

FORUM

A Monthly Publication of the Las Vegas Chapter of The American Institute of Architects



September 2014

I A M A I A L V

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ON THE COVER

The AIA Las Vegas Chapter is fortunate to have a membership of talented architects, associates and allied members. These are members whose personal commitment to elevating the profession and to improving their communities make them fine examples of what architecture is all about. This year, we take the opportunity to recognize one exceptional member each month. In this way we hope to acknowledge the contributions they are making to Chapter and the profession and to inform and inspire others through their example.

IAMAIA LV SPOTLIGHT

DERUYTER BUTLER, AIA

I AM A MEMBER OF AIA BECAUSE..... : I am a firm believer in the AIA because of its dedication to promoting Architectural professionalism through its code of ethics, providing an informational resource and continuing education to its members and most importantly, expanding awareness about the practice of Architecture to the general public.

I was drawn to the field of Architecture out of a desire at an early age to create something that people could appreciate and experience; something that would hopefully have a lasting impression on people and a leave a mark on the planet. Architecture is one of the few professions that can provide that type of gratification to a career. After a four year stint out of college with an engineering company, I came upon an opportunity and a challenge to participate in developing significant projects that integrated very complex functional requirements and at the same time, create destination resorts with attractions that millions of people could experience and remember. I joined the design and development team of the Golden Nugget and over the next eleven years worked on the Golden Nugget Atlantic City, Golden Nugget Las Vegas, Golden Nugget Laughlin, The Mirage and Treasure Island. This experience prepared me to take over the role of lead design Architect in 1993 for Mirage Resorts to develop Bellagio, the Beau Rivage in Mississippi, Wynn and Encore Las Vegas, Wynn and Encore in Macau China and my current project, Wynn Palace in Cotai China. With Steve Wynn as the "discriminating" client, each successive project must surpass the prior one so the bar is constantly being raised and the challenge is always increased. It seems at some point, there will be a limit to what's next but so far, haven't reached that ceiling. DeRuyter has been an active member and supporter of AIA Las Vegas for the last 21 years.

1. What is the most important thing you've learned? There are an enormous amount of things to learn in a field as complicated as Architecture; design challenges, systems integration, keeping up with technological advancement and the ever increasing life safety and building code requirements. Architecture must be one of the most challenging and complex career choices and to identify the most important thing learned in my view must be along the lines of creating the "wow" factor that piques the interest and imagination of the millions of guests that visit while making a building as functional and efficient as possible for the thousands of employees that work there. This integration of "attraction", design and functionality certainly ranks high as something to learn that takes many years and lots of practice.

2. What is your favorite piece of architecture? Why? My favorite piece of architecture is the Milwaukee Art Museum by Santiago Calatrava. This building is a hugely inspirational and sculptural building and rises well above what most buildings can accomplish. It responds to its surroundings taking on the notion of sailboats for its citing on the lake, is transparent and light inspiring connection with the outdoors, nature and sky, is designed to beckon to the city, extending its invitation and is kinetic in that it is one of the few buildings that actually moves, like the wing of a giant but yet graceful aviary creature. It most definitely has the "wow" factor and attracts millions of people to visit and enjoy and will be enduring for many years to come as a mark on the planet!

3. Where will you be in 20 years? To date, my career has taken leaps in four year increments. it takes about four years from initial conception to opening to the public for one of these major projects and sometimes they overlap a little. Looking out twenty years, I hope to be fortunate enough to have a few more of these incredibly challenging projects and the challenge remains, each one has to surpass the prior one, if that's possible.

4. What person, living or dead, would you most like to have dinner with? I was fortunate enough to have had a design session and lunch with one of the most innovative and leading architects, artists, engineers and design philosophers of our time, Santiago Calatrava. An extremely gifted and talented man with an incredible imagination and insight into all aspects of Architecture as it affects the human experience. I was in awe in his presence and was very inspired by his brilliance and worldly but yet down to earth insight into all aspects of not only Architecture and sculpture but the human relationship to structures and the art we create.

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**AIA LAS VEGAS
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**
MARK RYAN, AIA, ESQ.

AIA is the cause!

All of us want to make a difference. We are all looking for that cause...that purpose...that commitment to share our ideas and talents so that we feel our self-worth and at the same time satisfy our longing to be a part of something greater than ourselves. We look for that thing we can believe in and contribute our time, energy and talents to. We all want to be a valuable resource for our communities, our neighborhoods, our world. To a large extent that's why we became architects.... and that's why you are a member of AIA.

The profession of architecture, more than any other, gives us an opportunity to solve problems, to see the larger outcome and plan for the future. It gives us the opportunity through design to make a difference. Architects are uniquely trained to bring clarity and form to ideas. This is a most valuable talent and one that each of us, as architects, should put to work to improve, protect and enhance our own profession as well.

Your AIA Las Vegas Chapter is your cause! It is the place where your interest, ideas and visions can be best used. And you don't have to be on the board of directors or an officer of the Chapter. All you have to be is interested and supportive of the programs and benefits that the Chapter provides for you. Attend the meetings, participate in the programs....network and communicate with your fellow AIA members.

On September 24th AIA Las Vegas will hold a meeting specifically for the owners of "small firms" and those who are interested in starting a firm someday. The Small Firm Roundtable will be an informal discussion group that will help the Chapter and each member....focus on the areas that will benefit small practitioners. This will be your opportunity to meet and talk informally with others with whom you have mutual interests. It will be an opportunity for you to share your ideas, concerns and questions... and to learn from others.

On September 30th AIA Las Vegas will hold a "Candidate's Forum". November 4th is election day....and 2015 is a legislative year. There are issues being voted upon in November and discussed in next year's legislative session that will have a dramatic impact on architects. The Candidate's Forum is your opportunity to find out what the candidates think about the "margin tax", local and state energy codes requirements, qualifications based selection of architects....and many other areas that will affect how you practice. It is imperative to remember that the AIA is always working to help influence public policy to clear the way for YOU to have a successful practice.

The AIA is your cause...and you could not have a better one. Participate, support and connect with your Chapter. Each and every one of you is important to the cause.

URBAN SKETCHERS NEWS

The Urban Sketchers next crawl will be on Saturday, Sept. 6th, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Due to popular demand, we are going back to the

Neon Boneyard.

(770 N. Las Vegas Blvd., LV, NV. 89101).

Entry fee will be \$10.00 per person.

You MUST RSVP to Eric Roberts, AIA at eroberts@sh-architecture.com to attend.

You should bring your own sketch supplies, some water and your water colors (if you want to use them). Don't forget some water (to drink) and something to sit on (you'll be glad you did) and sunscreen!

See you September 6th!!



Sketch by Eric Roberts, AIA



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AIA LAS VEGAS CANDIDATE'S FORUM

Presented by the AIA NV PAC

Tuesday, September 30th – 5:30PM - Auditorium, Historic Fifth Street School
For AIA Members and the public – No charge to attend

Election Day is November 4th.....and you'll be voting on the Margin Tax....and electing the legislative representatives that will be voting on issues that impact how you practice. Do you want to leave that to chance....and other people's votes?

NO..... you don't!

The AIA Nevada PAC will host a Candidate's Forum on Tuesday, September 30th, 5:30PM at the Historic Fifth Street School. Plan to attend so that you can learn directly from the candidates how they feel about the issues and concerns of architects. Moderated by Eric Roberts, AIA the Forum will be your opportunity to ask questions and get to know the candidates before you cast your vote. [Click here to RSVP now.](#)

NO on **3**: Coalition to DEFEAT the Margin Tax Initiative

THE MARGIN TAX INITIATIVE - WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR ARCHITECTS?

The AIA in Nevada is opposed to the Margin Tax Initiative based on the following facts:

- **It would impose a whole new state tax on Nevada businesses.**
 - *Businesses with more than \$1 million in annual gross revenues would be subject to a new 2% "margin tax" regardless of how much, if any, of their revenues are actual profits.
 - *For architects this is particularly meaningful since most architecture firms are small businesses, and the largest portion of their revenue is not actual profits.
- **It would impact both large employers and small businesses.**
 - *Promoters of this measure portray it as a minor tax on "big businesses" and want voters to believe all the tax revenue would go to education. In reality, the initiative would impose a major new tax burden on both large employers and thousands of smaller businesses throughout the state.
 - *Overall, it would dump a massive \$750 million increase on the costs of doing business for Nevada employers. That would severely damage the state's already struggling economy and job market. And there is no guarantee that the tax revenue would actually go toward improving education.
- **It would create a tax formula that is deeply flawed and unfair.**
 - *The Initiative's new tax on gross revenues would be especially damaging to employers that have high overhead and slim profit margins such as architects (farmers, ranchers, grocery stores, restaurants and other small retailers and those that are already on the brink of closing. It would only allow businesses to deduct some of their actual costs from revenues subject to the tax. For example, they could deduct their cost of goods or their payroll costs, but not both.
 - *Another flaw in the measure is that it would create a "fiscal cliff". A business making one penny less than \$1 million in gross revenues would pay no tax. A business that grossed one penny more than \$1 million would pay the 2% margin tax based on the entire million, even if none of it were profit.
- **It would make Nevada's business taxes among the highest in the US.**
 - *Imposing the Initiatives tax on top of the state's existing Modified Business Tax would create the equivalent of an almost 15% state corporate income tax – nearly twice as high as the corporate income tax rate in California. In fact, for businesses, the Margin Tax Initiative would make Nevada one of the highest taxes states in which to operate. This would severely damage our state's struggling economy, cause the loss of thousands of existing jobs and make it nearly impossible to attract new businesses and jobs to Nevada.
- **It would NOT guarantee the money would go to education.**
 - *Under the state constitution, the legislature would have complete authority to divert funds from this new tax to things other than education. Moreover, the Initiative contains no guidelines on how any funds going to education would be spent. It would essentially hand a blank check to politicians and bureaucrats to spend however they want, without requiring any oversight, reviews or accountability.
- **It would create more costly state bureaucracy, red tape & lawsuits.**
 - *The Initiative would create a whole new IRS-like state bureaucracy to implement and enforce its 84 sections of complicated legal requirements, exemptions and technical language. Many sections are so vague and badly written that they would lead to court challenges that would tie the state up in costly lawsuits for years to come.
- **It would increase consumer costs.**
 - *The Margin Tax Initiative would impose a new 2% tax on revenues generated by almost all types of goods and services sold in Nevada, including: food, clothing and other retail store products; gas, electricity and telephone services; prescription medicines sold by pharmacies; and, medical care provided by doctors and hospitals. Ultimately, the providers of these goods and services would pass on some or all of their tax increase to Nevada consumers.

Support the coalition to help stop this misguided, job-killing tax increase measure!

A statewide coalition representing thousands of small and large employers, farmers, ranchers and other concerned Nevadans has been formed to mount a campaign urging a **NO** vote on the Margin Tax Initiative. You can help by becoming a members, getting involved in the grassroots activities or making a financial contribution. To join, make a donation online or get more information, please visit the website, StopTheMarginTax.com. Donations can also be mailed to: CDMTI, 401 S. Curry ST., Carson City, NV. 89703

SEPTEMBER MEMBER MEETING

STEPHAN DYNIA ARCHITECTS – THE INNOVATION AND COLLABORATION OF A SMALL FIRM



Stephen Dynia Architects is a design studio with a portfolio of innovative work, led by a design principal committed to the belief that every project is a unique design opportunity. Since its founding in 1995, SDA has provoked and been on the forefront of the discourse of design throughout the region. The success of the firm is due to the innovative and collaborative firm culture that inspires a team of dedicated professionals to contribute at every level to produce distinctive and meaningful work. The firm was founded by Stephen Dynia, FAIA in 1995 (with Lisa Carranza) in Jackson, Wyoming.

Today with over 60 projects completed, numerous design awards, a second office located in Denver, Colorado, and recognition as one of the most significant small firms in the country, Stephen Dynia considers the buildings and spaces his firm has created as their greatest achievements. Stephen has established a reputation as a leader in introducing and nurturing thoughtful architecture, and AIA Las Vegas is pleased and honored that he will share his design successes and firm philosophy with us at our September 17th Membership Meeting.



Don't miss this opportunity to meet and learn from one of the most successful young architects in the country.

Wednesday, September 17th – 5:30PM Auditorium, Historic Fifth Street School, 401 S. Fourth Street, Las Vegas.
No charge for AIA Members / \$30.00 for guests/non-members.

[Click here to RSVP.](#)

AIA LAS VEGAS SMALL FIRM ROUNDTABLE SIGN UP TODAY!



Most architecture firms in Nevada are small firms....under 15 employees. How can small firms compete and succeed in this ever-changing and challenging marketplace? By sharing ideas, experiences and resources we can help each other, and by inviting those who have established successful firms to share their knowledge and provide guidance we can all prosper. Let's get together and compare notes. Beginning on Wednesday, September 24th....at 4:00PM....small firm principals and architects are invited to get together for a roundtable discussion at the AIA office. RSVP to attend by emailing rlavigne@aianevada.org



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[Click here to see "I'm In LV Mentoring" Facebook Postings](#)



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EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

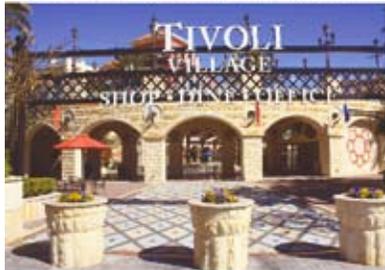




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AIA LAS VEGAS CONTINUING EDUCATION LUNCHEON SCHEDULE

AIA Las Vegas continues to provide Continuing Education Luncheons without charge as a benefit of membership,

However, **there is a charge of \$20.00 for non-members. All (including members) who wish to attend an AIA Continuing Education Luncheon MUST RSVP online prior to the luncheon.**

For those who do not RSVP online as required, there will be a charge of \$40.00 payable at the door.

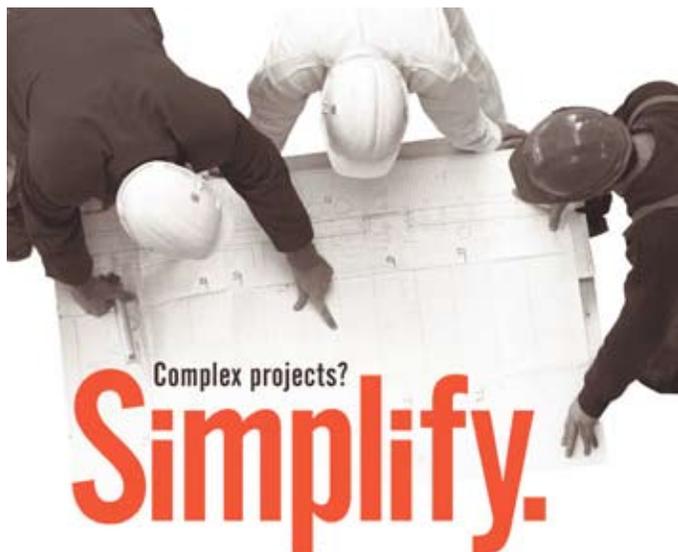
If you are interested in providing or hosting an AIA Las Vegas Continuing Education Lunch [click HERE for more information](#)

2014 Continuing Education Opportunities are as follows:

Thursday, September 11th - Cambridge Sound presents "Speech Privacy & Sound Masking in Modern Architecture" at the 5th Street School - 1 CE/HSW Units
[Click here to RSVP](#)

Thursday, September 25th - Dunn-Edwards Paint presents "Paint Technology for Submittal Review" and "Paint Problems: Causes & Solutions" at the 5th Street School - 2 CE Units
[Click here to RSVP](#)

Wednesday, October 22nd - Product Show CE Seminars
Thursday, November 13th - OPEN
Thursday, December 11th - OPEN



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at the 5th Street School Auditorium
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October 20th - Nader Tehrani /NADAAA

Nader Tehrani is a professor of architecture at MIT, where he served as Department Head from 2010-2014. He is principal of NADAAA, a practice dedicated to the advancement of design innovation, interdisciplinary collaboration and an intensive dialogue with the construction industry. He has numerous awards including the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Award in Architecture, The American Academy of Arts and Letters Architecture Award, the Harleston Parker Award and fifteen Progressive Architecture Awards.

October 27th - Chris Reed /Stoss

Chris Reed is principal of Stoss Landscape Urbanism and Associate Professor in Practice of Landscape Architecture at the Harvard University Graduate School of Design. He is an internationally recognized figure in the fields of landscape and urbanism.





THE TERMITE

By Tagish, an AIA Member

"Well, as far as I can tell he's just a termite". Superintendent spoke with solemn sincerity and a grave look. Of course, he was referring to the resident public agency inspector who had just drilled into a new plywood veneer with a pocket device to verify the underlayment of fire resistive gypsum wall board. When he stood up satisfied with the finding Superintendent added "You know, Architect, I should make a claim for damages caused by pests."

Architect was kind of in the middle. He couldn't refer to the inspector as a termite and he couldn't deny the Superintendent's disgust. It was a small matter but contained a kernel of the adversarial roles played in the construction business. Construction workers and inspectors generally respect each other's job responsibilities. Sometimes feelings and opinions become heated and this can be a problem for Architects. It can be a little like a refereeing a fight between two friends. Both want the Architect to support their point of view and it is unwise to take sides. Someday he may need one or the other to solve a problem.

During the construction of a certain hospital expansion costing over twenty eight million dollars the Contractors and their subcontractors developed what might be called an unprofessional attitude after some bitter encounters with the inspectors. Feelings ran high and they referred to each other in less than complimentary terms. The inspectors gave as good as they got and an opportunity arose that they couldn't resist.

One of the primary support beams was a reinforced post-tensioned concrete beam over forty feet long and about six feet deep. It was to be made with high strength concrete mix of over seven thousand psi at twenty eight days. In those days that was exotic. As the pour proceeded the drivers turned their load tickets in to the inspectors who noticed that the mix was incorrect. Nothing was said and the pour was completed.

After two days the head inspector called the Project Manager over in a polite way by referring to him as "Mister". That was a deadly clue and the news was also deadly. The beam had to be removed and replaced with the correct mix. It was jack-hammer day for four days and new rebar number eights and bigger. New tension cable ties with stainless steel caps were shipped in and placed. A truck drove for four days to get them delivered. This time the Superintendent collected the concrete tickets first. Conversation and personal labels between the contending parties was short and direct. There were no known murders or even "injury" accidents and not even a lawsuit. Today there would be plenty of those.

An incident like this demonstrates the remarkable ability of people to work with others who sometimes oppose them. It's all in a day's work – most of the time. With the increasingly sophisticated construction management field a growth in professionalism has both added to the productivity of the business environment but also elevated strong disputes to the courtrooms or arbitration conferences. The Architect, as first arbiter, has to understand and deal with legal complexities just as much as the technical world. Even a termite has his rights.

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**TOM KUNDIG, FAIA
FEATURED KEYNOTE AT
AIANN DICE CONFERENCE**



This year's DICE Conference, hosted by the Northern Nevada Chapter of the AIA, will take place on September 18th at the Nevada Museum of Art. The featured speaker is Tom Kundig, FAIA, principal of Olsen Kundig Architects, Seattle, Washington.

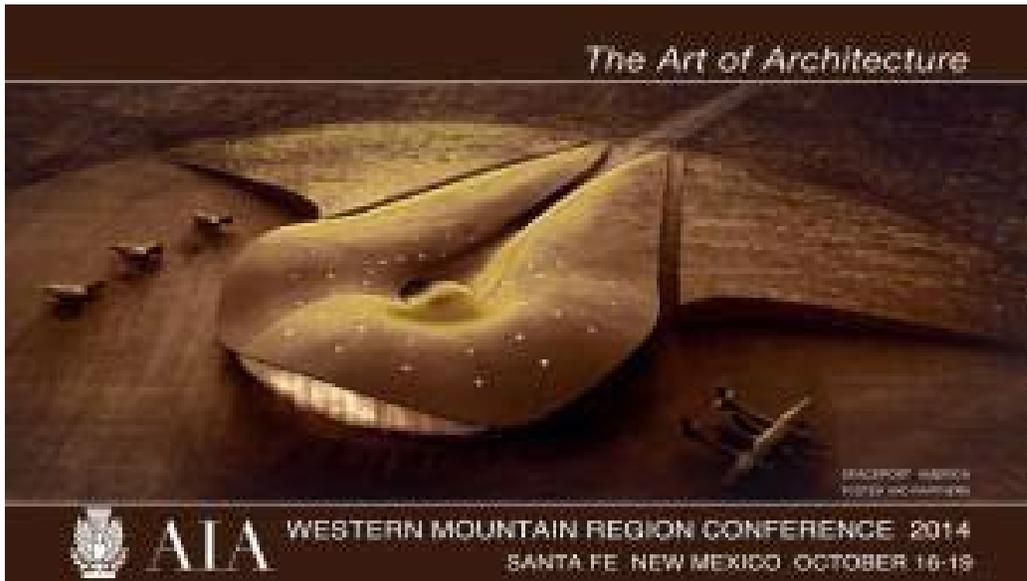
Over the past three decades, Tom Kundig has received some of the world's highest design honors, including a National Design Award from the Smithsonian Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum and an Academy Award in Architecture from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. In 2012, he was inducted into Interior Design magazine's Hall of Fame.

Kundig's work has received over 50 awards from the American Institute of Architects, including seven National Honor Awards and seven National Housing Awards. His work has appeared in hundreds of publications worldwide such as The New York Times, The Telegraph, Architectural Record, Financial Times, Architectural Digest and The Wall Street Journal, and countless books including House, the recently-released volume by Diane Keaton. He is named in The Wallpaper* 150 as a key individual who has influenced, inspired and improved the way we live, work and travel.

**TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE DICE CONFERENCE AND TO REGISTER TO ATTEND VISIT THE
AIA NORTHERN NEVADA WEBSITE AT
WWW.AIANN.ORG**

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- Adobe Professional
- Sketch Up

Please send your cover letter and resume complete with Architectural License Number (if applicable) to:

Fax #702 -270-6643 or email vvry@leesaklv.com

NOTE: Leesak will not pay relocation expenses.

NO PHONE CALLS – NO PERSONAL VISITS



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CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATOR

United Excel Design has an immediate position open for an on-site construction administrator at Nellis AFB in Las Vegas. Applicants should have a minimum of 10 years of experience in the construction industry and have a thorough knowledge of code requirements, construction methods and detailing. Architectural degree and experience on government projects is preferred but not required. The primary job responsibility is to coordinate all contractual activities concerning construction including the following:

- Performs site investigations to confirm quality of construction meets contract documents.
- Reviews and approves shop drawing submittals.
- Prepares and executes amendments to contracts with the support of the design team.
- Manages and facilitates communication between the field staff and the design team.
- Leads internal design/construction coordination meetings.
- Prepares internal and external reports as requested or required by governmental agencies.

We are an equal opportunity employer and are committed to the safety and welfare of our employees and clients. If interested, please submit your resume and project list to neelam.patel@i-dbo.com.



TALENTED DESIGNER

Candidates must be highly creative, have excellent academic backgrounds and strong (non-residential) technical experience.

You must have:

- 4+ years work experience in Architecture and/or Interior Design
- Professional 5-year Architectural Degree or higher preferred
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Exceptional portfolio
- Strong experience with 3d modeling and photo-realistic rendering and animation

Software experience requirements:

AutoCAD Architecture, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe InDesign, Adobe Illustrator, 3D Studio Max with V-Ray, Rhino with Grasshopper, and SketchUp. If you do not meet a high degree of experience with ALL of these software applications you will not be considered for the position.

Our studio engages an extremely diverse clientele and an extraordinary range of project types, scales and programs. We foster an open studio culture that shares, discusses and tests ideas. We pursue architecture with no single style, and focus on designs that are contemporary in approach, multifaceted in program, urban in character, with new approaches to shaping and illuminating spaces, sustainable design, and using unusual materials.

We offer exciting projects, growth, and excellent benefits. Salary is commensurate with experience. Email your information to info@edvanceassociates.com. Please provide a link to your online portfolio or send a PDF up to 5MB with your resume and work samples.

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AIA EVENTS CALENDAR

SEPT

- 11
AIA Las Vegas CE Luncheon
hosted by Cambridge Sound
- 16
AIA Las Vegas Board Meeting
- 17
AIA Las Vegas Membership Meeting
- 18
AIA Nevada Board Meeting
- 18
DICE Conference
Reno, NV
- 24
AIA LV Small Firm Roundtable
- 25
AIA Las Vegas CE Luncheon
hosted by Dunn-Edwards Paint
- 30
Candidate's Forum

OCT

- 15 - 18
WMR Conference
Santa Fe, NM
- 21
AIA Las Vegas Board Meeting
- 22
Learn About / Turn About
Product Show
- 23
AIA Nevada Board Meeting

NOV

- 4
Election Day
Don't forget to VOTE!
- 13
AIA Las Vegas CE Luncheon
- 18
AIA Las Vegas Board Meeting
- 19
AIA Las Vegas Membership Meeting
- 20
AIA Nevada Board Meeting
- 27
Thanksgiving!