

State honors

Wenzler and Associates

Edward Wenzler left behind something bigger than the thousands of square feet he designed as an architect.

When he died in November, he passed on a legacy of customer service that his firm, Milwaukee-based William Wenzler and Associates Architects Inc., carries on today.

That legacy was part of the reason the first Lifetime Service Award from Gov. Jim Doyle and the Wisconsin state Building Commission was presented to Wenzler Architects in February.

Wenzler Architects has worked with the state for more than 40 years. The company designed a fine arts building for the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point in 1968 and more recently com-

pleted the design of a residence hall at the UW-River Falls.

But William Wenzler, Edward's father and the founder of the firm, said the company's most notable effort with the state was the UW-Whitewater's multipurpose Irving L. Young Auditorium, which was constructed in the early 1990s.

Wenzler said the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra still prefers to record music in the auditorium.

Wenzler said his son was instrumental in the design of the building. But it wasn't just Edward's architectural ability that earned him popularity. Wenzler said his son also was known for customer service.

On one occasion, William Wenzler said, trouble occurred with an air-



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(From left) State Sen. Fred Risser, D-Madison, stands with William Wenzler, founder of William Wenzler and Associates Architects Inc., and Kevin Brice, vice president of operations with the architecture firm.

conditioning system. As is sometimes the case, the architect was the first to be blamed. But Edward called all concerned parties together and, after some investigation, traced the problem back to an installation error.

"He had a very credibly unique

mechanical mind," Wenzler said of his son.

Looking ahead, Wenzler and Associates plans to continue work with the state.

After all, project manager Chris Wenzler, Ed's son and William's grandson, has a legacy to follow.