



Architecture  
Interior design  
Engineering

**Boarman  
Kroos  
Vogel**  
Group  
Inc.

222 North Second Street  
Minneapolis, MN 55401  
Telephone: 612.339.3752  
Facsimile: 612.339.6212  
www.bkvgroup.com  
EOE

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Contact: Susan Andre  
Marketing and Communications  
612.339.3752  
sandre@bkvgroup.com

## **Tria House Receives 2006 AIA Divine Detail Award**

Minneapolis, Minnesota — Friday, December 15, 2006 — BKV Group, a Minneapolis based architecture, interior design, landscape architecture and engineering firm is pleased to announce that the Tria House was selected for a Divine Detail Award at the 72nd AIA Minnesota Annual Convention and Exhibition.

The AIA Minnesota Divine Detail Awards were established to recognize elements of building design where the expression of materials, technologies and craft bond with the process of invention and construction and recognize the importance of the detail to the realization of the whole.

The Tria House is an investigation of the nature of a temporary construct. Through the use specific materials the project investigates the ideas of enclosure, passage, and the marking of time. Tria House was selected for The University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum's summer competition Totally Terrific Treehouses. The competition brief directed the construction of a tree house with strict rules regarding the actual interaction with the tree. The project team composed a house for a tree as a position to work within these constraints. The project was fully constructed and deconstructed by the designers.

The name 'tria' is a word play with the product 'chia'. The changing character of the project aligns with the goals of the project. Each material was selected to evidence a change in character over a relatively short period of time as the project would have a life span of 5 months. The recycled steel panels rust and streak. The hand made gabion path compresses and becomes more 'pillow like' from path travel. The grasses planted within grow an express themselves through their container – the steel wall. The recycled glass gravel contains bits of mirror which constantly reflect the movement of the sky above on the ground. This fascinating quality proved irresistible to observers who claimed pocketfuls for themselves. The disappearance of almost all of this material also evidenced the passing of time. After its deconstruction, the steel panels were recycled again and found themselves re-folded and used to articulate the top floor of the designer's garrison.

Founded in 1978, BKV Group is an award winning 85-person multi-disciplinary firm providing services for a wide range of market segments including Community Development, Corporate, Education and Government. Recent projects include: Pacific Flats, Silver Lake Village Redevelopment, MoZaic Mixed-Use Development, Edina City Hall and Police Station, Plymouth Public Safety, Pine County Government Center.

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**News Release**