

April 2025

ARCHITYPE

THE DIGITAL MAGAZINE OF AIA CONNECTICUT

BUILDING A GREENER FUTURE IN CONNECTICUT AND BEYOND

**Shoreline Grove, the
Largest Passive House
Certified Project in
Connecticut**

**Architects See
Building Performance
Standards As A
Business Opportunity**

**Women Architects:
Making American
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THE DIGITAL MAGAZINE OF AIA CONNECTICUT

OUR BUILDINGS, OUR SELVES: HUMANITY IN ARCHITECTURE

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Design is just one way humanity manifests itself. Our buildings simply express where our culture is. Architects often talk to other architects about architecture, in this time of explosive change, our evolving values are revealed when we understand design.

Episode 2: The Age of the Starchitect is Over, What's Next?

All specializations create their own language, rules, and personalities that reinforce the values of those engaged in it.

We've evolved from a top-down curated world of editors and tastemakers, focused largely on the "stars" of the profession—often creating them by their own coverage—to a more bottom-up, nearly instantaneous feedback loop. Messier and fractured, no doubt, but perhaps more democratic. With Michael Kimmelman, New York Times architecture critic, and design critic and creator of the popular blog McMansion Hell, Kate Wagner.



Episode 3 -

The April episode will explore how the internet has completely transformed the way the profession is covered. Our guests will be Pulitzer Prize-winning architecture critic Paul Goldberger and Chicago-based design writer Zach Mortice.

MONTHLY PODCAST



Co-Hosted by
Architect Duo Dickinson FAIA and
Common Edge Founder/Editor
Martin Pedersen.

To listen on Spotify
or Apple Podcast
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Episode 1: What Is Ugly?

Author, architect and educator Witold Rybczynski, and writer and founder of Studio 360, Kurt Andersen, address the exquisite diversity in our universality without the obsession with "style."



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Members,

As we welcome spring, a season that reminds us of renewal and resilience, we feature this topic that sits at the very heart of the profession: sustainability and resiliency in the built environment.

In recent years, climate change has shifted from a distant concern to a pressing, present-day crisis. From extreme weather events to rising sea levels, the built environment is both vulnerable to and a contributor to these challenges. It is our buildings, communities, and infrastructure that bear the brunt of climate disruptions—and it is through thoughtful, forward-looking

design that we can create spaces that not only endure but protect and empower.

Sustainability and resiliency are no longer optional. They are imperatives. What's more, this work becomes even more vital when federal leadership fails to adequately recognize the urgency of the climate crisis. In the absence of national guidance, it falls to local leaders, designers, planners, and advocates—people like you—to lead the way. Our community has always risen to meet the moment, and today, we must do so again with bold ideas, grounded in science and inspired by a deep commitment to future generations.

This issue highlights the innovative approaches, materials, policies, and partnerships that are helping to future-proof our communities. Forward-thinking projects that turn performance goals into design opportunities, professionals leveraging new standards to expand their impact, and how equity and justice are becoming integral to both climate resilience and market leadership.

Now more than ever, we must continue to build with intention. To design with care. And to act with urgency.

Thank you for being part of this essential work.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gina", written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gina Calabro, Hon. AIACT NOMA
Executive Director/CEO



CACX'25 Call For Proposals

An exclusive invitation to contribute to this influential gathering and play a vital role in shaping the future of the AEC industry.

Deadline : May 9th

- Share your cutting-edge knowledge, groundbreaking research, and best practices.
- Guide fellow AEC professionals towards the adoption of sustainable practices, innovative technologies, and forward-thinking solutions.
- Position yourself and your organization as a subject matter expert, gaining invaluable visibility and recognition.
- Engage in a dynamic forum that encourages impactful dialogue and facilitates the exchange of ideas.

[Click Here](#) to Submit

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

To Our Valued Members,

I recently attended the 2025 Design for Freedom Summit at Grace Farms, a gathering of leaders from the design, construction, and manufacturing industries. This was my second time attending, and while the focus was on sustainably and equitably sourcing building materials, a more urgent issue emerged: much of the industry still relies on materials produced through forced labor, modern-day slavery, primarily in the Global South. It's estimated that 50 million people are subjected to forced labor globally, including 28 million children. We heard deeply disturbing stories, like those of families working in Indian stone quarries, where children as young as eight are routinely exploited. Amar Lal, now a civil rights lawyer and activist, was rescued from one of those quarries at that very age. Last year, we heard from a young woman who, as a girl, had been forced into textile labor. These stories are not isolated, they are urgent reminders that modern slavery persists in the supply chains that support our industry.



One speaker posed a simple but profound question: Are we willing to ensure that children subjected to forced labor are given the same opportunities we often take for granted?

There's a growing recognition that those closest to a problem are often best equipped to solve it. So why should architects care about how and where materials are sourced? Should we be influencing procurement decisions and driving ethical change through our work? What leverage can we use to hold our clients, and ourselves accountable?

One speaker noted that architects and designers wield 40% more purchasing power than the average person. With that influence comes an ethical responsibility to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public. The decisions we make today will shape the built environment for generations to come. While emerging materials and technologies present exciting design possibilities, they also introduce critical ethical considerations we cannot ignore.

The exploitation we heard about abroad mirrors the inequities that still exist within our own profession. While we've made meaningful progress, access to leadership roles and visibility remains uneven. Standing in the serene surroundings of Grace Farms, I found myself asking: Can our profession truly lead the kind of systemic change we claim to support? Or are we too disconnected from these issues or choosing to be?

In today's polarized climate, "free speech" often feels conditional, and neutrality has become a convenient refuge. Some argue we should focus solely on AI and design theory, avoiding social issues. But I believe that by strengthening our profession through true equity and inclusion, we not only move beyond performative DEI efforts, we also create a culture of transparency and empower all voices.

We must ensure the benefits of our work are shared by all. That's how we build a more just, ethical, and sustainable world.

Marc Guerrier Andre, AIA, NCARB
2025 President - AIA Connecticut

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Building a Greener Future

Sustainability is no longer just a buzzword—it's a blueprint for building stronger, healthier, and more resilient communities. Across New England, architects, builders, and residents are embracing green design to reduce energy use, lower carbon footprints, and create vibrant spaces to live, learn, and thrive.

Why Sustainability Matters

The built environment is responsible for nearly 40% of global carbon emissions. In New England—where aging infrastructure meets climate vulnerability—sustainable design isn't just ideal, it's essential. It addresses energy efficiency, climate resilience, occupant health, and long-term affordability.

And with federal policies often falling short, local leadership is stepping up. From town halls to design studios, New England is proving that green building is not only possible—it's already happening.

Passive House & Green Building Standards

One of the most effective approaches to sustainable design is the Passive House standard. With a focus on airtight envelopes, continuous insulation, and balanced ventilation, Passive House buildings dramatically reduce energy demand—often by 80–90% compared to traditional construction.

Alongside Passive House, programs like LEED and the AIA's Framework for Design Excellence help architects and builders pursue net-zero energy, water conservation, material transparency, and community wellness—raising the bar for what buildings can do.

Sustainability in Action Across Connecticut

- **Southern Connecticut State University School of Business, New Haven**
Connecticut's first state-owned net-zero energy building, this 64,000-square-foot facility incorporates solar photovoltaic panels and a geothermal well field. It represents a major leap in public-sector climate leadership and sustainable design for higher education.
- **Hillside Passive House – Stamford, CT**
This 2,100-square-foot single-family home, built by BPC Green Builders, meets Passive House standards with airtight construction, solar-ready design, and exceptional thermal comfort. It proves high performance and beautiful design can go hand in hand.
- **Hotel Marcel – New Haven, CT**
A revolutionary net-zero energy hotel adapted from Marcel Breuer's 1968 Brutalist landmark. Featuring solar power, electric systems, and on-site energy storage, Hotel Marcel sets a national precedent for sustainable hospitality.
- **Mansfield Elementary School – Mansfield, CT**
Opened in 2022, this all-electric, net-zero energy school is a flagship for healthy learning environments. With geothermal heating and cooling, solar panels, natural daylighting, and low-VOC materials, the building is as focused on student wellness as it is on environmental responsibility.
- **Net-Zero Energy Home, Trumbull**
This modern, custom-built home generates more energy than it uses, achieving a

HERS score of -13. The house features advanced insulation, solar PV, energy-efficient HVAC, and battery storage, allowing it to charge an EV and export surplus energy to the grid.

- **Net-Zero Housing, Hartford (North End)**
Developed by Crosskey Architects, these six urban-infill homes were built for low-income families with a focus on energy savings and indoor air quality. The project integrates renewable energy with efficient building systems to reduce operating costs and carbon emissions.
- **King's Block – New Haven, CT**
A historic restoration project turned sustainability showcase, King's Block is a mixed-use commercial and residential building updated to meet Passive House and green building benchmarks. With upgraded insulation, high-efficiency systems, and renewable energy integration, it preserves New Haven's architectural heritage while looking squarely to the future.
- **777 Main Street, Hartford**
This 1967 Brutalist tower was retrofitted with solar panels and a 400kW fuel cell. It serves as the anchor of Hartford's first microgrid and demonstrates how existing buildings can be reimaged as resilient, sustainable assets.

Embracing sustainability in residential and commercial building design is not merely an environmental imperative but also a pathway to creating healthier, more resilient communities. These projects are more than buildings—they're proof that climate action starts at home, in schools, and in the heart of our communities. Connecticut is showing what's possible when policy, design, and purpose come together.

in Connecticut and Beyond



• Southern Connecticut State University
School of Business, New Haven



• Hillside Passive House – Stamford, CT



• Hotel Marcel –
New Haven, CT



• Mansfield Elementary
School – Mansfield, CT



• Net-Zero Housing,
Hartford (North End)



• King's Block –
New Haven, CT



• 777 Main Street,
Hartford, CT

Shoreline Grove is Now the Largest Passive House Certified Project in Connecticut



Shoreline Grove, designed by Newman Architects for a partnership between the Branford Housing Authority and Beacon Communities, has achieved Passive House (Phius) Certification, meeting very high-performance building standards for a comfortable indoor environment with very low operational energy consumption.

That makes it the largest Passive House certified project in the State of Connecticut, the second largest in New England, and the tenth largest nationally.

“Shoreline Grove’s Passive House Certification is an exciting achievement for Newman and Branford, but also for affordable housing in Connecticut as a whole,” said Paul Santos, AIA, Principal and Director of Housing at Newman Architects. “It shows that affordable housing can achieve the highest standards for energy efficiency and desirability.”

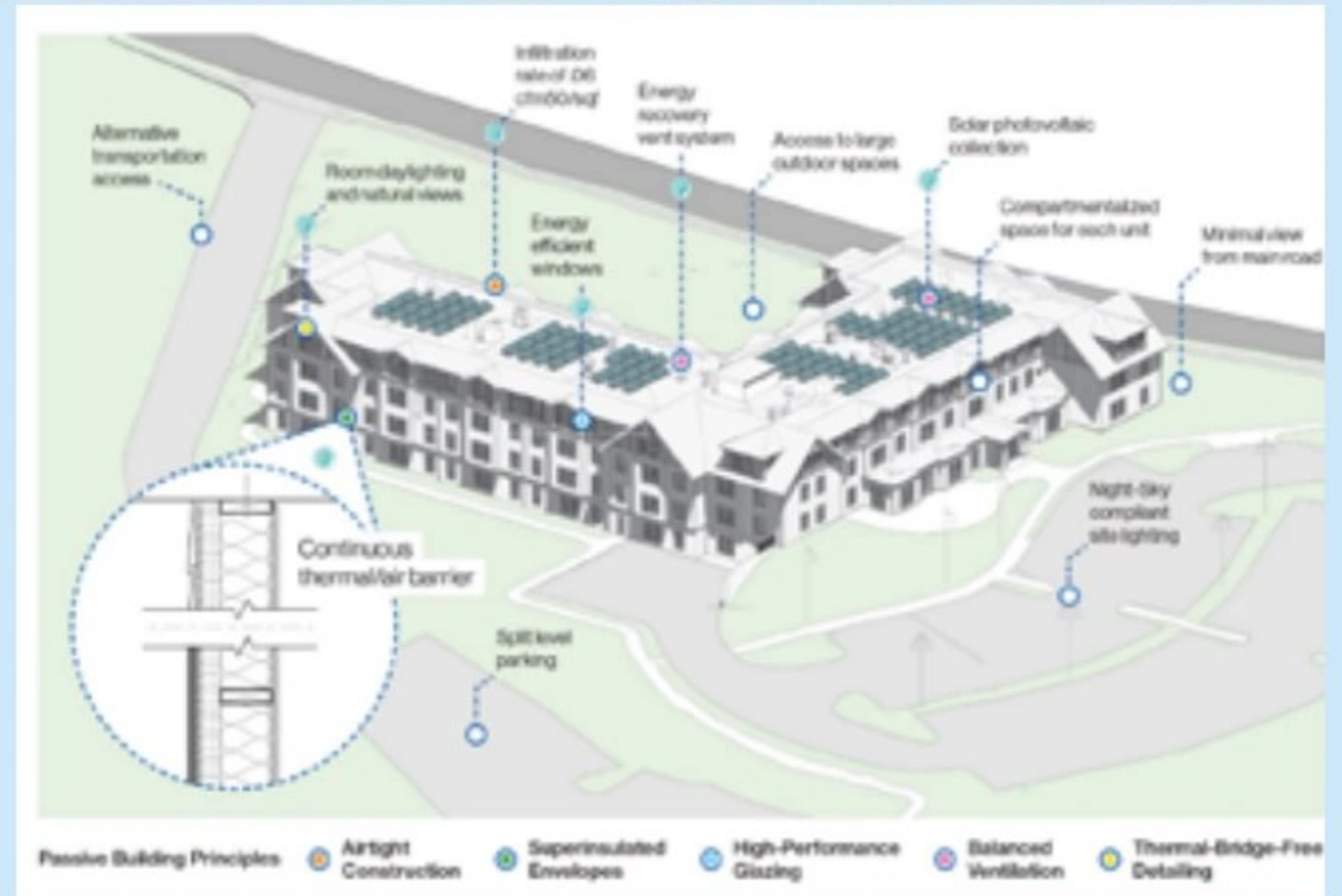
The 67-unit affordable housing building on Montowese Street opened to residents in 2023, replacing deteriorating elderly and disabled affordable housing with larger, modern apartments in a new community that better meet residents’ needs with additional amenities, services, and parking onsite.

The Phius standard is a pass-fail standard for building energy performance, with additional requirements for quality assurance inspections, and for low-moisture-risk design. In meeting Phius

requirements, the building excels in its energy efficiency with a Home Energy Rating Score (HERS) of 40, significantly below energy code in the State. In its final blower door test, a key piece of the testing phase for achieving PHius certification, the building came in at 0.054 cfm/sf, which is 10% below the threshold needed, equivalent to 0.476 ACH (air changes per hour). Newman worked with the Phius consultants New Ecology to earn the Passive House certification.

An efficient mechanical system with energy recovery units and photovoltaic panels combined with a continuous air barrier, air tightness at eaves and roof conditions, and triple-glazed vinyl insulated windows meet the requirements of Passive House certification. A blend of flat and sloped roof angles hides the mechanical systems from view.

Shoreline Grove expands access to affordable housing in a warm and welcoming community and creates a long-term sustainable asset for the neighborhood and town. Central ground floor amenities, programmed with the involvement of a resident council, include a community room with kitchen and computer room, fitness center, a wellness exam room, and a package concierge.



The one-bedroom units are 600-700 square feet, and the larger, two-bedroom units are designed to work for families or roommates. Large windows and open kitchens enhance the generous size and brightness of the units. Built-in casework and VCT wood-look tiles bring warmth and durability to the interiors.

Located on a rocky and wooded site, the building overlooks the central public park in Branford with a view of the harbor. Four stories nestle into the topography, shorter on the residential side, and with a footprint that minimizes the removal of existing trees. The house-like character references the grand historic Branford hotels of the 1920s and 30s.

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Architects Perform A Building

Firms
exp

By Wanda Lau | AIA.org

In May, owners of New York buildings bigger than 25,000 square feet will file their first reports to comply with an emissions law years in the making.

Local Law 97 (LL97) is part of the city's Climate Mobilization Act, an ambitious effort to reduce cumulative emissions from large buildings by 40% by 2030 and 100% (net zero) by 2050.

Though the law may face hiccups along the way, the writing is on the wall. As of July 2024, six states and approximately 40 cities have implemented or committed to implementing building performance standards (BPS), according to the Institute for Market Transformation (IMT). The reasoning is simple: Buildings are major contributors of carbon emissions for jurisdictions. "It's the single largest opportunity to achieve their decarbonization and climate goals," says Anica Landreneau, Assoc. AIA, global sustainable design director at HOK. "In cities, about 50% to 75% of carbon emissions are coming from buildings; in states, it's around 25%."

This growing scrutiny presents significant opportunities for architects. Besides the minor role of certifying compliance reports, architects can be the party that spearheads and shepherds building retrofits. The 2024 U.S. Energy and Employment Report found that "the energy efficiency sector supported almost 2.3 million jobs in 2023, adding nearly 75,000 positions from the year before—the most of any sector."

Jane Sanders, AIA, associate principal and director of sustainability at Henson Architecture, has overseen building retrofits in New York since 2010, soon after the city first mandated energy audits and benchmarking. Regardless of the federal government's direction, she believes climate action will continue to move forward at the state and local level. "People are inspired to keep the momentum going," she says.

Architects' vital role

In Portland, Ore., Harka Architecture has been nudging its clients toward low-carbon architecture and living years before the state announced its building performance standards,

which go into effect in 2028, according to IMT.

"We understand buildings, how they work, and how they work for clients," says founder and principal architect Patrick Donaldson, AIA. Along with helping owners meet BPS, architects can present "an opportunity to upgrade the functional aspects of their building," he says. "Now you're feeding two birds with one hand."

For clients not sold on decarbonization efforts, Donaldson steers conversations toward resiliency. "Figuring out why sustainability is important to [clients] has been a struggle from the beginning," he says. "Clients don't understand why [they] should care about sustainability. Yes, it sounds like a noble cause, but [they want to know], 'What does that mean for my pocketbook?'"

He makes a case for resiliency by broaching topics such as "how long can their building be [without] power before it starts getting uncomfortable, and how their backup power systems can be smaller," he says. "It's helped clients understand why this is a benefit to them and not just a

Projects See Building Performance Standards As Business Opportunity

Firms are leveraging their sustainability expertise to deliver results for clients.

regulation they need to meet.”

Sanders helps her clients step back and assess their buildings holistically. A façade inspection may turn into a review of roofing, insulation, and window conditions. “We are looking for the things that need to be done next,” she says. “Those decisions need to be made based on ... the maintenance cycle of the building, but also on what’s going to have the most impact for the amount of money spent.” Installing windows that exceed compliance requirements may have added benefits in energy efficiency, occupant comfort, and acoustic comfort. Through energy modeling, her firm can determine the individual and combined effect of different upgrades and advise on how to phase the work based on the client’s needs.

Architects can serve as a trusted adviser to owners in aspects beyond design, says Frank Pizzurro, the namesake founder of FP_Architecture_Interiors, in New York. His firm has helped owners review cost estimates, negotiate bids with contractors, and set up work and payment schedules. “We deal with the budget and outline the phases,” he says. “That gives clients a sense of

relief that they have a companion and a professional with experience that can do the work for them. We want to be able to tell them that down the road, they’re going to save on energy costs.”

Building up capability

By enhancing their technical services, architecture firms can assume a greater role in BPS compliance. Regardless of whether they build the energy model firsthand, Landreneau says architects should be able to understand it. For example, though an engineering consultant may claim to have factored in a project’s solar shades, an architect needs to confirm their inclusion. “It’s helpful to review [the model] and make sure it aligns with your design intent,” she says. HOK provides staff internal courses on energy model literacy.

Sanders recommends courses offered by Phius even if a firm is not planning to pursue Passive House projects. Courses cover energy modeling, building envelopes, and the impact of energy upgrades on long-term durability, which is “critical for energy savings, but also for air quality and [occupant] health,” she notes.

Firms must conduct their due diligence in paperwork as well.

The profession is flush with stories in which value engineering or change orders compromised decarbonization efforts. At HOK, Landreneau has in place a “framework of accountability” to ensure her clients achieve the project performance they expect or need. She co-lead the creation of AIA Document E204-2017, Sustainable Projects Exhibit, which inserts a building performance target and standard as an overlay to the Owner/Architect Agreement. HOK has included energy model summaries in its Division 1, General Requirements, specifications to establish the energy budget. Any consultant or contractor asking for a change order must demonstrate sustained compliance with the energy budget.

This doesn’t mean designs won’t undergo alterations, Landreneau says. In fact, “you can have value-engineering decisions that save money and improve performance—and that should be the expectation that we’re setting with our teams and our clients.”



Mathers Photo Credits: ©Jane Beiles

Women Architects at Work: Making American Modernism

The Mather Homestead in Darien, Connecticut presented an evening on March 27th celebrating the impact of women in architecture.

Bertha Mather McPherson, daughter of Stephen Tyng Mather and Jane Thacker Floy, was one of Connecticut's earliest female architects, receiving her license in 1933. The series honored her contributions as a pioneering preservationist and highlighted the experiences of other female architects, including Theodate Pope Riddle and local women in the field.

Authors Mary Anne Hunting and Kevin D. Murphy presented their new book "Women Architects

at Work: Making American Modernism" (Princeton University Press, 2025), which tells the stories of the resilient and resourceful women of the early 20th c. who surmounted barriers to participation in the architectural profession to take on crucial roles in the establishment of modernism across the United States.

Following the lecture, Connecticut architects Amanda Martocchio, AIA, Mary Burr, AIA, Susan Lockwood, and Kate Perez participated in a panel discussion in which they shared their insights on the evolving role of women in architecture and their impact on the built environment.

Tour the Hill-Stead Museum and Avon Old Farms School on May 14 and join a book club discussion titled "Dearest of Geniuses: A Life of Theodate Pope Riddle" on May 15.

In June, the Mather Center will launch the "Bertha Mather McPherson: A Legacy of Preservation" exhibit.

The Mather Homestead is Darien's only Registered National Historic Landmark. The home was built in 1778 and passed through six generations of Mathers until 2017 when Mather descendants donated the home to a newly created foundation to be operated as a museum dedicated to historic education.

AIA Connecticut Announces Staff Promotions and New Hire

AIA Connecticut is pleased to announce recent staff updates that will enhance our programs, events and outreach.

Promotions:



Joel Whitten has been promoted to Program Manager. Since joining the organization in 2021 as a Programs Specialist, Joel has been a driving force behind the growth and success of AIA Connecticut's educational and professional programming. His commitment to member engagement have made him an invaluable member of the team. In his new role, Joel will take the lead on developing, managing, and implementing

a wide range of programs and initiatives that support the educational development of AIA Connecticut's members. He will also continue to serve as the staff liaison to several key member-led committees, including the Committee on the Environment (COTE), the Building Performance and Regulations Committee (BP&R), the Professional Practice Committee, and the Small Firms Exchange (SFx).



Viktoria Rubanova has been promoted to Events Manager. Viktoria joined the organization in 2023 as an Events Specialist and has since played a key role in elevating the quality and impact of AIA Connecticut's events and gatherings. With over eight years of international experience in corporate, nonprofit, and private event planning, she

brings a broad cross-cultural understanding and attention to detail to every event she leads. Viktoria has been instrumental in coordinating everything from awards galas and conferences to intimate networking events – ensuring memorable experiences for members and guests alike.

New Hire:



Victoria "Tori" Calabro joins AIA Connecticut as Marketing and Program Manager. Tori brings a well-rounded background in marketing, communications, and program coordination, with particular experience in both the architecture industry and the nonprofit sector. She previously worked with Svigals + Partners –giving her insight into the language and values of design professionals. Additionally, her

experience with The Conference Board in NYC –particularly in engaging prospective members–brings valuable perspective to AIA Connecticut's outreach and engagement efforts. At AIA Connecticut, Tori will lead marketing initiatives and collaborate across departments to support events, programs, and member engagement.

Please join us in congratulating Joel and Viktoria on their well-deserved promotions and welcoming Tori to the AIA Connecticut team.



CONNECTICUT
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William M. Mack AIA Awards

The Connecticut Architecture Foundation Supports Future Architects Showcasing Innovation in Building Performance and Building Sustainability

By Emily Sperini, AIA

Each year CAF proudly supports the Connecticut Science and Engineering Fair, which in its 77th year is one of the state’s most prestigious STEM events, for students in grades 7-12. This event provides opportunities for future architects in our state and CAF bestows the William M. Mack AIA awards in two categories: Innovation in Building Performance and Innovation in Building Sustainability. The event this year included entries from over 12,000 students for 600 spaces at CSEF from Connecticut and New York schools. Alan Lagocki AIA, Bill Silver, AIA and Michael Crosbie, FAIA were the 2025 volunteer judges.

This year’s winning project in Innovation and Building Performance was a team of two students, Kyleen Negrón and Leah Brioso from John Winthrop School. Kyleen and Leah’s goal was to understand what “properties [contribute to] the strongest building structures to withstand earthquakes.” The team studied common geometric shapes including the triangle, a square and a hexagon, ultimately finding the triangle provided the greatest resistance to shear force. The jurors noted, “The students were very careful in creating models from common materials such as soda straws and paper to judge the stability of different tower configurations in earthquake conditions. We were impressed with their ingenuity, testing methods, and conclusions.”

The winning project for Innovation and Building Sustainability was a team of three students: Danyalis Perez-Cumba, Maureen Freire-Trejo and Karen Plazas.

These students proposed a redesign for an abandoned golf course in Woodbridge, CT with a focus on remediating the soil on the site to restore native plant species and educate the public on the importance and “necessity of preserving a healthy ecosystem and preventing future degradation.” The students also looked for ways the brownfield site could give back to the community by proposing community gardens where local fruit and vegetables could be harvested and a classroom/event space that could support fundraising for education tied to environmental care and could also be rented for large events. The judges commented, “These students were motivated by a green space in their hometown that could not be used for recreation because it was a brownfield with toxic waste. They researched ways to clean the soil to make it suitable for a new park and designed the new landscape features. We were impressed by their concern for the environment, and their motivation to make townspeople aware of possible remediation methods. They planned to present their



Kyleen Negrón and Leah Brioso from John Winthrop School.

ideas to the town government. We congratulate them on their initiative.”

The Connecticut Architecture Foundation raises and awards funds to advance education and professional growth in the field of architecture in Connecticut. Your donation to the CAF at cafct.org helps support our mission to encourage the talent of future professionals and their role in building the future of architecture.

Emily Sperini, AIA is a CAF Board Member



Danyalis Perez-Cumba, Maureen Freire-Trejo and Karen Plazas.

Tuesday
April 29th

Lecture » 6:00
Reception » 7:00
Dinner » 7:30

University of Hartford

Harry Jack Gray Center
Wilde Auditorium &
1877 Club

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West Hartford, CT
free on-campus parking



**THE 2025
DISTINGUISHED LEADERSHIP AWARD
Lecture & Dinner Honoring
TAI SOO KIM, FAIA**



Image: The Korean National Museum of Contemporary Art

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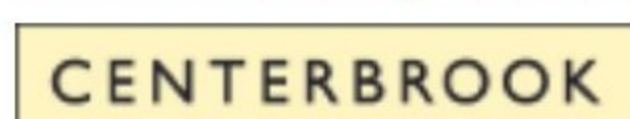
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BRIDGING ARCHITECTURAL DREAMS FROM HARTFORD TO FLORENCE

By: James E. Fuller, AIA
NCARB/ ISI Florence

When Sophie Turner, a third-year Architectural Design & Technology student at the University of Hartford, decided to study abroad, Florence was the dream destination. “It has always been a goal of mine to travel to Italy and study Italian architecture,” she shares with enthusiasm. “Studying architecture here has allowed me to understand how architecture is viewed differently in other places around the world versus in the United States. It’s a whole new perspective that I plan to consider while designing next year for my Senior Thesis Project and in my career.”

At ISI Florence, Sophie found courses that seamlessly integrated with her curriculum back home, as they align directly with her classes and course requirements from UHart. The courses she is taking are oriented around the history and culture of Florence and Italy. In fact, the various pre professional experiences through her studio courses and academic excursions have inspired new levels of creativity and have been powerful contributors to her educational experience.

Beyond textbooks and lectures, the hands-on approach at ISI Florence deepened her appreciation for architecture. “Experiencing the historical structures firsthand changed my entire perspective,” she says. “Even if you’re not interested in history, actually standing inside buildings that have influenced architectural design for centuries is an entirely different learning experience.”

Among the many highlights of her time abroad, a trip to Pienza



with her architecture studio group stands out as her favorite academic experience. “Pienza is a small town in the countryside of Tuscany, very different from the city life of Florence. It was incredible to step outside of Florence and see another part of Italy.” The trip wasn’t just for sightseeing, it was directly tied to her coursework. The class traveled to Pienza for their studio semester design project. The goal of the project is to create a community-focused design of a hostel for bikers, and the site is located in Pienza. Visiting the town gave the students cultural context and allowed them to experience the site in person—it was an immersive and hands-on learning experience that Sophie will never forget.

Sophie is eager to channel her Florentine experiences into her studies at Hartford and beyond. At her home school, she hopes to carry this experience with her and share it with other students, inspiring them to consider studying abroad since it has been such a positive and impactful opportunity for her. Especially for students in her major, she hopes to encourage them to travel and actually experience the structures they learn about in architecture history.

But it’s not just her architectural knowledge that has grown — Sophie has also developed valuable life skills. “Studying abroad has improved my navigation and communication skills. At first, living in Florence came with a major culture shock, but taking an Italian course at ISI helped me communicate and lessen the language barrier. Now, I can order food at a restaurant and even have conversations with Italian speakers.”

For Hartford students considering studying in Florence, Sophie has one key message: “Do it! Even though studying abroad is a big step and a big move away from home, it is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that I recommend taking if you have the chance.”

Reflecting on her journey, Sophie acknowledges that studying abroad came with challenges, but those challenges made her stronger. “As someone who had never traveled far from home, studying abroad for the semester was a big jump. But reaching outside your comfort zone and experiencing new things is the best way to learn new things.” She emphasizes that personal growth is just as important as academic growth. During her study abroad, she’s had many great experiences, but with those experiences, there have also been challenges and difficulties. Pushing through them has been a learning experience in itself—moving to a new country, it taught her resilience, adaptability, and confidence.

Sophie Turner’s story is a testament to the transformative power of studying abroad. Her time in Florence has shaped her both personally and professionally, and she hopes her experience will inspire other students to take on their own journeys of discovery and growth.

Hoffmann Wins 2025 Lucy G. Moses Preservation Award From the New York Landmarks Conservancy



Restoration of New York Stock Exchange awarded Conservancy's highest honor

Hoffmann Architects + Engineers, announce that the historic door replacement and restoration at the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) has been selected for the Lucy G. Moses Preservation Award, the New York Landmarks Conservancy's coveted prize for extraordinary preservation projects.

The Moses Award represents the Conservancy's highest honors for excellence in preservation. Named for Lucy G. Moses, a dedicated New Yorker whose philanthropy enriched the city for more than fifty years, the award recognizes outstanding efforts that preserve the city's architectural heritage. For the fourth year in a row, Hoffmann has been recognized with this prestigious honor; NYLC awarded Hoffmann the Moses Award in 2024 for Masonic Hall NYC, in 2023 for the 69th Regiment Armory, and in 2022 for One Wall Street.

"The project's balance between old and new components embraces history and innovation," notes lead designer Richard W. Off, AIA, Senior Architect with Hoffmann. "The door replacement and restoration not only pays homage to the building's



original design but also enhances longevity through high-performance repair and replacement materials and systems. This speaks of the very spirit of the Stock Exchange."

The Conservancy will present the Moses Awards at a gala event on Wednesday, April 22, 2025 at 6:00pm at Edison Ballroom in Manhattan.

[Click here for more information on the project and award.](#)

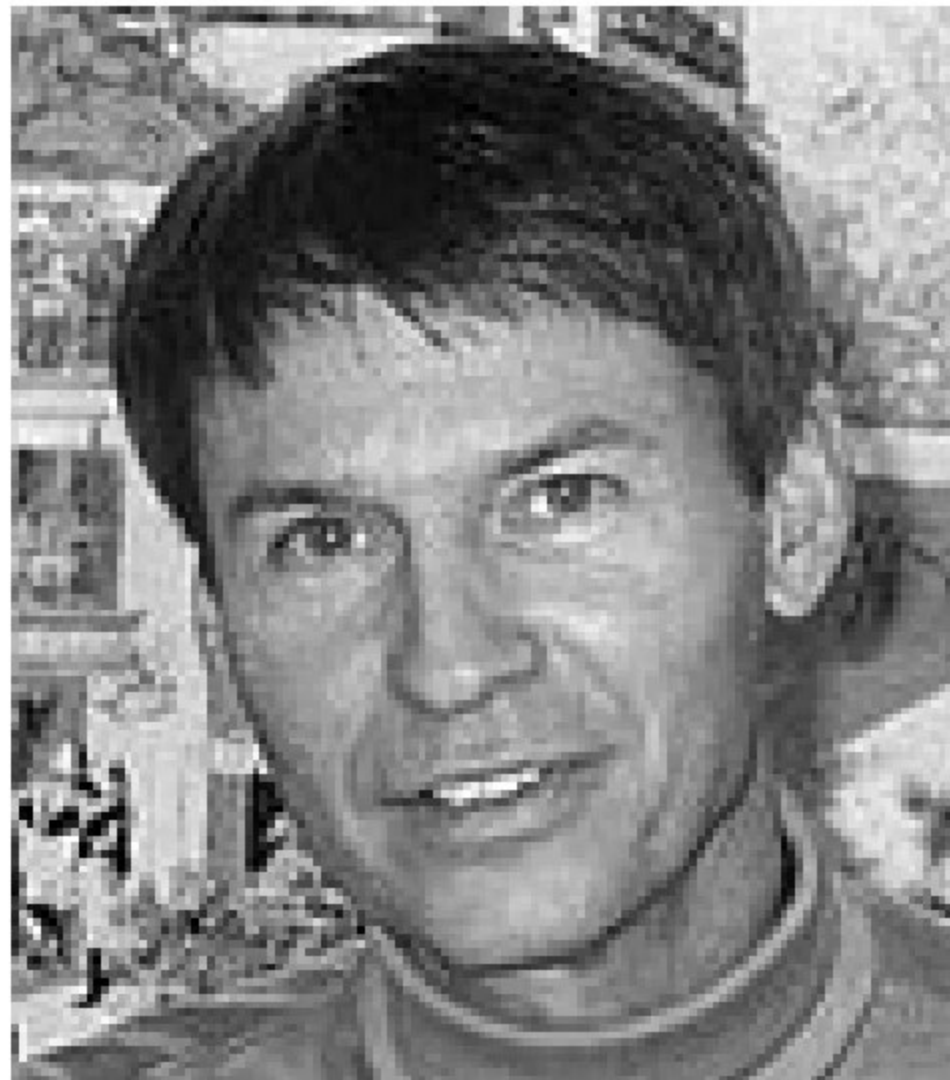
IN MEMORIAM

David J. Elias, AIA

David Julian Elias, of New Britain CT, aged 71, passed away unexpectedly at his office/residence on February 28th, after a brief illness. David was born on February 4th, 1954 at New Britain General Hospital, the son of Dzidra Elias and the late Julian Elias.

Dave was a 1972 graduate of Pulaski High School in New Britain CT. He went on to receive his Bachelor of Arts degree from SUNY Buffalo in New York, and a Master of Arts from the University of Houston in Texas, both degrees in Architecture. He also was a long-time member of the American Institute of Architects.

Initially, Dave worked for architectural firms in Houston TX and Farmington CT before starting his own successful architecture business in New Britain CT. Dave's father, Julian, was also an accomplished and well-respected architect. Dave built a large and diverse clientele, and his congenial personality led to many long-term friendships with many of his clients. Not only did they respect the talented architect that he was, but they also enjoyed his company and insightful and witty humor and comments.



Dave was a generous member of various organizations including the New Britain Museum of Modern Art, The Nature Conservancy and the Arbor Day Foundation. He very much enjoyed travelling, hiking, and spending time at the Rhode Island shore, either sitting or walking on the beach, or frequenting some favorite watering holes on the beach to watch the waves roll in. Dave also liked to explore - when he attended events he never sat in one place for long, rather, he'd like to roam around the event venue, checking out how it was constructed and what the venue had to offer. He was always very perceptive, and recognized details that ordinary people would probably overlook. Dave was a dedicated and devoted son to his mother, Dzidra, and cared deeply for her.

Dave is survived by his mother, Dzidra, of New Britain CT, and younger brothers Peter, of Ft. Lauderdale FL, and Ronald of Houston TX. Dave was predeceased by his father, Julian Elias. Not only is he survived by several relatives, he is also survived by countless friends and acquaintances - whom all loved him and will miss him deeply.

Calling Hours will be held at New Britain Memorial-Sagarino Funeral Home 444 Farmington Ave. New Britain, CT on May 3, 2025 from 3:30PM to 4:30PM followed by A Celebration of Life Service from 4:30PM to 5:00PM.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Arbor Day Foundation.





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TSKP STUDIO Announces the Retirement of Esteemed Partner, Ryszard Szczypek, AIA

By Stephanie Beals

TSKP STUDIO announces the retirement of Ryszard Szczypek, AIA, a distinguished partner whose career has spanned five decades. Mr. Szczypek's contributions to the field of architecture and his unwavering commitment to excellence have left an indelible mark on our firm and the communities we serve.

Born in England, Ryszard immigrated to the United States with his family at a young age. From early on, he understood that his life would involve a combination of art and mathematics. This enthusiasm ultimately drew him to architecture, leading him to graduate summa cum laude from Syracuse University, where he earned the AIA Student Medal.

Reflecting on the essence of architecture, Mr. Szczypek often recalls an Ancient Greek playwright's observation: while many buildings we encounter in life speak to us, a cherished few sing to us. This philosophy has guided his approach to design throughout his career.

"Ryszard joined the firm in 1974, soon after he graduated from Syracuse University Architecture School. He was our first hire since founding the Hartford Design Group in 1970. I still remember his exquisite drawings in his school portfolio and the beautiful drawings he produced for the Hartford Union Station renovation project and the Korean museum project," said founding partner Tai Soo Kim.



Throughout his illustrious career, Mr. Szczypek was instrumental in developing educational programs for over 40 public schools. His expertise in K-12 education and his ability to navigate the complexities of projects with various funding sources made him a trusted advisor to our clients. Notable projects under his leadership include Guilford High School, Wilton Library, the U.S. Naval Submarine Training Center in Groton, Hartford's Historic Union Station Transportation Center, Bristow Middle School, and the National Museum of Modern Art in Korea.

"He is a wonderful writer with a keen sense of business decisions. He has been my partner, advising confidant for the last 50 years. I could not have survived without him. He has been like my brother. I wish him a happy and healthy retirement," shared Tai Soo.

Mr. Szczypek's thoughtful demeanor, strategic leadership, and creative problem-solving skills earned him the respect and admiration of colleagues and clients. His key to success was always trusting others to contribute their talents.

"Ryszard always could see past the immediate and focus on the long term," said Randall Luther, a partner at TSKP STUDIO. "When a project would start going south, and everyone was panicking, Ryszard was an island of calm that reassured everyone. We will miss his steady hand."

Whit Iglehart, a partner at TSKP STUDIO, added that "Ryszard has always displayed a remarkable ability to manage and calmly address the broad range of constituents involved in every project. We will miss his valuable and hard-earned wisdom."

As Mr. Szczypek embarks on this new chapter of his life, he looks forward to spending more time on his hobbies, including reading and painting. We hope he also plans to explore his alternative vocation as a cartoonist.

TSKP STUDIO extends its heartfelt gratitude to Ryszard for his remarkable contributions and wishes him all the best in his retirement.

Stephanie Beals, a self-described "smile creator," is the Director of Marketing at TSKP STUDIO.

2025 Theodate Pope Riddle Women in Architecture & Design Award Mikyoung Kim, FASLA



Hill-Stead Museum is delighted to announce the selection of Mikyoun Kim, FASLA, as the second recipient of the Theodate Pope Riddle Women in Architecture and Design Award.

This award recognizes women who have made a significant contribution to design excellence and the advancement of women in the fields of architecture and design. Theodate Pope Riddle was one of the first women architects to become licensed in Connecticut and New York and was passionate about constructing environments that encouraged an awareness of nature, learning, a sense of home and legacy. This award – given by the museum that she founded in 1947 – honors her commitment to adhering to her own ethos in a male dominated field.

Mikyoun Kim, FASLA is an international landscape architect and urban designer. She is the founding principal of Mikyoun

Kim Design, a Boston-based studio whose portfolio of restorative landscapes seeks to improve public health by drawing individuals and communities outdoors to engage with and learn about the wonder of the natural world. Her work integrates the latest neurodivergent science in the design of our shared landscapes, connecting human health with environmental stewardship.

Over the past two decades, Mikyoun Kim's large-scaled work includes Seoul's Cheonggye River Restoration Project, the 42-acre Science Hill of Wellesley College Campus and Ford's Michigan Central Park in Detroit. Recent restorative projects include the Crown Sky Garden in Chicago, TMC Helix Park in Houston, Bal Harbour Jetty Park in Miami and the Regenstein Nature Learning Center at the Chicago Botanic Garden.

Mikyoun has received the Cooper Hewitt Smithsonian Design Award, ASLA Firm of the Year

Award and ASLA Design Medal. Her studio has been named by Fast Company as one of the most innovative architecture firms in the world. Her ideas and work on restorative design have been highlighted in The New York Times, The Washington Post, National Geographic, Landscape Architecture Magazine, Architectural Record, and Chicago Tribune along with many others.

The Theodate Pope Riddle Women in Architecture and Design Award ceremony will be held Thursday, April 24, 2025, 6:00PM at Hill-Stead Museum, 35 Mountain Road, Farmington, Ct. 06032

For more information, please visit <https://hillstead.org/event/tpr-award-2025/>.

Newman Architects - Milestones and Momentum



Four team members obtained new credentials.

Congratulations to Lila Sferlazza, AIA, Max Geary, and Zach Petrus, AIA who passed all their exams to become licensed architects, and to Carlos Matute, Assoc. AIA, who obtained his LEED GA certification. These accomplishments reflect their hard work and dedication to the profession, and Newman is proud to have them as part of the team.

NEWMAN



Three Newmanites are serving as AIA CT chapter leaders.

Newman staff members have emerged as current leaders within AIA Connecticut, taking action to drive positive change within our industry. Dov Feinmesser, AIA Associate Principal and Director of Sustainability at Newman, is serving a three year term on the Board of Directors and is Co-Chair of

the Committee on the Environment. Özlem Caglar, AIA is Co-Chair of the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee (E.D.I). Melinda Agron, AIA Principal and Chief Operating Officer at Newman, began a new role as Co-Chair of the Women in Architecture Knowledge Committee.

BL Companies Named 2025 New England Company of the Year by the ESOP Association

BL Companies has been honored as the 2025 Company of the Year by the ESOP Association's New England Chapter. This prestigious award recognizes BL Companies' dedication to fostering an employee-ownership culture that drives business success, enhances employee engagement, and strengthens the broader ESOP (Employee Stock Ownership Plan) community.

BL Companies previously received this honor in 2021, underscoring the firm's ongoing leadership in advancing the principles of employee ownership. The company is now eligible for the National ESOP Company of the Year Award, which will be awarded in May.

"Employee ownership is the foundation of our company," said Carolyn Stanworth, President and CEO of BL Companies. "We empower our employee-owners to take initiative, contribute ideas and drive our company forward. This recognition reaffirms our deep commitment to fostering an ownership culture that benefits both our employee-owners and our clients."

Since becoming a 70% ESOP in 2006 and achieving 100% employee ownership in 2011, BL Companies has continuously cultivated an environment where employee-owners are directly invested in the company's growth and success. The firm's ESOP is more than a financial benefit – it is a core pillar of BL Companies' culture and a driving force behind its innovation, collaboration, and long-term sustainability.



A Culture of Ownership and Shared Success

BL Companies places a strong emphasis on ensuring its ESOP provides meaningful value to its employee-owners. Key initiatives that contribute to this success include:

Comprehensive ESOP Education:

Employees participate in ongoing training and annual ESOP-focused meetings, including the "ESOP Year in Review" to enhance understanding and engagement.

Financial Well-being and Retirement Planning:

In addition to the ESOP, BL Companies offers a 401(k) matching program, generous healthcare options, and a faster-than-required vesting schedule to support long-term financial security.

A Culture of Transparency:

Through quarterly Employee-Owner Meetings and weekly CEO-led calls, employees stay informed about company performance and strategic goals.

Employee-Led Committees:

The company's 11 employee-led committees – including the ESOP Communications Committee – foster engagement in decision-making and promote a strong sense of ownership at all levels of the firm.

Driving Success Through Employee Ownership

BL Companies' employee-owners take an active role in shaping the company's strategic direction, contributing to its consistent growth and financial strength. Over the past decade and a half, the company has experienced strong growth in its ESOP stock value – an achievement that directly benefits every employee-owner.

Additionally, BL Companies prioritizes professional development by offering robust training programs, leadership development initiatives, and mentorship opportunities. Employees are encouraged to take ownership of their careers while also contributing to the company's shared success.



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Hoffmann Announces New Executive Leadership

Hoffmann Architects + Engineers is pleased to announce the appointment of Craig A. Hargrove, AIA and Avi A. Kamrat as co-presidents of the boutique architectural and engineering practice, which specializes in the rehabilitation of building exteriors.

Craig Hargrove, AIA has been appointed Co-President of Hoffmann after serving as Director, Architecture and manager of the firm's New York City office for more than 20 years. In that time, he oversaw the firm's busiest location and expanded Hoffmann's reputation and influence throughout the city and beyond. Under his leadership, Hoffmann has developed longstanding relationships with noteworthy clients, including Columbia University, the State



University Construction Fund, the Ford Foundation, Pfizer, and Scholastic. As a technical professional with specialized expertise in building enclosures, Hargrove is often called upon to share his knowledge with the industry through guest lecturer positions, publications, seminars, and appearances in the media. While managing a substantial project roster and overseeing the work of the New York technical team, he makes time to mentor junior staff, build and sustain client relationships, and facilitate collaboration across Hoffmann's three offices. Committed to educating rising professionals, he taught high school students through the ACE Mentor Program and designed the firm's summer internship program for recipients of the Hoffmann Scholarship.

Avi Kamrat has been selected to serve as Co-President of Hoffmann, having served for more than 20 years as the firm's Director, Administration and Chief Financial Officer. In this capacity, he oversaw the firm's administrative apparatus, which encompasses finance, information technology, human resources, administrative assistance, communications, business development, and marketing. Kamrat's agile leadership enabled the firm not just to weather the pandemic, but thrive, rapidly adjusting workforce and financial models to retain and elevate talent and anticipate evolving client needs. Always ready to challenge the status quo,

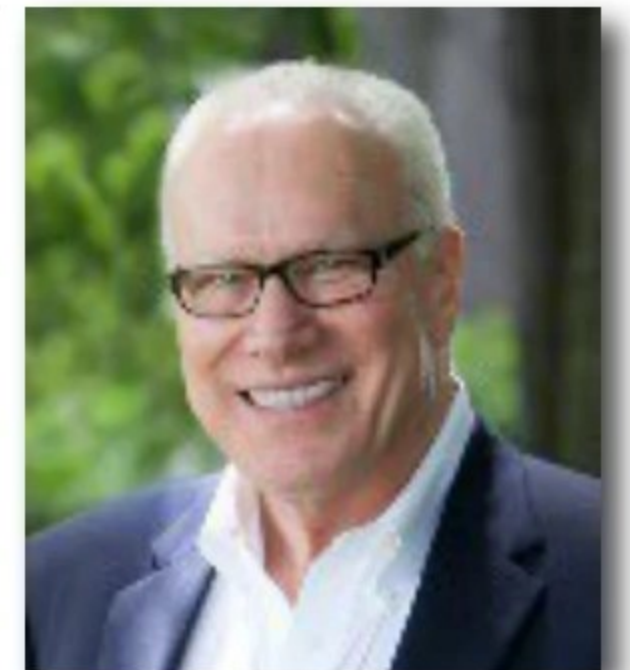


Kamrat affords his team the flexibility and autonomy to improve systems and outcomes. He shepherded the firm through implementation of a bespoke client relationship management system to deliver ever more customized and responsive client services, and the improvements he spearheaded to financial software and file management enabled intuitive yet powerful data capabilities to drive firm growth. With employee well-being ever top of mind, Kamrat works closely with the human resources manager on everything from best-in-class benefit packages to company culture initiatives, with a focus on empowering and celebrating staff success.

Russell M. Sanders, AIA, outgoing President of Hoffmann, will stay on as President Emeritus and serve as senior advisor until his planned retirement later this year. Since joining the firm in 1978, Sanders has advanced a reputation for building enclosure knowledge and rigorous project management that not only set the standard for Hoffmann projects but also made him a sought-after expert for insurance claims, litigation and mediation, specialist peer review, and professional mentorship.



John J. Hoffmann, FAIA, founder of Hoffmann Architects + Engineers, will continue as Executive Chairman and plans to retire after seeing the firm to its 50th anniversary in 2027. With Sanders, Hoffmann will serve in an advisory capacity to the new leadership, offering guidance and support that draws on his long experience as a groundbreaking building envelope specialist. When Hoffmann established the firm in 1977, he saw the need for design professionals to attend to details that were often overlooked - details that could make the difference between structural integrity and premature failure.



JCJ Architecture Elevates Multiple Team Members

Firm's Recent Promotions Include Individuals from Across the Firm, Contributing in a Variety of Roles

Promoted to Associate Principal:



Fawn Walton Pellegrini, AIA, LEED AP – Associate Principal, Senior Project Manager, Studio Leader.

Promoted to Senior Associate:



Lisa St. Amand, AIA – Senior Associate, Project Designer, Studio Leader



Brian Stone, AIA, LEED AP – Senior Associate, Senior Project Architect:

JCJ Architecture congratulates each of these accomplished individuals. They each exemplify the tenacity, talent, creativity, and integrity that are so essential to successful practice in our industry.

Promoted to Principal

Emily Czarnecki, NCIDQ – Principal, Lead Interior Designer:

Promoted to Associate Principal

Christine Faverio, RA – Associate Principal, Senior Project Designer, Studio Leader.

Varnell Alexander Smith – Associate Principal, Senior Project Manager.

Promoted to Senior Associate:

Carrie-Ann Nielsen, NCIDQ – Senior Associate, Senior Project Designer.

Promoted to Associate:

Tyler Barile – Associate, Design Technician II

Jessica Barrow, NCIDQ – Associate, Interior Designer III

David Clutter – Associate, Senior Project Team Leader

Jill Leske, AIA, LEED GA – Associate, Architect III

Jennifer Krein – Associate, Senior Marketing Coordinator

Christine Leary, AIA – Associate, Senior Project Architect, Studio Leader

JCJ ARCHITECTURE



BARATUNDE THURSTON TEACHES AIA LEADERS “HOW TO CITIZEN”

BY KATHERINE FLYNN



Photo credit: Stacy Moses

AIA chapter leaders from around the country flocked to the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Washington, D.C., this week to connect on issues of advocacy and leadership at AIA’s annual Leadership Summit.

On Tuesday morning, Baratunde Thurston, the writer, host of the podcasts “How to Citizen with Baratunde” and “Life with Marchines” and host of PBS’ “America Outdoors” addressed a packed ballroom for a keynote speech on the topic of “how to citizen”—that is, how to make “citizen” a verb.

Drawing on his own experiences as the son of computer-coder mother in the 1970’s, as well as his own navigation of the isolation and uncertainty of the Covid-19 pandemic, Thurston outlined his vision for solutions to some of the biggest issues facing American society today.

“We have been living in a narrative of failure and dysfunction and despair and incompetence for too long,” he said. “We have been told we can’t get things done, that we don’t know how to choose our leaders or work together or have goals or have discipline or solve big problems. That’s a lie.” Through his work, Thurston hopes to disrupt this narrative and encourage everyone to take an active role in

our society and democracy—to help everyone tell a different story. “‘Citizen’ as a verb,” he said, “is much more invitational. [There are] things we can all do, regardless of our paperwork status.”

According to Thurston, the substance of the “verb of citizen” has four key elements:

Show up and participate.

It’s important to show up and “assume there’s something for you to do,” Thurston said. “Just mentally orienting to ‘there’s something for me to do’ is a really valuable reorientation in a world that tells us we are without power.” Which leads, he said, to the second key element:

Understand power.

“We’re feeling power right now in harsh and careless and reckless and dramatic ways,” he said. “I think it’s a failure of our collective education system that we live in a thing called ‘democracy’ and we don’t study power.” The negative connotations of the word, Thurston said, do a disservice to those trying to understand its impact on our society. “Power is the ability to get someone to do what you want them to do,” he said, joking, “Babies are very powerful.” He clarified that power has many forms: physical, financial, the sharing of ideas, and

the power of attention—whatever you give your attention to, you give power to. “Let’s be very thoughtful about what we give our power to,” he said.

Commit to the collective, not just the individual self.

Committing to the collective, Thurston said, “is easier if we see ourselves in each other.” Citing Valarie Kaur, the first guest on his podcast and the author of “See No Stranger: A Memoir and Manifesto of Revolutionary Love,” Thurston said, “A stranger is a part of me I do not yet know.”

Thurston continued, “It’s very hard to do big, worthy things alone,” joking that during the Covid-19 pandemic, he tried to create his own vaccine but realized that he needed the help of scientists and other experts.

Invest in relationships.

Investing in relationships with yourself, with others, and with the planet around you, Thurston said, is the fourth most important way to “citizen.”

“We have been sold a story of separation at our own expense—that we’re here to dominate, to own, and to extract,” he said. “When we overdo that, we destroy the very home that we require to sustain life.”

Thurston highlighted conversations he’s had for his podcast with leaders addressing the fallout from recent natural disasters, like the Los Angeles wildfires, including Chef José Andrés, the founder of World Central Kitchen.



“The magic trick of José is that his organization just taps into the latent power and potential that’s already there,” he said. “World Central Kitchen is not a central kitchen—it is the most distributed kitchen in disaster relief ever assembled.”

So many popular narratives are centered around a single individual carrying “the whole weight of society on their back,” he said, rather than the idea of a collective self, where many contribute to the greater good.

“We need reminders that we are capable—that when leaders fail, the people must lead,” he said. “The best leaders are really just

the first followers. They’re trend spotters, they see what’s going on and they respond to that. It’s up to the people to set the stage and the culture—the soil out of which our leaders and our institutions grow.”

Going forward, Thurston encouraged his audience to envision an inclusive future, both for the profession of architecture and the country as a whole.

“The story we tell ourselves about ourselves shapes who we are. Let’s tell a better and bigger story that encompasses us all.”

Katherine Flynn is the editor of AIA Architect.



THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS ENGAGES HEIDRICK & STRUGGLES TO LEAD CEO SEARCH



The American Institute of Architects (AIA) has officially launched a search for its next EVP/Chief Executive Officer. The search will be conducted by a dedicated search committee, chaired by AIA's 2024 President, Kimberly Dowdell, AIA, and supported by the executive search firm Heidrick & Struggles.

Following the departure of Lakisha Ann Woods, CAE, in early February 2025, AIA has been focused on ensuring a seamless leadership transition and continuity of its mission. Stephen T. Ayers, FAIA, has been serving as interim EVP/CEO while the organization undertakes this critical search.

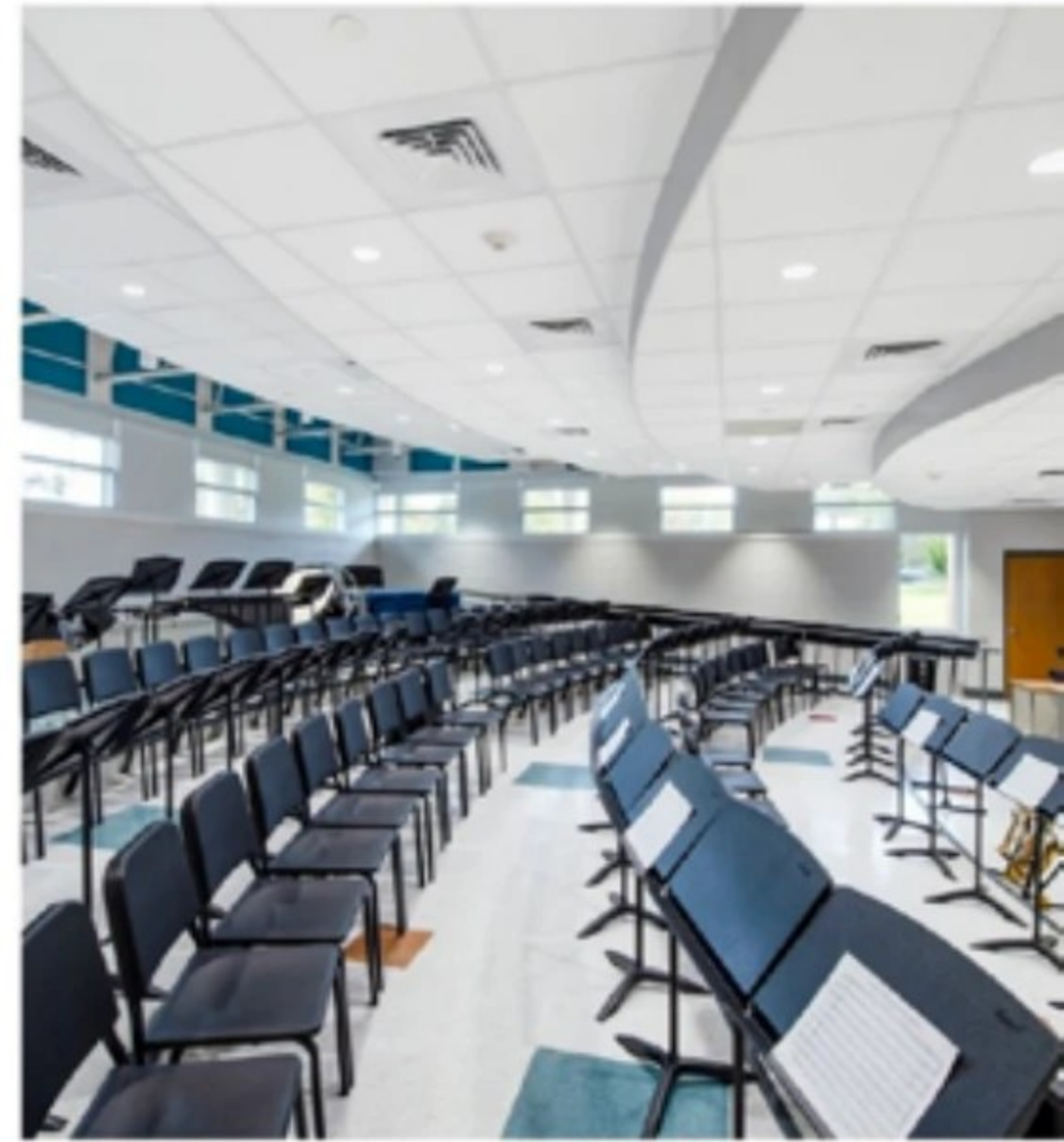
The search committee has engaged Heidrick & Struggles, a premier international provider of executive search and leadership advisory services, to lead the recruitment process. The search will be led by Tonya Muse, FASAE, CAE, a consultant in the firm's Washington, D.C. office, and a member of their Social Impact and CEO & Board of Directors practices, as well as co-leader for the Association sector.

"AIA's next leader will be instrumental in advancing the organization's mission and strategic priorities," said Kimberly Dowdell, AIA, chair of the search committee. "The search committee

is committed to a thorough and inclusive process, ensuring we identify a CEO who will continue to drive forward AIA's goals of economic opportunity, inclusivity in the profession and the communities we serve, climate action, and a strong and innovative future for the profession."

The search committee represents a diverse group of leaders from across the organization, including past and current board members, representatives from AIA's Strategic Council, National Associates Committee (NAC), Council of Architectural Component Executives (CACE), College of Fellows, international members, and the American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS). This broad representation ensures that input from AIA members and stakeholders is integral to the process.

The search firm will conduct outreach and gather input from AIA's diverse community, helping to shape the CEO position description to reflect the needs and aspirations of the Institute and its members. AIA remains committed to its core mission of advancing the value of architects and supporting its members in designing a better world. The next CEO will play a pivotal role in shaping the future of AIA and the architectural profession.



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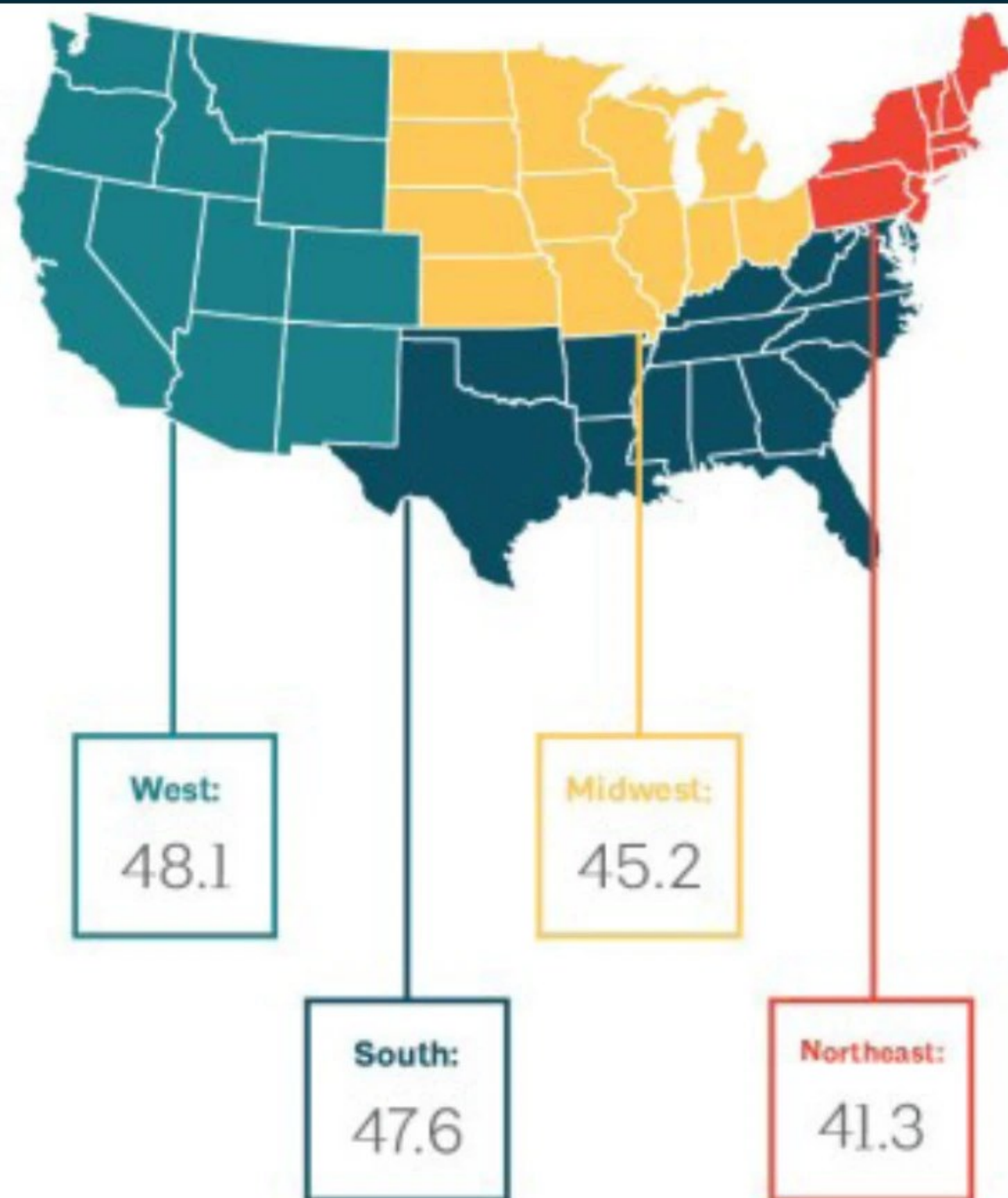
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U.S. ARCHITECTURAL BILLINGS SLIDE CONTINUES, SIGNALING INDUSTRY WOES

AIA REPORTS DROP IN PROJECT INQUIRIES AND NEW CONTRACTS IN FEBRUARY POINTS TO ONGOING CHALLENGES IN THE ARCHITECTURE SECTOR.

BY PAUL MAKOVSKY



In a concerning trend for the architecture industry, the AIA/Deltek Architecture Billings Index (ABI) recorded a decline in firm billings for February, marking a score of 45.5. This indicates that a majority of architectural firms are facing reduced billings, continuing a trend of financial difficulty within the sector.

February also marked the first time since the height of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 that there has been a drop in inquiries for new projects, which are usually a reliable indicator of future work opportunities, even in times of economic slowdowns. Furthermore, the signing of new design contracts has fallen for the twelfth consecutive month, showing ongoing reluctance from clients to commit to new projects amidst the prevailing economic uncertainty.

AIA Chief Economist Kermit Baker, Hon. AIA, PhD, highlighted the mixed economic signals affecting the industry. "Conditions

in the broader economy were generally positive in February, with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) increasing by only a modest amount, long-term interest rates easing from January levels, and healthy job growth," he explained. "However, uncertainty surrounding the impact of recently announced tariffs may lead to a rise in building material prices in the coming months while immigration policy may put even more pressure on an already undersupplied construction labor market."

The ABI report also provided detailed regional data:

Regional averages were led by the West at 48.1, followed by the South at 47.6, the Midwest at 45.2, and the Northeast at a low of 41.3.

For more detailed insights and historical data on billing indices, stakeholders are encouraged to visit the AIA's official website.

Paul Makovsky is editor-in-chief of ARCHITECT.



Out & About

WIA COFFEE MEET UPS

MARCH 28TH

The Women in Architecture Knowledge Community recently hosted a series of recurring Coffee Meetups across Connecticut, continuing our commitment to building community and fostering meaningful conversations in a relaxed, informal setting.

Members and guests stopped by three locations:

RaonJena Coffee & Dessert - Glastonbury

Norwalk Art Space -Norwalk

Ashlawn Farm Coffee -Old Saybrook



These gatherings brought together individuals from all corners of the architecture and allied fields. Whether first-time visitors or returning faces, attendees engaged in lively discussions, shared ideas, and made new professional connections.

Open to all genders and free of charge, the meetups provided a welcoming space for conversation and connection. Thank you to everyone who joined us—we look forward to seeing you at our next round of coffee meetups!



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WILD WEST BOWLING INVITATIONAL

MARCH 25TH

Yeehaw! The pins didn't stand a chance at this year's AIA Connecticut Bowling Invitational, where the lanes transformed into a rowdy, rootin'-tootin' saloon for one unforgettable night of friendly competition, bold fashion, and prize-worthy performances.

From the first strike at warm-ups to the last thunderous roll, bowlers came dressed to impress and ready to conquer, bringing the spirit of the Old West to life. With games, snacks, and no shortage of Wild West flair, the 2025 showdown

delivered an evening full of laughter, camaraderie, and thrilling moments.

Winners took home the legendary AIA CT bowling pin trophy, along with honors for:

Highest Scoring - Female

Joann Picone, QA+M

Highest Scoring - Male

Chris O'Neill, QA+M

Lowest Scoring - Woman

Kate Scurlock, Thornton Tomasetti

Lowest Scoring - Man

Zephan Ellenbogen, QTL



Highest Scoring Team
QA+M Architecture

Architecture Firm Team
Antinozzi Associates

Allied Team
Babbidge Construction

Most Enthusiastic Team
Kronenberger & Sons

Best Team Shirt 3rd Place
Antinozzi Associates

Best Team Shirt 2nd Place
QA+M Architecture

Best Team Shirt 1st Place
Thornton Tomasetti

A Saloon-Sized Thank You
to Our Sponsors!

Bowl a Strike Sponsor:
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VIP Circle Lane Sponsors:
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Construction, QTL, Ring's End,
Rockman Windows & Doors, and
Woodbury Supply Company Inc.

Lane Sponsors: BL Companies,
QA+M Architecture, Thornton
Tomasetti, Kronenberger &
Sons Restoration Inc., Viking
Construction, and Turner.

From the sharpest shooters to the
most spirited squads, we thank
everyone who joined us and made
this showdown one for the history
books.



INTRODUCTION TO AIA FELLOWSHIP MEETING

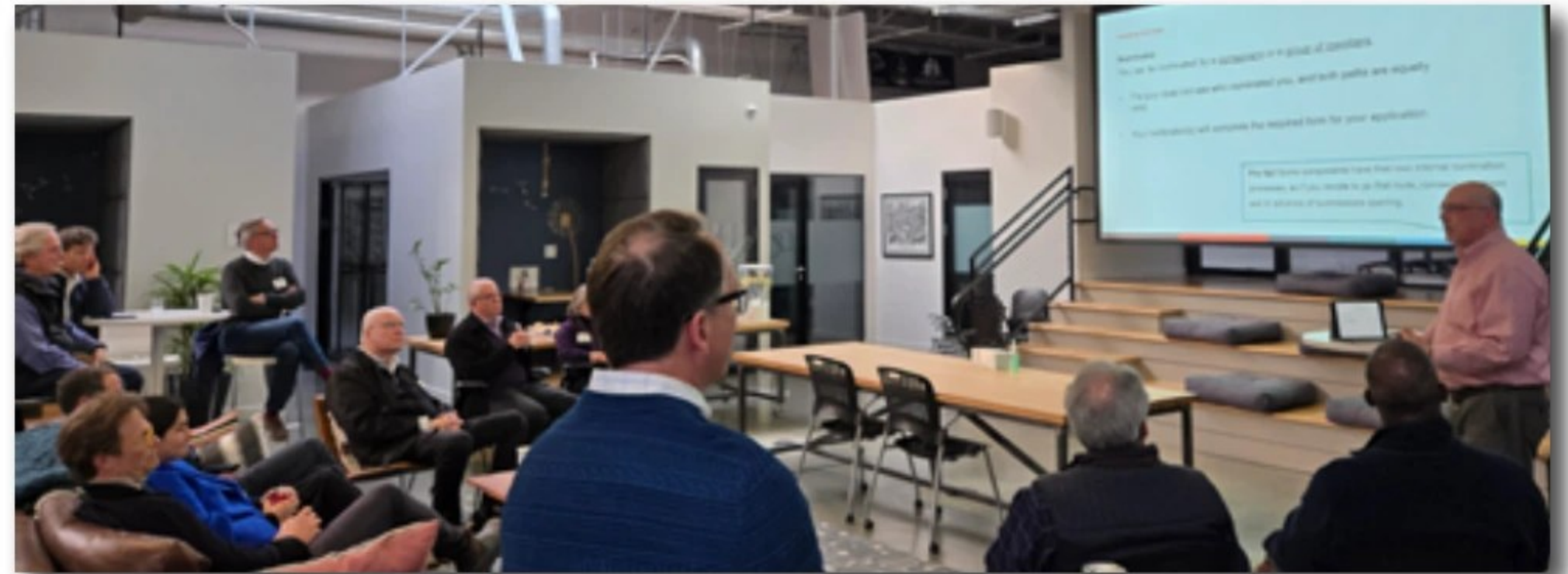
MARCH 31ST

On March 31st, the AIA Connecticut Fellows gathered for the annual Introduction to Fellowship meeting – an invaluable opportunity for members to explore the path toward elevation to the AIA College of Fellows.

Held at AIA Connecticut's new home at 470 James Street in The District, New Haven, the evening welcomed a room full of architects curious about the Fellowship process, looking for clarity, mentorship, and motivation.

Mike Ayles, FAIA, along with several esteemed AIA CT Fellows, shared their personal journeys, answered insightful questions, and offered guidance on how to prepare for a successful Fellowship nomination. From demystifying eligibility requirements to offering tips on organizing the submission package, the Fellows were generous with their wisdom and encouragement.

For those who couldn't attend or are looking to dig deeper, we highly encourage visiting the [AIA Fellowship website](#) to learn more about qualifications, the nomination process, and deadlines.



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MAY

13 Committee on the Environment (COTE) Meeting

16 Professional Practice Knowledge Community Meeting

17 Emerging Professionals (EP) Community Lunch meet up

Government Affairs Committee Meeting

From Concept to Certification: Exploring Connecticut's Net-Zero Energy Building Achievements

Open ARE Study Meet-Ups

23 Elevating Your Firm: Insights into Growth, Structure, and Differentiation

24 COMcheck Building Envelope - Keeping it Simple!

Committee on Design

Open ARE Study Meet-Ups

29 CAF Leadership Reception & Dinner

1 Building Performance & Regulations (BP&R) Meeting

3 HisTOURy Tours | Victorian Darien: A Historic Homes Happy Hour Tour

7 Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion (E.D.I.) Knowledge Community Meeting

8 AIA Connecticut Board of Directors Meeting

9 Women in Architecture (WIA) Meeting

12 Committee on the Environment (COTE) Meeting

AIA CONNECTICUT CALENDAR

Series:	Scales	No.
Item Number:		
Product Name:		



Connecticut

ANNUAL

CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT

Join us for a day of exciting games, awesome activities, and fantastic networking at the stunning Powder Ridge Mountain Park!

JUNE 25
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