



Arkansas

DESIGN AWARDS | 2023

A SUPPLEMENT TO *ARKANSAS MONEY & POLITICS* • NOVEMBER 2023





DESIGN AWARD CHAIR



TOM FENNEL, AIA

Tom is a founding partner of Fennell Purifoy Architects formed in 1985 in Little Rock. With a liberal arts degree from Sewanee in Philosophy and Fine Arts, Fennell turned his occupation as a draftsman into a vocation as one of the last architects in Arkansas licensed by examination. The focus of Fennell Purifoy has always been building community through architecture with a diverse portfolio of libraries, schools, churches, affordable housing, and historic preservation projects. Among the projects the firm has designed are the Veteran's Cemetery at Birdeye, the Dee Brown Library, The Ozark Highlands Nature Center, Petit Jean State Park Visitor's Center, Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center, and many single family homes throughout Arkansas.

His experience working for Robinson and Wassell and Polk Stanley gave him a commitment to train and mentor young architects to have a positive impact on their clients and community. The emphasis on programming and context as well as rigorous design and detail work serves as a guiding principal for producing effective professionals.

Tom and his wife Ellen live in the Governor's Mansion District in the Orange King Judd House designed by Max Mayer. Together they created Forgotten Little Rock as a way to bring important but forgotten architecture and neighborhoods to the public's attention.

Fennell is currently a Little Rock Historic District Commissioner and serves on the board of Tree Streets.

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H. CRAIG BOONE, AIA
PRESIDENT, AIA ARKANSAS

2023 | FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is an honor as the 2023 President of AIA Arkansas to present to you this year's AIA Arkansas Design Awards Publication, highlighting our Chapter's achievements through our Design Awards Program and our Chapter Awards. These individuals and projects represent the accomplishments of our state's architects, consultants, contractors, building owners and clients.

This year 30 entries were submitted to an independent panel of judges from Birmingham, AL. The individual jury members were selected for their diverse design backgrounds and sensibilities. The judges were Joel Blackstock AIA of Williams Blackstock Architects, Nolanda Hatcher AIA of Studio 2H Design and Cheryl Morgan FAIA, Emerita Professor of Architecture of the School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape Architecture of Auburn University. Of the 30 entries, 3 were selected as finalists, while 8 were selected as Award winners. The submissions can be found throughout this publication. We thank all our entrants for their work and look forward to seeing next year's submissions.

In addition to the jury selected recipients, our Chapter honors two other recipients through the Members' Choice Award and the People's Choice Award. The People's Choice Award is an award that allows the public to view all entries and choose their favorite project. Both awards are chosen by popular vote.

The cover of this year's publication highlights the 2022 Member's Choice Award winner, Pine Bluff Main Library in Pine Bluff, designed by Polk Stanley Wilcox Architects. This project was selected for this honor by AIA Arkansas attendees during the 2022 state convention.

This Year's Chapter Awards are as follows:

The **Fay Jones Gold Medal Award** is the highest award AIA Arkansas can bestow on one of our members. The Fay Jones Gold Medal recognizes an individual architect who has demonstrated touchstones of excellence through artistic vision and design, leadership and service to the state of Arkansas and the AIA Arkansas Chapter. Excellence is measured not only by the mark of architectural and individual achievement, but through the esteem and regard held for the architect by professional practitioners and the community as a whole. This year's recipient, posthumously awarded, **Michael Lejong, AIA**. Michael served as a role model for others, demonstrating a high level of professionalism, leadership and mentorship. Michael leaves a legacy, not just through his design, but his ability to inspire the future of architectural practice through purpose, vision and passion for design.

Introduced in 2022, the **Michael Lejong Leadership Award** was established to recognize a member of AIA Arkansas who illustrates outstanding efforts to contribute to the success of AIA Arkansas through their leadership and mentoring. This year's recipient is **Jonathan Opitz, AIA**. Jonathan has served on the AIA board, actively participating in numerous committees over the years, actively showing his commitment, passion, and dedication to advancing the architectural profession in our state. His efforts have helped shape the vision and direction of AIA Arkansas, contributing to the organization's growth and success.

The **Emerging Professional Award** is intended to recognize a new professional, practicing for 10 years or less, who has expanded the role of the architect through civic participation and professional mentorship. This year's recipient is **Nathaniel Deason, AIA**. Nate is an ardent volunteer and advocate for the architectural profession in his community, and the state of Arkansas. Having served the Arkansas AIA in a wide variety of roles, Nate firmly believes in the betterment of the profession, and the use of architecture and design as a powerful tool in the transformation of our locales.

The **Dick Savage Memorial Award** is AIA Arkansas's recognition of a member who has made notable significant contributions to the chapter and the profession. This year's award goes to **Patricia Opitz, AIA**. Patty has represented AIA Arkansas at all levels of leadership and served the organization on many committees. Patty exemplifies that servant leadership that is at the heart of the Dick Savage Award. Her contributions have been notable and significant to our Chapter in ways that leave indelible marks that inspire and motivate future generations of leaders of our organization.

AIA Arkansas' **Diversity Award** recognizes an individual, public agency, organization or company for exemplary commitment and contributions to inclusiveness within the architectural profession and education in the state of Arkansas. This year's recipient is **Alison Turner, AIA**, UA Fay Jones School of Architecture + Design. In addition to teaching and practice, Turner leads community outreach programs through the Fay Jones School of Architecture + Design summer design camp as the Director of Community Education, to teach young students about design and the profession of architecture. Her commitment to providing equitable access to education and design exposure to the youth of the Arkansas community and beyond, for her outreach and advocacy for underserved communities and for organizing and directing the camp to give each attendee a fair and equitable opportunity for success.

We hope you enjoy this publication and its celebration of architecture in Arkansas.

Congratulations to all our winners!

HONOR AWARD | ARTS ON MAIN

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PHOTOGRAPHER ARCHITECTURAL IMAGEWORKS, LLC

FIRM:
MAHG ARCHITECTURE, INC.

CONTRACTOR:
BESHEARS CONSTRUCTION, INC.

LOCATION:
VAN BUREN, AR

OWNER/CLIENT:
ARTS ON MAIN

PROJECT TEAM:
GALEN HUNTER, AIA
TIMOTHY VARNER, AIA
TRAVIS BARTLETT, AIA
BEKAH ESTUS ALLIED, ASID, ASSOC. AIA

CONSULTANTS:
HAWKINS-WEIR ENGINEERS, INC.,
MYERS ENGINEERING, PLLC,
HSA CONSULTING ENGINEERING
SERVICES, INC.,
WALLACE DESIGN COLLECTIVE

The relocation of the Center for Art and Education to downtown Van Buren is designed to showcase the arts while contributing to the revitalization of historic Main Street. The organization, which provides art education classes to both school children and adults, had been limited by their lack of space to teach classes and display the work of local and regional artists.

The purchase of the circa 1893 Farmers House Hotel and adjacent circa 1900 Post Office Building #3 offered significant challenges as the buildings had fallen victim to failed roofs, water damage, and fire. The original buildings had been modified with additions and renovations before being abandoned for many years.

Because the buildings are located within the Main Street Historic District the renovations were subject to historic preservation program requirements. The owner also wished to utilize Historic Preservation Tax Credits to help pay for the renovations. The design response melded the program requirements for art education and gallery space with the requirements for restoring the buildings to their original historic appearance.

The removal of a 1960's era metal sidewalk canopy allowed the storefront of both buildings to be restored to their original design. This opened the gallery spaces located on the first floor to Main Street creating an enticement for pedestrians to enter the building and explore the gallery exhibits.

Teaching studios are located on the second floor and in the newly constructed Pottery Building located behind the historic structures. A Culinary Arts Studio is located at the rear of the first floor. This allows the Galleries to be secured after business hours while allowing access to the teaching spaces for night classes via a secondary entry at the rear of the historic structures.

Upon the move to the new facility located on Main Street, The Center for Art and Education was renamed Arts On Main.

HONOR AWARD | THADEN SCHOOL WHEELS BUILDING



PHOTOGRAPHER TIMOTHY HURSLEY

FIRM:

MARLON BLACKWELL
ARCHITECTS

CONTRACTOR:

MILESTONE CONSTRUCTION
COMPANY

LOCATION:

BENTONVILLE, AR

OWNER/CLIENT:

THADEN SCHOOL

PROJECT TEAM:

MARLON BLACKWELL, FAIA
MERYATI BLACKWELL, AIA, ASID
JOSH MATTHEWS, AIA
SPENCER CURTIS, AIA
BRADFORD PAYNE
STEPHEN REYENGA, ASSOC. AIA

CONSULTANTS:

ECOLOGICAL DESIGN GROUP CMTA
CONSULTING ENGINEERS
ANDROPOGON, ECOLOGICAL
DESIGN GROUP
TM LIGHT
AQUEOUS

“A private school with a public purpose,” Thaden School is a new independent middle and high school in Bentonville, Arkansas. The school’s unique curriculum combines academic excellence with learning by doing and features three signature programs: Wheels (where the fields of physics and mechanics come alive through the construction and use of bicycles and other wheeled machines), Meals (where biology, chemistry, and community come alive through the growing and preparation of food), and Reels (where narrative and visual communication come alive through the production of film and video).

Through its partnerships with nearby community organizations in the visual and culinary arts, bicycling, and community service, the school will provide students with opportunities to learn both on and off campus. The school’s “whole student/whole body” pedagogy will feature learning opportunities both indoors and outdoors.

The campus plan unifies two separate plots by creating a “shared street” on which automobiles, pedestrians, and cyclists can coexist. On either side, campus buildings use a strategy familiar in Arkansas, with long narrow buildings oriented to control the exposure to the intense southern sun and to allow natural ventilation at the eave. These long forms are strategically bent to prevent long internal corridors and to frame gathering spaces outside. The campus itself is a teaching tool as a productive landscape for agriculture and a restorative landscape that addresses flooding and restores native ecosystems.

Home to the signature Wheels program, the Wheels Building creates a public presence for the school by linking the Campus to the Bentonville Square. Situated west of the Student Commons and south of the Performance building, the building opens to the east to create a sense of entrance and arrival. A canopy along Main Street acts as a billboard for the Campus and creates an outdoor workspace for the Wheels lab. Similar to the Arts & Administration Building, the Wheels building roof is a performative response as much as it is a figural expression.

The linear plan of the Wheels building allows for a simple distribution of program along its spine, while signature programs anchor the east and west ends. Covered areas extend student workspaces out of the building, connecting with the outdoors and displaying activity to the Campus and the community. The maker space is located on the student commons where the students and their work are always on display. A large central corridor widens to accommodate student collaboration and study spaces lit from above with a consistent level of daylighting throughout the year.

MERIT AWARD | ENGLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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PHOTOGRAPHER TIMOTHY HURSLEY

FIRM:
MODUS STUDIO

CONTRACTOR:
KINCO CONSTRUCTORS

LOCATION:
ENGLAND, AR

OWNER/CLIENT:
ENGLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

PROJECT TEAM:
CHRIS BARIBEAU, AIA
JOSH SIEBERT, ASSOC. AIA
MATT POE, AIA
JULIE CHAMBERS, AIA
LAURA RAMIREZ, ASSOC. AIA
DYLAN SYLVESTER, ASSOC. AIA
ELISHA TALDO CANTRELL

CONSULTANTS:
ECOLOGICAL DESIGN GROUP
TATUM-SMITH-WELCHER
ENGINEERS
CORE STATES GROUP

England Elementary School, nestled in the small farming community of England, Arkansas, a town boasting a population of 2,445 residents, is a design intended for student inspiration that seamlessly integrates its surroundings and addresses the needs of the community. This new elementary school facility embodies the essence of its location, represents the spirit of an agricultural-based community, and overcomes various challenges, thereby setting new benchmarks in educational infrastructure. With a focus on sustainability, functionality, and student encouragement, England Elementary School emerges as a testament to the symbiotic relationship between educational architecture and contextual environments. It not only fulfills its educational purpose but also serves as a focal point of the community.

Situated on a 5.9-acre site in this serene bedroom community, the design capitalizes on the unique juxtaposition of a skewed city grid and the rigid agricultural farmland grid, integrating the school's layout harmoniously within this dynamic framework. The design also offers a creative solution to the perennial issue of flooding on the campus. The innovative landscape approach incorporates sustainable water management techniques, such as strategically positioned bioswales, cypress groves, and irrigation canal-inspired meandering flood control channels, effectively mitigating the impact of heavy rainfall and reducing runoff. The design embraces the concept of a sustainable ecosystem, promoting the conservation of natural resources while nurturing the educational development of young minds. Drawing inspiration from the region's prominent geographical features, the site is influenced by oxbow lakes and embraces fluidity and organic forms within the flood-control-focused design. By replacing an outdated elementary building, the school takes advantage of the opportunity to start fresh in these other, often forgotten, aspects of campus design. The educational experience for the students is still enhanced while other everyday problems faced by schools, such as the logistical challenge of a lengthy drop-off and pick-up line, are thoughtfully rectified.

The interior architectural design of England Elementary School embodies a harmonious blend of local aesthetics, dynamic lighting, and invigorating spatial configurations, resulting in an inspiring environment that fosters student engagement and community interaction. Throughout the building, design elements incorporating local cypress lend a sense of warmth and authenticity to the spaces. At the entrance, the use of cypress creates an inviting ambiance, symbolizing a connection to nature and embracing the architectural heritage of the region. Moreover, the architect's fabrication shop has contributed exquisite art pieces that intricately weave together the contextual story of the project. These artistic creations, inspired by cypress groves in the region, evoke a sense of pride and ownership among the students, faculty, and the wider community.

Dynamic lighting plays a pivotal role in enhancing the overall learning environment of the school. The interplay of light not only creates a visually stimulating environment but also supports the students' focus and well-being, promoting a conducive atmosphere for learning. Energizing geometries of the spaces encourage creativity and exploration, with thoughtfully designed areas of unique angles and forms that transcend traditional classroom layouts.

One of the most notable features of the school's design is the purposeful engagement between the first and second floors that not only creates a visually captivating spatial dynamic but also promotes student interactions. The open and interconnected layout encourages students from different grade levels to interact and learn from one another, fostering a sense of camaraderie and collaboration. The overlapping design also provides unique vantage points, allowing students to observe activities and events on different levels, further inspiring their curiosity and engagement.

MERIT AWARD | PINE BLUFF MAIN LIBRARY



PHOTOGRAPHER TIMOTHY HURSLEY

FIRM:

POLK STANLEY WILCOX
ARCHITECTS

ADDITIONAL FIRM:

REED ARCHITECTURAL FIRM

CONTRACTOR:

EAST HARDING
CONSTRUCTION

LOCATION:

PINE BLUFF, AR

OWNER/CLIENT:

PINE BLUFF / JEFFERSON COUNTY
LIBRARY SYSTEM

PROJECT TEAM:

REESE ROWLAND, FAIA
LAURA STANLEY, AIA
ALEXANDRA WARD, ASID
DAVID ROGERS, AIA
JOE STANLEY

CONSULTANTS:

ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS, INC.
PETTIT & PETTIT CONSULTING
ENGINEERS
MCCLELLAND CONSULTING
ENGINEERS, INC.
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE, INC

Pine Bluff, Arkansas was once a jewel of the Mississippi Delta, positioned where southern pines meet vast farmlands along the Arkansas River. Like many delta cities, Pine Bluff was in a steady decline as industries relocated and river traffic waned. The city that once boasted 70,000 people fell to 40,000 in population, gaining a negative national reputation for crime, hurting its ability to draw industry and retain homegrown talent. A once thriving Main Street that boasted the State's largest theater and a delta destination, now stood lined with empty dilapidated storefronts...downtown felt abandoned. When several buildings collapsed onto Main Street and others on the verge of collapse, city leaders and citizens bonded together to save Main Street and create economic incentives through a series of tax initiatives; the citizens wanted to reverse the course of their city. One initiative was to set knowledge to the forefront with a new Main Library positioned on a prominent Main Street corner where buildings had burned/collapsed as a symbol of rebirth for not only downtown, but Pine Bluff as a whole.

Public meetings revealed the desire to create a "living room for the community" that focuses heavily on children and youth to give hope, encouragement, and the desire for knowledge to spark the desire to stay, reinvest, and rebuild their city. Citizens also wanted a place that was uplifting, inspirational, and full of natural light, while feeling safe and secure. They wanted a place that pointed to a future that "lifted expectations." What emerged was a community-embedded supportive learning center, offering not only books, but also a performance space, a teaching kitchen, recording studios, café (coming soon) and computer training for adults and youth.

A building program that equally divided books with more dedicated education/specialized spaces generated a diagram of two distinct parallel forms, shifted to open views and accept light, and articulated by function and the site's odd shape. Public stacks are in storefronts along Main Street with the children's library framed above: knowledge is on display. A dynamic cantilevered open auditorium floats completely free above the main entrance, lifting to the north as a bold progressive language of hope. Auditorium steps connect the children's library up to a Teen Loft that overlooks the entire library and downtown, a dynamic space symbolizing the importance of young people to the city. Surprisingly, the open steps have drawn the local university's students as well, choosing to study and hang out at the public library over their own campus.

The library has two primary entrances connecting Main Street's intersection through the building to parking on the west. The plan parti creates a pedestrian intersection at the circulation desk as an internal street lit from above. A continuous clerestory allows the cloud-like roof to cleanly float free, flooding both floors with light. The west façade bends with the odd shape of the site due to a private property interrupting the block, connecting to existing parking through an activity lawn. A bold oval shaped cylinder housing utilitarian functions becomes the hinge point for the bending form, and a visual marker of entrance from the surrounding parking and streets. The western façade is reminiscent of books on a shelf, utilizing slender windows of varying widths and vertical fins to mitigate heat gain.

MERIT AWARD | THADEN SCHOOL PERFORMANCE BUILDING

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PHOTOGRAPHER TIMOTHY HURSLEY

FIRM:

MARLON BLACKWELL
ARCHITECTS

CONTRACTOR:

NABHOLZ CONSTRUCTION

LOCATION:

BENTONVILLE, AR

OWNER/CLIENT:

THADEN SCHOOL

PROJECT TEAM:

MARLON BLACKWELL, FAIA
MERYATI BLACKWELL, AIA, ASID
JOSH MATTHEWS, AIA
SPENCER CURTIS, AIA
BRADFORD PAYNE, AIA
STEPHEN REYENGA, ASSOC. AIA
COLBY RITTER, ASSOC. AIA
PAUL MOSLEY, ASSOC. AIA
CALLIE KESEL, AIA
ANNA MORRISON, AIA
LEONARDO LEIVA, ASSOC. AIA

CONSULTANTS:

ECOLOGICAL DESIGN GROUP
ECI
CMTA CONSULTING ENGINEERS
ANDROPOGON, ECOLOGICAL
DESIGN GROUP
TM LIGHT
IDIBRI
CHARCOALBLUE
AQUEOUS

“A private school with a public purpose,” Thaden School is a new independent middle and high school in Bentonville, Arkansas. The school’s unique curriculum combines academic excellence with learning by doing and features three signature programs: Wheels (where the fields of physics and mechanics come alive through the construction and use of bicycles and other wheeled machines), Meals (where biology, chemistry, and community come alive through the growing and preparation of food), and Reels (where narrative and visual communication come alive through the production of film and video).

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A generous loggia and expressive canopy create a strong and welcoming street edge. They extend well beyond the main body of the building and lead to a skylit entryway. Other than the glazing on each side revealed when the multicolored metal shell lifts, only one large window in the performance hall punctuates the exterior shell. Looking out to the campus and the original Thaden House, this monumental window is even larger on the interior, which brings soft, indirect light into an otherwise sealed performance hall. With direct connections from the stage to the back of house, the performance hall is a versatile and professional venue for creative performance. The versatile and efficient allocation of space advances the school’s mission and identity as a stage for improvisation, experimentation, and imagination.

MERIT AWARD | UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS WINDGATE STUDIO AND DESIGN CENTER



PHOTOGRAPHER DERO SANFORD

FIRM:
MAHG ARCHITECTURE, INC.

ADDITIONAL FIRM:
HGA (HAMMEL, GREEN & ABRAHAMSON)

CONTRACTOR:
CLARK CONTRACTORS, LLC

LOCATION:
FAYETTEVILLE, AR

OWNER/CLIENT:
THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS

PROJECT TEAM:
GALEN HUNTER, AIA
TIMOTHY VARNER, AIA
TRAVIS BARTLETT, ASID
NATE DEASON, AIA
BEKAH ESTUS ALLIED, ASID, ASSOC. AIA

CONSULTANTS:
MYERS ENGINEERING, PLLC
WALLACE DESIGN COLLECTIVE
DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANTS, INC. (DCI)
HGA (HAMMEL, GREEN AND ABRAHAMSON, INC.)
ENTEGRITY

Perched along an active commercial corridor, the Windgate Studio + Design Center forms a distinct urban condition and a modern campus presence within a conventional suburban context. The new building anchors the corner of the district, shaping a new communal quad, and facilitating a meaningful partnership with the School of Architecture, a future district neighbor. The internal landscape, sheltered from the commotion of vehicular traffic, provides an environment of respite and a revitalization for students. As a community asset, the landscape links to a network of regional trails, bolsters ongoing redevelopment, and fosters ambitious regional arts initiatives.

The Windgate Studio + Design Center seeks to remove limitations through the creation of an open, flexible, and spatially rich environment. Studio spaces are tailored to provide the resources and characteristics necessary for students and faculty to fully realize their ambitions. Working environments are oriented to maximize access to daylight and capture views to the surrounding neighborhood and distant hills. The corrugated metal exterior evolves to veil openings with a precisely tuned grille, controlling glare while showcasing glimpses of the creative activity within. Individual disciplines are intermixed to encourage cross-disciplinary engagement and collaboration. A variety of embedded connective spaces create porous floor plates and a web of visual connections between disciplines and levels. These flexible hubs serve social and academic needs, provide space to study, to gather around food and drink, serve as gallery and critique space, support all school gatherings, and shape the facility as a home for students and faculty where all feel welcome.

The building cantilevers dramatically at the corner of MLK Boulevard and Hill Avenue, forming a gateway to the district with an expression of invitation to students, faculty, and the Northwest Arkansas community. The exterior of the building is sculpted to interact with light and to create intriguing moments of transition, blurring the distinction between community, campus, and the School of Art. The entry plaza is carved from the corner, creating a dialogue between the city streetscape and the commons, the School's social heart. In both building and landscape, stairways animate the experience and encourage connection. An amphitheater flows from the central quad, descending into lower-level ceramics studios. Open, internal stairs wind upward toward workspaces, and arrive at unexpected terraces — valued social spaces overlooking the district, the city, and the dramatic surrounding landscape.

CITATION AWARD | BENTONVILLE EAST CENTRAL HOTEL

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FIRM:
BRR ARCHITECTURE

ADDITIONAL FIRM:
MARVEL ARCHITECTURE
CREME DESIGN + DESIGN
WORKSHOP

LOCATION:
BENTONVILLE, AR

OWNER/CLIENT:
BLUE CRANE

PROJECT TEAM:
BRANDON LEWIS, AIA
KELSEY SUNDET, AIA
JON GRIPKA, AIA

CONSULTANTS:
THE WORKING GROUP LLC

Nestled in a prime location, the East Central Hotel serves as a perfect gathering spot and basecamp for embarking on local adventures across the Northwest Arkansas Region. With its inviting atmosphere and strategic positioning, the property becomes the perfect setting for unforgettable experiences, making it the go-to destination for out-of-town guests, an evening aperitif, fine dining and social gatherings.

Inspired by the nearby national forest and scenic riverway, the hotel embraces a biophilic design that seamlessly connects the outdoors with the interior spaces. The integration of natural elements takes center stage, featuring native wood species, abundant native plants, and subtle water features. From the two-story megalithic stone wall, to the insistence on real wood storefronts at the ground level exterior, every detail was carefully considered and echoes the beauty of the local natural environment.

Every detail underwent meticulous discussion and exploration throughout the design process. Striking examples of this commitment are evident throughout the design, where innovative solutions were implemented to fulfill the original concept while conserving materials. One such solution can be seen in the guest room windows, cleverly recessed by 18 inches from the exterior brick, creating a visually captivating effect. Additionally, thin brick sections are thoughtfully applied in limited instances, eliminating the need for double-stud walls and additional labor and material. These thoughtful design choices showcase the dedication to achieving a harmonious and efficient result.

Positioned adjacent to Dave Peel Park, the hotel effortlessly integrates on the East with the park and on the West with the upcoming promenade envisioned along A Street. This strategic connection encourages guests to immerse themselves in the multitude of outdoor adventures awaiting them in the city and throughout the scenic landscape of Northwest Arkansas.

CITATION AWARD | NW ARKANSAS ARTIST HOUSING AND RESIDENCY PROGRAM



FIRM:
KEVIN DALY ARCHITECTS

LOCATION:
BENTONVILLE, AR

OWNER/CLIENT:
CONFIDENTIAL

PROJECT TEAM:
KEVIN DALY, FAIA
JARED WARD
JULIAN FUNK
CASEY WORRELL
VANESSA DE LA HOZ
CONNOR VERTERAMO

CONSULTANTS:
HIGHT JACKSON
CEI ENGINEERING ASSOCIATES
ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS
HP ENGINEERING
WALLACE DESIGN COLLECTIVE
HIRSCHMANN STUDIO
VENEKLASEN ASSOCIATES

In a setting of unlikely hybrids and mashups, Artspace Housing is yet another: it wraps a large parking structure built to serve the Momentary, providing a finished façade in the manner of a Texas Donut. It also acts as a performative acoustical “rear wall” to the outdoor music venue; like the box seats in an opera hall, its faceted façade serves to reflect sound back to the open audience area without creating acoustic hot spots.

Urban design guidelines from the city limited material selection and mandated the use of masonry. This is implemented as a brick pedestal at the base, with light frame construction above clad in rectangular painted metal siding. The apartments are spacious one-bedroom units, large enough to allow for open workspace for the artist residents. The proximity to the garage introduced code complications: in addition to required fire separation, the housing is engineered as a freestanding building with no structural connection to the pre cast garage.

The east-facing and north-facing wings of the housing join at an exterior stair and landing clad in perforated metal. This central circulation element serves to orient visitors to the housing and reconciles the floor height variation between the parking structure and the housing.

The twelve separate live-work units are raised over a double-height work flexible space, which provides workspace, galleries, and maker spaces serving the public and augmenting the facilities of the nearby contemporary art center.

2022 MEMBERS' CHOICE AWARD | PINE BLUFF MAIN LIBRARY

FIRM:
POLK STANLEY WILCOX ARCHITECTS

CONTRACTOR:
EAST HARDING CONSTRUCTION

PROJECT TEAM:
REESE ROWLAND, FAIA
LAURA STANLEY, AIA
ALEXANDRA WARD, ASID
DAVID ROGERS, AIA
JOE STANLEY

A new Main Library for a Delta city focused on renewal positions itself as a beacon of hope through bold geometric forms and a clear expression of use that puts knowledge clearly on display.

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FINALIST | CENTENNIAL PARK PAVILION



PHOTOGRAPHER TIMOTHY HURSLEY

FIRM:
MODUS STUDIO

CONTRACTOR:
CROSSLAND
CONSTRUCTION
COMPANY

LOCATION:
FAYETTEVILLE, AR

OWNER/CLIENT:
CITY OF FAYETTEVILLE

PROJECT TEAM:
CHRIS BARIBEAU, AIA
MICHAEL POPE, AIA

CONSULTANTS:
CEI ENGINEERING
TATUM-SMITH-WELCHER
ENGINEERS
ENGINEERING ELEMENTS

Centennial Park Pavilion, located atop Millsap Mountain in Fayetteville, Arkansas, is an inspirational and energetic sculptural structure that serves as a central gathering point within a cycling-focused city park. Designed with careful consideration of the park's needs, the pavilion not only provides essential amenities such as restrooms but also offers a versatile space for park and event patrons to come together. The pavilion is specifically designed to address the requirements of international bike race events, offering dedicated spaces for awards podiums, race registration, and vendor tent area.

The design is influenced by the rich history of this Northwest Arkansas site as former agricultural land once occupied by chicken houses. The design of the pavilion incorporates elements that pay homage to this past. Sunlight is allowed to filter through open joint cladding, reminiscent of an old barn and adding a sense of agrarian allure to the structure. The pavilion's formal articulation is further enhanced by vertical light wells, which serve as orientation landmarks within the park. These light wells act as monuments for orientation and add a unique visual element to the design. The overall form of the pavilion draws inspiration from the iconic seven hills of Fayetteville, while also proposing Millsap Mountain as part of a new secondary ring of significant hills within the expanded city. This design approach not only reflects the natural topography of the area but also contributes to the park's visual identity and sense of place.

Centennial Park itself is a cycling-activated park that offers exceptional cyclo-cross and mountain biking trails. Situated within a preserved greenspace, the park provides residents with access to trail infrastructure that is unparalleled in the region. With over 50 miles of shared-use paved trails and 40 miles of natural-surface trails, Fayetteville's existing trail network meets well with the exceptional race-quality trails of the park.

Centennial's reputation as a world-class venue is further solidified by its hosting of prestigious events such as the 2022 Cyclocross World Championships, the 2021 Cyclocross World Cup, the USA Cycling Pro Cup Mountain Bike Series, and other renowned races. This demonstrates the park's ability to attract and accommodate high-profile events, making it a focal point for both local and international cycling enthusiasts. Despite its impressive amenities, the park remains open and accessible to the public, free of charge.

The architectural design of the Centennial Park Pavilion provides a recognizable branding element and overall identity to the park when in the international spotlight. It embodies the park's commitment to fostering an active and engaged community, providing a functional and aesthetically pleasing support space that meets the needs of the park and event patrons while still maintaining a harmonious relationship between the architecture and its context. With its thoughtful design, essential amenities, and integration with the park's history and natural features, the pavilion contributes to the overall success of the park as a premier destination for both casual recreational activities and world-class cycling events.



PHOTOGRAPHER TIMOTHY HURSLEY

FIRM:
MODUS STUDIO

CONTRACTOR:
NABHOLZ CORPORATION

LOCATION:
ROGERS, AR

OWNER/CLIENT:
NABHOLZ CORPORATION

PROJECT TEAM:
CHRIS BARIBEAU, AIA
JOSH SIEBERT, ASSOC. AIA
MATT POE, AIA
CHRIS LANKFORD

CONSULTANTS:
CRAFTON TULL
ROBBINS ENGINEERING
CONSULTANTS
CORE STATES GROUP

The architectural design of the Nabholz Office Addition showcases a thoughtful response to the client's needs as a growing construction firm, aiming to create a collaborative and open work environment while highlighting their expertise in cross-laminated timber (CLT) construction. The owner's previous additive process resulted in department segmentation and a decline in collaborative spaces, prompting the desire for a new addition that would bring employees together and showcase their thriving work culture. The architect, selected for their expertise in CLT design and creating collaborative workspaces, engaged a modular interior wall system provider and a CLT company early in the design/build process to ensure budget efficiency and timely project delivery.

The exposed wood structure of the addition exudes warmth and creates inviting spaces, while also reducing the need for excessive paint and enhancing the building's air quality. The use of mass timber also helps to lower carbon footprint, decreases greenhouse gas emissions, promotes the use of sustainably managed forests supporting the local economy and showcasing Arkansas's budding mass timber industry.

The integration of glass office partitions around the perimeter strikes a balance between an open-plan layout and the familiarity of private offices, offering a flexible and adaptable workspace. This accommodates different work styles and preferences, promoting both collaboration and concentration and leading to increased employee satisfaction and overall productivity.

The exterior design of the Nabholz Office Addition features a vertical box-ribbed metal panel system and poured-in-place concrete walls constructed using innovative formwork techniques that reflect the concrete work on the existing facility. This combination of materials and textures contributes to a minimalist aesthetic that pays homage to classic modernism. The sleek and clean lines of the exterior also reflect the professionalism and forward-thinking nature of the client, while the use of concrete and metal imparts a sense of durability, strength, and integrity.

The resulting 7,000-square-foot addition is a testament to the successful collaboration between the architect and their construction partner, resulting in a space that not only addresses the client's needs but also sets a precedent for sustainable and innovative office design. With its focus on cross-laminated timber construction, flexible interior spaces, and minimalist aesthetic, the addition stands as a model for creating dynamic work environments that inspire and promote collaboration.



PHOTOGRAPHER JAD RYHERD

FIRM:
MODUS STUDIO

CONTRACTOR:
BRINKMANN
CONSTRUCTORS

LOCATION:
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

OWNER/CLIENT:
SUBTEXT

PROJECT TEAM:
CHRIS BARIBEAU, AIA
JASON WRIGHT, ASSOC. AIA
AARON SPEAKS, AIA
BLAIR BEGNAUD, ASSOC. AIA
AMANDA BURCHAM
LEANNE BARIBEAU, AIA
JODY VERSER, AIA
CHRIS LANKFORD

CONSULTANTS:
CIVIL DESIGN, INC.
VIEWTECH INC.
SOLUTIONS AEC

Verve is a new 8-story housing community located in the heart of Midtown on the edge of the St. Louis University campus. Designed with modern students in mind, energized social spaces ground the building within a varied historical architectural context. The dense architecture deftly weaves multiple materials together to create an appropriately scaled urban building within a simple, timeless aesthetic.

With students now spending more time in their living spaces than ever, it was crucial that an interior design team was deployed and tasked with creating warm and inviting spaces that maintain the project's overall design intent. The result is a Scandinavian-influenced aesthetic, with wood features complementing a muted color palette, and black and white elements seamlessly carrying the design language from the public to private areas. The neutral palette of the apartment units provides an opportunity for residents to personalize their environment and bring their own style to the spaces.

At the heart of the Midtown neighborhood, Verve St. Louis is a quick walk or bike ride away from St. Louis University and other local amenities. Because of this, interior and exterior bike storage was included to support an active lifestyle for residents. The club area allows residents to find community with their neighbors by grabbing a cup of coffee or enjoying the lounge to watch a big game. The use of materiality such as the wood slat ceiling emphasizes the interior/exterior connection from the club area to the courtyard. The courtyard is where residents are offered a place to play and relax while socializing with peers, encouraging the community to spend time outdoors. The club booths provide small group or individual meeting areas to connect with others or study in a more active environment, while the library provides an alternative space to study, gather, reflect, and enjoy views of Midtown St. Louis by use of expansive openings along the main facade. The design concept promotes community by putting the club amenity areas on full display.

PATTY OPITZ, AIA | DICK SAVAGE AWARD

As the 2023 recipient of the AIA Arkansas Dick Savage Award, one would be hard-pressed to find an individual who has given more to AIA Arkansas than Patty Opitz, AIA. Patty has served on the AIA State Board and Executive Board for 6 continuous years serving in roles as Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Director, and Section Chair. During her short time, she helped create new committees, including being a founding member and chair of the Diversity Committee. She also helped establish the Preservation Committee, the Allied Membership Committee, the Outreach Committee, and the Fellowship Committee. She was also responsible for bringing back the Sustainability Committee after a four-year hiatus. She was instrumental in updating our organization's Mission, Vision & Values statements, and the 2022-2025 Strategic Plan. On top of these achievements, she has sat on all the committees that currently exist for AIA Arkansas. In doing so, she was able to streamline the committee report process and update the policies and procedure manuals to allow our organization to run more efficiently and in line with our National Organization. Along with AIA involvement, Patty also sat on the Architecture and Design Network Board, serving as its Director for several years leading the lecture series for Central Arkansas Beyond architecture, Patty has always had a love for being involved in her community and also served for numerous years for Junior League of Little Rock

As a founding member of the Diversity Committee, Patty championed equity and inclusion before they were national buzzwords. She was responsible for putting together local and statewide annual events, including a retreat during the convention, and establishing a Diversity Award as a part of our chapter awards. AIA Policies and Procedures was modified with Patty's help to include a dedicated Diversity & Inclusion focused speaker held at each yearly AIA AR convention. She has led by example, reaching out to all the minorities represented in our chapter, to allow them to feel represented and heard. When most people just want to talk or pontificate, Patty would rather let her actions speak. She doesn't seek the spotlight but usually shies away from it. She would rather work behind the scenes instead of speaking at a podium, which speaks to her servant's heart and dedication to others.

A graduate from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville in 2004, Patty Opitz is an Associate Principal at Polk Stanley Wilcox Architects. In 2018, Patty was honored with the Young Architect Award from the American Institute of Architects, just one of 22 architects selected from across the country for this prestigious recognition. The annual program recognizes individuals who have demonstrated exceptional leadership and made significant contributions to the architecture profession early in their careers. Since the program's inception, there have only been three other architects from the state of Arkansas who have been honored with this recognition, making Patty the fourth and first female architect from Arkansas to receive this award. Patty is also a recipient of the Arkansas Construction Hall of Fame 2018 Emerging



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Professional Award and the AIA Arkansas 2016 Emerging Professional Award.

Patty exemplifies the servant leadership that is at the heart of the Dick Savage Award. Her contributions have been notable and significant to our Chapter in ways that leave indelible marks that inspire and motivate future generations of leaders of our organization. In 2022, Patty's daughter, Malin, was diagnosed with a rare and aggressive brain tumor, DIPG, and Patty put a pause on AIA and her role on the Executive Board. All of Patty's efforts were not done for herself, but to set an example for her daughter of how valuable community service is and impactful it can be in the lives of others.

ALISON TURNER, AIA | DIVERSITY AWARD

Alison Turner is a Teaching Assistant Professor of Architecture and Director of Community Education for the Fay Jones School of Architecture + Design. As the Director of Community Education, she leads all K-12 design outreach for the School, the largest of which is the summer Design Camp program, but also includes workshops and collaborations with other organizations to promote design education throughout the state of Arkansas. Alison has been focused on educating K-12 students about design since very early in her career and has been teaching summer design camps since 2009. She has also participated in The Women's Foundation of Arkansas Girls of Promise, Razorback Reveal, Scouting University, and EAST Conventions.

As a Teaching Assistant Professor of Architecture, Alison currently teaches the Integrated Design Studio (IDS), Design Studio VI, Environmental Technology I and seminar courses in the themes of regional architecture, environmentally responsive design and site design. Alison is also a practicing architect and is the Principle/Owner of sitio architecture + design whose work includes residential and commercial projects with an emphasis on regional, environmentally responsive, and sustainable architecture.

Alison received her Master of Architecture degree from Parsons School of Design, where she was awarded the Alpha Rho Chi Medal given to the top graduating student, and her Bachelor of Interior Architecture from Kansas State University, where she was the graduation speaker representing Interior Architecture. After graduating from Parsons, Alison spent several years practicing in New York City before moving to Fayetteville, where she continues to practice in addition to teaching and outreach. She is a licensed architect and LEED Accredited Professional.



NATE DEASON, AIA | **EMERGING PROFESSIONALS**

Nate is an Associate Principal at Fort Smith-based MAHG Architecture and is an ardent advocate for the architectural profession in his community, and the state of Arkansas. After graduating from the Hammons School of Architecture at Drury University in Springfield, Missouri, in 2012, Nate settled in Arkansas and quickly landed at MAHG. With encouragement from professional and personal mentors, he soon got involved in AIA Arkansas, starting with developing convention graphics, and eventually grew into various leadership roles at both local and state levels.

He has served AIA Arkansas on the Public Relations Committee, on the Emerging Professionals/Young Architects Committee, as the Program Chair and Section Chair for the Fort Smith Section, as the Assistant Associates Director and Associates Director, as the Featured Speaker Co-Chair in the Membership Engagement Program for both COVID-19 pandemic years, and now serves on the Executive Committee. A few of the significant AIA Arkansas projects Nate has led or helped create include the Year-In-Review, the MERGE Mentorship Program, the foundation of ARE Study Material Caches at each Section, and the upcoming Emerging Professional/Young Architect Friendly Firm Initiative.

In addition to his involvement in AIA Arkansas, Nate has also served on numerous commissions and committees in Fort Smith, was included in the Leadership Fort Smith 2022 Class, the Northwest Arkansas Business Journal's 40 under 40 2023 Class, and volunteers in various ministries at Life.Church Fort Smith.



JONATHAN OPTIZ, AIA | **MICHAEL LEJONG LEADERSHIP AWARD**

This year's recipient of the AIA Arkansas Michael Lejong Leadership Award is Jonathan Opitz, AIA. This was an easy selection for the AIA Arkansas Board because Jonathan shares many of the attributes that made Michael such an outstanding leader and mentor. Like Michael, Jonathan has been involved with AIA on the state, regional, and national levels. Opitz led the AIA Arkansas chapter through their most recent strategic plan update in 2021 as the AIA Arkansas chapter president. Even during his daughter's fight with brain cancer, he still lobbied and fought to make sure other members of AIA Arkansas were recognized for their contributions to the chapter. During the past twelve years, Jonathan has served on the AIA Arkansas board as a section chair, director, and officer. He's also been an active member of various standing committees including public outreach, legislative, financial, sustainability, and emerging professionals. Jonathan has held numerous AIA convention committee positions, including speaker chair, speaker co-chair, architect as artist, design awards chair, and graphics chair. During the last decade, Opitz has held leadership positions in other allied organizations too. He has served as the Architecture and Design Network interim director for three years, president for two years, vice president for one year, speaker chair for four years, and the reception committee for one year. He's also a founding member of studioMain, a board member for seven years, and has been vice president once. When asked why he's been so involved, he said, "I just wanted to make the world a better place for my daughter, to set a good example. I wanted to show her "To whom much is given, much will be required" (Luke 12:48). I'm so grateful for the life I have, both my amazing wife and incredible daughter. Patty and Malin are the reasons I work diligently at philanthropy, I want them to be proud of me, the man that I am." Jonathan is also a generous mentor, always willing to engage in conversations with other architects. He's happy to talk about budgets, design, details, or operations whether it be with an intern or a seasoned architect from another firm. There are several young architects in our chapter that Opitz has sat down with to talk about their business plans, buy-in agreements, or next steps in their career path. Jonathan has created Intern Development and LEED AP study programs. He's hosted high school career days and job shadowing programs. He was a member of the Little Rock Regional Chamber Committee that helped bring the Ford NGL program to Central Arkansas. He's served as a guest critic and juror for several different UofA Fay Jones design studios and helped with several UofA design summer camps. He also participated as a mentor as part of the AIA Arkansas Merge program while he was chapter president in 2021. When asked why he feels the need to do this he responded "I've been very fortunate to have many



mentors in my career, wonderful people who were willing to share information and experiences with me even when they had nothing to gain. Michael Lejong was one of these mentors in AIA. I always appreciated our conversations and how he gently pushed others to do more and strive to make our communities better. I am truly honored to receive this award named after my friend who was an incredible leader. I only wish that my daughter, Malin, was still here to see it. I move forward every day in a way that I hope will make her proud of me."

MICHAEL L. LEJONG, AIA | **FAY JONES GOLD MEDAL**

Michael represented the American Institute of Architects and the architectural profession on many levels throughout his career. From his early involvement in the student chapter to serving in various capacities at local, state, regional and national levels, he took a leading role in the guidance and structure of the AIA organization. His service and leadership led to many professional accomplishments and awards – however building relationships is what Michael did best. Michael developed lasting relationships with every colleague, project team, and community he worked with. He took pride in every project he worked on and served his community well.



2023 | REMAINING PROJECTS



PROJECT: ARKANSAS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL PINE BLUFF CLINIC
FIRM: POLK STANLEY WILCOX ARCHITECTS
CONTRACTOR: CDI CONTRACTORS
LOCATION: PINE BLUFF, AR



PROJECT: ARKANSAS PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION
FIRM: ROARK PERKINS PERRY YELVINGTON
CONTRACTOR: CBM
LOCATION: LITTLE ROCK, AR



PROJECT: CENTERTON CITY HALL
FIRM: MODUS STUDIO
CONTRACTOR: NABHOLZ CORPORATION
LOCATION: CENTERTON, AR



PROJECT: GRIST MILL CABIN
FIRM: MODUS STUDIO
CONTRACTOR: MASWORKS CONSULTING
LOCATION: ROGERS, AR



PROJECT: SHERWOOD RESIDENCE
FIRM: FENNELL PURIFOY ARCHITECTS
CONTRACTOR: JON CALLAHAN CONSTRUCTION
LOCATION: LITTLE ROCK, AR



PROJECT: J.B. AND JOHNELLE HUNT RAZORBACK BASEBALL DEVELOPMENT CENTER
FIRM: WER ARCHITECTS
CONTRACTOR: KINCO CONSTRUCTORS
LOCATION: FAYETTEVILLE,, AR

2023 | REMAINING PROJECTS

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PROJECT: JIM D. ROLLINS SCHOOL OF INNOVATION
FIRM: WDD ARCHITECTS
CONTRACTOR: FLINTCO CONSTRUCTION
LOCATION: SPRINGDALE,, AR



PROJECT: KESSLER MOUNTAIN RESIDENCE
FIRM: JENNINGS + SANTA-RITA ARCHITECTS, PLLC
CONTRACTOR: STRONGHOLD LLC + STRONGHOLD WOODWORKS LLC
LOCATION: FAYETTEVILLE, AR



PROJECT: LITTLE ROCK POLICE DEPARTMENT HQ
FIRM: WDD ARCHITECTS
CONTRACTOR: BALDWIN & SHELL CONSTRUCTION CO.
LOCATION: LITTLE ROCK, AR



PROJECT: NEXT STEP HOMELESS SERVICES
FIRM: MAHG ARCHITECTURE, INC.
CONTRACTOR: N/A
LOCATION: FORT SMITH, AR



PROJECT: OSAGE HOUSE
FIRM: JOHN STARNES, ARCHITECT
CONTRACTOR: N/A
LOCATION: CAVE SPRINGS, AR



PROJECT: POCAHONTAS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
FIRM: BRACKETT-KRENNERICH ARCHITECTS
CONTRACTOR: NABHOLZ CONSTRUCTION
LOCATION: POCAHONTAS, AR

2023 | REMAINING PROJECTS



PROJECT: SEVIER COUNTY MEDICAL CENTER
FIRM: WDD ARCHITECTS
CONTRACTOR: NABHOLZ CONSTRUCTION
LOCATION: DEQUEEN, AR



PROJECT: SKULL CREEK
FIRM: JOHN STARNES, ARCHITECT
CONTRACTOR: GB GROUP
LOCATION: FAYETTEVILLE, AR



PROJECT: SRYGLEY RESIDENCE
FIRM: MARLON BLACKWELL ARCHITECTS
CONTRACTOR: NEAL HEFNER CONSTRUCTION
LOCATION: FAYETTEVILLE, AR



PROJECT: SUCCESS CREDIT UNION
FIRM: BRACKETT-KRENNERICH ARCHITECTS
CONTRACTOR: BAILEY CONTRACTORS, INC.
LOCATION: PARAGOULD, AR



PROJECT: THE HOWARD
FIRM: HUFFT
CONTRACTOR: DAVE GRUNDFEST COMPANY
LOCATION: BENTONVILLE, AR



PROJECT: VAUGHN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
FIRM: HIGHT JACKSON ASSOCIATES
CONTRACTOR: FLINTCO, LLC
LOCATION: BENTONVILLE, AR

2023 | REMAINING PROJECTS

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PROJECT: WINDGATE CENTER FOR THREE DIMENSIONAL ARTS

FIRM: WER ARCHITECTS

CONTRACTOR: CLARK CONTRACTORS

LOCATION: JONESBORO, AR

AIA ARKANSAS

2023

HOT SPRINGS ° OCTOBER 18-20





JOEL BLACKSTOCK, AIA

FOUNDING PARTNER
WILLIAMS BLACKSTOCK ARCHITECTS

Joel Blackstock serves as the CEO and founding partner of Williams Blackstock Architects, a 45-person architectural firm located in Birmingham, Alabama. Graduating from Auburn University with an architectural degree in 1980, he has spent the last 40 years practicing architecture in Birmingham and across the southeast region. He has led the firm's growth and its continual recognition as a forward thinking design firm, acknowledged by the firm's many AIA award-winning projects. Williams Blackstock Architects' services include architecture, interior design, planning, environmental graphics, and historic preservation. The firm's work includes a wide variety of project types including corporate office, multi-family, mixed use, higher education, municipal, healthcare, historic preservation, and adaptive re-use projects.

Joel has a sincere passion and a vested interest in projects that advance and build community, which is reflected in design that is sensitive to the site context and has transformational impact on the surroundings. He also recognizes the ability to build community in the interior design of each project, bringing people together in inspiring spaces that enriches the lives of everyone who experiences the space.

Through his years of practice, he has become known as a visionary, an excellent listener to his client's needs, and a dynamic creator of space through design. Due to his creative, flexible, and innovative approach to project management, Joel has earned a reputation for being a relentless problem solver. He tirelessly pursues the optimal design solution that will create lasting value, making communities and the world a better place. Joel has served as past President of the Alabama Center for Architecture, is active in the AIA and serves on other not-for-profit organization boards in the region.



NOLANDA HATCHER, AIA, NCARB, NOMA

PRINCIPAL
STUDIO 2H DESIGN, LLC

Nolanda has worked in the construction industry since 1990. After serving as a Project Architect for ten years, she organized NHB Group, LLC in 2002. In 2015, NHB Group and Hoskins Architecture merged to form Studio 2H Design, LLC (S2HD). Nolanda demonstrates the ability to conceptualize projects, reduce complexity, and remain consistent in realizing S2HD's vision to "Provide the Client and Community with Design Excellence Beyond Expectation." S2HD's office is located in the historic 4th Avenue District downtown Birmingham, AL.

Nolanda has extensive experience designing churches, educational facilities, healthcare facilities, commercial and municipal buildings, banks, apartments and private residences. She also serves clients by offering construction management and master planning scopes of service. Nolanda possesses the necessary skills to coordinate multiple tasks and manage complex project programming and design. Her expertise in graphics and design helps her team in their efforts to resolve and effectively present design solutions to clients. Nolanda's attention to detail and strong organizational skills play a very important role in S2HD's ability to provide quality design services to an impressive list of clients.

Ms. Hatcher selflessly encourages and mentors others to dream big, set goals and achieve. She strongly believes that her employees are team members that work "with her" and not "for her." She views each employee as their own business entity. Entrepreneurship is very important to Nolanda, not only for herself, but for all who desire to be entrepreneurs.

Nolanda Hatcher is a native of Birmingham, Alabama. She attended the Birmingham and Fairfield Public Schools. After graduating from Fairfield High School, she received her Bachelor of Architecture degree from the University of Notre Dame. She received her Juris Doctor degree from Cumberland School of Law Samford University. After completing law school and returning to practice architecture in 1997.

Nolanda's most proud accomplishment is her role as mother to daughter Jamese Bearden (31) and son Nickolas Bearden (16). She enjoys golfing, cycling, traveling, good food and outings with friends and family.



CHERYL MORGAN, FAIA

EMERITA PROFESSOR
AUBURN UNIVERSITY

Cheryl is a licensed architect and Emerita Professor of Architecture in the School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape Architecture of Auburn University. In thirty years of teaching, she worked with architectural programs at Georgia Institute of Technology, Oklahoma State and California College of Arts and Crafts. For the last 12 years of her teaching career, she was the Director of Auburn's Urban Studio in Birmingham, Alabama. Under Cheryl's leadership, the Urban Studio's Small-Town Design Initiative Program worked with over 100 small towns and neighborhoods in Alabama.

Morgan practiced architecture and urban design in the San Francisco Bay Area. She worked with a number of firms including Environmental Planning and Research, Gensler, and the Gruzen Partnership. Before coming to Auburn in 1992 she was an associate with the Berkeley firm of ELS/Elbasani and Logan. Morgan's professional practice now focuses on urban design, community revitalization and graphic design. She is also an experienced facilitator.

In 2011 she was presented with the Alabama Chapter of the American Planning Association's Distinguished Leadership Award recognizing her as a "Friend of Planning." In 2012 she received one of Auburn University's highest awards for Achievement in Outreach and in 2017 the Alabama State Council on the Arts named Cheryl one of the recipients of their bi-annual Governor's Award.

Cheryl is a member of the Rotary Club of Birmingham and was honored in 2016 with their Spain Hickman Service Award. In 2018 she gave a TEDx talk at TEDx Birmingham titled "Place Matters." She is also active in the AIA's Communities by Design program and has participated in a dozen R/UDATs including DATs in Dublin, Ireland, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and Freetown, Sierra Leone.

She is a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects.

