stairs, as well as for his use of kinetic architectural elements. His current work spans from innovative cabins on wheels, to a twisting high-rise in the heart of downtown Seattle, to elegant and striking private residences in some of the most beautiful places in the world.

### **About Olson Sundberg Kundig Allen:**

Olson Sundberg Kundig Allen Architects was started based on some simple ideas: that buildings can serve as a bridge between nature, culture and people, and that inspiring surroundings have a positive effect on people's lives. Forty years later, Olson Sundberg Kundig Allen Architects has grown it into an office with a national reputation for its creative exploration of architecture. Their work, including museums, academic buildings, exhibit design, interior design, places of worship and residences, often for art collectors, is now worldwide. The office combines the capacity of a large firm with the intensity of a small one. The firm's commitment to vigorous, critical design review sessions has infused its designers with a shared sense of commitment to every project.

For more information on the work of Olson Sundberg Kundig Allen Architects, visit <http://www.oskaarchitects.com>

Press Contact:

Frank Lentini

Susan Grant Lewin Associates

(++1) 212-947-4557

[frank@susangrantlewin.com](mailto:frank@susangrantlewin.com)