

Convocation Speaker Carol Ross Barney, FAIA

University Alumnus Carol Ross Barney will be the keynote speaker at the 2007 School of Architecture Convocation Ceremony on May 13. Carol is the founder and principal of Ross Barney Architects. She is responsible for the design excellence of all projects undertaken by the firm.

Dedicated to improving the built environment, her work has an international reputation in the design of institutional and public buildings. Her work has been published in national and international journals, books and newspapers. Ms. Ross Barney has been awarded with numerous honors for her work, including 4 Institute Honor Awards from the American Institute of Architects. Her drawings have been widely exhibited and collected by the Art Institute of Chicago, the Chicago Historical Society, The Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago and the National Building Museum. Ms. Ross Barney is the recipient of the American Institute of Architects 2005 Thomas Jefferson Award for Public Architecture. This award recognizes excellence in architectural achievement.

Commissions include the new Commodore John Barry Elementary School for the School District of Philadelphia, South Side Elementary School in Columbus, Indiana, United States Border Station in Sault Ste. Marie Michigan, Swenson Science Building for the University of Minnesota at Duluth, Arts Science and Technology Pavilion for Oakton Community College, Sanctuary for the Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation and reconstruction of two of Chicago's most heavily used transit stations at Fullerton and Belmont Avenues. Perhaps her most recognized building at this time is the United States Federal Building, built to more stringent safety standards after the bombing in Oklahoma City. Locally, Ms. Ross Barney serves as architect for the new Champaign Public Library.

She received her Bachelor of Architecture from the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign in 1971. Following graduation, she served as a U.S. Peace Corps volunteer in Costa Rica planning national parks.

She has taught at the University of Illinois at Chicago, the University of Oklahoma (Goff Chair for Creative Architecture) and the Illinois Institute of Technology where she serves on the College Board of Overseers. In 1982, Ms. Ross Barney became the first female recipient of the Francis J. Plym Traveling Fellowship from the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign.