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**Partner of DSGW Architects elected 2008 President
of the American College of Healthcare Architects.**

DULUTH, MINNESOTA [February 20, 2007] - Rebecca J. Lewis, AIA, ACHA, CID, partner of DSGW Architects, will serve as the 2008 president of the American College of Healthcare Architects. ACHA is a national organization that provides education and board certification for licensed architects working in the area of healthcare facility design and construction.

Within architecture, it is the only specialty certification program. Because this type of architecture requires a specific and high level of knowledge, architects must meet a rigorous set of standards that includes passing a written examination in order to qualify for certification.

As president-elect Lewis is working with current ACHA president, John R. Pangrazio, FAIA, FACHA partner, of NBBJ Seattle to bring added value to members through education and awards programs. During her term as president, she plans to continue focusing on member value as well as growing membership by reaching out to more small firms.

“Rebecca is a talented architect dedicated to advancing the American College of Healthcare Architects through her experience and collaborative nature. The future of the organization is in good hands,” said Pangrazio. Because DSGW is a smaller firm that works with rural healthcare facilities, Lewis brings to her role an understanding of the needs of those clients. In turn, she is able to bring back information and solutions from outside the area to assist small regional facilities.

Lewis has worked on a number of area healthcare facilities, including the Lakewalk Surgery Center expansion, SMDC’s West Duluth Clinic, the Pavilion and Lakeview Building for St. Luke’s and a number of projects at the Virginia Regional Medical Center.

In addition, Lewis serves on the Healthcare Guidelines Revision Committee for the “*Guidelines for Design and Construction of Health Care Facilities 2006 Edition*” book. The 125-member revision committee is made up of clinicians, code officials and medical architects. These guidelines are updated every four years and are referenced by architects, engineers and healthcare professionals who are planning new or renovated healthcare projects. In the 2006 edition, notable changes include single-bed patient rooms for general medical-surgical units in new construction and a special section devoted to small inpatient primary care hospitals.

About DSGW Architects

DSGW is a Minnesota firm with offices in Duluth, Virginia, Grand Rapids and the Twin Cities. The 30+ creative team provides architecture, planning, interior design and implementation services to communities of every size and character. Since 1938, DSGW has attracted clients who are active in their communities and want to play a proactive role in determining what is built within them. Our clients’ dreams and aspirations help us to deliver enduring buildings that bring communities together. For more information visit www.dsgw.com

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