

A'26 MN

The Minnesota Conference on Architecture

November 9-11, 2026

Renaissance Minneapolis Hotel | The Depot

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**BUILDING FOR THE
NEXT GENERATION**

Make A Gift to the MN Architectural Foundation When You Register!

The Minnesota Architectural Foundation (MAF) empowers the community by funding vital opportunities that educate, inspire, and elevate emerging designers while strengthening the profession. Through its scholarship, fellowship, and grant programs, the MAF invests in architectural students and professionals to drive excellence, encourage discovery, foster equity, and advance leadership in the architectural profession.

When registering, please consider adding a gift to MAF to help build a more vibrant architecture community. Your contribution ensures MAF can expand its meaningful work in the year ahead.

We invite you to [explore current MAF programs and giving initiatives to see how your support directly impacts the community >>](#)

CONFERENCE LOGISTICS

Member Rates

Member rates for registration apply to members of the following organizations: AIA, ACEC, AGC, APA, ASID, ASLA, AWI, BEC, BOMA, CHSA, CMAA, CSI, IALD, IFDA, IFMA, IIDA, IMI, NSPE, NOMA, PMI, SAH, SDA, SLUC, SMPS, ULI, USGBC.

Continuing Education

The A'26 MN Conference on Architecture is an economical and efficient way to meet your continuing education requirements.

LU and HSW credits. Pending AIA approval, programming will provide LU and HSW credits for AIA membership requirements.

PDH and Ethics credits. Based on our review, Conference programs marked as HSW and/or for Ethics will be accepted for these Minnesota CE requirement for licensing. Minnesota license renewals are due June 30, 2028.

GBCI credits. We recognize and thank the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) and the USGBC Minnesota staff team for partnering with us to provide GBCI credits for six of our programs at this year's Conference. GBCI credits are pending approval for the following programs: MO3, M10, M19, T27, W46, and W48.



Welcome Conference attendees!

Last March I joined members of the indispensable Conference Continuing Education Committee to brainstorm topics that would be relevant and of interest to attendees at our annual gathering. Brilliant architectural details, giving old buildings new life, new codes, biomimicry and biophilia, and so on. What really got me excited, however, was the notion of “the Architect of the Future.”

Admittedly, the phrase is cribbed from a lecture series proposal put forward by past AIA Minnesota president **Lee Tollefson, FAIA**, over twenty years ago. As provocative as it sounded back then, it seems prescient now especially as we launch our first year of the Next Gen initiative, grapple with understanding the impacts and benefits of AI, and the pressing need to implement resilient design thinking and practice in everything we do.

With each new class of students at the University of Minnesota, I need to explain that when I got my architectural education back in the (ahem) twentieth century, there were basically two kinds of wall sections. Learn them, and you could go work in any firm. Today, every project, even every side of a building, may have its own customized wall assembly, forcing even veteran detailers to start with a blank page. Ever-evolving energy codes, building modelling software, new materials and shifting cultural practices have done away with the copy/paste approach to architectural practice.

We need conferences like the AIA Minnesota Conference on Architecture because sitting still and relying on old knowledge is a dead end. We are – each of us – all now becoming an architect of the future. That’s why we are all here, to learn from each other, share ideas, and grow our collective expertise together. And while we are at it, if we happen to stroll through the exhibit hall and discover a new widget, run into a former classmate or work colleague in a break-out session, or raise a toast to our teammates for an award-winning project, all the better.

Cheers,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Phillip Koski".

Phillip Koski, AIA
AIA Minnesota President



Conference CE Committee

The Conference CE Committee has eight dedicated members who meet every Friday morning from March through August to plan programming for the AIA Minnesota Conference on Architecture. They are committed to confirming presenters and topics that will provide you with a quality continuing education experience. They review feedback from previous years; brainstorm topics, speakers, and keynote speakers; and review and select from the proposals we receive. We appreciate their dedication and enthusiasm for working together as a team to make this happen. We would welcome you to join us if interested!

Co-chairs

Dantès Ha, AIA
Madelyn Sundberg, AIA

Committee Members

Scott Anderson, AIA
Jim Butler, AIA
Daniel Green, AIA
Cody Loud, Assoc. AIA
Sarah St. Louis, Assoc. AIA
Rachel Usher, AIA, LEED AP

INVEST IN THE MINNESOTA ARCHITECTS POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE (MAPAC) TODAY!

Your investment helps:

AMPLIFY the voice of architects and designers at the Capitol and join your individual voice to the voices of our 2,300+ Minnesota members in advocacy on our issues.

Donations are an important tool to help AIA Minnesota **BUILD** relationships with policymakers before they are needed.

Relationships help **ADVANCE** policy in areas that matter to architects and designers: public funding for buildings and infrastructure, climate change, affordable housing, equity, livable communities, and more.

Relationships help **LEVEL THE PLAYING FIELD** with other interests whose priorities are in opposition to those of the profession who have well-funded PACs.

Every member of the legislature, the governor, and all Minnesota Constitutional officers are on the ballot in 2026. We anticipate as many as 30% of legislative seats to be filled by new faces. We need your dollars to sustain our progress and build relationships with a new legislature in 2027.

[Invest in MAPAC to support our advocacy and priorities in the next legislative session >>](#)

VISIT THE EXHIBIT HALL

Explore our community of industry partners in our two exhibit hall spaces! Check out a wide range of building product and service offerings in both the Pavilion and Great Hall on Tuesday and Wednesday. Grab a box lunch while you explore and join us for fun at the Exhibit Hall Social on Tuesday evening when exhibitors will be distributing drink tickets and other fun swag. And be sure to complete your punch card for a chance to win \$300!

USGBC MINNESOTA



We recognize and thank the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) Minnesota for partnering with us to provide GBCI credits for programs at this year's Conference. GBCI credits are pending approval for the following programs:

M03. Toward Net Zero: Lessons from the Lakewood Welcome Center

M10. Applying Air Leakage Testing Requirements in Minnesota's Commercial Energy Code

M19. Designing with Hemp and Straw in Climate Zone 6: Codes, Details and Performance

T27. Carbon per Experience: Designing Buildings Worth Sustaining

W46. The Changing Landscape of Green Building Guidelines

W48. Let's Decarbonize! A Hands-on Building Decarbonization Workshop

Annual Meeting Tuesday

Come together to hear the latest on how AIA Minnesota is working to serve your needs and support the profession for today and the future. Celebrate the accomplishments of this past year and elect new officers for 2027.

ONLINE REGISTRATION

Simple, speedy, and secure! Online registration features include:

- Instant confirmation of all your chosen programs
- Convenient and secure payment
- Immediate receipt for reimbursement

Register online early! www.aia-mn.org/registration
Early discounted registration ends Monday, October 12!

If you'd prefer to register by mail or email [download the registration form >>](#).

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

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Awards Celebration Sponsors



Hotel Room Discount Ends October 12

Be sure to reserve a room at The Depot for A'26 MN! In addition to the programming, events, and gatherings that occur during the Conference, you can take advantage of all Minneapolis and St. Paul have to offer, including:

- Live music at First Avenue, the Fine Line, the Cedar Cultural Center, and more venues
- Restaurants, walking tours, museums, and more!

Rooms at the AIA Minnesota discounted rate are limited, book your room by October 12 to claim your spot!

[Book a hotel room now >>](#)

NOURISH YOUR BODY AND MIND AT A'26 MN

Coffee will be provided each day for conference attendees.

Lunch is included each day of the Conference for those who register for Lunch sessions (events M13, M14, M15, T34, and W56).

And don't miss the Awards Celebration (M21) and Exhibit Hall Reception (T41) where you can sample light bites and sip a drink while chatting with other members of this wonderful Minnesota architecture community!

RECOGNITION FOR CONFERENCE CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Our thanks to AIA Minnesota Committees and Knowledge Communities who organized the following Conference programs:

- **Architect Licensing Advisory Committee** (T40)
- **Building Codes Knowledge Community** (W45)
- **Committee on Design** (M04, M08, M17, W53)
- **Committee on Equity in the Built Environment** (W63)
- **Women in Architecture Committee** (M06)

Celebrate Minnesota Awards

Celebrate excellence in Minnesota's architecture community at the AIA Minnesota Awards Celebration (M21), featuring a reception and recognition of this year's award winners.

JOIN THE DISCUSSION ONLINE!

Use the hashtag **#A26MN** to connect with other Conference attendees and share what inspires you each day!



LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/company/aia-minnesota](https://www.linkedin.com/company/aia-minnesota)



Facebook: [facebook.com/aia-minnesota](https://www.facebook.com/aia-minnesota)



Instagram: @aiaminnesota

Type	Start	End	Event No. Title		LU's	HSW	Ethics	GBCI
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9								
	8:00 AM	10:00 AM	M01. Structures of Justice: The Ethics of Disability Laws in Architectural Practice	2.0	•	•		
	8:00 AM	10:00 AM	M02. Know Before You Design: Due Diligence for Site Development	2.0				
	8:30 AM	10:00 AM	M03. Toward Net Zero: Lessons from the Lakewood Welcome Center	1.5				1.5
	8:30 AM	10:00 AM	M04. Beyond the Built: Why Speculative Work Matters	1.5				
	8:30 AM	10:00 AM	M05. How Research in Practice Drives Knowledge, Innovation, and Client Value	1.5				
	8:30 AM	10:00 AM	M06. Unlearning to Lead: Rethinking Mentorship & Management in Modern Practice	1.5				
TOUR	10:15 AM	12:00 PM	M07. TOUR: Playwrights' Center	1.0				
KEYNOTE	10:15 AM	11:45 AM	M08. Keynote: Honor Awards Jurors Share Their Work	1.5				
	10:15 AM	11:45 AM	M09. Restitching, Reconnecting, and Revitalizing Downtown Moorhead	1.5	•			
	10:15 AM	11:45 AM	M10. Applying Air Leakage Testing Requirements in MN's Commercial Energy Code	1.5	•			1.5
	10:15 AM	11:45 AM	M11. Leading from the Middle: Collaboration Across the Design Team	1.5				
	10:15 AM	11:45 AM	M12. Glare and Architectural Intent: Metrics, Analysis, and Impact on Early Design	1.5				
	12:00 PM	1:15 PM	M13. AIA Minneapolis Annual Meeting & Lunch					
	12:00 PM	1:15 PM	M14. AIA St. Paul Annual Meeting & Lunch					
	12:00 PM	1:15 PM	M15. AIA Northern Annual Meeting & Lunch					
TOUR	1:30 PM	3:30 PM	M16. TOUR: Mississippi Gateway Regional Park	1.5	•			
	1:30 PM	3:00 PM	M17. COTE Top Ten 2026 - Marion Fire Station No. 1 and Marlboro Music Reich Hall	1.5	•			
	1:30 PM	3:00 PM	M18. Integrating Specifying Best Practices	1.5				
	1:30 PM	3:00 PM	M19. Designing with Hemp and Straw in Climate Zone 6	1.5	•			1.5
	1:30 PM	3:00 PM	M20. The FAIA Legacy Project: New Documentaries	1.5				
	3:00 PM	5:30 PM	M21. Awards Reception & Presentation					
	5:45 PM	7:15 PM	M22. LGBTQ+ Reception					
	5:45 PM	7:15 PM	M23. Small Firm Social					

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10

	8:00 AM	10:00 AM	T24. Minnesota Accessibility Code Upcoming Changes	2.0	•			
	8:00 AM	10:00 AM	T25. Façade Detailing Workshop	2.0	•			
	8:00 AM	10:00 AM	T26. Flying Solo: Build a One-Page Architecture Business Plan	2.0				
	8:30 AM	10:00 AM	T27. Carbon Per Experience: Designing Buildings Worth Sustaining	1.5	•			1.5
	8:45 AM	10:00 AM	T28. Hybrid Mass Timber Design for High-Performance Labs	1.25	•			
KEYNOTE	10:15 AM	11:30 AM	T29. Keynote: The Room After Yours	1.25				
	10:15 AM	11:30 AM	T30. Lifting the Floor, Tightening the Envelope	1.25	•			
	10:15 AM	11:30 AM	T31. From Mission to Roadmap: Regenerative Design in Rural Minnesota	1.25	•			
	10:15 AM	11:30 AM	T32. Solving the Complexity of Simplicity: A Case Study on Tectonic Synergy	1.25	•			
	10:15 AM	11:30 AM	T33. Ethics in War and Displacement: The Church of St Charalambos in Kontea, Cyprus	1.25		•		
EXHIBITS	11:30 AM	1:30 PM	T34. Exhibit Hall & Lunch					
	1:30 PM	3:00 PM	T35. AIA Minnesota Annual Meeting					

Type	Start	End	Event No. Title	LU's	HSW	Ethics	GBCI
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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10 continued

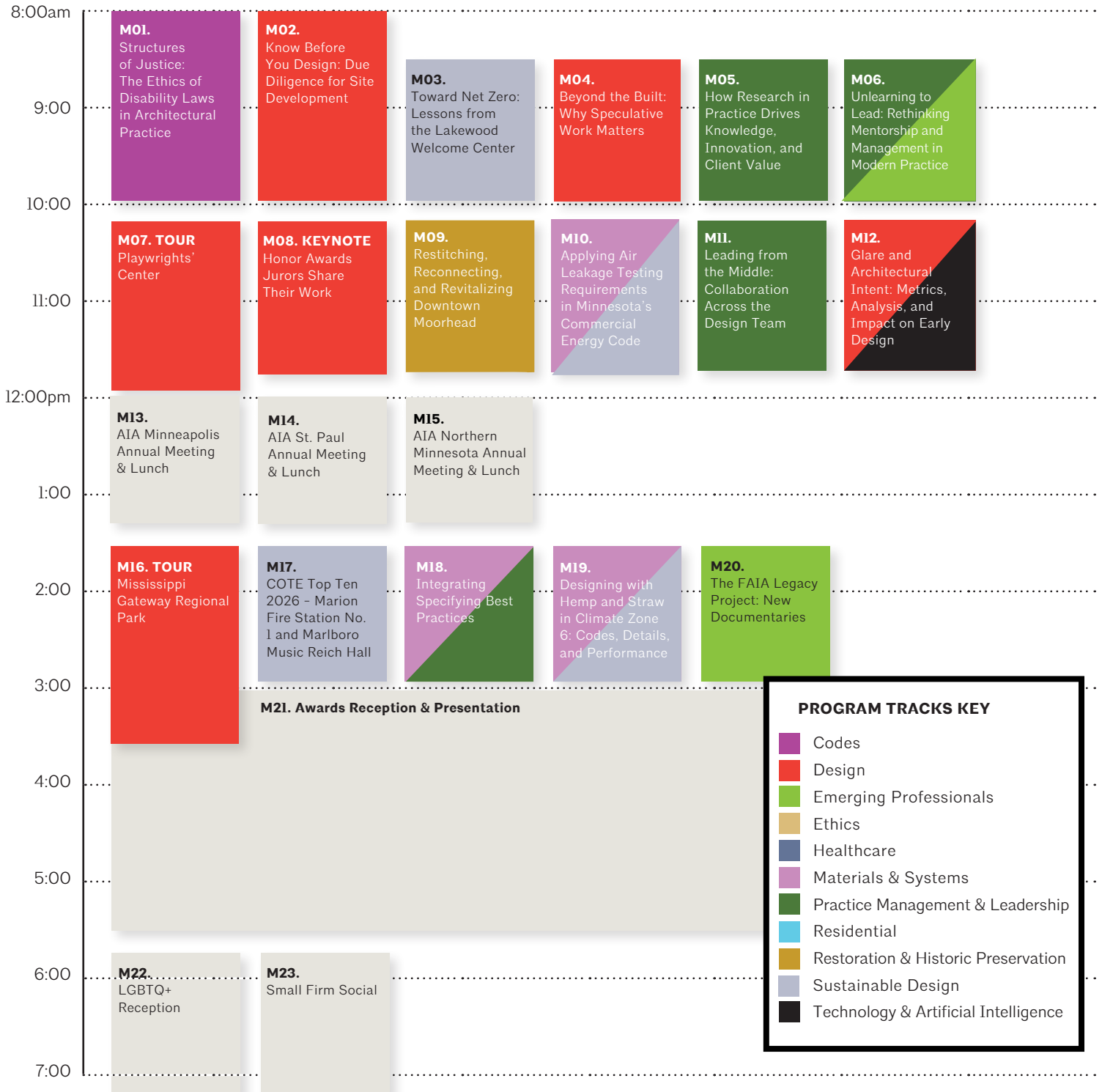
	3:15 PM	4:30 PM	T36. Ethical Considerations from Public Service Architects	1.25		•	
	3:15 PM	4:30 PM	T37. White Oaks Savanna: Designing an Architecture-Driven Development	1.25			
	3:15 PM	4:30 PM	T38. Future-Ready Care: Designing Resilient Onstage/Offstage Models in Healthcare	1.25	•		
	3:15 PM	4:30 PM	T39. Historic Tax Credits "101"	1.25			
	3:15 PM	4:30 PM	T40. ARE 101: Personal Experiences from Start to Finish	1.25			
EXHIBITS	4:30 PM	6:00 PM	T41. Exhibit Hall Reception				
	6:00 PM	7:30 PM	T42. Next Gen Reception				
	6:30 PM	7:30 PM	T43. ArchiTrivia Night				
	6:30 PM	7:30 PM	T44. What Were They Thinking	1.0			

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11

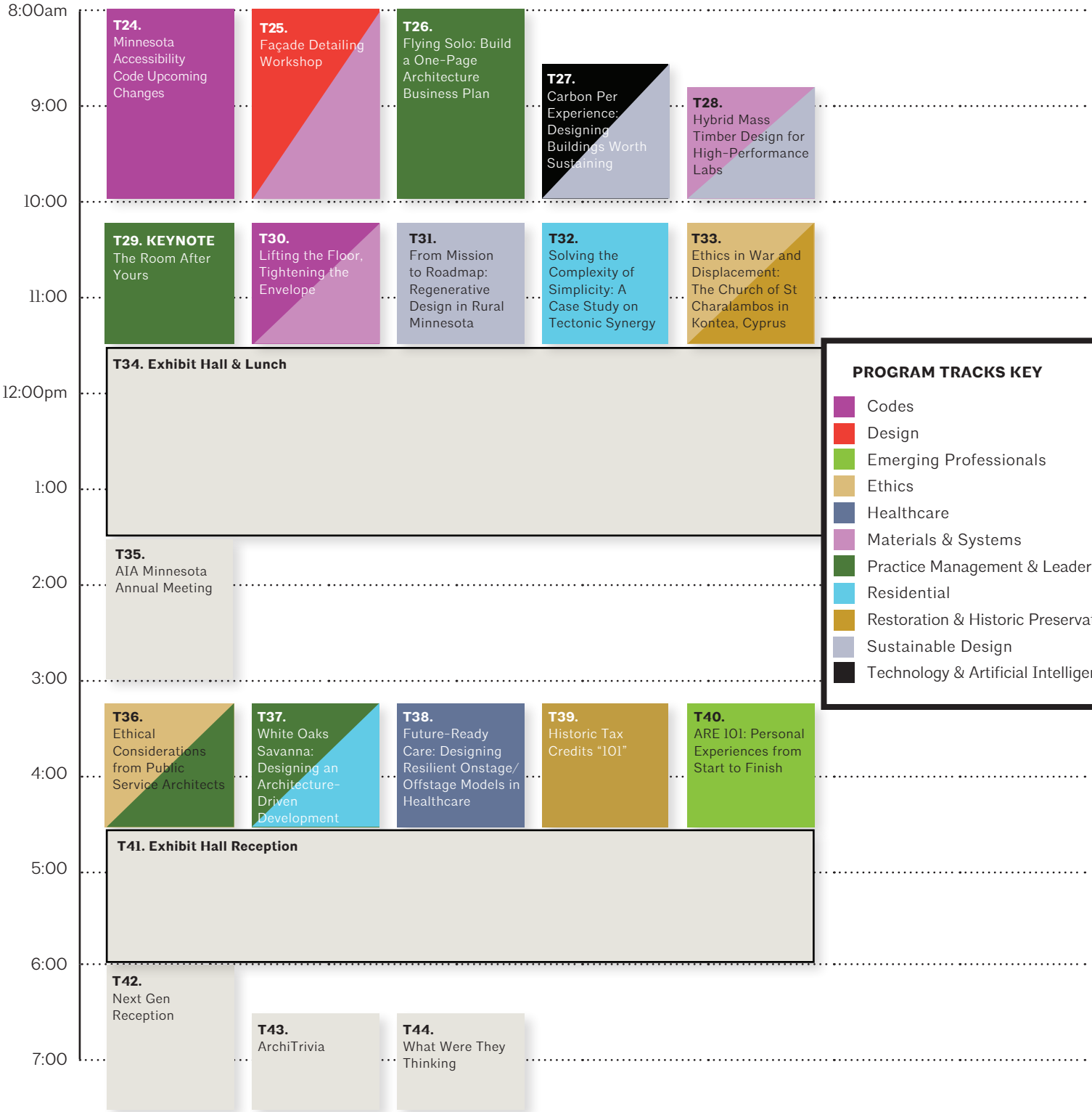
	8:00 AM	9:30 AM	W45. How to use the Minnesota Conservation Code	1.5	•		
	8:00 AM	9:30 AM	W46. The Changing Landscape of Green Building Guidelines	1.5	•		1.5
	8:00 AM	9:30 AM	W47. Park Design & Climate Action Frameworks for Improved Environmental and Community Resiliency	1.5	•		
	8:00 AM	9:30 AM	W48. Let's Decarbonize! A Hands-on Building Decarbonization Workshop	1.5			1.5
	8:15 AM	9:30 AM	W49. Post-Renovation Evaluation: 15 years of Neighborhood and Spiritual Influence	1.25	•		
EXHIBITS	9:30 AM	10:45 AM	W50. Exhibit Hall & Coffee				
	10:45 AM	12:15 PM	W51. Energy Code Compliance: What Might be Missing in Your Contract Documents	1.5	•		
	10:45 AM	12:15 PM	W52. Negotiating Access: Value Judgments About Disability in Historic Buildings	1.5	•	•	
	10:45 AM	12:15 PM	W53. 2+2: Design for Equitable Communities	1.5			
	10:45 AM	12:15 PM	W54. Aligning Care, Brand, and the Built Environment at Children's Minnesota	1.5			
	10:45 AM	12:15 PM	W55. Building a Future for a More Equitable Profession	1.5			
EXHIBITS	12:15 PM	2:30 PM	W56. Exhibit Hall & Lunch				
	12:30 PM	1:30 PM	W57. Fellows Lunch				
TOUR	1:30 PM	3:00 PM	W58. TOUR: McKnight Foundation	1.0			
	2:30 PM	4:00 PM	W59. Ethics and Uses of AI as an Ordinary Architect	1.5	•	•	
	2:30 PM	4:00 PM	W60. Rezoning, Reuse, and Affordability: Building Sanctuary Lofts	1.5	•		
	2:30 PM	4:00 PM	W61. Canopy to Concept: Protect and Integrate Existing Trees into Site Design	1.5			
	2:30 PM	4:00 PM	W62. Market Smarter, Not Louder: Authentic Marketing Lessons from Small Firms	1.5			
TOUR	2:30 PM	4:00 PM	W63. TOUR: Equitable Skyways	1.0	•		
KEYNOTE	4:15 PM	5:30 PM	W64. Keynote: From Emerging to Enduring	1.25			
	4:15 PM	5:30 PM	W65. Beyond Code: Designing Buildings for a Changing Climate	1.25	•		
	4:15 PM	5:30 PM	W66. The Future of Predictive Compliance in Healthcare Facilities	1.25	•		
	4:15 PM	5:30 PM	W67. Leveraging Architecture: Design Professionals Who Became Real Estate Developers	1.25			

SCHEDULE & PROGRAM TRACKS

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9



TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10

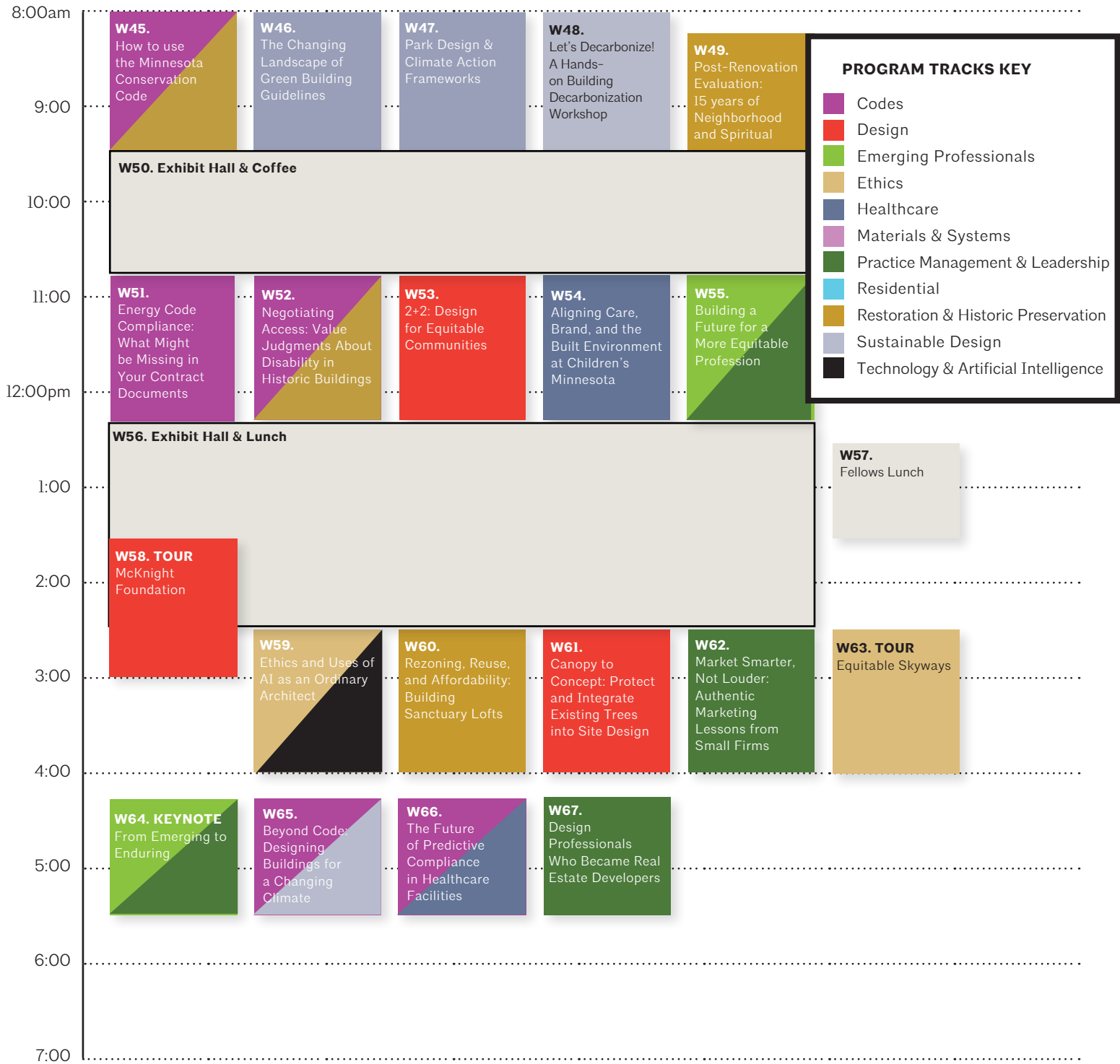


PROGRAM TRACKS KEY

- Codes
- Design
- Emerging Professionals
- Ethics
- Healthcare
- Materials & Systems
- Practice Management & Leadership
- Residential
- Restoration & Historic Preservation
- Sustainable Design
- Technology & Artificial Intelligence

SCHEDULE & PROGRAM TRACKS

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11





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8:00-10:00 AM

M01.**Structures of Justice: The Ethics of Disability Laws in Architectural Practice**

2.0 LUs | HSW | Ethics | Audience: Intermediate

As architects, we know that accessibility codes apply to our projects, but many do not realize that several state and federal disability-related laws also apply to us as employees, employers, architectural firms, and on behalf of our clients. The structure of these laws significantly impacts how we approach projects, hire team members, handle accommodations, avoid costly lawsuits, and address the ethical considerations required to foster inclusion within our firms, projects, and communities.

In this session you will learn from seasoned professionals in the world of disability rights and laws to learn about these laws, how they apply, and how to analyze liability and risk in the architectural profession.



Heather Kainz, J.D., is a graduate of Mitchell Hamline School of Law and practices law at Scheller Legal Solutions LLC. Previously, she clerked at the Minnesota Disability Law Center, helping people with disabilities understand their rights and seek justice. Heather is appointed

chair of the Minnesota Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities, serves as chair of the Public Policy Committee of the Council, and serves as the Council's delegate with the Minnesota Disability Law Center as well as the Institute on Community Integration. Heather's interest in and passion for disability law developed after her experiences parenting a child who is living with profound disabilities.



Justin Page is an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the District of Minnesota. Justin investigates civil rights complaints that are filed with the U.S. Attorney's Office, including complaints alleging violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Fair Housing Act, and the Civil Rights Act.

Prior to joining the U.S. Attorney's Office, Justin was a supervising attorney at Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid/Minnesota Disability Law Center (MDLC) where he supervised MDLC's voting rights work and outreach team. In addition, Justin litigated disability discrimination cases in state and federal court. Justin started his legal career as a judicial law clerk to the Honorable Pamela Alexander in the State of Minnesota's Fourth Judicial District. He graduated from the University of Iowa College of Law. Before attending law school, Justin was a legislative staffer to the late U.S. Senator Paul Wellstone in Washington D.C.



Sarah St. Louis, Assoc. AIA, ADAC, AS-MN

is a certified ADA Coordinator, licensed accessibility specialist, a project manager for MG2, and has been in various roles in the architectural profession for more than 20 years.

Sarah helped author the 2023 bill in Minnesota to get adult-sized changing tables in public restrooms and was on the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry's Technical Advisory Group to write the most comprehensive building code in the nation for these tables. She has worked with the Minnesota State Fair, cities, nonprofits, and other entities to educate the need for and get the adult-sized changing tables in more public restrooms.

M02.**Know Before You Design: Due Diligence for Site Development**

2.0 LUs | Audience: Entry, Intermediate, Advanced

Conducting a comprehensive site due diligence review involves a multitude of tools. Panelists will review each of these tools and demonstrate how they work together to eliminate uncertainty and prepare your project for success.

An ALTA survey is a detailed survey required for many real estate transactions that meet nationwide standards. It maps boundaries, existing improvements, and potential issues such as encroachments, easements, and utility locations. Environmental studies include a wide variety of types, from simple Phase I reviews to comprehensive EAWs and EISs. The panel will review the scope of each and discuss the most appropriate for each project. Reviewing the zoning for a project is key in beginning the entitlement process. The session will cover the steps and best practices for planning your site. Utility serviceability and floodplain research are both key components in determining the constructability of your project.

Panelists will also explore the available tools to ensure your project is served and is safe from flooding and additional insurance. GIS tools can provide a quick, efficient summary of many of the topics discussed above. The session will showcase studies of how these tools can bring together a comprehensive view of all the due diligence components.



Luke Henderson is a GIS Developer with more than six years of experience in spatial data and mapping. As a member of Moore Engineering's GIS team, he supports civil engineering projects by developing geospatial solutions and applications. His technical expertise includes

Python development, web development, and web GIS. Outside of work, Luke enjoys drone photography and working on cars.

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8:00-10:00 AM

M02. *continued*



Lucas Mueller is a certified arborist with a robust environmental background. He combines a deep commitment to ecological integrity with a strong focus on delivering results for private developers. He excels in wetland mitigation, permitting, wetland restoration, and site development, helping clients navigate complex regulatory landscapes to achieve sustainable, high-value outcomes. Lucas's expertise ensures that private development projects are not only compliant with environmental regulations but also optimized for long-term ecological and financial success. He is dedicated to bridging the gap between environmental stewardship and private land use planning, helping developers create projects that balance growth with sustainability.



Tara Ostendorf has over a decade of experience working with local governments and landowners to promote conservation and water quality. She has extensive experience in addressing land management issues and achieving conservation goals. Her work with central Minnesota watershed districts and the Board of Water & Soil Resources has given her valuable insight into regulatory processes, funding mechanisms, and government partnerships.



Alex Thiel has over 26 years of consulting experience as an surveyor, CADD drafter, engineering designer, project manager and survey group leader. He serves as a client manager and project manager to help lead clients through complex projects. Alex works

with a mix of private and public sector clients. His clients appreciate his commitment to customer service and his excellent communication skills. Alex enjoys helping clients identify the best way to address a project or problem and then provides strategic input to help them move forward to the desired successful outcome.



(Moderator) **Jason McCarty** is the land and site development sector leader at Moore Engineering, Inc., where he brings three decades of experience in civil engineering, land development, and strategic business leadership. Jason spent 23 years with Westwood Professional Services,

where he served in several leadership positions, including vice president, land division leader, Minneapolis office leader, and board of directors member. Jason's professional foundation was built through hands-on project management and civil engineering, supporting thousands of residential units across the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area. Jason is recognized for helping organizations grow strategically while delivering practical, high-quality solutions for land and site development challenges.

8:30-10:00 AM

M03.

Toward Net Zero: Lessons from the Lakewood Welcome Center

1.5 LUs | 1.5 GBCI | Audience: Intermediate

Sponsored by [Emanuelson-Podas](#)

The path to net-zero energy is ongoing and highly collaborative. This session brings together the interdisciplinary team behind the Lakewood Welcome Center to share the realities of pursuing high performance in use. After outlining the owner's mission, zero energy goals, and early energy modeling, the discussion centers on the two-year journey following substantial completion.

Framed as an ongoing process of investigation and discovery, panelists will reflect on the iterative work of scrutinizing live building performance data to inform opportunities to increase building energy optimization. Through operational adjustments, prioritized strategies, and cost-informed decisions, the team began to close the gap between modeled and measured performance, particularly within mechanical systems, while continuing to address plug loads and on-site renewables.

Equally important, the session highlights the owner's role in establishing policies, balancing user needs, and sustaining long-term performance. Beyond data, the conversation emphasizes the value of direct observation and intervention as critical tools for ongoing energy optimization.

Participants will gain practical lessons for architects, owners, and consultants committed to advancing net-zero energy in practice.



Benjamin Bahr, PE, is a mechanical engineer and director of sustainability at Emanuelson-Podas and brings more than a decade of experience in mechanical engineering and building energy modeling. A LEED-accredited professional and one of Minnesota's first

BEMP-certified engineers, Ben leads the firm's energy modeling practice and specializes in high-performance, energy-conscious design across a wide range of sectors. He is widely recognized for his expertise in energy codes, sustainability programs, and net zero strategies, and regularly presents on building performance and energy compliance topics throughout the industry.

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8:30-10:00 AM

M03. continued

Nic Holzhauer is a project manager with JE Dunn Construction, recognized for delivering clients' strategic visions across a diverse portfolio of projects. His experience spans small-scale renovations and complex, multi-phase new construction across the healthcare, government, historic, religious, retail, and tenant improvement sectors. With more than a decade of experience delivering projects nationwide, Nic has led numerous award-winning efforts characterized by strong collaboration and thoughtful execution. He remains actively engaged in the professional community through his involvement with the St. Paul Chamber of Commerce and local volunteer initiatives.



Justin Wang, AIA, NOMA's interest in architecture stems from a passion to learn about the wide range of topics and fields touched by design. He views his work as a lens through which to engage the culture, time, and place of each project and client. His approach to design is to pursue the ways in which design concept, human relationships, construction detail, and architectural performance will strengthen and reinforce one another. Justin enjoys the process of developing a project from pre-design to completion, seeking out unique opportunities and challenges presented at each stage.



Alex Carlson has over 15 years of experience in communication, public affairs, team management, business development, website management, social media strategy, public speaking, and more. Attention to detail, openness, humor, and clarity are all important to Alex.



(Moderator) **Karen Lu, FAIA, NOMA** has commitment to design excellence that includes the responsible stewardship of resources and long-term community impact. Her work is grounded in building meaningful relationships and making strategic connections, shaping integrated design solutions that successfully synthesize multiple contexts, diverse perspectives, and rigorous attention to detail. This approach enables her to guide projects toward clear, thoughtful outcomes that respond to client goals while creating lasting value for communities. She is an active advocate for equity in the built environment and the profession.

M04.**Beyond the Built: Why Speculative Work Matters**

1.5 LUs Audience: Entry, Intermediate, Advanced

Architecture is shaped not only by the buildings that reach construction, but also by the ideas, competitions, speculative proposals, and unrealized visions that influence the culture, practice, and future of the profession. This session explores the role of unbuilt work as a critical but often overlooked dimension of architectural discourse and professional development.

Through a moderated panel discussion grounded in historical precedent and contemporary practice, participants will examine how unbuilt architecture supports many of the priorities identified by AIA Minnesota, including emerging professional development, mentorship across generations, future-ready practice, research, innovation, equity in the profession, and design excellence. The discussion will consider how speculative and unbuilt work can create space for experimentation, amplify new and underrepresented voices, advance sustainable and resilient thinking, and broaden access to architectural authorship beyond the constraints of conventional project delivery.

Panelists will discuss the cultural and professional value of competitions, conceptual projects, research initiatives, and exploratory design work, while also addressing how institutions, firms, and professional organizations might better recognize and support these contributions. The session aims to position unbuilt architecture not as architecture that "failed" to be realized, but as an essential part of how the discipline evolves, communicates ideas, and imagines new futures.



Michael Friebele, Assoc. AIA, is an associate principal with Perkins Eastman and a co-chair of the AIA Minnesota Committee on Design. At Perkins Eastman, his work focuses on connections, from physical to historical, as a means of informing performance-driven and client/community-centered design. His work explores a diverse range of types and scales, from sports-anchored mixed-use districts to projects that benefit community health and outreach. Friebele is also a writer who has contributed to regional and national design publications.

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8:30-10:00 AM

M04. *continued*



Isaiah McDaniel, AIA, an architect with SALA Architects, won the 2026 Ralph Rapson Traveling Study Award. With his travel award, Isaiah will explore parts of Eastern Europe to study and document architectural and cultural responses to seasonality through walking

transects through cities and conversations with local architects. By visiting and revisiting cities like Prague and Vienna at both the height of summer and depths of winter, he hopes to draw out lessons and parallels to life and design in Minnesota.



Jennifer Yoos, FAIA, practiced architecture both independently and with firms in Minneapolis and London prior to joining VJAA as a design principal in 1997. She was awarded a Loeb Fellowship in Urban and Environmental Studies at Harvard's Graduate School of Design in 2002

and inducted into the AIA College of Fellows in 2013 in the category of design.



(Moderator) **Michael Hara, AIA**, is an architect, designer, and maker based in the Twin Cities and currently practicing at HGA. His work spans architecture, fabrication, furniture, and product design, with a particular interest in the relationship between craft, technology, history

and human experience. In addition to practice, he regularly speaks on design, creativity, fabrication, and emerging technologies within the architectural profession.

M05.

How Research in Practice Drives Knowledge, Innovation, and Client Value

1.5 LUs Audience: Intermediate

This session traces the full arc of the research-to-practice-to-knowledge loop — from structured inquiry inside firms, to knowledge capture and reuse, to professional dissemination through publications, conferences, and peer networks.

A moderated panel featuring practitioners from firms of different sizes and a university applied research program examines how research conducted in practice generates measurable value for clients, advances the careers of the professionals doing the work, and contributes to the evolution of the profession itself.

Panelists will share honest accounts of how research gets initiated, resourced, and institutionalized inside their firms, where knowledge capture succeeds and where it breaks down, and how findings move from internal use to broader professional contribution.

The session reframes research not as an academic exercise or a large-firm luxury, but as a scalable strategic tool available to practices of any size. Attendees will leave with a better understanding for assessing their firm's research capacity, practical strategies for connecting inquiry to innovation and client outcomes, and actionable pathways for contributing what they learn back to the professional community.



Molly Dalsin, AIA, is a practicing architect, researcher, and educator based in Minneapolis, and founder of Mesh Architecture. Her firm engages in built and speculative work focused on social space and equitable housing typologies.

Drawing on her involvement with the Urban Land Institute's real estate diversity initiative, Molly advocates for alternative financial models and equitable urban policy in development. At the University of Minnesota, she teaches design studios across undergraduate and graduate programs and serves as interim co-director of the MS in Applied Research Practices — bridging design, research, and professional practice.



Amy Keller Frye is Cuningham's national research director, leading the firm's cross-disciplinary research strategy, aligning growth priorities and emerging trends to enhance client value across market sectors. With over 20 years of experience at the intersection of strategy,

research, and design, she integrates human-centered insights into transformative design outcomes. A recognized thought leader, Amy's evidence-based work advances innovation through field studies, stakeholder engagement, and data-driven approaches to understanding people and place.



Christopher Wingate, AIA, is a registered architect and senior associate with MSR Design. Chris is passionate about developing and applying a design-centric approach to sustainability grounded in clarity of concept, design rigor, and inspiring visualization. He

oversees student research with the University of Minnesota where he is also an adjunct faculty member teaching sustainable design and applied research. A certified passive house consultant and LEED accredited professional, Chris gives numerous talks for AIA and the USGBC focused on integrating analysis and research into the design process. *Metropolis Magazine* recognized Chris for his contributions to sustainable design with the 2023 Planet Positive Rising Star Award.



(Moderator) **Stefnee Trzpuc** is the found and CEO of Flow Theory, and has spent her career at the crossroads of design research, knowledge management, and architectural practice. For more than two decades, she developed a rare fluency in how design organizations think, learn,

and grow. She led design research initiatives, built knowledge management programs from the ground up, and oversaw the systems that keep complex practices running. Today, she brings that experience to AEC firms ready to turn what they know into a lasting competitive advantage.

8:30-10:00 AM

M06.

Unlearning to Lead: Rethinking Mentorship and Management in Modern Practice

1.5 LUs Audience: Entry, Intermediate, Advanced

AI bots are only as good as the data they are trained on. Architecture has always had a training model. Some of it makes us excellent; some of it may be limiting how we learn, lead, and collaborate. Alongside the explicit curriculum, we absorb implicit lessons that impact culture, such as: scarcity and competition, critique over dialogue, the solo design genius. Current firm leaders were often trained through proximity apprenticeship. Recent graduates are often learning through screen shares, channel chats, and limited timeslots.

What aspects of the architecture profession and culture have you been consciously and unconsciously trained on that are limiting collaboration and individual growth in the practice?

Four panelists at different career stages will examine beliefs they intentionally unlearned and how teams move from inherited patterns to intentional ones: feedback as coaching, shared authorship, psychological safety, and mentorship as an ecosystem. After the panel, table group discussions (hosted by the Women in Architecture, Emerging Professionals, and Next Gen committees) will close with one insight, one tension, and one action to bring to your practice.



Nathan Davies, Assoc. AIA, NOMA, a graduate of the UMN's Master of Architecture program, is a rising architectural designer currently practicing at Perkins&Will. He served as president of the National Organization of Minority Architecture Students (NOMAS)

Chapter at the University of Minnesota and is now co-chair of the AIA Minnesota NextGen Initiative. He is also the AIA state/territory associate representative on the AIA Minnesota board of directors. He continues to work directly with new designers as an adjunct instructor at the University of Minnesota, where he has taught graduate and undergraduate studio courses.



Anna Pravinata, AIA, NOMA, LEED AP is a principal and design leader at Alliance who brings a strong perspective to early design efforts, helping clients explore how design can support long-term institutional goals. Anna co-leads Alliance's academic studio and

continues to deepen her expertise through design research and speaking at conferences. As a female architect of color, Anna champions equity by building project teams of diverse professionals. Anna currently sits on the board of directors for the Minnesota Architectural Foundation. She was AIA

Minnesota President in 2021 and has served in numerous capacities for the Culture Change Initiative efforts for AIA Minnesota.



Ashley Vanden Bosch, AIA, NCARB is an architect and project manager at PKA Architecture, a Minneapolis-based single-family residential and boutique commercial architecture firm. Ashley also participates in and has guided the development of the firm's mentorship

program and participates in community outreach. Driven by her passion for deep community connections, advocacy, and professional growth, Ashley is actively engaged in numerous AIA committees and projects including the Next Gen Initiative and Custom Residential Architect's Network and is proud to have been a contributing member on AIA Minnesota's Licensing Pathways Task Force and AIA St. Paul's Mentorship Task Force.



Ann Voda, AIA, LEED AP BD+C is a principal architect and associate at Miller Dunwiddie. Previously, as president and principal owner of BTR, Ann led the planning and design of libraries, education facilities, community parks and performance facilities. Ann's experience and

career-long interest has been in inclusive design practices for positive change that ready clients and organizations for the future. Ann was awarded the 2024 AIA Minnesota Gold Medal recognizing her contributions to architecture and leadership within the profession.



(Moderator) **Krista Nebraska, AIA, LEED AP BD+C** has always had an interest in public-serving buildings. She is a project architect with Hennepin County Facility Services design and construction team. In the owner's role, she enjoys collaborating with design teams and

contractors on health projects. Her previous private sector work included federal government, higher education, and religious buildings. She has degrees from University of Cincinnati and University of Minnesota and lives in Afton with her husband and three sons.



(Moderator) **Angela Varpness, AIA, NCARB, LEED Green Associate, LFA** is a senior project manager and associate principal at Perkins&Will, focusing on the commercial, cultural, and civic practices. Committed to collaboration, Angie focuses on delivering beautiful, functional, and

high-performing spaces that align with client needs. Outside of the studio, she leads a household of three children – her most candid design review panel. Currently, Angie is co-chair of the AIA Minnesota Women in Architecture committee as well as a member of the MSP chapter of BS (Building Science) + Beer.

10:15–12:00 PM

M07. Capacity 25**TOUR: Playwrights' Center New Home in St. Paul's Creative Enterprise Zone**

1.0 LUs Audience: Entry, Intermediate, Advanced:

This tour has an additional fee and will depart from The Depot.

The Playwrights' Center, founded in 1971 by six writers seeking artistic and professional support, has grown into a leading theater organization that supports

playwrights and advances new plays to production at theaters across the country. In 2025, the Center moved into a welcoming, accessible home with space for more than 40 playwriting fellows to work; space for new partnerships, classes, and events; and room to dream and grow. The adaptive reuse renovation transforms a warehouse assembled over three eras — 1913, the 1950s, and the 1990s — with a central new addition that connects the building into a cohesive center for artists. As a B3 Small Buildings Path project, the design prioritizes accessibility, equity, and natural light.

Paul Whitaker is a partner at Schuler Shook. His experience spans theatre consulting, education, and theatrical lighting design for theatre and opera. He continues to work as a theatrical designer off-Broadway, regionally, and internationally, as well as teaching Theatrical Design at Amherst College and California State Polytechnic Institute, Pomona. A Latino and citizen of the Cherokee Nation, Paul is a founding member of Schuler Shook's diversity, equity, inclusion, and culture (DEIC) committee and has presented at national conferences on topics including all-gender accommodations and accessibility in performing arts venues; he is both LEED Accredited and WELL Accredited.

Emily Matthees joined the Playwrights' Center team in March 2019 and serves as director of administration. She has been engaged with the project since the start of her tenure, consistently advocating for user groups and supporting program operations throughout planning and implementation. Emily holds a BFA in Arts Administration and a BFA in Theatre with an emphasis in stage management from Viterbo University.

Beth Kalin, AIA, was the project architect for the Playwrights' Center, and thrives on coordination at every scale, from big-picture systems to intricate details on complex projects, guiding the team from early design through final completion while maintaining a high level of quality. She has worked across arts, higher education, and corporate projects, bringing clear communication and steady leadership to diverse teams and clients. Beth received her Professional Bachelor of Architecture from Illinois Institute of Technology and holds a Master in Sustainable Design Science from the University of Sydney, which informs her work with a broad, global perspective on environmental and social responsibility in design.

M08.**Keynote: Honor Awards Jurors Share Their Work**

1.5 LUs Audience: Entry, Intermediate, Advanced:

Featured in this program are the three nationally recognized architects who juried the 2026 AIA Minnesota Honor Awards. Each will speak about their practice and approaches to their work through a presentation of their leading projects.



Gregory Ibañez, FAIA, is a principal at Ibañez Shaw Architecture in Fort Worth, Texas. In an era of increasing professional specialization, he practices architecture as a generalist. His widely recognized projects, ranging from residential to the performing arts, reflect an approach rooted in the modernist ethos and characterized by formal restraint,

inventive detailing, and a reverence for the human experience. Gregory has served on the boards of the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, Docomomo NTX, and the Texas Architectural Foundation.



Paul Lewis, FAIA, is a principal at LTL Architects in New York City and professor at Princeton University. LTL has received a National Design Award and the AIA New York State Firm Award, and it was inducted into the Interior Design Hall of Fame. Their current research is on plant-based materials. LTL Architects has

authored three LTL monographs, *Manual of Biogenic House Sections*, and *Manual of Section*. Paul is a past president of the Architectural League of New York and a Fellow of the American Academy in Rome.



Angela Watson, FAIA, is president and CEO of Shepley Bulfinch, an architecture and design firm with studios across the U.S. She advocates for communication as the foundation of understanding clients, communities, and stakeholders, grounding practice in research to create spaces that positively impact

people and their environments. Through post-occupancy research and studies on light and well-being, Angela explores how space shapes human behavior. She serves on the University of Arizona's CAPLA Futures Council and the Texas A&M College of Architecture Dean's Advisory Board.

10:15–11:45 AM

M09.

Restitching, Reconnecting, and Revitalizing Downtown Moorhead

1.5 LUs HSW Audience: Entry, Intermediate, Advanced

The Loop, Moorhead's new Community Center and Public Library, sits at the heart of the city's revitalizing downtown. The seventeen-acre site — long shaped by multiple layers of development over several decades — was most recently home to parking lots and a single-story shopping mall. It is now transforming into a connected, healthy neighborhood that restores links to the Red River and strengthens Moorhead's core. Rooted in long-term community sustainability, the project serves as a catalyst for surrounding redevelopment.

Presenters will share how a decade of community engagement, collaborative partnerships, and bold reimagining activated this dynamic change. Participants will explore Moorhead's evolution from the urban renewal era of the 1960s and 70s to today's vision of reconnecting streets, activating edges, and softening corners. Through strategic partnerships, the City reviewed more than 1,700 property abstracts and resolved title issues, allowing the former Moorhead Center Mall site — and the many histories beneath it — to be re-envisioned for future generations.

The session will also highlight the design of The Loop, featuring its "all under one roof" concept that blends library services with community amenities, including The Spark Center for Entrepreneurship, flexible community rooms, indoor play areas, and a suspended one-eighth-mile walking loop.



Manuel Castaneda, AIA, is an architect with the Miller Hull Partnership, who works on a broad range of project types and scales. Past projects range from infrastructural to political, regional to international, and projects that contain complex programs that consider context, environment and community. Manuel's enthusiasm for the field carries outside of project work including AIA committees, design review programs and speaking engagements.



Kristie Leshovsky is the community development director for the City of Moorhead where she has spent the past two decades happily immersed in neighborhood development, parks and trails planning, and guiding construction and infrastructure. She has a

Bachelor's degree in environmental science and a Master's degree in urban and regional studies from Minnesota State University–Mankato. Kristie has helped shape some of Moorhead's most beloved spaces — from the winding River Corridor Trail to the new library and community center. She has

a fondness for untangling complicated development issues and enjoys turning big questions into community-centered solutions.



Rob Remark, AIA, was born and raised in Moorhead and was continuously inspired by his local community while designing the Moorhead Public Library. Rob is an outgoing leader at JLG Architects, and he is energized by helping communities envision their dreams and set their projects up for success. Rob tenaciously worked alongside the community to bring the vibrant vision of downtown Moorhead into reality. The Loop represents a vibrant future for Moorhead, and the library is a hub for the community to come together, play, learn, find new inspiration, and stay active year-round.



(Moderator) **Doug Bergert, AIA**, is a member of the AIA Minnesota Committee on the Environment and has served as co-chair of the AIA Minnesota Committee on Design. At JLG Architects, with the well-being of future generations in mind, Doug cultivates integrative

design processes to create meaningful and sustainable environments for his clients. An AIA Minnesota Young Architects Award winner, he has taught at Pratt Institute and the UMN School of Architecture where he was a professor in practice.

M10.

Applying Air Leakage Testing Requirements in Minnesota's Commercial Energy Code

1.5 LUs HSW 1.5 GBCI Audience: Entry, Intermediate

Minnesota's commercial energy code requires air leakage testing or continuous air barrier verification for most projects, but requirements can be difficult to navigate and successfully apply in practice. Air leakage testing and verification can significantly improve building envelope performance, but without proper implementation during design and construction, these benefits can be lost.

This panel brings together code experts, design professionals, and building science practitioners to demystify what is required, outline available pathways to achieve code compliance, and share lessons learned from real-world projects in Minnesota.

Attendees will walk away with a foundational understanding of air leakage testing requirements in the commercial energy code and practical strategies to coordinate testing and verification activities across project teams, document compliance effectively on construction documents, and communicate the benefits of testing and verification to building owners.

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10:15–11:45 AM

MIO. continued

Chris Bubser, AIA, is a senior technical architect at LHB, with a focus on design process, construction contract administration, facility condition assessments, forensic analysis, and mentoring emerging professionals. His passion is managing the most technical aspects of design and construction, which he has honed through roles as a builder, architect, virtual design and construction coordinator, and quality manager on commercial and residential buildings around the Midwest. He is a frequent webinar presenter for the Air Barrier Association of America, and in his spare time, is building a cabin with high performance targets for air tightness.



Pam Jergenson is certified in building enclosure commissioning, air barriers, and construction documents, specifications, and contracts. She is also trained in Whole Building Airtightness Testing (WBAT) and licensed as an air barrier field auditor. With nearly 35 years of experience, her knowledge includes project inception through construction and warranty phases for new and existing buildings. Her work includes enclosure investigations, forensics, hygrothermal modeling, and building enclosure maintenance planning for owners across the region and the United States. Pam's responsibilities also include professional development, facilitating training and career pathing, public speaking, technical committee work, and reviewing guidelines, codes, and related documents.



Sophia Ristau works with designers, architects, and code officials to support compliance with Minnesota's energy code through resource development and training initiatives. She managed the Community Code Support program, which offers third-party energy code reviews to jurisdictions across Minnesota. She also collaborates with Tribal nations to provide technical assistance for energy code improvements. Sophia previously worked in the construction industry, producing technical drawings for architecture projects, and as a plan reviewer for the City of Duluth. Sophia holds dual bachelor's degrees in anthropology and environmental studies from Luther College, and a Certificate in architecture technology from Minneapolis Community and Technical College.



Jon Porter is the director of building science at Kraus Anderson Construction (KA). In his role at KA, Jon focuses on building performance, with particular focus on the exterior enclosure and substrates. He serves as a technical resource to project teams in relation to means and methods, constructability, building materials technology, workflow and sequencing, proper installation techniques, and testing and acceptance protocols. A licensed professional engineer in the state of Minnesota, Jon has 30 years of design and construction experience, including roles in forensic investigation of design and construction failures and as an owner's representative.



(Moderator) **Julia Wells** oversees energy code compliance work under BuildUp MN, a statewide program implemented by Center for Energy and Environment (CEE). Julia leads a team that collaborates with design, construction, and code enforcement professionals to improve compliance with Minnesota's commercial energy code. This includes developing an online resource hub, building and delivering role-based training curriculum, providing third-party plan review support for several jurisdictions. Previously at CEE, she supported the Minnesota Air Source Heat Pump Collaborative, delivering training for residential HVAC contractors, conducting modeling and data analysis, and supporting utility and distributor engagement. Julia holds a BA in Physics from Wellesley College.

MII.**Leading from the Middle: Collaboration Across the Design Team**

1.5 LUs Audience: Entry, Intermediate

This program addresses key professional development themes through the lens of interdisciplinary collaboration. It focuses on coordination between architects and engineers, building skills and knowledge among emerging professionals in a highly applied context — demonstrating how technical understanding, communication clarity, and proactive problem-solving directly impact project success.

The discussion touches on naturally-occurring opportunities for mentorship and cross-generational connection, as participants share coordination challenges and lessons learned. Emerging professionals describe gaining insight into decision-making and relationship management, while experienced practitioners reflect on evolving collaboration practices shaped by new tools, expectations, and workforce dynamics.

Finally, by highlighting how different disciplines intersect and rely on one another, the panel broadens awareness of career paths within and beyond traditional practice. Participants will see how roles shift across project phases, how individuals can specialize or lead coordination efforts, and how interdisciplinary fluency can open doors to hybrid or leadership positions within the increasingly integrated AEC industry.



Mark Bradby is a mechanical engineer with more than 25 years of experience designing and delivering high-performance building systems. He specializes in developing innovative mechanical solutions that improve operational efficiency, support sustainability goals, and optimize long-term facility performance. Throughout his career, Mark has partnered with owners, architects, and contractors to deliver complex projects through construction, with a focus on creating resilient, efficient, and occupant-centered environments.

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10:15–11:45 am

M11. continued



Chris Hartnett, PE holds a Bachelor of Civil Engineering with honors from the University of Minnesota and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from the University of California, Irvine. He also earned a Meteorology Certificate from the U.S. Air Force Institute of Technology and a Teaching Certificate from California State University. As owner and principal engineer of Chris Hartnett & Associates Preservation Engineers, Chris specializes in the preservation, restoration, and adaptive reuse of historic buildings. With over 25 years of experience, he brings expertise in historic structural systems. He has led notable projects and actively contributes to professional organizations and preservation efforts.



Jim Horwath is a senior architect and project manager at RML Architects in Minneapolis, where he leads projects and guides teams through all phases of design and delivery. He studied architecture at Dakota County Technical College and the University of Minnesota, earning

A.A.S. and B.A. degrees, and is a licensed architect in three states. With 30 years of experience across diverse project types, Jim emphasizes document quality to ensure clear communication of technical details and design intent. Outside the office, he enjoys playing tennis with his wife, traveling to Mexico, and exploring both historic and contemporary architecture there.



Irene Trofimona-Peterson, PE brings more than 25 years of experience across commercial, education, and aviation sectors, with the past 15 years focused on healthcare. She leads MBJ's Twin Cities healthcare practice and is committed to advancing best practices in healthcare design.

Irene is actively involved in industry organizations, serving as membership co-chair for the Upper Midwest AMFP chapter and as a member of ASHE and the Minnesota Healthcare Engineering Association. A past president of MNSEA, she has contributed extensively through committee work. Irene holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Washington University in St. Louis.



(Moderator) **Corey Mollet, AIA**, is a senior project architect with GBBN, bringing decades of experience in housing, education, healthcare, and research environments. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Architecture from the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee and a Master of

Architecture with a Graduate Certificate in Building Science from the University of Southern California. Corey specializes in acute care hospitals, specialty clinics, and advanced research facilities where precision, safety, and user well-being are critical. Known for his attention to detail and intellectual curiosity, he excels in multidisciplinary collaboration, building trust among teams while mentoring others and embracing continuous learning.

M12.

Glare and Architectural Intent: Metrics, Analysis, and Impact on Early Design

1.5 LUs Audience: Entry, Intermediate

Discomfort glare is perception-based, defined as visual discomfort to a viewer due to unsuitable distribution of luminance or extreme contrasts (CIE, 1995). Glare simulation tools are used to evaluate visual discomfort by taking into account relationships among daylight saturation, contrast, color, and direction over time (Wienold & Christoffersen, 2006). Discomfort glare indicators such as Daylight Glare Probability (DGP) cannot fully evaluate the variability of discomfort between perception and metrics (Pierson et al., 2017). Therefore, designing with daylight requires navigating complex and often conflicting factors, such as program, plan and furniture development, and exterior façade design (Wienold & Christoffersen, 2006).

Glare ultimately impacts the experience and well-being of users, shaping visual comfort and the ability of users to perform program-driven tasks. Although metrics and software have been developed to analyze glare, these in isolation are not enough to affirm design decisions.

This session will explore research on three case studies that explored these concepts through simulation, observation, and diagrammatic analysis to ask questions that center around how design decisions and architectural design intent relating to glare viewing direction, daylight access, façade treatment, program, furniture layout, and user autonomy can foster a stronger connection between simulation and experience of users and designers.



Julia Gerloff completed the Master of Architecture in Spring 2025 and completed the Master of Science in Architecture Applied Research in Practice program at the University of Minnesota. Julia is dedicated to advancing inclusive and sustainable design through her

research interests, which explore a variety of topics from S-LCAs to daylighting. She is also community-driven outside of academia, having helped create pollinator gardens and served as co-treasurer of NOMAS at UMN for three years. Julia is excited to learn new ways to integrate research and practice to leverage design for equity and resilience.

Lunch Notes

Lunch is provided ONLY for AIA Minnesota members attending one of the local chapter events on Monday. If you are not registered for M13, M14, or M15, you will need to plan lunch on your own. Visit the hotel restaurant, explore the neighborhood for other dining options, or bring your own lunch!

12:00-1:15 PM

M13. AIA Minneapolis Annual Meeting & Lunch

AIA Minneapolis members are invited to join 2026 President **Daniel Kodet, AIA**, and fellow members for lunch, networking, voting, and time with special guest **Carole Wedge, FAIA**, EVP/CEO of AIA national. Members will cast votes for new leadership, learn about the chapter's accomplishments, and hear plans for the upcoming year.

M14. AIA St. Paul Annual Meeting & Lunch

Lunch Sponsored by [Ayres Associates](#)

AIA St. Paul members are invited to join 2026 President **Phil Bussey, AIA**, and fellow members for lunch, networking, voting, and time with special guest **Carole Wedge, FAIA**, EVP/CEO of AIA national. Members will cast votes for new leadership, learn about the chapter's accomplishments, and hear plans for the upcoming year.

M15. AIA Northern Annual Meeting & Lunch

AIA Northern Minnesota members are invited to join 2026 President **Melissa Lefebvre, AIA**, and fellow members for lunch, networking, voting, and time with special guest **Carole Wedge, FAIA**, EVP/CEO of AIA national. Members will cast votes for new leadership, learn about the chapter's accomplishments, and hear plans for the upcoming year.

1:30-3:30 PM

M16. Capacity 30

TOUR: Mississippi Gateway Regional Park: Integrating interpretive plan goals in site, building, and exhibit design

1.5 LUs HSW Audience: Entry, Intermediate, Advanced:
This tour has an additional fee and will depart from The Depot.



This tour will welcome you to Mississippi Gateway Regional Park and provide a firsthand look at how the building, site, and exhibit designs embrace and embed the park's long range and interpretation goals.

The tour will provide an orientation to the site goals laid out in the long-range plan, the Gateway Center building goals, key interpretation themes, and space needs within the building and throughout the larger site. In addition to touring the Gateway Center building, the tour will include key site components including the 900 foot long Treetop Trail, the multi-level nature play area, and the Mini Mississippi Water Play Area.

Patty Maher is the outdoor education supervisor at Mississippi Gateway Regional Park in the Three Rivers Park District. She works on a team of 15 staff who provide nature and outdoor recreation programming and amenities in this community-focused park along the Mississippi River.

Amber Sausen, AIA, LEED AP BD+C, WELL AP is a principal at Alliance. She leads projects that connect people to the world around them, with a special emphasis on park facilities, visitor centers, outdoor recreation, and performing arts spaces.

1:30-3:00 PM

MI7.

COTE Top Ten 2026 – Marion Fire Station No. 1 and Marlboro Music Reich Hall

1.5 LUs HSW Audience: Entry

The COTE Top Ten Award honors projects that are exemplary in the 10 measures of the AIA Framework for Design Excellence. This case study presentation will highlight two award winners from the perspective of the design teams.

Marion Fire Station uses biophilic design principles to improve the well-being of firefighters. The all-electric design minimizes exposure to toxic and carcinogenic chemicals and incorporates shaded roof terraces, a zen garden, daylit interior spaces, natural materials, and expansive views to ensure the firefighters' physical and mental well-being.

Marlboro Music Reich Hall champions sustainability, resilience, and equity, aligning with the progressive environmental and social values of the surrounding community. Key features include a small footprint, local materials, and an all-electric, net-zero facility with 100 percent on-site stormwater retention.



Rebecca Riss, AIA, LEED AP is director of performance at OPN Architects. As a licensed architect, PHIUS Certified Consultant, LEED AP, and WELL AP, Rebecca takes a comprehensive approach to designing for energy efficiency and health in the built environment. Her diverse

project experience includes the LEED Platinum Museum of Modern Art expansion and the ILFI Zero Energy-targeted Obama Presidential Center, completed during her time at Atelier Ten, as well as more recent work with OPN on schools and community buildings. At OPN, Rebecca ensures sustainability is integrated throughout the firm's design process, guiding projects toward low-carbon, healthy, resilient, and equitable outcomes.



Joan Soranno, FAIA, is a design principal with HGA. An award-winning architect specializing in cultural, sacred, and residential architecture, Joan brings design passion to every facet of her work. With partner **John Cook, FAIA**, she has created a small in-house design studio within the

larger structure of HGA that serves as an incubator for innovative design, producing aesthetically driven and technically challenging work. Joan's design accolades include national AIA Awards for Marlboro Music Reich Hall (2026), Jackson Hole History Museum (2026), Walker Art Center Expansion (2021), Lakewood Cemetery Garden Mausoleum (2014), and Bigelow Chapel at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities (2006).



Tate Walker, FAIA, is an associate principal at OPN Architects and the founder of the firm's Minneapolis studio. He is transforming the architectural profession through climate positive design with his practice, knowledge sharing, and advocacy across the country. Tate demonstrates

how both beauty and performance can be achieved with modest means and a determined vision. His experience is rooted in the architectural design process as well as the development of technical guidelines for high performing buildings. In 2018, he coauthored the AIA's Framework for Design Excellence and works diligently to put it into practice every day.



David Wilson, AIA, is a principal and practice group leader at HGA focused on arts, community, and education projects. As project designer for Marlboro Music Reich Hall, David helped shape the acoustically precise, net-zero-energy building that connects musicians with

music, one another, and the Vermont landscape. His work also includes the award-winning Jackson Hole History Museum, named by *The Wall Street Journal* as one of six "Best Architecture of 2025" projects. A National AIA Young Architect Award recipient, David advances design excellence, environmental responsibility, and community impact and has held leadership roles with AIA Minnesota and HGA's National Sustainability Council.



(Moderator) **Chayna Claeys, AIA**, is an architect and sustainability manager with JLG Architects. She leads the firm's sustainability initiatives and commitments, including integration of the AIA Framework for Design Excellence into projects to pose design-informing questions and collect

firm-wide sustainability data. Chayna finds common ground to collaborate, inspire, and educate, ensuring client and project goals are met while steering designs toward outcomes that support a healthy future. Chayna is a co-chair of the AIA Minnesota Committee on the Environment.



(Moderator) **Michael Friebele, Assoc. AIA**, is an associate principal with Perkins Eastman and a co-chair of the AIA Minnesota Committee on Design. At Perkins Eastman, his work focuses on connections, from physical to historical, as a means of informing performance-driven and

client/community-centered design. His work explores a diverse range of types and scales, from sports-anchored mixed-use districts to projects that benefit community health and outreach. Michael is also a writer who has contributed to regional and national design publications.

1:30-3:00 pm

MI8. Integrating Specifying Best Practices

1.5 LUs Audience: Entry, Intermediate, Advanced

Construction specifications play an instrumental role in translating design intent into successful project outcomes. Yet many firms struggle to consistently integrate specifying as a practice into project workflows, resulting in coordination gaps, quality issues, and missed opportunities for collaboration and service improvement.

This session examines best-practice strategies for firm-wide adoption of construction specifications, expertise, and processes that support design excellence and contribute to successful project delivery. By demonstrating specifying practice in the context of historical development and emerging realities, the session offers comparative frameworks and better models for achieving project goals and better performance outcomes.

Practical tools and resources available to design professionals are highlighted, including principal methods

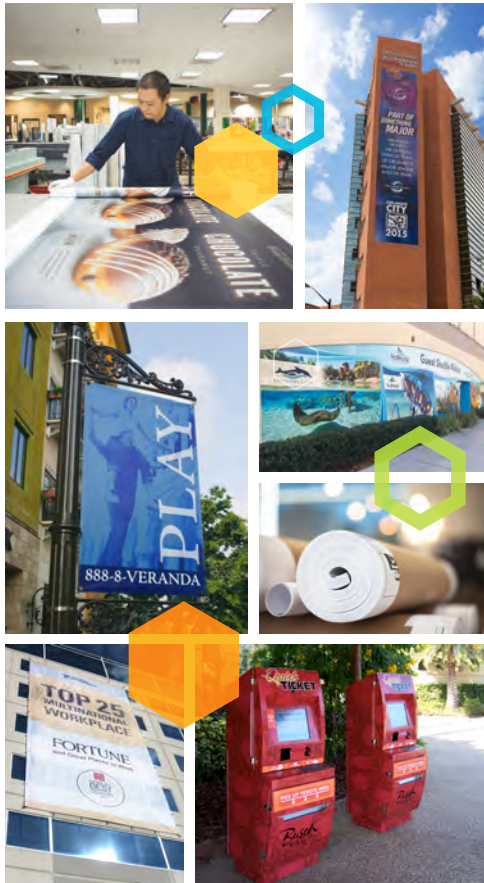
from related fields that improve communication among project stakeholders. Through real-world examples, attendees will discover approaches for strengthening interdisciplinary collaboration, improving documentation quality, reducing project risk, and delivering better outcomes throughout the project lifecycle.

Using a systems thinking framework, the session will demonstrate relationships among broad practice components, and how best practices in the art of specifying help address systemic challenges and elevate the profession toward a better society.



Clairson Dutra, PhD, AIA is an architect, structural engineer, researcher, developer, and builder whose career bridges design, engineering, and construction. With more than two decades of experience, he has guided building projects from concept through delivery, bringing a research-informed approach to constructability, cost, and project viability. He is CEO of InGauge Engineering and Technology Inc. and vice president of the CSI Minneapolis-St. Paul Chapter. Dutra holds a Ph.D. in Structural Engineering from the Federal University of Santa Maria, Brazil, and a Certificate in Construction Project Management from Columbia University.

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1:30-3:00 PM

MI8. *continued*



Edward Heinen, CDT, CCS, LEED AP, SITES AP is owner and principal consultant at ERH Consulting & Specifying, an Allied AIA Minnesota firm. An experienced design consultant, Edward works collaboratively with clients and colleagues, advancing best practices in specifying to achieve effective project delivery and sustainability goals. Edward currently serves as CSI MSP chapter vice president, and chair of the ASLA MN climate and biodiversity action committee.



Jen Worley, AIA, CSI is a project architect at LHB, a multidisciplinary architecture, engineering, and planning firm known for its leadership in regenerative design. At LHB, Jen enjoys being part of a strong team of architects and designers in the housing studio whose work focuses on affordable and supportive multifamily projects throughout the state of Minnesota and beyond. Jen co-leads the development of master specifications for housing projects at LHB and is an active member of the local CSI chapter.

MI9.

Designing with Hemp and Straw in Climate Zone 6: Codes, Details, and Performance

1.5 LUs | HSW | 1.5 GBCI | Audience: Advanced

In July 2025, the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry supported the initial approval of ICC Building Code Appendices BL Hemp-Lime and BJ Strawbale, with Minnesota-specific amendments. If fully adopted, Minnesota will become the first state to adopt the Hemp-Lime appendix.

Led by the group that spearheaded the code change, this session will review the need for bio-based regenerative wall systems, the Lower Sioux Indian Community's industrial hemp program, and several case study hemp-lime and strawbale projects in Minnesota. The panel will go into detail on construction methods, energy and moisture performance, and other technical details as an intro to these innovative wall systems.



Danny Desjarlais is the industrial hemp construction project manager at the Lower Sioux Indian Community. As an enrolled member of the tribe, Danny has dedicated his efforts to rebuilding his community with healthier alternative building materials that will benefit future generations. He has successfully promoted the recent expansion of hemp building activities at the Lower Sioux Indian Community reservation and is recognized across the United States as a leading advocate for the use of hemp building materials and social housing.



Simona Fischer, AIA, CPHC is MSR Design's director of sustainable practice and a senior associate. She specializes in energy, materials, high-performance assemblies, and integrating the AIA Framework for Design Excellence into architectural practice. She has completed LEED, B3, and Living Building Challenge Petal certifications and has advised multi-building owners on sustainable built environment transformations. Simona serves on the Minnesota Buy Clean Taskforce and the national AIA Materials Pledge working group, and she co-chairs the Carbon Leadership Forum Minnesota Circularity and Specifications subgroups. She received a national AIA Young Architects Award in 2023 and teaches studio at the UMN College of Design.



Anna L. Koosmann, NCARB is an award-winning citizen architect, educator, researcher, and Phius Certified Passive House consultant. With a hands-on, participatory approach, she has worked alongside communities from the Philippines—where her design-build leadership and Fulbright research elevated bamboo from a “poor man’s” material to a resilient building resource, earning an Environmental Design Research Award—to the Upper Midwest, advancing net-zero housing along with sustainable and natural building design. She is the current president of Phius Alliance Minnesota.



Janneke Schaap, Assoc. AIA, is a designer and healthy materials advocate who built a career on where architecture, performance and environment intersect. She is a passive building designer and sustainability lead, relentlessly focused on solving the built environment's role in climate change. Recently, Janneke proudly spearheaded efforts leading to Minnesota being the first state in the USA to adopt both the Strawbale and Hemp-Lime building code appendices, removing barriers and improving access to high-performance bio-based design and construction.

1:30-3:00 PM

M20.

The FAIA Legacy Project: New Documentaries

1.5 LUs Audience: Entry

In 2018, the AIA Minnesota's Women in Architecture Committee began the FAIA Legacy Project. This project amplifies the achievements of our women Fellows by documenting the stories of the Minnesota women architects recognized with the AIA's highest membership honor.

Funding from the Minnesota Historical Society supported the first 11 interviews and oral histories; funding from the Minnesota Architectural Foundation Women in Architecture Fund and individual contributions has enabled post-production of 10 of these stories into short documentaries. The Legacy Project's work to document these important stories continues as the list of women elevated to Fellow in Minnesota has grown to 22 to date.



This session will feature the premiere of three new completed short films. Featured in these films are **Mia Blanchett, FAIA**, **June Lundgren, FAIA**, and **Jennifer Yoos, FAIA**. Legacy project team members will also describe the past and current state of women within the architecture profession, the goals of this ongoing history and advocacy project, and how this work helps advance the next generation of women in the profession. Attendees will walk away with inspiration to support more sharing of stories from under-represented populations.

(Moderator) **Maureen Colburn, AIA, LEED AP BD+C** leads the LHB climate solutions studio, focusing on policies, guidelines, and programs to enhance the built environment's impact on natural resources and climate equity. She is on the management team of the Minnesota B3 suite of programs and tools for sustainable design; is project manager of the Regional Indicators Initiative, an effort to engage communities in actionable strategies for energy and greenhouse gas reduction; and engages in research into effective ways to reduce energy consumption in commercial buildings. Maureen is passionate about sharing the stories of women in architecture, and she coordinates the FAIA Legacy Project Team.

Amy Kalar, AIA, LEED AP is past president of AIA Minnesota and co-founder of its Women in Architecture Committee. She served as president of the Minnesota Architectural Foundation in 2019 and helped launch its Women in Architecture Fund. Amy is currently a process improvement manager at Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity. She received both the Minnesota and national AIA Young Architects Awards and continues to advocate for women in architecture by highlighting the everyday challenges they face.

Lindsey Kieffaber, AIA, a licensed architect and project manager with the US Army Corps of Engineers, has 15 years of experience in the AEC industry. She holds a degree in urban planning from an all-women's college. Transitioning from an all-women's education to a male-dominated field, Lindsey is passionate about promoting equity in AEC. She supports the Legacy Project, showcasing diverse women's stories in architecture to inspire and guide others in finding their career paths.

Kimberly Long Loken, AIA, LEED AP is an associate professor at the University of Wisconsin-Stout School of Art & Design. Her creative practice and teaching form at the intersection of architecture, preservation, exhibit design, film, games and systems design. The Legacy Project unites her appreciation for history and storytelling with a love of the filmmaking process. Notable projects: production designer for Student Academy Award-nominated narrative short film *Perils in Nude Modeling* (dir. Scott Rice); exhibit design team for Red Star Line Museum in Antwerp, Belgium (with Beyer Blinder Belle Architects & Planners); Aquanesia, an outdoor game-theater hybrid experience (with playwright Elle Thoni & arts producer NorthernLights.mn).

(Moderator) **Emily Little, Assoc. AIA**, is a designer with Charles R. Stinson Architecture + Design and active member of AIA Minnesota's Residential Architecture Committee and the Women in Architecture Committee.

(Moderator) **Heather Whalen, AIA, CID, LEED AP** is an entrepreneur, connector, and industry leader. With award-winning design and management experience, she established ReviveR in 2024 to serve clients with a vision-focused approach to renovation and new construction projects. ReviveR's services encompass architecture and interior design, as well as real estate investing and development. Whalen's design and project management skills coupled with her financial acumen make ReviveR the perfect partner for clients. Heather is a former co-chair of the AIA Women in Architecture committee and is involved with the AIA Minnesota FAIA Legacy Project.

3:00-5:30 PM

M21.
Awards Reception & Presentation

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Bring the opening day of Conference to a close with the AIA Minnesota Awards Celebration! The festivities will begin with a reception featuring light bites and drinks, followed by the presentation of this year's AIA Minnesota Honor Awards (with comments from the visiting jurors), 25 Year Award, and Gold Medal. We'll also take a look back at other AIA Minnesota award recipients over the past year. Join us as we celebrate and honor excellence in our architecture community!

Thanks to these event sponsors:



5:45-7:15 PM

M22.
LGBTQ+ Reception

The second annual LGBTQ+ Happy Hour Reception builds on its 2025 debut, continuing to create an intentional, supportive space for LGBTQ+-identifying members and allies within AIA Minnesota. Designed as a relaxed, informal gathering during the A'26 MN, the event fosters authentic connection across career stages, disciplines, and firms. The reception will feature brief member-led remarks highlighting LGBTQ+-focused initiatives, gatherings, and advocacy efforts that have taken place over the past year.

M23.
Small Firm Social

Small firm and solo practice architects often work independently while navigating many of the same professional challenges, opportunities, and transitions. This informal, facilitated networking session creates space for Minnesota's small firm community to connect, build relationships, exchange ideas, and strengthen professional support networks.

Inspired by the goals of the AIA Small Firm Exchange (SFx), the gathering encourages conversations around practice management, collaboration, mentorship, business development, staffing, technology, and the evolving realities of small firm practice.

Attendees will have the opportunity to share experiences, discuss current issues affecting small firms, and expand connections within Minnesota's architecture community in a relaxed and welcoming social hour.



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8:00–10:00 AM

T24.**Minnesota Accessibility Code Upcoming Changes**

2.0 LUs | HSW | Audience: Intermediate

This course will provide a high-level look at some of the upcoming changes to the next edition of the Minnesota Accessibility Code, including adult changing stations, EV charging stations, Group R-3 care facilities, turning space and clear floor space sizes, power-operated doors, toilet compartment size, exam rooms, changing bench clearance, and the 20% Rule.

Attend this program and hear real-world updates on implementation of these codes and how they will impact your practice in the months ahead.



Karen Gridley serves as the accessibility specialist for the Construction Codes and Licensing Division (CCLD) at the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry. She holds a degree from the University of Minnesota and has more than 30 years of experience applying

federal and state accessibility codes to the built environment. She holds multiple accessibility specialist certifications and has held roles in an architecture firm, in code enforcement agencies, and as an owner's representative in the corporate environment supporting accessible design, construction, and litigation services. Karen also contributes to national code development committees and leads the Minnesota Accessibility Code Change Technical Advisory Group.

T25.**Façade Detailing Workshop**

2.0 LUs | HSW | Audience: Entry, Intermediate

Sponsored by [H Window](#)

In contemporary architectural practices, the performance of building façades and enclosures is often commendable within their field areas. However, vulnerabilities consistently manifest at critical junctures, such as system intersections, penetrations, projections, and shifts in geometry. These vulnerable points pose a significant challenge in maintaining structural integrity, energy efficiency, and overall building functionality.

Recognizing the pressing need to address these issues, this workshop embarks on a mission to enlighten and empower industry professionals. It commences with an essential primer led by a team of

enclosure specialists, elucidating the intricate detailing challenges that undermine the resilience of façades and enclosures. Furthermore, the workshop transcends conventional learning and evolves into a dynamic design charrette. This interactive phase fosters a collaborative environment where panelists, experts, and workshop participants collectively brainstorm and innovate solutions to the pervasive challenges in façade and enclosure design.

The primary goal is to equip architects and construction practitioners with the knowledge, strategies, and collaborative skills necessary to enhance the performance and durability of building façades and enclosures, ultimately contributing to the creation of more sustainable, efficient, and resilient structures in the built environment.



Will Babbington, FAIA, PE, LEED AP BD+C is principal and the façade design director for Studio NYL's Skins Group. As both an architect and an engineer, he has designed, realized, written, and presented on award-winning and high-performance building enclosures on local, national, and international levels.

Felipe Francisco, AIA, is an architect, builder, and fabricator with experience ranging from large-scale commercial and institution projects, medium scale Passive House residential projects, and small-scale digital fabrication projects. At Studio NYL, Felipe's role is that of technical design lead for the Boston office. As part of the façades division, he works with architects, building teams, and contractors to provide expertise on challenging façade systems.

Chris O'Hara began his career in New York. Early in his career, while with M.G. McLaren Consulting Engineers, Chris was exposed to unique structural engineering projects in addition to more conventional building systems. Some of the unique projects included amusement park rides, waterfront and floating structures, theatrical rigging, and façade and structural glazing projects. Notable amongst these are the Rose Center for Earth and Space, Twister Ride it Out, and the Rolling Stones Bridges to Babylon Tour. The diverse experience at this time exposed Chris to less common structural systems and concepts.



(Moderator) **Alex Terzich, Assoc. AIA** is an architect specializing in custom façade design and detailing, and the development of high-performance technical solutions for complex projects. Alex has worked on a wide range of unique projects with unique solutions, including

high-rise modular construction, double-curved stainless steel, structurally-siliconed channel glass, cold-formed aluminum composite, kiln-cast and curved glass, custom micro-louvers integrated into extra-wide insulated glass units, and extruded stacked terra cotta planks. Alex synthesizes design, research, technical expertise and computational skill to bring about creative answers to novel architectural problems.

8:00-10:00 am

T26.**Flying Solo: Build a One-Page Architecture Business Plan**

2.0 LUs Audience: Entry

Whether preparing to launch a new firm or reassessing an existing solo practice, this interactive workshop will guide participants through the foundational systems needed to build a resilient architecture business aligned with their individual strengths, goals, and values.

Attendees will develop a one-page business plan using the Five Pillars of Practice — Purpose, People, Projects, Profit, and Process — to evaluate how personal motivations, target markets, financial goals, project types, and operational systems shape long-term practice sustainability.

Through guided exercises, reflection prompts, and roundtable discussion, participants will identify the clients and projects they are best equipped to serve, define measurable business goals, and outline actionable processes for marketing, project delivery, and business development. The workshop emphasizes practical application over theory, helping attendees translate personal aspirations into structured business strategies tailored to their desired practice model.

Participants will leave the session with a completed one-page business plan, a clearer understanding of their firm identity, and practical next steps for building — or refining — a more intentional and resilient practice.



Katie Kangas, AIA, NCARB is the founder of Pasque Architecture focusing on story-centered architecture and design for communities and nonprofit organizations. She is also the host of Flying Solo, a podcast featuring conversations with solo and small-firm architects about marketing, practice management, and building values-driven practices. Her work explores how architects can create sustainable businesses through authentic communication, strong client relationships, and thoughtful leadership.

T27.**Carbon Per Experience: Designing Buildings Worth Sustaining**

1.5 LUs HSW 1.5 GBCI Audience: Intermediate

Carbon per square foot is an essential, but incomplete measure. It cannot fully address how many people a building serves, how intensively it is used, how long it remains valuable, or whether its material investment supports lasting human and ecological benefit.

This session introduces “carbon per experience” as a complementary early-design framework; not a replacement for carbon accounting, but a way to connect carbon reduction with use intensity, adaptability, occupant welfare, equitable access, and long-term stewardship. The presenters will relate the framework to key measures of the AIA Framework for Design Excellence and examine its application across building types, including public, institutional, residential, and reuse contexts. Midwest-relevant considerations around climate, material choices, and building longevity will ground the discussion.

Attendees will leave with a practical set of questions and an evaluative matrix they can use to make design conversations more rigorous, integrated, and actionable.



Kevin Barden, AIA, is a principal of Rivers Barden Architects and leads the firm's Minnesota office. His work explores architecture as a synthesis of idea, material, performance, and experience, with a focus on long-term use, place, and stewardship. Kevin previously worked with Atelier Peter Zumthor, Olson Kundig Architects, and Feldman Architecture. He currently serves as UMN adjunct faculty and has taught at several architecture programs nationwide. He is licensed in California, Texas, South Carolina, and Minnesota.



Simona Fischer, AIA, CPHC is MSR Design's director of sustainable practice and a senior associate. She specializes in energy, materials, high-performance assemblies, and integrating the AIA Framework for Design Excellence into architectural practice. She has completed LEED, B3, and Living Building Challenge Petal certifications and has advised multi-building owners on sustainable built environment transformations. Simona serves on the Minnesota Buy Clean Taskforce and the national AIA Materials Pledge working group, and she co-chairs the Carbon Leadership Forum Minnesota Circularity and Specifications subgroups. She received a national AIA Young Architects Award in 2023 and teaches studio at the UMN College of Design.

8:45-10:00 AM

T28.

Hybrid Mass Timber Design for High-Performance Labs

1.25 LUs HSW Audience: Intermediate

Mass timber is rarely considered for laboratory buildings – the vibration sensitivity of lab equipment demands heavy, rigid framing, and the flexibility needed for future modifications favors concrete and steel. But labs are not just labs. On academic campuses especially, research buildings are also places of gathering, learning, and collaboration, and those spaces have a different set of needs that benefit from the warmth and biophilic qualities of mass timber.

Hybrid structural systems offer a way to use the best properties of both systems. By using concrete or steel where technical performance demands it and mass timber where it enhances the spatial qualities, hybrid structural systems allow for meaningfully reducing the carbon footprint of a building type that has historically had few low-carbon options. It also opens new opportunities for design expression.

This session draws on two case studies to examine what it actually takes to build this way: understanding the design requirements of different program types; detailing the connections between dissimilar structural systems; resolving façade attachments across structural transitions; and navigating code and life safety requirements where established compliance paths did not yet exist.



Punit Jain, AIA, is an architect in the St. Louis office of CannonDesign. He specializes in the planning and design of laboratory buildings and has completed award-winning projects across the globe.



Paul Morel, AIA, is an associate vice president at CannonDesign in Minneapolis. He leads complex, design-forward projects across academic, research, and cultural building types.



Joe O'Neill, AIA, is an architect at the Yazdani Studio of CannonDesign specializing in the technical design of complex building types and unique façade systems.

10:15-11:30 AM

T29.

Keynote: The Room After Yours

1.25 LUs Audience: Entry, Intermediate, Advanced

Sponsored by [MAF Hauschild-Baron Leadership Fund](#)

At face value, community engagement is a good thing. Yet almost everyone who has sat through a town hall, on either side of the table, has wondered what the point was.

Sara Cantor is pissed off about community engagement, and she thinks you should be too. Sara runs the design firm Greater Good Studio, where she has spent fifteen years in the room after yours – where people talk about the project that went sideways, and the people who never came back. She'll share the mistakes that everyone makes, herself included.

And because she is also an optimist, Sara will share the ways that everyone in this room can wield their power to ensure better outcomes for communities, both in the long run and tomorrow.



Sara Cantor is a creative leader and human-centered designer focused on equity, inclusion, and social innovation. After spending seven years using human-centered design (HCD) to create new markets for corporate clients, Sara co-founded Greater Good Studio in 2011 to apply the process and principles of HCD to

the more meaningful challenges of the social sector. Her team of “pissed-off optimists” has helped nonprofits, foundations, and government agencies to build internal capacity for innovation, create and prototype new programs and services, and sustain and scale their impact.

Sara's long-term goal is to alleviate the systemic sources of inequity that are present in our country. To this end, Greater Good Studio's portfolio spans fields as diverse as education, workforce development, housing, mental and behavioral health, community development, public safety, aging, and the arts. Sara's love of design research translates to a practice focused on deep community engagement, asset-based design, and a commitment to empowering clients and communities to co-create solutions to the challenges they face.

Sara holds a Masters of Design Planning from the Institute of Design at Illinois Tech, and a Bachelors of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Northwestern University.

10:15-11:30 AM

T30.**Lifting the Floor, Tightening the Envelope**

1.25 LUs | HSW | Audience: Intermediate

Sponsored by [Emanuelson-Podas](#)

The 2024 Minnesota Commercial Energy Code introduced some notable new requirements around whole-building airtightness, commissioning, and performance verification – exciting for some, mildly alarming for others.

Back by popular request, this session will ground attendees in familiar compliance pathways before air-sealing our way into the new requirements and thermally bridging into what's likely coming next. The session will focus on practical application, common challenges, and lessons learned as designers, owners, commissioning providers, and jurisdictions adapt to the evolving code landscape. Special attention will be given to how commissioning and verification processes are becoming increasingly central to compliance, from envelope testing and documentation requirements and final performance validation.

Attendees will leave with a clearer understanding of what changed, why it matters, and how to avoid discovering your air barrier strategy during the blower door test.



Benjamin Bahr, PE is a mechanical engineer and director of sustainability at Emanuelson-Podas and brings more than a decade of experience in mechanical engineering and building energy modeling. A LEED-accredited professional and one of Minnesota's first

BEMP-certified engineers, Ben leads the firm's energy modeling practice and specializes in high-performance, energy-conscious design across a wide range of sectors. He is widely recognized for his expertise in energy codes, sustainability programs, and net zero strategies, and regularly presents on building performance and energy compliance topics throughout the industry.



Sara Goenner Curlee, AIA, LEED AP BD+C is a senior project architect and sustainability manager at Pope Design Group, where she leads the integration of sustainable practices across the firm and its market sectors. With more than 20 years of experience, Sara translates

ambitious sustainability goals and evolving regulatory requirements into successful project outcomes. Her expertise includes integrative design, energy codes, healthy materials and environments, and embodied carbon reduction. Sara is a past co-chair of AIA Minnesota COTE and serves on the AIA 2030 Commitment Working Group and as a technical reviewer for the COTE Top Ten Awards.

10:15-11:30 AM

T31.**From Mission to Roadmap: Regenerative Design in Rural Minnesota**

1.25 LUs | HSW | Audience: Intermediate

Mission-driven clients often begin with a powerful vision but unclear next steps: What should be built first? What can wait? What must be studied before design advances?

Using Living Earth Center's emerging Mankato campus as a case study, this session will show how architects can guide complex early-stage projects without jumping too quickly into building design. The session will examine a rural/edge-of-city site with the nonprofit's programming that includes community gardens, a historic barn, food and education programming, public gathering needs, seasonal use, infrastructure questions, and long-term climate resilience goals.

The panel will walk through a transferable decision framework for regenerative predesign: land and historical context, stakeholder engagement, adaptive reuse, water and energy screening, access and parking, code/zoning questions, phasing, and owner-facing roadmap tools. The session will focus on Midwest applicability, including cold climate use, stormwater, seasonal programming, agricultural landscapes, and rural infrastructure constraints.

Participants will leave with practical methods to help clients reduce uncertainty, protect community dignity, avoid premature design decisions, and create phased pathways toward healthier, more resilient, and more implementable projects.



Josh Bergeron, Assoc. AIA, has over 18 years of architectural and design experience across multiple Minneapolis firms and his studio, Tikun Collective Design. His portfolio spans healthcare, workplace, urban design, education, transportation, residential, industrial, arts and

culture, and sustainability. Josh now leads Tikun, a regenerative design studio focused on place-based, systems-minded work. As a Living Future accredited professional, he helps clients translate mission, land, ecology, culture, and feasibility into practical design direction. His practice treats design as stewardship, supporting places and systems that are more connected, resilient, just, and alive. Josh holds a BS and M.Arch from the University of Minnesota.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE >

10:15-11:30 AM

T31. continued

Jennifer Garman, AIA, is a Minneapolis resident, architect and Living Future Accredited professional whose work centers on community engagement and regenerative design. She has spent the majority of her 13-year career in PK-12 education design, where she facilitates co-creative visioning and programming workshops with stakeholders and communities, sustainability goal-setting and a holistic design approach. Her passion for regenerative design lies at the intersection of environmental justice, place-based design and community resilience. Her approach is rooted in connecting people to nature, culture and place, promoting spaces that restore ecosystems, uplift communities, and foster a sense of well-being and belonging.



(Moderator) **Alicia Bennett** supports operations and communications at Tikun Collective, bringing experience across organizational management, community campaigns, retail leadership, and volunteer-based organizations. She is known for a collaborative, adaptable approach and a strong ability to create clarity, cohesion, and effective systems in changing environments. Alicia is deeply invested in building more equitable and inclusive communities and holds a B.A. in Journalism and Sociology from the University of Minnesota.

T32.

Solving the Complexity of Simplicity: A Case Study on Tectonic Synergy

1.25 LUs | HSW | Audience: Entry, Intermediate, Advanced

Snow Kreilich Architects, Meyer Borgman Johnson, and TEN X TEN STUDIO discuss their collaboration on the recently completed “Parallel House.” This session explores how interdisciplinary integration transformed complex structural, envelope, and landscape challenges, leveraging technical precision to dissolve the home’s edges and create a fluid, unobstructed architecture and landscape experience.

Unlike additive workflows where reactive solutions disrupt the character of initial sketches, this team’s process was one of rigorous editing, holding true to a quiet vision of a single-level home set flush to grade and sheltered by hovering, gutter-less roof edges. The design team will deconstruct how a series of low, parallel roofs were leveraged to create a dwelling experience organized along the horizon, featuring 360-degree access to a wooded clearing and internal, contemplative courtyards.

The panel will provide a technical deep dive into making complex systems look effortless. Discussion will trace the building section from sky to subsurface, highlighting the structural mechanics of the deep-overhang cantilevers; the architectural detailing of the gutterless knife-edge and frameless envelope; and the subsurface landscape design required to divert high-volume stormwater away from slab-on-grade terraces and courtyards and into the landscape ecotone, transitioning from a more formal garden frame into the surrounding wooded clearing.



Bob Ganer, AIA, is an AIA Minnesota and AIA national Young Architects Award recipient. With over 25 years of experience in architecture, urban design, and design education, Bob brings a wealth of knowledge and on-the-ground insights into a wide variety of project types. He believes that architecture is the art of making buildings meaningful. That by tailoring design to the context and users; by executing with character and quality that endures, it elevates the human experience of place and space. And when a clear idea guides every detail, from the initial concept to the final construction, a building becomes architecture.



Doug Gerlach, AIA, completes design work rooted in a deep curiosity about the physical, cultural, and organizational context. Through a research-driven and iterative process, Doug seeks holistic design solutions that mine this context and find design opportunity in technical, budgetary, and site constraints. His past projects demonstrate a commitment to the careful execution of these solutions through a tireless refinement of construction detail, and collaborative integration of building systems into a cohesive whole. Doug’s work has been published nationally and recognized with multiple AIA Minnesota and AIA Wisconsin awards, and an AIA national Interior Award.



Randy Herbstman, SE is a senior engineer with 21 years of experience and has served as design lead for the renovation and repair of many existing and historical buildings as well as concrete, steel, masonry and wood framed projects. He brings experience in a variety of sectors including residential, commercial, cultural, and athletic facilities worldwide and is an expert in post-tensioned slab design/RAM concept. Randy believes that the key to good engineering is collaboration with his clients and finding creative ways to bring their vision to life as efficiently as possible.



Xan Lillehei approaches landscapes from a place of curiosity, working with people, archives, plants, and other nonhumans to tell the stories of place: collaborating with who and what is already there in a future projection. She designs public urban spaces and residential landscapes directly with communities and individuals and believes successful spaces come from both deep relational commitments and explorations of beauty in each project context. She is skilled at translating broad aspirations into elegant site details and enjoys creating artful landscapes in which the design process is visible.

10:15–11:30 AM

T33.

Ethics in War and Displacement: The Church of St Charalambos in Kontea, Cyprus

1.25 LUs | Ethics | Audience: Intermediate

At a time when the world is experiencing one of the biggest forced displacements in history—117.8 million people in 2025, this session unpacks the ethics tied to the ways architectural history and historic preservation relate to war. As a tangible source of knowledge and identity, architecture is among the most common targets of heritage intentionally destroyed, desecrated, looted, and exploited for political agendas.

The session begins with the screening of “When you Cannot,” a documentary film on the meanings attached to the church of St Charalambos. Built by self-taught master builders during Cyprus’s British colonial period, the church was the first to be restored in occupied Cyprus after the 1974 Turkish invasion.

The follow-up presentation unearths gaps in the AIA Code of Ethics & Professional Conduct and the NCARB’s Model Rules of Conduct in guiding architects’ decision-making in cases where architectural heritage is used and abused in the fight for power. Examples include: how obligations to the public can broaden conceptions of what constitutes architectural heritage worth saving, and for whom; how obligations to colleagues can question who is an architect, and how architects from the past are recognized.

The session ends with an opportunity to reflect on contested narratives in these debates.



Dr. Tasoulla Hadjiyanni is Northrop Professor and Distinguished Global Professor of Interior Design at the University of Minnesota. As a refugee from Cyprus, she devoted her career to advocating for home environments where everyone can thrive, starting with her doctoral research with Greek-Cypriot refugees, published in “The Making of a Refugee” (2002) and her engagements with Hmong, Somalis, Mexicans, Ojibwe, and African Americans in Minnesota in “The Right to Home” (2019). Through the photography exhibit and the documentary film “When you Cannot,” Dr. Hadjiyanni bolsters dialogues around the role of architects, educators, and scholars in historic preservation during war.



(Moderator) **Anjali Ganapathy, Assoc. AIA, Ph.D.**, is a lecturer and the director of undergraduate studies for architecture at the UMN College of Design, teaching design studio as well as classes in history, theory, and public interest design. She is active with MSP-NOMA and is interested in the intersection of urban history and the community’s role in the co-creation of the built environment.

11:30 AM–1:30 PM

T34.

Exhibit Hall & Lunch

This is your first chance to visit our 2026 Exhibit Hall and learn about exciting products and services from our industry partners. Get to know them! They are wonderful people and collaborators. Select this event during your registration, grab a box lunch, and visit both the Pavilion and the Great Hall. **Lunch is provided at no additional cost ONLY for attendees that select this event during their registration.**

1:30–3:00 PM

T35.

AIA Minnesota Annual Meeting

Join us to celebrate all we’ve accomplished this year and look ahead to our agenda for next year and electing new officers for 2027.



Phillip Koski, AIA, 2026 AIA Minnesota president, will preside over the business meeting, which includes a member vote on proposed updates to the bylaws (primarily related to the terms of the secretary and treasurer positions) and on the slate of nominees for 2027 leadership positions. AIA Minnesota Executive Vice President **Mary-Margaret Zindren, CAE, Hon. AIAMN**, will present the State of the Association report. And **Kevin Holm, AIA**, president-elect of AIA Minnesota, will share his perspective heading into his year as president.

3:15-4:30 PM

T36.**Ethical Considerations from Public Service Architects**

1.25 LUs | Ethics | Audience: Intermediate, Advanced

Referencing the AIA and NCARB codes of ethics, which establish the aspects of ethics in the profession, there are obligations to public, client, profession, and environment. This panel will present realistic scenarios relevant to each of these obligations. The audience will vote on whether each scenario creates an ethical violation (or not) and then the panel will discuss the options.

Panelists will help attendees examine actual design and construction competing issues that could be ethical violations, evaluate scenarios of ethical violations from the perspective of the client, professional, or the environmental component, and dissect nuances of grey areas where actual schedule or cost issues impact potential ethical violations.

Join this interactive session to bring the code of ethics to life and apply it to real-world situations that impact practice.



Mandi Tauferner Bailey, AIA, LEED AP is the University of Minnesota design project manager. For 13 years prior, she worked in other award-winning firms, gaining diverse experience in government, education, religious and office projects. Her skillset and strengths include client

and consultant management, project coordination and administration, cost estimating, and architectural detailing. She is an active member in AIA Minnesota and SARA and a 2017 AIA Minnesota Leadership Forum graduate. Her organization, attention to detail, and strong ability to collaborate help serve clients, teams, and overall project success. Prior to becoming an architect she was involved with real estate development and construction firms.



Margaret Parsons, FAIA, NCARB, ALEP, LEED BD+C is capital project delivery manager at St. Paul Public Schools. She has been involved in the planning and design of educational projects since 1989 and active in a wide range of projects from high schools to elementary

schools, from pre-referendum planning and construction. Her expertise and experience is in assisting schools/districts in facility planning and community engagement. Meg was elevated to the AIA College of Fellows in 2020 and was past principal/chair of the board at Cuningham. She has served with the Minnesota Architect Licensing Board (AELSLAGID), and as a past NCARB Region 4 Director.



Alissa Luepke Pier, AIA is an award-winning architect who has experience both in private practice and through work in facilities departments in school districts in Minnesota. She and her family live in north Minneapolis, where she has spent more than half her life advocating for the public good in her community. She spent 15 years serving on the Minneapolis Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Adjustment, and has served on numerous other boards over the past 3 decades. She has a passion for authentic community engagement and currently works for Wendel.



(Moderator) **Sally Grans Korsh, FAIA Emeritus, LEED AP** is a “rewired” not retired nontraditional architect serving on several Minnesota state boards, including architect registration, the Perpich Center for Arts Education, and the MHS advisory Board. Her last paid position was with a major nonprofit in Washington DC overseeing 4,200 institutions as director of facilities/environmental policy. She also served as system director for planning at Minnesota State, project manager for the Minnesota Department of Administration, and spent eight years as founder of her own firm Sally was elevated to AIA Fellowship in 2017 as the first in Minnesotan in the “public service” category.

T37.**White Oaks Savanna: Designing an Architecture-Driven Development**

1.25 LUs | Audience: Intermediate, Advanced

For architects who are interested in expanding and growing their practice in 2027, this inspiring panel discussion with White Oaks Savanna (WOS) developers David Washburn and Bob Appert and architects **Andrew Edwins, AIA**, of PKA Architects (PKA) and **Christopher Strom, AIA**, of Christopher Strom Architects (CSA) offers a master class in creating an architecture-driven residential community.

Over the last decade, WOS has become one of Minnesota’s only true architecture-driven residential developments, with 31 home sites over 320 acres of carefully restored prairie in Grant, just west of Stillwater. With master planning and design guidelines by Washburn and Appert in collaboration with PKA and landscape architect Travis Van Liere, and award-winning custom homes designed by PKA, CSA, Charles Stinson Architects, Andrea Swan Architecture, PLAAD and other local architecture firms, WOS is the antithesis of the traditional suburban development.

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3:15-4:30 PM

T37. *continued*

In this informative conversation, Washburn, Appert, Edwins and Strom will discuss the process of planning, developing and creating a design-driven development with highlights, challenges and lessons learned. Panelists will offer key insights and advice to inspire architects to take an active role in collaborating with developers to create new opportunities that advance the architecture profession and highlight the value that architects can bring to development.



Bob Appert is a noted expert in placemaking who collaborates with homeowners, architects and landscape designers to create design-driven communities and homes with a distinctive spirit of place. His portfolio includes White Oaks Savanna and Longview Farms of Afton, a unique community with four 20-acre home sites. As a custom home builder, Bob's homes have been honored for design and craftsmanship, including Sandhill Residence by PKA Architecture; Penny Lane by PLAAD, Valdres and Elysian Fields by Christopher Strom Architects and others. Bob's 35-year career in the residential construction industry includes leadership positions at Pulte Homes and K. Hovnanian Homes.



Andrew Edwins, AIA, is the co-owner of PKA Architecture, an award-winning full-service architecture and design firm that specializes in custom homes, lofts, cabins and boutique commercial projects. PKA's collaborative, client-focused design process results in unique

residences that are as distinctive as their owners. As a residential architect, Andrew is interested in how technology, both past and present, can be used to fully integrate environmental and ecological thinking into outstanding design. When he's not in the studio, Andrew continues to develop his artistic talents with sketching, photography, printmaking, digital art and drawing, while listening to Bob Dylan, Led Zeppelin and Pink Floyd.



Chris Strom, AIA, is the founder of Christopher Strom Architects and recipient of the 2024-25 AIA Minnesota Residential Architect of Distinction and the 2016 AIA Minnesota Young Architect Awards for exceptional leadership and significant contributions to the profession.

Chris's work has been honored with nine AIA Minnesota/*Star Tribune* Home of the Month awards and several *Mpls/St. Paul Magazine* RAVE awards. Eight of his designs have been featured on the AIA Minnesota Homes by Architects Tour. Chris was an active participant in crafting the Minneapolis and Edina Accessory Dwelling Ordinances. He also serves as an architectural design instructor at St Olaf College.



David Washburn is equally passionate about architecture, landscape design, development and farming. He is the co-developer and co-founder of White Oaks Savanna, an architecture-driven community with 30 homes on 200 acres of carefully restored prairie. A lifelong entrepreneur,

David inherited his love of farming from his grandfather, a gentleman farmer and owner of Juneway Farm in Dellwood. Thirty years ago, he and his wife Meg were early pioneers in the Twin Cities' CSA and farm-to-table movements, and they are working with Zach and Emma Robinson to launch White Oaks School Farm to grow the next generation of independent farmers.



(Moderator) **Laurie Fontaine Junker** is an architecture and home design writer based in Minneapolis. Her work has appeared in many local and national publications.

T38.**Future-Ready Care: Designing Resilient Onstage/Offstage Models in Healthcare**

1.25 LUs | HSW | Audience: Intermediate

As healthcare systems navigate rapid change, the need for resilient, future-ready care environments is more critical than ever. The onstage/offstage model is increasingly explored as a strategy to enhance patient experience, support staff wellbeing, and create adaptable operational frameworks.

This moderated panel convenes facility and project leaders from multiple health systems to share real-world insights into how this model performs across completed, in-design, and under-construction projects. Panelists will briefly present their work, highlighting the drivers behind adopting this approach and how it supports long-term flexibility. The discussion will then move into a candid dialogue exploring how design decisions impact resilience, including adaptability to evolving care delivery, staffing models, and technology integration.

Attendees will hear firsthand accounts of patient and staff responses, operational challenges, and the realities of change management. The session emphasizes lessons learned that extend beyond a single project, focusing on how architects can design for uncertainty while supporting effective day-to-day operations.

Participants will better understand when and how the onstage/offstage model contributes to a more durable, responsive healthcare environment and how design can anticipate future needs while remaining grounded in practical implementation realities.

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3:15-4:30 PM

T38. *continued*

Rod Neil, AIA, is an architect and healthcare project leader with Fairview Health Services in the Minneapolis and St. Paul region. With a background in architecture from the University of Detroit Mercy, he brings a multidisciplinary perspective to healthcare design and delivery.

Rod's work focuses on aligning facility planning, operational needs, and patient-centered environments. As a licensed architect, he is committed to advancing thoughtful, sustainable, and resilient healthcare design practices.



Benjamin Youngstrom, AIA, is a senior project manager with Mayo Clinic in Rochester and a licensed architect with 20+ years of experience in the healthcare industry. Ben oversees projects in Rochester and the Mayo Clinic Health System that encompass the three shields of Mayo Clinic:

clinical practice, education, and research. He is the Mayo Clinic accreditation life safety chapter leader for Rochester, responsible for maintaining compliance in the built environment with Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) regulations. Ben seeks to apply Mayo Clinic's values of respect, integrity, compassion, healing, teamwork, innovation, excellence, and stewardship on every project.



(Moderator) **Melissa Emerson, AIA**, has more than 15 years of experience leading complex healthcare projects of all scales, from single-room renovations to large building expansions. She approaches every project with curiosity and creativity. Her responsiveness and adaptability

make her a trusted partner to clinicians, administrators, contractors, and design teams alike. Melissa believes great design emerges from thoughtful collaboration that unites function, aesthetics, and each client's unique identity, creating spaces that support healing, innovation, and community. Melissa actively shapes the future of healthcare design through industry leadership as co-chair of the AIA Minnesota Health Design Knowledge Community.

T39.**Historic Tax Credits "101"**

1.25 LUs Audience: Intermediate

This program provides a detailed overview of the federal and state Historic Tax Credit (HTC) programs. The agenda is structured around the three-part federal application that includes defining the building's history, navigating a detailed design review, and certifying project costs.

Part 1 will provide an overview of the role of building history and historic designation in the historic tax credit application. This includes researching the site's history and context. It will also clarify the differences between local and federal historic designation.

Part 2 will describe how to apply the Federal Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation throughout the design process – as well as the role of the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and National Park Service.

Part 3 will explain how the HTCs become money for a project, as well as financial value and methods for owners to use the credits. The Minnesota state historic tax credit is one of the most effective state HTC programs in the nation. Since its enactment in 2010, it has generated over \$7.2 billion in economic activity and more than 32,000 construction jobs. This is a critical program for architects, owners, and designers to understand.



Lauren Anderson is a historian and director at New History, a Midwest-based building reuse consulting firm dedicated to the reuse of existing and historic buildings and sites. With a background in public history, Lauren is passionate about the practical applications of

history for the built environment. She enjoys uncovering the compelling stories behind our buildings and landscapes and leveraging that history to support new and viable uses for properties today.



Quentin Collette provides building documentation and assessment, design solutions, and project management services to New History's projects and clients. He specializes in advising on design to meet the Secretary of the Interior's Standards, and brings

a unique background of business management, specialized experience in the assessment and design of historic structures, and construction history to the team. His education and project experience includes local, national, and international sites. Quentin is a frequent speaker at national and international conferences with publications in professional journals. He is an active member of North American and European preservation and construction history networks.



Meghan Elliott, Assoc. AIA, has dedicated her career to historic building redevelopment. She is principal and founder of New History, Jillpine, and RevitalizeMN. As founding principal of New History, Meghan has led more than 300 historic building redevelopment and historic preservation

consulting projects in Minnesota. Likewise, Jillpine is a one-person real estate development company for high-potential historic properties. Finally, Meghan co-founded RevitalizeMN in 2020 to advocate for the extension of the Minnesota state historic tax credit, and to bring awareness to the important role of building reuse for economic development, sustainability, housing, and heritage.

3:15-4:30 PM

T40.

ARE 101: Personal Experiences from Start to Finish

1.25 LUs Audience: Entry

The path to licensure looks different for everyone. In this panel session, three architects who recently completed the ARE 5.0 share their personal decisions, practical strategies, and hard-won lessons that shaped their individual journeys.

Attendees will hear how each panelist decided when they were ready to begin testing, how they selected their exam order, and how they fit studying into full lives with professional deadlines and personal obligations. Panelists will also speak to the study resources they found most valuable and walk through what the scheduling and testing experience actually felt like, whether sitting for exams in person or remotely.

This is a candid, experience-forward session designed to give ARE candidates a realistic and encouraging picture of what lies ahead. Attendees will leave with concrete ideas they can apply to their own timeline and approach, plus a reminder that the finish line is more reachable than it might feel right now. The session closes with an open Q&A, giving attendees the chance to ask the panelists anything on their mind.



Isaiah McDaniel, AIA, is a young architect focused on thoughtful design, honest materials, and environmental responsibility. Isaiah majored in studio art at St. Olaf College before completing his Master of Architecture at the University of Minnesota where his final project

designing a public toilet facility received the Richard Morrill Award and his portfolio was recognized with the Thomas F. Ellerbe Scholarship from the Minnesota Architectural Foundation. He recently received the Rapson Traveling Study Award to study climate responsive urban design and architecture in Vienna, Brno, and Prague.



Patricia Mutebi, AIA, NOMA is a licensed architect and photographer based in Minneapolis whose practice sits at the intersection of community, culture, and design. Her work centers socially responsible, environmentally conscious approaches that reflect and serve the

communities they're built for. A 2024 AIA Minnesota Next Gen Award recipient, Patricia serves as vice president of MSP NOMA and chair of the MAF Clarence Wigington Architectural Scholarship Fund committee, where she works to open pathways for the next generation of minority architects and designers. For Patricia, mentorship, equity, and sustainability are the foundation of her practice.



Kayla Reed, AIA, is a licensed architect with experience in aviation and educational projects. She earned her Master of Architecture from the University of Minnesota in 2024 after completing her undergraduate Bachelor of Design in architecture there. She currently serves as the

ARE/AXP coordinator at Miller Dunwiddie, where she has worked for the past five years, first as an intern and now full time. Kayla is an enthusiastic collaborator and thoughtful designer who is passionate about carrying design intent through every detail.



(Moderator) **Olivia Sprosty, AIA**, graduated with her Master of Architecture from the University of Minnesota. While gaining experience in institutional and residential firms, Olivia discovered an excitement for continuous learning and taking on new and challenging

opportunities, leading her to begin her ARE testing journey shortly after graduation. Olivia now runs her own small practice which aims to educate others on the value of architecture and finding progressive design solutions that serve people and place while keeping healthy and sustainable practices in mind. She completed the ARE 5.0 exams in May 2025, primarily using the remote testing format.

4:30-6:00 PM

T41.

Exhibit Hall Reception

The Exhibit Hall reception is back! Mingle with your friends and colleagues, enjoy snacks, a cash bar, and more, all while connecting with industry partners whose product and service offerings can advance your practice. Festivities take place in both the Pavilion and the Great Hall during this fun and relaxing event!

6:00-7:30 PM

T42.

Next Gen Reception

Sponsored by [Dunham](#) and [Kolbe Gallery Twin Cities](#)

Are you in your first ten years of practice? Or an architecture student? Or someone who has been involved in AIA Minnesota's Next Gen Initiative – on an AIA board or working group? This reception is for you! The Next Gen Initiative is focused on building community among Emerging Professionals and supporting their ability to thrive in the profession. Get to know others who are in your similar career stage or are further along and eager to support EPs' success!

6:30-7:30 PM

T43.

ArchiTrivia Night

Audience: Entry

Grab a team and join AIA St. Paul for a fun and fast-paced ArchiTrivia Night immediately following the Exhibit Hall and Next Gen Receptions. Have some fun with ARE prep questions, trivia focused on celebrating leading women in architectural history, and the buildings and design that create movie magic.

T44.

What Were They Thinking

1.0 LUs Audience: Entry, Intermediate, Advanced

Sponsored by [Docomomo, Minneapolis Chapter](#)

Architecture is mainly experienced as a finished product and judged with whatever expectations of function or style the observer brings to the moment. The observer almost never knows the complexities and idiosyncrasies each participant brought to the design process that led to the outcome.

This program is a conversation with four architects about four late modernist buildings and their firsthand accounts of the balancing acts which put their design education up against the challenges of client partialities, municipal preferences, budget and emerging trends in style and technologies.



David Eijadi became fascinated with architecture of the 20th century while growing up in the NYC metropolitan area with its Art Deco and Streamline buildings and even more from the Arts and Crafts movement through the Modernist period. But, the 1964 New York

World's Fair and Expo '67 in Montreal focused his modernist interest. Entering the UMN School of Architecture headed by Rapson in the mid-1970's, he was educated as a 4th generation modernist and emerged into a changing profession that included post-modernism and the counterpart of environmentalism/sustainable design. He became an FAIA in 2006.



Edward Kodet, FAIA, founder of Kodet Architectural Group, discovered architecture young, while reading the encyclopedia. His first Mid-Century modern experience was when his undergrad studio critic at the University of Nebraska assigned him to design a house for the

Lt. Governor of Nebraska. At the University of Minnesota, where he received his M.Arch, Ed was teaching assistant to Carl Graffunder and Val Michelson, two Mid-Century architects. His first Mid-Century design was with Arthur Dickey Associates, which became Dickey/Kodet Architects. Ed has led restoration of many Mid-Century buildings, primarily churches designed by the region's leading architects.



Chuck Liddy, FAIA Emeritus, wanted to be a heart surgeon. However, a B in high school chemistry moved him to the next best thing, architecture. At Notre Dame, where he received his B.Arch in 1973, the department chair, a modernist from SOM Chicago favored a softer side, taking Notre Dame's junior-year program to Rome. While a student, Chuck was hired at The Architectural Alliance, by founded by modernist architects from Cerny Associates, Thorsen and Thorshov and Harry Weese. Chuck worked on modern buildings until historic preservation became his interest beginning with the 1853 Saint Peter's Church in Mendota.



For **Ellen Luken, AIA**, architecture was not a recognized career for young girls attending private schools. After receiving her BFA from St. Mary's College-Notre Dame, she ventured west for several years working in hospitality in Grand Teton National Park and Aspen, Colorado before

finding her way to Minnesota and graduating with a M.Arch in 1980. Influenced by her respect for nature and her father's engineering/construction background, she settled into the profession easily, receiving her broadest experience at Winsor-Farcy Architects. Wanting to "just be an architect" and feeling "risky frisky," she started Luken Architecture in 1994, where she continues to work.



Mark Swenson, FAIA, became interested in architecture at an early age and learned perspective drawing in junior high from his father who was a commercial artist. He grew up in north Minneapolis and decided to become an architect at age 14. He graduated from the UMN School of

Architecture in 1971 and 1973. Early in his career he was influenced by modernism and later post modernism. He was a founder and the president of ESG Architects for 26 years. He was AIA Minnesota president in 2006 and was elevated to FAIA in 2008. He specialized in hotel design, having completed 75 hotels across the country.

8:00–9:30 AM

W45.**How to use the Minnesota Conservation Code**

1.5 LUs HSW Audience: Entry, Intermediate

To gain an understanding of the best application of the Existing Building Code this session will outline the 3 pathways within the code (Prescriptive, Work Area Method, and Performance Compliance Method) and how each method is used and impacts the design/requirements of a project. Requirements for alterations, additions and changes in occupancy will be addressed for each pathway.

Building codes change over time. Rarely do they result in a reduction or relaxation of requirements. So how does one address code compliance when remodeling existing structures? Enter the Minnesota Conservation Code for Existing Buildings. The Conservation Code code was developed with the express purpose of making the alteration process easier. Unfortunately, the Conservation Code is not that simple to use. It provides three different methods of code compliance. The designer needs to select one. Which one? This session will provide a general overview of how each compliance path works. Once designers understand how this code allows for controlled departure from full compliance with the current building codes, adaptive re-use of existing building stock should become easier.

After reviewing general requirements, the panel will follow an example project through each pathway to understand how each method is applied and to identify the differences in applicable code requirements and design outcomes based on the selected pathway.



Scott Anderson, AIA, joined the City of Minneapolis as a plans examiner in 2012, drawn by a long-standing interest in code development and compliance. Today he supervises the City's Building Plan Review team, ensuring that projects are reviewed for code compliance and helping applicants navigate the permitting process. Scott is a licensed architect, ICC certified plans examiner, and an ICC + Minnesota certified building official. He also serves on the ICC Code Interpretation Committee and is the AIA Minnesota representative to the Governor's Council on Fire Prevention and Control and the Minnesota Construction Codes Advisory Council.



Natalie Buckman is a senior fire protection consultant II with Summit Fire Consulting with over 14 years of design, code consulting, and project management experience in the code and fire protection industry. Natalie's expertise includes life safety and code review of both new and existing/historic buildings related to occupancies, allowable height/area, construction types, fire rated construction, and means of egress. Natalie also has experience with alternate design approaches for unique/challenging projects. In addition to code experience she also has worked in design and review of fire protection systems including sprinkler, fire alarm, standpipe, and CO2/clean agent and smoke control systems.

W46.**The Changing Landscape of Green Building Guidelines**

1.5 LUs HSW 1.5 GBCI Audience: Entry

Green building standards are no longer static benchmarks; they operate as living systems responding to climate urgency, policy shifts, and real-world performance. This session examines how leading frameworks, including Minnesota's B3 Guidelines, LEED, Phius, and PHI, are evolving and what those changes mean for architectural practice today and ahead.

Speakers will discuss how B3 is moving toward simplified guidelines and alternative compliance pathways will increase flexibility while maintaining Minnesota's sustainability and resilience goals. The session will also cover LEED v5's recalibrated focus on climate resilience, social equity, and lifecycle decarbonization. In parallel, Passive House methodologies (Phius and PHI) are expanding into mainstream design, particularly in cold climates where energy performance is critical.

Insights from the Minnesota Carbon Leadership Forum will highlight how practitioners are advancing embodied carbon reduction and aligning practice with emerging standards. Through panel discussion, presenters will explore these systems as adaptive tools shaped by evolving science, policy, and market expectations, with attention to areas of convergence.

This session is ideal for architects seeking clarity and strategies for staying ahead as green building rating systems continue to evolve.

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8:00–9:30 AM

W46. *continued*

Sheri Brezinka is USGBC Midwest regional director, overseeing market transformation and development activities across the ten-state region. Sheri is an experienced senior leader in sustainability with a focus on the built environment, strategic partnerships, stakeholder engagement and organizational management. She is a resource to policy makers at the state and local level, and raises awareness about the USGBC's work through public speaking and serving on stakeholder groups. With a background in the construction industry, Sheri brings over 30 years of experience in the building industry.



Laura Eder, AIA, NCARB, LEED Green Associate is a partner at ESG Architecture & Design, where she leads with a focus on sustainable design and collaborative approach to project management. She's an active contributor to AIA, USGBC, and the Carbon Leadership Forum, and currently serves as co-chair for the Minnesota Carbon Leadership Forum Hub and member of the USGBC Minnesota Advisory Board (MLAB). A recipient of the 2023 AIA Minnesota Young Architects Award, Laura brings clarity, adaptability, and optimism to every project, inspiring teams to deliver innovative and impactful design solutions.



Richard Graves, FAIA, is the director of the Center for Sustainable Building Research and an associate professor in the College of Design at the University of Minnesota. From 2012 to 2014, he was the executive director of the International Living Future Institute, leading the operations

and strategic efforts around all of the Institute's signature programs. His research focuses on regenerative design as a fundamentally new approach that must be required of architecture across scales (from the building to the neighborhood to the city) to achieve sustainable and resilient urban development in a dynamic world.



Elizabeth Turner, AIA, founder of Precipitate, believes resilient carbon-neutral architecture must be centered on equity and affordability. She founded her firm in 2017 to accelerate change in the profession toward that goal. Elizabeth coaches client project teams in energy efficiency

as a Passive Building Consultant (CPHC) and loves helping teams find the sweet spot between energy savings, cost, embodied carbon, and beauty. Elizabeth teaches locally and nationally through Phius, and volunteers extensively with the AIA and Phius Alliance, advocating for public policy with a focus on equity and inclusion toward truly sustainable communities for all.



(Moderator) **Maureen Colburn, AIA, LEED AP BD+C** leads the LHB climate solutions studio, focusing on policies, guidelines, and programs to enhance the built environment's impact on natural resources and climate equity. She is on the management team of the Minnesota B3 suite

of programs and tools for sustainable design; is project manager

of the Regional Indicators Initiative, an effort to engage communities in actionable strategies for energy and greenhouse gas reduction; and engages in research into effective ways to reduce energy consumption in commercial buildings. Maureen is passionate about sharing the stories of women in architecture, and she coordinates the FAIA Legacy Project Team.

W47.

Park Design & Climate Action Frameworks for Improved Environmental and Community Resiliency

1.5 LUs

HSW

Audience: Intermediate

Through a review of EOR's various park and climate planning projects, attendees will learn how park design and open space planning/programming can be used to reduce flooding, improve water quality, and increase biodiversity in addressing climate resiliency concerns. Additionally, the audience will learn how these sites can serve a multitude of needs for diverse users, creating opportunities that strengthen community resilience — especially for those more vulnerable and at-risk populations exposed to climate change. The session will also explore how parks in their various iterations (urban retrofits, community hubs, and those historically/culturally focused) can play an integral role in building community resilience.

With a focus on the recent design and community engagement process for the Bottineau Park Improvements in Minneapolis, as well as other park design projects, attendees will learn how these and other recreational sites can be identified within the context of a climate action framework and how these design projects can be quantitatively assessed and prioritized for community health.



Britta Hansen is EOR's community practice lead and served as the project manager for the recent Bottineau Park Improvements. She has 16 years of experience planning and designing public spaces, recreational areas, school campuses, and stormwater management features. She

specializes in weaving green infrastructure into urban retrofit projects in a way that layers function, aesthetics, performance, and art to provide the utmost public benefit.

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8:00–9:30 AM

W47. continued



Carol HejlStone was the client representative and project manager for the Bottineau Field Park project. Carol holds Bachelor's Degrees in Landscape Architecture and Environmental Design from North Dakota State University and a Master's Degree focused in City/Urban,

Community and Regional Planning from University of Minnesota Humphrey School of Public Affairs. She has over 20 years of experience working in the planning and design realm focused on parks, trails, and transportation networks.



Robert Stein has over 20 years of experience designing parks which embrace sustainability and focus on building climate and community resiliency. Additionally, as an environmental designer and community planner, Rob works with larger design teams (environmental

specialists and water resources engineers) in incorporating green infrastructure and through an extensive public engagement process, develops parks that focus on natural site design for all communities.



Randy Walker led the Bottineau Park public art engagement process. With an architecture degree, Randy worked in the design field for over ten years before working as a full-time artist, focusing on public art over the past 20 years.

Randy is inspired by places that have stories to reveal, the stories that may lie hidden in distinctive natural or built features, or from within the community itself. He works to create art and art engagement processes that reveal the spirit of a place by challenging preconceptions and revealing those stories that are unique to each user.



(Moderator) **Alex Furneaux** has recently completed the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization's climate action framework. His planning work reflects a broad range of projects and programs including urban stormwater management, integrated green infrastructure, and community design. A clear communicator, Alex brings his excellent coordination, project management, and public engagement skills to EOR's planning, design, and community integrated projects.



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8:00–9:30 AM

W48.

Let's Decarbonize! A Hands-on Building Decarbonization Workshop

1.5 LUs | 1.5 GBCI | Audience: Intermediate

Excited to decarbonize? Want to learn more about how to do it? This highly interactive session will provide a hands-on introduction to the emerging practice of strategic decarbonization planning, delivered in a dynamic, game-based format.

First, it will introduce decarbonization fundamentals using core concepts from the *ASHRAE/USGBC/NYSERDA Guide to Strategic Decarbonization Planning*. Then, in small groups, attendees will work together to develop a mock building decarbonization plan using information from an actual building. Each group will explore and evaluate strategies to reduce building GHG emissions while considering costs, trigger events, and other key contextual factors.

Session attendees should come ready to engage with their peers and get to work!



Heather Cheng, Assoc. AIA, is a recent graduate from the University of Cincinnati, holding a Master of Architecture and a Bachelor of Science in Architectural Engineering. She is a former member of UC's ASHRAE student chapter. As a designer, Heather has contributed

to a range of design initiatives and interdisciplinary projects. Her work includes the development of educational board games that engage with critical issues in the built environment, including affordable housing, zoning reform, and now, decarbonization.



Dr. Katherine Castiello Jones is an associate professor educator in sociology and the digital media collaborative (DMC) at the University of Cincinnati. She holds a B.A. from Grinnell College, a Graduate Certificate in Feminist Studies and Ph.D. in Sociology from the

University of Massachusetts Amherst. Dr. Castiello Jones also writes extensively on topics related to games and game design including sexuality in games, inclusive design, and integrating feminist theories of play into game design scholarship. Dr. Castiello Jones has been writing table-top and live-action role-playing games (larps) for over a decade.



Dr. Amanda Webb is an associate professor in architectural engineering at the University of Cincinnati. She holds a doctorate in Architectural Engineering from the Pennsylvania State University, a master's degree from MIT's Building Technology Program, and a bachelor's

degree in Architecture from Yale University. Prior to obtaining her doctorate, she worked as an environmental design

consultant for Atelier Ten, and as an energy auditor working for the Smart Energy Design Assistance Center at the University of Illinois. She currently serves on ASHRAE's Center of Excellence for Building Decarbonization and on ASHRAE Standard 211, Standard for Commercial Building Energy Audits.

8:15–9:30 AM

W49.

Post-Renovation Evaluation: 15 years of Neighborhood and Spiritual Influence

1.25 LUs | HSW | Audience: Entry, Intermediate

How do historic building renovations show resilience? Significant transformations have occurred in our world within the past 15 years: architectural, political, spiritual, societal, and environmental. This seminar explores these many influential factors as they reflect an existing building's response to change.

Panelists will explore, through a case study, the ideas of how the renovation of a historic facility can provide resilience for the changing world's many factors. Unity Church-Unitarian is an urban congregation in St. Paul with a long history of community activism and engagement in its 150-year history. The current church facility was built in 1905 with numerous additions and renovations since. At Unity, the leadership team and architect sat down 15 years after its most recent renovation to update its post-renovation evaluation. The team will share their experience and make some projections for the future.



Paul May, AIA, is a principal at Miller Dunwiddie and has over 35 years experience in architectural design and planning. He has a broad range of experience in many building types, and has developed a special expertise in programming, planning and design of educational and faith-

based facilities. He is currently president of the Minnesota Architectural Foundation.



Laura Park has served in a variety of roles in her career: training and development specialist, congregational governance consultant, membership director, and now Executive Director of Unity Church-Unitarian. Although seemingly unrelated, at the center these roles

were always about helping people and institutions find their purpose, the difference they make in people's lives, and organize to deliver on that promise. Laura is the author of *The Nested Bowls: The Promise and Practice of Good Governance* and has a MA in Organization Development from the University of St. Thomas.

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8:15-9:30 AM

W49. continued

Lorelee Wederstrom's professional career spans thirty five years as a facilities executive in both healthcare and higher education. Her work in planning, design, building and operating large healthcare, research and educational facilities was honored by AIA Minnesota in 2015 for "her dedicated collaboration with the architecture industry and exceptional contributions that improve the quality of our physical environment". Throughout her career, she was committed to ensuring organizational mission excellence and cutting edge advancements through facility operations, service and design performance.

9:30-10:45 AM

W50.
Exhibit Hall & Coffee

There's more to explore in the Exhibit Hall spaces this year! Grab some coffee and visit the Pavilion and the Great Hall to learn about products and services to improve your practice.

10:45 AM-12:15 PM

W51.
Energy Code Compliance: What Might be Missing in Your Contract Documents

1.5 LUs | HSW | Audience: Intermediate

Do you understand the Minnesota Commercial Energy Code and its requirements to demonstrate compliance? Do you understand what an air barrier is and why it is needed, from energy efficiency to occupant health? Do your contract documents indicate clear design intent of the air barrier system design, the selected compliance path, and how the project will demonstrate compliance through commissioning, specifically for the continuity of the air barrier?

In this program, the panelists will discuss and review the air barrier requirements in the Minnesota Commercial Energy Code and strategies for how to best communicate, through drawings and specifications, the products and systems being provided and so the contractor(s) can easily understand, execute the work, and participate in the commissioning process, resulting a building meeting the energy use goals and create an indoor environment that supports the occupants of the building.



Jack Rasmussen, AIA, NCARB, FMPC, CEP, CPHT is an architect and the building science manager at Kraus Anderson Construction, providing building enclosure technical expertise and supporting QA/QC activities. With 25 years experience, Jack draws on a balanced

perspective through roles as architectural project manager, specification writer, construction administrator, building enclosure consultant, forensic investigator, owner's representative, and construction management. He holds certifications in fenestration, EIFS, WUFI, and Passive House. He also serves as an adjunct instructor in the UMN Construction Management program teaching building enclosure design and construction and serves on the board of directors for MN BEC.

W52.
Negotiating Access: Value Judgments About Disability in Historic Buildings

1.5 LUs | HSW | Ethics | Audience: Entry, Intermediate, Advanced

Limited and relegated building access is a silent, socially accepted form of segregation in our environments today. This is a result of architects at-large viewing accessibility solely as a regulatory component of practice, rather than a true fulfillment of protecting the health, safety and welfare of all – disabled and non-disabled – people alike.

But where does only meeting the minimum standard for compliance get us? Who gets left behind when we place value judgments on who can belong where and why?

The social model of disability posits that people are disabled by environmental, attitudinal and systematic barriers. As architects, we directly influence and can dismantle designed barriers in the built environment. However, preservation standards protect these barriers and perpetuate inaccessibility and exclusivity in our buildings.

This program will identify attitudes of exclusion evident in *NPS Preservation Brief 32: Making Historic Properties Accessible*; explore value judgments made by practitioners, property owners, and regulatory entities; evaluate and redefine "successful" access negotiation case studies; and propose updates to preservation standards to support a socially aware understanding of disability in the built environment.

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10:45 AM-12:15 PM

W52. continued

Melissa Christenson Ekman, AIA, is an architect with 22 years of experience. In addition to her technical expertise gained working on nearly 250 historic preservation projects, she meets the National Park Service's professional qualification standard (36 CFR Part 61) for historic architecture as part of the Secretary of the Interior's standards for the treatment of historic properties. She is a former board member for the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota (PAM). Melissa has had numerous projects receive awards from various organizations including local Historic Preservation Commissions (Minneapolis, St. Paul and Duluth), the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota, and Finance and Commerce.



Elizabeth Wickware, Assoc. AIA is a designer that recently joined Miller Dunwiddie after receiving her Master's Degree in Architecture and her Master's of Science in Historic Preservation. Since joining the firm, she has continued focusing on historic and existing buildings by completing on-site assessments, production of reports, programming and space planning diagrams and preparation of construction documents. Elizabeth approaches historic work through a lens of interconnectedness and by understanding the underlying cultural context, people and places surrounding a historic structure, she can better determine how the project can integrate current needs with a structure's historic significance and intent.

W53.**2+2: Design for Equitable Communities**

1.5 LUs Audience: Entry, Intermediate, Advanced

2+2 is an annual conference program that brings together recent AIA Fellows and recipients of the AIA Minnesota Young Architect Award to present their work and explore its connections to the AIA Framework for Design Excellence. This year, the panel will focus on the Framework's Design for Equitable Communities measure, which recognizes that "design solutions affect more than the client and current occupants. Good design positively impacts the future by helping communities thrive — socially, economically, and environmentally."

This topic opens an important discussion about design's broader purpose and its potential to create positive impact by advancing areas of focus such as human connection and social equity.



Wale Falade, AIA, NOMA, is a principal at Locus Architecture. His work is shaped by curiosity, collaboration, and a belief in design's power to improve lives. Raised in Lagos, Nigeria, and now rooted in St. Paul's Hamline-Midway neighborhood, Wale brings a global, community-centered perspective to architecture. Known for guiding complex projects through rigorous, iterative processes, he is deeply committed to equity and access to design. Outside the studio, Wale finds joy in cooking, making music, playing bass guitar, and crafting custom furniture.



Richard Graves, FAIA, is the director of the Center for Sustainable Building Research and an associate professor in the College of Design at the University of Minnesota. From 2012 to 2014, he was the executive director of the International Living Future Institute, leading the operations and strategic efforts around all of the Institute's signature programs. His research focuses on regenerative design as a fundamentally new approach that must be required of architecture across scales (from the building to the neighborhood to the city) to achieve sustainable and resilient urban development in a dynamic world.



Kelly Martinez, AIA, LEED AP, is an architect and project manager at BWBR. Her work focuses on community projects, specifically higher education and K-12 schools. She inspires future generations by advancing access to architecture and design. With a passion for education, students, and service, she enriches communities through her volunteering, practice, and leadership. Kelly was a 2025 recipient of the AIA Minnesota Young Architect Award.



Angela Wolf Scott, FAIA, is an expert in historic preservation architecture with a specialization in strategic planning and masonry restoration. As the second generation of leadership at MacDonald & Mack Architects, she carries on the firm's legacy as the gold standard of historic preservation. Her approach treats every preservation challenge as a research opportunity, following a systematic process: Identify the underlying problem, investigate through rigorous analysis, develop innovative solutions, and share findings to advance the field.



(Moderator) **Mary Springer, AIA, LEED AP**, is an associate principal with Snow Kreilich Architects. Her work encompasses innovative, award-winning design across a wide range of project types, with a particular focus on leading complex projects and teams, incorporating criteria such as sustainability, resilience, accessibility, and equity.

10:45 AM-12:15 PM

W54.

Aligning Care, Brand, and the Built Environment at Children's Minnesota

1.5 LUs Audience: Intermediate

No one arrives at a pediatric emergency department alone. Children come with families, caregivers, anxieties, and expectations shaped long before they enter the building. From the moment of arrival, the healthcare environment becomes part of the brand experience itself.

This presentation provides an inside look at the renovation of two pediatric emergency department upfront environments for Children's Minnesota, completed within one year of each other across the Twin Cities campuses in Minneapolis and St. Paul. Presented jointly by Children's Minnesota staff and its healthcare design team, the program explores how brand experience shaped environments that support trust, emotional reassurance, operational clarity, and continuity throughout the patient and family journey.

Through project case studies, attendees will learn how experiential principles informed kid-first environments that support long-term adaptability across multiple care settings. The discussion will also examine how Children's Minnesota and the design team created consistency across campuses while allowing each environment to respond to distinct unit-specific needs, operational priorities, patient experiences, and future flexibility.

Attendees will gain insight into how healthcare organizations, brand leaders, and design teams can collaboratively shape empathetic, family-centered environments that strengthen organizational identity throughout the built environment.



Allison Bauman serves as co-leader of Children's Minnesota's experience council, advancing strategic marketing and brand initiatives in healthcare and helping to guide a vision that differentiates Children's as a best-in-class patient, family, and staff experience. With a

strong foundation in brand strategy and storytelling, Allison brings a thoughtful, purpose-driven approach to aligning marketing efforts with the emotional and physical environments of care delivery. She ensures physical spaces align with organizational values and contribute to a sense of comfort and trust. Her work emphasizes the role of thoughtfully designed environments in supporting clinical outcomes, staff engagement, and the overall care experience.



Michael Grage, AIA, is a healthcare principal and project manager at GBBN's Minneapolis office. Originally drawn to his profession by the way it weaves together art and science, what Michael loves about healthcare architecture is the way it involves the client, caregivers, builder

and architect in a sustained process of conversation and discovery. Working with nurses doctors, and other caregivers, Michael uses his 24 years of experience in design and project management to facilitate conversations and workshops in a way that ensures every voice is heard and the most comprehensive design solution is found.



Susannah Odlaug, Fitwel Amb., is a healthcare designer and associate at GBBN Architects. Her work focuses on patient and family experience in care settings, grounded in the everyday behaviors of children and families within complex clinical environments. Informed by experience

with social- and activity-based design approaches, she helps translate clinical priorities into spaces that support dignity, clarity, and emotional well-being. Susannah works across scales, from waiting spaces to healthcare campuses, with an emphasis on supporting positive health outcomes.

W55.

Building a Future for a More Equitable Profession

1.5 LUs Audience: Entry, Intermediate, Advanced

Architects and designers have spent the last century combating the heavy demands of working in the industry that calls for long hours, not enough pay, and unrealistic expectations while, at the same time, striving for excellence.

This discussion will build upon the need for culture change in architecture to utilize tools and perspectives essential to building a more sustainable and equitable industry. These tools include various models of easing the path of leadership transition through employee ownership, wage transparency, healthy workload management, and empowerment of emerging professionals.

Once the right tools are presented and defined, real questions can be asked about transforming the profession. These questions include the following: What is employee ownership? What are the different models for employee participation and ownership? How can we use these tools to take care of people, our clients, and those that are affected by architecture and the built environment? How can these tools help with leadership transition in an aging profession?

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11

10:45 AM-12:15 PM

W55. *continued*

This interactive session will include a presentation on tools that have been implemented nationally in an effort to seed positive change in the profession here in Minnesota.



Steve Bieringer, AIA, is a leader in RSP's corporate studio. A manager and a navigator, Steve helps multi-disciplinary teams to function as a unit and produce design solutions that advance our clients' businesses, resonate with end users, and anticipate market shifts.



Kirsten Kennedy is the executive director of the Minnesota Center for Employee Ownership (MNCEO), where she leads the organization's efforts in networking, fundraising, program expansion, and education. Before joining MNCEO, Kirsten served as mayor of North

Branch, where she championed economic development, affordable housing, infrastructure improvements, and support for individuals facing chronic mental health challenges and homelessness. A dedicated advocate for grassroots community building and social justice, she recently completed a prestigious Bush Fellowship, focusing on improving community health. Kirsten chairs the marketing committee of the Central Minnesota Manufacturers Association and serves on the government committee of the Economic Development Association of Minnesota.



Xinxuan Liu, AIA graduated with a Master of Architecture from the School of Architecture at Taliesin. She is a strong believer in learning by doing, thinking through drawing, and designing through making. She is interested in engaging with communities and contributing to projects

with social values while pursuing responsible and regenerative design as a project architect.



Mary Shaffer, AIA, leads the architecture North Central team at Mead & Hunt, where she has been a shareholder since 2021. She is passionate about leading her team through coaching, mentorship, and active career development planning. Mary is a past co-chair of the AIA

Minnesota Council of Firms Knowledge Community and has served on the Minnesota Architectural Foundation (MAF) board since January 2021, including serving as MAF president in 2024.



(Moderator) **Kevin Holm, AIA, LEED AP** is a director at LHB, Inc. and is president-elect of AIA Minnesota. He thrives on the collaborative aspects of projects, developing innovative solutions that enhance the built environment while aligning budgets to provide a well-rounded

value to clients. Kevin is a true advocate for the value of architects and the profession. That value is founded in partnering with our clients, adding our expertise to help them

assess, plan and achieve their vision and goals for success. He is particularly passionate about the challenges of achieving regenerative design, starting with building orientation and massing and championing materials and technologies that contribute to a forward-looking path.



(Moderator) **Yong Ye, AIA**, is a new architect navigating her career with a focus on mentorship and community building. She volunteers her time with the ACE Mentorship program in the Twin Cities mentoring high school students about the building industry. As a newly licensed architect,

she has been focusing her efforts with helping other licensure candidates with the exam process.

12:15-2:30 PM

W56.**Exhibit Hall & Lunch**

This is your last chance to visit the Great Hall and Pavilion to learn more about the products and services offered by your current and potential industry partners! Grab a box lunch and stroll the halls to learn the latest news from our exhibitors — what they are learning from the projects they've been working on, and the latest developments in materials, technologies, and business services that can support success in your projects and in your firm. Complete your punch card for a chance to win a cash prize, too! **Lunch is provided at no additional cost ONLY for attendees that select this event during their registration.**

12:30-1:30 PM

W57.**Fellows Lunch**

AIA Minnesota Fellows are invited to enjoy lunch together, connecting with fellow FAIAs and celebrating new Fellows. AIA Minnesota EVP/executive director Mary-Margaret Zindren, CAE, will join the group with a focus on mentorship and the role FAIAs might play in implementing a new AIA Minnesota effort focused on supporting the transition from student to professional and the first ten years of practice. **Registration for this event is reserved for AIA Minnesota Fellows.**

1:30-300 PM

W58. Capacity 25

TOUR: McKnight Foundation

1.0 LUs Audience: Entry, Intermediate, Advanced

This tour has an additional fee and will depart from The Depot.

This tour explores the transformation of a century-old Minneapolis building into the McKnight Foundation's new headquarters, a LEED Gold Certified interior renovation project. The design

balances preservation and reuse with ambitious goals for energy performance, material health, occupant well-being, and long-term flexibility. McKnight's deep commitment to Minneapolis, diversity and equity, and climate action shaped the project from the earliest stages and informed decisions across design and construction.

Tour participants will explore how the team navigated the challenges of an existing historic building while creating a contemporary, highly functional workplace. The tour highlights how integrated design and shared goals can turn complex constraints into opportunities for sustainable and meaningful design.

Ashley Lundgren, CID is a senior interior designer at Studio BV. During her 15-plus years in the industry, she has had the pleasure of working on a wide variety of project types, with corporate workplace being her primary focus. Ashley sees design as an opportunity to reflect culture in space, and to inspire others to love the built environment that envelopes them. When she's not working, she's busy chasing her 7- and 10-year-old boys and spending time in her garden.

Vanessa Nguyen has always been fascinated by design because of the powerful role it plays in shaping everyday life. As a graduate of the University of Minnesota with a degree in interior design and a minor in sustainable studies, Vanessa is passionate about creating spaces that are both thoughtful and environmentally responsible. While she is early in her professional journey, she has experience with corporate workplace design as well as hospitality-focused retail projects. Vanessa strives to bring enthusiasm, curiosity, and a strong desire to contribute to projects that positively impact the people who use them.

Kristine Wentworth, AIA, is a project architect at Studio BV with over ten years in the profession. She has worked in Minneapolis and Las Vegas, with experience in workplace, sustainable interiors, hospitality, gaming, and entertainment architecture. She currently serves on the board of directors with AIA Minneapolis. She has been involved with NCARB on ARE 5.0 committees as well as both the Las Vegas and Minneapolis chapters of AIA. She was a 2022 Architects Foundation Shou-Ping Chin Women's Leadership Summit Grant recipient as well as a 2023 Twin Cities 30 Under 30 Award honoree through *Interior Design Magazine*.

2:30-4:00 PM

W59.

Ethics and Uses of AI as an Ordinary Architect

1.5 LUs HSW Ethics Audience: Entry, Intermediate, Advanced

Artificial intelligence (AI) is rapidly transforming architectural practice, offering extraordinary new capabilities in research, visualization, analysis, communication, and workflow automation. Yet alongside these opportunities come urgent ethical questions about creativity, authorship, labor, environmental cost, and the diminishing role of human judgment in design culture.

This session examines AI not from the perspective of a technologist or software developer, but from that of an ordinary practicing architect attempting to navigate a rapidly changing profession responsibly. Through cultural critique, practical examples, and case studies drawn from architectural practice, the presentation explores both the remarkable utility of AI and the profound risks that accompany uncritical adoption.

The session will provide a grounded explanation of how contemporary AI systems function, examine broader societal and professional implications of artificial intelligence, and propose a practical ethical framework for determining where AI can meaningfully augment architectural practice — and where architects may choose to deliberately preserve deeply human acts of creativity, interpretation, and judgment.

Rather than asking whether architects should use AI, the panel asks a more enduring question: what responsibilities and creative acts should never be outsourced?

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2:30–4:00 PM

W59. continued



Michael Hara, AIA, is an architect, designer, and maker based in the Twin Cities and currently practicing at HGA. His work spans architecture, fabrication, furniture, and product design, with a particular interest in the relationship between craft, technology, history and human experience.

In addition to practice, he regularly speaks on design, creativity, fabrication, and emerging technologies within the architectural profession.



(Moderator) **Renée Cheng, FAIA**, is the dean of the Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts and senior vice provost at Arizona State University. Prior to joining ASU, she served as dean of the College of Built Environments at The University of Washington. Earlier in her career, she taught at the University of Michigan and the University of Arizona. She is a graduate of Harvard's Graduate School of Design and Harvard College. She was the lead author for the AIA Guides for Equitable Practice issued in 2022 and has received numerous honors and awards for teaching and research.

W60.

Rezoning, Reuse, and Affordability: Building Sanctuary Lofts

1.5 LUs | HSW | Audience: Entry, Intermediate

Sanctuary Lofts transformed the former St. James Church on Minnehaha Parkway into a 28-unit residential complex — 21 units within the existing church and 7 in a new building on site.

This session combines a lecture and panel featuring the architect, developer, and site superintendent to examine adaptive reuse, incremental housing density, and the financing models that make it viable. The team will discuss how the developer's pro forma and goal of unsubsidized affordability directly shaped design and construction decisions — and how the Minneapolis 2040 Plan was leveraged to navigate rezoning and neighborhood concerns, using design as the primary advocacy tool.

Rather than working around the existing structure, the design team exploited the church's vaulted nave and spatial volumes to create inventive unit types with private outdoor access, minimizing interior corridors and activating the site's collective grounds. As with any adaptive reuse project, structural surprises and code hurdles demanded close collaboration on a lean budget. The developer's long-term ownership model anchors lasting affordability.

Panelists will dive deep on specific design decisions, construction challenges, and budget strategies — offering a candid, process-level account of what it actually takes to bring an unsubsidized adaptive reuse housing project from concept to occupancy.



Molly Dalsin, AIA, is a practicing architect, researcher, and educator based in Minneapolis, and founder of Mesh Architecture. Her firm engages in built and speculative work focused on social space and equitable housing typologies.

Drawing on her involvement with the Urban Land Institute's real estate diversity initiative, Molly advocates for alternative financial models and equitable urban policy in development. At the University of Minnesota, she teaches design studios across undergraduate and graduate programs and serves as interim co-director of the MS in Applied Research Practices — bridging design, research, and professional practice.



Alex Haecker, AIA, NCARB is the principal architect and owner of AWH Architects, a practice rooted in adaptive reuse, historic preservation, and Plus-certified sustainable design. With over 30 years of experience, Alex transforms existing structures into inventive

housing, such as the award-winning Sanctuary Lofts and Avivo Village. Guided by AWH's five core tenets—pragmatism, reuse, energy, social justice, and water—his work maximizes embodied energy, prioritizes unsubsidized affordability, and integrates design-driven advocacy with high-performance standards to deliver socially and environmentally responsible design solutions. Alex currently serves as a board member for Rethos and is a former Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commissioner of 6 years.



Beth Pfeifer joined Twin Cities Habitat as vice president of real estate development in 2024, leading the public funding, design, real estate development, and sales teams. Educated as an architect, she brings 20+ years of leadership across architecture, private development,

nonprofit, and public sector work. Her career has centered on community development: parks, arts spaces, and all housing types, including affordable rentals and homeownership, spanning the full development cycle from conception through occupancy. Beth is former board chair of Move MN, former AIA Minnesota board member, and is active in WIREDUP, Urban Land Institute, Lambda Alpha International, and is LEED AP.

Bryan Sandvig is VP at ShaneCon Commercial Construction, where he brings extensive experience as both a project manager and site superintendent across a broad range of commercial project types. His specialties include estimating, sales, and the management of building structures. Bryan has deep expertise in design-build project management spanning office, industrial warehouse, retail, and site grading and utility projects. His preconstruction capabilities encompass the full project lifecycle — from city approvals and subcontract procurement to material sourcing, estimating, and scheduling. Bryan's hands-on field experience combined with his management acumen makes him a trusted leader in commercial construction delivery.

2:30-4:00 PM

W61.

Canopy to Concept: Protect and Integrate Existing Trees into Site Design

1.5 LUs Audience: Entry, Intermediate, Advanced

This program provides a comprehensive look at integrating landscape design and arborist practices into successful private development projects. Participants will learn how to conduct tree inventories and condition assessments to inform site planning decisions and identify opportunities for tree preservation.

Emphasis is placed on understanding existing site conditions — including soils, drainage, and microclimates — to support the selection of appropriate vegetation and long-term landscape health. The session also explores best management practices during construction to protect existing trees and minimize damage to root systems, soils, and surrounding vegetation.

Attendees will gain practical strategies for incorporating preserved trees into site design while meeting municipal landscaping codes and development requirements. Through real-world case studies, the program highlights effective approaches to balancing development goals with environmental stewardship. Topics include designing around existing vegetation, enhancing site aesthetics and function, and planning for future growth and maintenance. Participants will also learn key considerations for ongoing tree and landscape care to ensure long-term success.

Overall, this program equips designers, developers, and project managers with the tools to create resilient, code-compliant, and sustainable landscapes that add lasting value to development projects.



Lucas Mueller is a certified arborist with a robust environmental background. He combines a deep commitment to ecological integrity with a strong focus on delivering results for private developers. He excels in wetland mitigation, permitting, wetland restoration, and site

development, helping clients navigate complex regulatory landscapes to achieve sustainable, high-value outcomes. Lucas's expertise ensures that private development projects are not only compliant with environmental regulations but also optimized for long-term ecological and financial success. He is dedicated to bridging the gap between environmental stewardship and private land use planning, helping developers create projects that balance growth with sustainability.



Brian Reinarts is a senior project manager with design and management experience in master planning, rezoning/entitlements, site design, and construction of a variety of land development and landscape architecture projects. His motivation is to provide excellent client service and develop projects that illustrate innovative and efficient site design. Brian started his career in 2004 working on urban and large-scale development projects throughout North Dakota and Minnesota. In his professional career, Brian has planned and managed several projects looking at land use for large and small areas, land development acquisitions and entitlements, and residential/commercial/mixed-use development.



(Moderator) **Jason McCarty** is the land and site development sector leader at Moore Engineering, Inc., where he brings three decades of experience in civil engineering, land development, and strategic business leadership. Jason spent 23 years with Westwood Professional Services, where he served in several leadership positions, including vice president, land division leader, Minneapolis office leader, and board of directors member. Jason's professional foundation was built through hands-on project management and civil engineering, supporting thousands of residential units across the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area. Jason is recognized for helping organizations grow strategically while delivering practical, high-quality solutions for land and site development challenges.

W62.

Market Smarter, Not Louder: Authentic Marketing Lessons from Small Firms

1.5 LUs Audience: Entry, Intermediate

Explore the different ways architects build trust, visibility, and opportunity with clients and communities. Through conversation and real-world examples, three practitioners share how they grow their practices through relationship-building, community presence, and knowledge-sharing instead of one-size-fits-all marketing tactics.

Panelists will discuss how architects can develop sustainable business development strategies that align with their strengths, values, communication styles, and ideal clients. Approaches range from referral-based networks and community engagement to educational content and cultivating long-term relationships. As small firm leaders, the panelists have been able to test ideas quickly, adapt in real time, and see immediate results. Their experiences offer practical lessons that can be scaled and applied across firms of any size.

Attendees will leave with practical ideas for building authentic marketing practices that are easier to sustain over time.

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2:30-4:00 PM

W62. continued

**Marcy Conrad Nutt, AIA, CPHD, LEED AP**

founded Yarrow Architecture to focus on high-performance, resilient, occupant well-being centered design through the principles of Passive House. Her work emphasizes healthy materials, energy efficiency, and practical strategies that

improve everyday life. Through architecture, education, and community engagement, she advocates for thoughtful, values-driven practice and long-term sustainability in the built environment.

**Heather Whalen, AIA, NCARB, CID, LEED AP**

is the founder of ReviveR Architecture and Development, a Minnesota practice focused on hospitality design, adaptive reuse, and the renewal of existing buildings. Drawing on nearly three decades of experience, Heather helps

clients navigate complex redevelopment decisions through thoughtful leadership, deep listening, and relationship-centered collaboration. Her work emphasizes stewardship, trust-building, and long-term community impact.

**Tiersa Wodash, AIA, RA, LEED AP**

is the founder of Brick and Mortar, a Duluth-based practice focused on helping small business owners navigate the process of opening physical spaces. Through client education, local economic development initiatives, and strategic

relationship-building, she has developed tools and services that support entrepreneurs early in their decision-making process. Her work emphasizes building reuse, and strengthening connections between architects and local business owners.



(Moderator) **Katie Kangas, AIA, NCARB** is the founder of Pasque Architecture focusing on story-centered architecture and design for communities and nonprofit organizations. She is also the host of Flying Solo, a podcast featuring conversations with solo and small-firm

architects about marketing, practice management, and building values-driven practices. Her work explores how architects can create sustainable businesses through authentic communication, strong client relationships, and thoughtful leadership.

W63. Capacity 15

TOUR: Equitable Skyways

1.0 LUs

HSW

Audience: Entry, Intermediate, Advanced

This tour has an additional fee and will depart from The Depot.



How does equity in the built environment relate to the Minneapolis skyway system? Explore the past and present of the skyways, and what a more equitable future skyway system might look like.

Reflect on your personal experience of the skyways and recognize how others experience the skyways differently. How does utilization differ pre- and post-pandemic, and who has disproportionately experienced negative impacts? How does ownership and financial influence over the skyway system shape its design and potential improvements? How much of the skyway experience relates to one's gender, race, sexual orientation, disability status, immigration or resident status, housing vulnerability, etc.?

Kermit Duncan, AIA, FCSI, CCCA is a licensed architect with Miller Dunwiddie with extensive experience from conceptual through construction phases of both new and existing commercial, institutional, and military housing projects. He has a comprehensive background in the technical aspects of architectural design and "hands-on" experience in the coordination of various construction trades, and possesses exceptional interpersonal and communication skills, which allow exceptional rapport with clients, staff, and government agencies. Kermit has upheld a lifelong commitment to serving his community and was awarded the 2020 AIA Minnesota Louis Lundgren Award for Service.

Kav Mdumuka, Assoc. AIA, loves creating memorable experiences for customers through great projects and meaningful partnerships with owners and developers. He believes great design reflects a client's core values and thrives in a team environment centered on respect, connection, and collaboration. Dedicated to improving construction processes and the built environment, Kav actively gives back to the community through mentorship, volunteer work, and purposeful design.

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2:30-4:00 PM

W63. *continued*

Becca Staley, AIA, is a project architect at Gensler, focused on civic, aviation, and technical facilities. With 14 years of experience, including a decade of designing impactful educational environments across Minnesota, she is dedicated to creating high-performing spaces that support learning, engagement, and long-term institutional goals. Known for her collaborative approach and organizational skills, she works closely with project teams to deliver thoughtful, well-executed solutions. Becca is passionate about equity in architecture and fostering inclusive conversations that help strengthen the profession and the work in communities it serves. She is an active member of AIA Minnesota's Equity in the Built Environment Committee, including serving as co-chair.

4:15-5:30 PM

W64.**Keynote: From Emerging to Enduring**

1.25 LUs Audience: Entry, Intermediate, Advanced

Sponsored by [Emanuelson-Podas, Inc.](#)

The architecture profession faces unprecedented change, from evolving technologies and workforce expectations to increasing demands for collaboration and community impact. Yet the profession's future will be shaped less by the challenges we face than by how we lead through them. This keynote reframes leadership as a continuum, moving from emerging professional to enduring influence.

Through stories from practice, mentorship, volunteer service, and project leadership, attendees will explore how trust, generosity, and intentional investment in others create lasting impact. The most enduring leaders are not remembered for their titles or accomplishments alone, but for the people they empower and the opportunities they create for those who follow.



Carrie Parker, AIA, NOMA, NCARB, LEED AP is an associate vice president and higher education client leader at CannonDesign, where she helps colleges and universities create student-centered environments that strengthen community, well-being, and belonging. Throughout her career, she has helped lead the planning,

design, and delivery of transformative campus projects across North America. Carrie is a recipient of the 2026 AIA Young Architects Award, the 2025 Zweig Group Rising Star Award, and the 2024 ENR Mid-Atlantic Top Young Professional Award. She serves on the boards of AIA Northern Virginia and the AIAS, and previously held multiple leadership roles within the AIA Young Architects Forum.

W65.**Beyond Code: Designing Buildings for a Changing Climate**

1.25 LUs HSW Audience: Intermediate

Building codes are intended to protect public health and safety, but they are largely based on historical data and minimum acceptable performance. As hazard events become more frequent and severe, many architects are asking an important question: what happens when code minimums no longer reflect future conditions?

This session explores the architect's evolving responsibility to inform clients about emerging climate risks and opportunities to design beyond minimum standards. Framed through the lens of resilience, regenerative design, and long-term building performance, the program will examine practical strategies for creating buildings that are safer, more adaptable, and better prepared for disruption. Topics will include hazard-informed design, passive survivability, building enclosure performance, redundancy, retrofit strategies, and the growing overlap between resilience, decarbonization, and occupant well-being.

The session will also review how sustainability frameworks and professional organizations are responding to these challenges. AIA's focus on regenerative design and resilience within its new strategic plan, along with the integration of resilience into LEED v5, signals a broader shift in the profession toward climate-responsive practice.

Through examples and interactive discussion, participants will gain practical insights into how architects can lead conversations about risk, performance, and resilience while supporting healthier, lower-carbon, and more regenerative built environments.



Alan Scott, FAIA, LEED Fellow is an architect and sustainability practitioner with more than 36 years of experience advancing high-performance, resilient, and climate-responsive buildings. As director of sustainability for Intertek Building & Construction, his work

focuses on decarbonization, resilience, occupant wellness, and building performance. Alan serves as co-chair of the AIA Resilience and Disaster Response Committee, leading development of resilience design resources, and as vice-chair of the USGBC LEED Resilience Working Group, where he led integration of resilience strategies into LEED v5. He is a frequent national speaker on climate-responsive and resilient design.

4:15-5:30 PM

W66.**The Future of Predictive Compliance in Healthcare Facilities**

1.25 LUs HSW Audience: Intermediate, Advanced

Healthcare compliance is not simply the application of individual codes or isolated design decisions. In senior living and healthcare environments, survey outcomes are often shaped by a complex interaction between occupancy classification, operational models, physical environment conditions, documentation systems, and evolving regulatory interpretation.

This session introduces the concept of the “code path” – a structured methodology for understanding how healthcare regulations, survey processes, and facility operations interact across the lifecycle of a building. Drawing from real-world assisted living, memory care, and skilled nursing examples, the presentation will examine how seemingly minor design and planning decisions can create significant downstream compliance, operational, and capital planning impacts.

Participants will explore common disconnects between building approval, licensure approval, and long-term survey sustainability, including examples involving occupancy classification, memory care operations, fire protection strategies, renovation pathways, emergency preparedness, and healthcare physical environment compliance.

The session is intended to help architects, owners, and project teams better anticipate regulatory risk earlier in the design and planning process while improving interdisciplinary coordination and long-term operational resilience.



Michael Mireau is the founder of The Source Assisted Living Consultants and creator of The Source Code Path™ methodology. He is a licensed architect in Minnesota and Wisconsin and previously served as a healthcare physical environment regulator and plan reviewer with the

Minnesota Department of Health, where he helped establish Minnesota's assisted living physical environment review program following the implementation of Minnesota Statute 144G. His work focuses on the intersection of healthcare design, regulatory systems, survey methodology, and long-term operational compliance for assisted living, memory care, and skilled nursing facilities.

W67.**Leveraging Architecture: Design Professionals Who Became Real Estate Developers**

1.25 LUs Audience: Entry

The architecture industry continues to evolve. Factors like changing building technology, urban flight, mainstream design-build delivery, litigation, and AI are forcing the industry to find and create new value in the profession every day and with every project. Four design professionals share their stories and the many lessons learned as they transitioned to or added real estate development to their careers.

Participants will understand the critical skills that architects can leverage into a real estate development career, discern the risks and rewards of a transition from architecture to real estate development, and be able to discuss a project with private real estate development clients within the greater context of the overall development process.



Ned Dodington, AIA, is VP of business development at Rise Modular, where he leads strategy, client engagement, and market alignment. A licensed architect and real estate developer, Ned previously served as director of development at Greystar, delivering over 2,000 multifamily units totaling nearly \$1 billion across three metro regions during a nine-year tenure. Earlier, he was a project architect in Gensler's Houston mixed-use studio. Ned is a recognized thought leader in bio-inclusive design, having delivered a TEDx Talk and published in peer-reviewed journals. He was named a *Houston Business Journal* 40 Under 40 honoree and Design Futures Council Emerging Leader.



Leif Eikevik is CEO of Link Street, a real estate development company that revitalizes neighborhoods and creates walkable districts by leveraging commercial real estate development for economic and civic growth. Leif is also senior VP at a REIT, in charge of land development and acquisitions of commercial property. He most recently founded an AI and data company, Signa, for real estate acquisitions and private equity. Leif transitioned to development after an accomplished design career in high-performance commercial and federal projects. Leif was formerly a market-sector leader at Leo A Daly, project manager at HGA, and design architect at SOM.

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11

4:15-5:30 PM

W67. continued



Meghan Elliott, Assoc. AIA, has dedicated her career to historic building redevelopment. She is principal and founder of New History, Jillpine, and RevitalizeMN. As founding principal of New History, Meghan has led more than 300 historic building redevelopment and historic preservation

consulting projects in Minnesota. Likewise, Jillpine is a one-person real estate development company for high-potential historic properties. Finally, Meghan co-founded RevitalizeMN in 2020 to advocate for the extension of the Minnesota state historic tax credit, and to bring awareness to the important role of building reuse for economic development, sustainability, housing, and heritage.



Colin Oglesbay, AIA, is the principal of D/O Architecture and D/O Development, where he leads an integrated practice. D/O Architects is an interdisciplinary studio committed to the seamless fusion of structure and nature — work that has been recognized by the AIA and ASLA.

Colin also teaches design at the University of Minnesota. In 2018, Colin launched D/O Development to bring the studio's design expertise directly to the development process. To date, D/O Development has lead over \$180 million in projects, with a portfolio that reflects a belief that great design and responsible development are inseparable.



(Moderator) **Peter Hendee Brown, FAIA**, is a licensed architect and certified planner. Over the past 30 years, he has worked in architecture, government administration, real estate development, and as an independent consultant, serving in the roles of architect, owner,

developer, and owner's representative. Peter has worked for public, private, and nonprofit clients. His book, *How Real Estate Developers Think* (Penn Press, 2015), sheds new light on real estate developers as people and will help members of the community better understand what these entrepreneurial city builders do and why they do it.

EXHIBIT HALL HOURS

The Exhibit Hall is open during the following times:

Tuesday, November 10
11:30am-1:30pm Exhibit Hall & Lunch
4:30-6:00pm Exhibit Hall Social

Wednesday, November 11
9:30-10:45am Exhibit Hall & Coffee
12:15-2:30pm Exhibit Hall & Lunch

EXHIBIT HALL HIGHLIGHTS

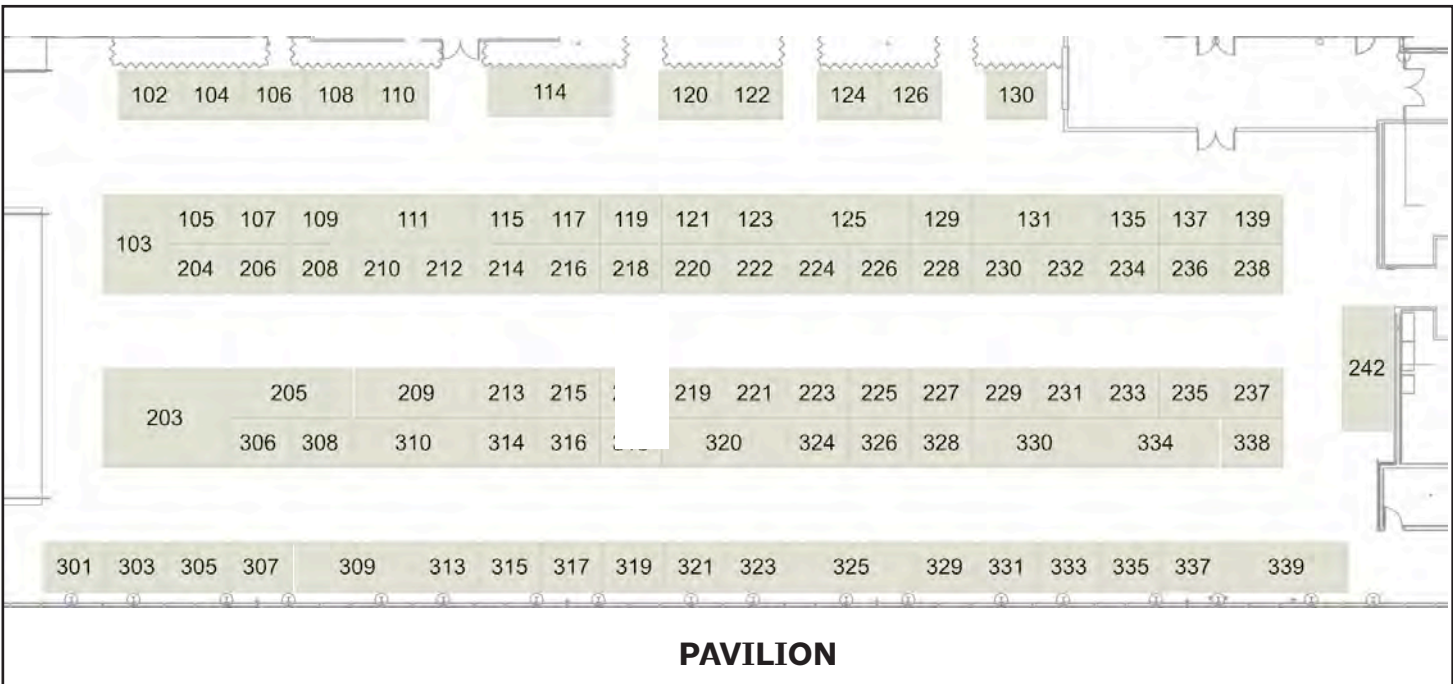
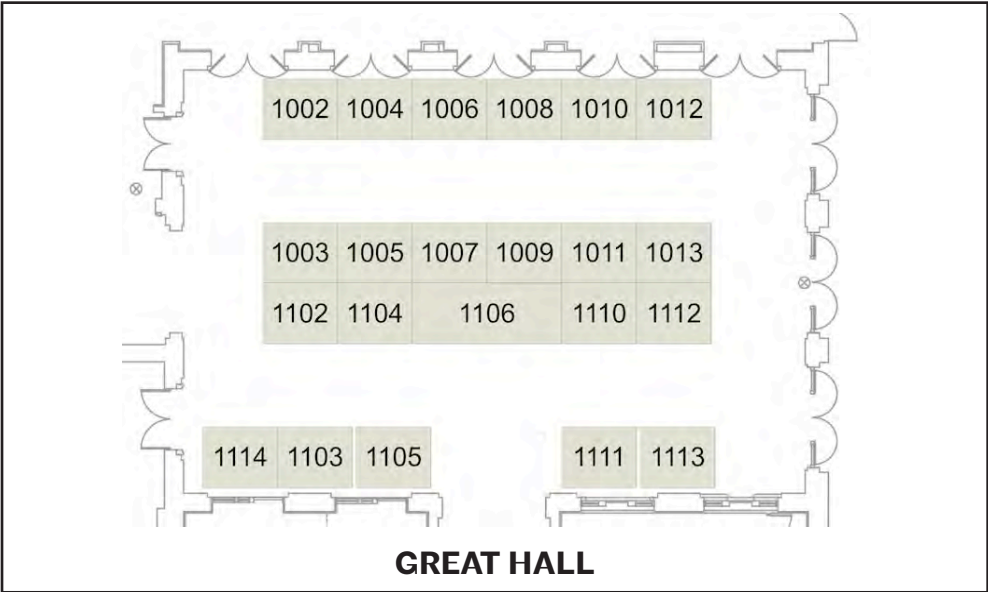
- Free coffee** sponsored each day.
- Free lunch** in the Exhibit Hall (for those who register for events T34 and W56).
- Punch card game to win a cash prize.** Complete the card by visiting all participating exhibit booths for a chance to win \$300.
- Exhibit Hall Social** on Tuesday at 4:30pm. Join in and mingle while enjoying light snacks, drinks and more.

VISIT THE EXHIBIT HALL SPACES

Our exhibitors are your partners in creating great architecture and running strong firms. Visit as many as you can during your time at the Conference!

A'26 MN will feature two Exhibit Hall spaces, the Pavilion and the Great Hall, filled with your current and potential project partners who will be showcasing their latest products and services.

[Explore this year’s list of exhibitors at the Conference >>](#)





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