



# Productive Play

We so idealize art that we often forget how much it is a form of productive play, an idea that James Dayton aptly applies to his design of the Minnetonka Center for the Arts. Comprising a series of box-like forms, the building has a playful character, looking, in places, like children's blocks on steroids. Arrayed around an artfully designed landscape and an outdoor court and art-display wall, the building's metal-clad production areas have an industrial feel, expressing the hard work that every artist wants to look easy. Inside, daylight floods an L-shaped "street" that joins the art studios to an exhibition gallery, in which a box-like skylight serves as a natural spotlight.

The varied materials used in and outside the building also echo the multiple media displayed there. It's as if the art center's diverse surfaces and energetic forms give its students permission to be artists, to make imaginative things, to engage in productive play.

—Thomas Fisher, Assoc. AIA

The Minnetonka Center for the Arts was profiled in the November/December 2002 issue of Architecture Minnesota.

## MINNETONKA CENTER FOR THE ARTS

<b>Location:</b> Wayzata, Minnesota	<b>General contractor:</b> M.A. Mortenson Company
<b>Architect:</b> James Dayton Design <a href="http://www.jdditd.com">www.jdditd.com</a>	<b>Size:</b> 32,000 square feet
<b>Principal-in-charge:</b> James Dayton, AIA	<b>Cost:</b> \$5.7 million
<b>Landscape architect:</b> oslund.and.assoc. <a href="http://www.oaala.com">www.oaala.com</a>	<b>Completion date:</b> June 2002
	<b>Photographer:</b> Patrick Regan, AIA

*"Different pieces of the building are articulated in different urban materials. A gutsy, industrial, raw feel for an arts center."*

—JUROR COMMENT

