



**AIA**  
Toledo

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**\*\* FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE \*\***

*Contact: Lisa Aller, Administrative Director - Toledo Chapter, American Institute of Architects  
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### **Baker receives AIA Toledo's 2017 Emerging Professional of the Year Award**

In recognition of his commitment to the profession, the Toledo Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) is pleased to announce that Christopher L. Baker, AIA Associate has been named Toledo Emerging Professional of the Year for 2017.

Chris's love of architecture began in the small town of Orrville in northeast Ohio with Legos, Lincoln Logs, cardboard boxes and igloo designs alongside his younger brother. Following graduation from Orrville High School in 1998, Chris attended the University of Detroit Mercy (UDM) School of Architecture in Detroit, Michigan. While in college, Chris was an active member of AIAS, Phi Kappa Theta social fraternity and worked for the UDM Theatre Company. In 2004 he accepted an internship at SSOE Group in Toledo to complete his coursework from UDM. After graduation, Chris stayed on at SSOE in the architectural department of the Automotive division as an advanced drafter and 3D modeler.

In 2006, he pursued an Executive MBA from the University of Toledo and became very interested in a concept of "intra-preneurship", concentrating on ways to build the business internally. Chris took this concept and left the architectural department in 2008 to start a new department within the company, focusing on improving BIM/CAD planning, BIM/CAD setup, client standards incorporation and laser scanning integration in the automotive division projects. Even though Chris was focused on overall project planning, coordination and integration on the technical side during this excursion to fill a need, he still loved the design aspect. In 2013, he returned to the architectural department to allow the department to develop at a larger capacity within SSOE. Chris currently works in the industrial and manufacturing sectors as a lead architectural designer for global projects.

During his 13 years at SSOE, Chris has had the chance to work with teams of varying sizes of projects from a 2.4 million sq ft Toyota plant to small toilet room renovations. He was given the opportunity to travel to Germany for a couple months to work with Volkswagen during the planning and development stages of a new 2 million sq ft plant in Chattanooga, Tennessee in 2008 and is still an active member of the team. Chris has taken integral roles for other projects such as NNSA, USACE, Ford, SC Johnson, P&G, GM, Nestle, Honda and Continental tire to name a few. Among his favorite projects is the new Toyota Technical Center in York Township, Michigan, south of Ann Arbor. During this assignment, he worked closely with his mentor, Arne Larson, client and multiple disciplines. Recently he has taken a position as the architectural



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department workshare coordinator focusing on SSOE's India office coordination, communication and improvements.

Chris has made Toledo his home since moving here with his now wife, Alyssa, in 2004. He and his wife live in a 100 year old house in northwest Toledo with their 5 children, Courtney (10), Kyla (8), Andrew (7), Brooklynn (4), and Weston (3.) When not spending time with his family, he is active with CedarCreek Church, AIA Toledo's High School Design Competition, Boy Scouts of America Construction City Co-Chair, and Toledo Young Architects Forum (YAF). Chris has been an involved with the local AIA chapter since joining YAF in 2004; he has used his leadership skills by formerly serving as president of YAF and AIAT Associate Director and is essential in forming a relationship with the local Boy Scouts and AIA Toledo.

***Mr. Baker was presented the 2017 AIA Toledo Architect of the Year Award during the Honors Awards Program on April 21, 2017 at the Blarney Event Center, Downtown Toledo.***

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**Original high resolution photo sent as separate file to replace photo in press release**

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#### **About the Toledo Chapter of the American Institute of Architects**

AIA Toledo is the local affiliate chapter of the American Institute of Architects; a national organization that is dedicated to the standards, ethics, and development of architecture as a profession. AIA Toledo promotes excellence in the architectural profession by serving member Architect, Associate and Allied members in 19 Northwestern Ohio counties. As a resource to both its membership and our community, AIA members strive to make the world a better place for everyone to live, work and play through good design. Visit [www.aiatoledo.org](http://www.aiatoledo.org)

#### **About The American Institute of Architects**

Founded in 1857, members of the American Institute of Architects consistently work to create more valuable, healthy, secure, and sustainable buildings, neighborhoods, and communities. Through nearly 300 state and local chapters, the AIA advocates for public policies that promote economic vitality and public wellbeing. Members adhere to a code of ethics and conduct to ensure the highest professional standards. The AIA provides members with tools and resources to assist them in their careers and business as well as engaging civic and government leaders, and the public to find solutions to pressing issues facing our communities, institutions, nation and world.

Visit [www.aia.org](http://www.aia.org)