

## **A'25 MN**

# The Minnesota Conference on Architecture

November 3-5, 2025

Renaissance Minneapolis Hotel | The Depot





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

The Minnesota Architectural Foundation (MAF) benefits the community by funding crucial growth opportunities that educate, inspire, and support emerging architects and strengthen the architectural community. Through its scholarship, fellowship, and grant programs, the MAF invests in architectural students and professionals to promote excellence, encourage discovery, foster equity, and advance leadership in the architectural profession.

When you register, please add a gift to the MAF to support a stronger architectural community. Your contribution helps ensure the Foundation can continue its vital work.

We invite you to [read more about current MAF scholarship and donation opportunities to see how your gift will make a difference.](#)

## CONFERENCE LOGISTICS

### Continuing Education

The A'25 MN Conference on Architecture is an 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, 2026.
- **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: MO6, M10, T24, T38, W46, and W50.

### Nursing Room, Prayer and Meditation Room

Designated, locked spaces are available. Inquire at the Conference Check in area.

### Join the Conversation

Share your session takeaways and connect with fellow attendees using the Conference hashtag, **#A25MN**

### A'25 MN Conference Landing Page

Visit [www.aia-mn.org/a25mn](http://www.aia-mn.org/a25mn) for access to everything you need for A'25 MN.

Welcome to the 2025 Conference!

Five years ago, we were living through one of the largest cultural transformations of our lifetime—the COVID-19 pandemic. We emerged with a fundamental truth: we are better together.

Humans flourish in community. We share knowledge, learn, teach, enjoy companionship, and create memories. It is how we grow ourselves and future generations, and how we elevate our profession and our communities. The AIA Minnesota Conference is our annual opportunity to celebrate these connections. Speakers will inspire us to think bigger. Social events will showcase the talents of our peers and create space for high-fives and hugs. Programs will sharpen our thinking, enhance our abilities, and expand our capacity to deliver innovative architecture.

As the pace of change accelerates and uncertainty grows, we remain grounded in service to a better world. We put our separateness aside and come together as one. As united design thinkers, we have the power to collectively further sustainability, adapt to AI in human-centered ways, and create change through uplifting spaces. When we gather at The Depot, we will bring a spirit of co-creation, reminding ourselves of the value of what we do—together.

In 2025, we have emphasized value, advocacy and connection, promising to show up clear, curious and bold. At the Annual Meeting, we will pause to celebrate what has been accomplished – part of a continuum of excellence carried forth by AIA Minnesota staff and volunteer leaders, all of whom are poised to move confidently into 2026.

Many thanks to the AIA Minnesota staff team, the Conference CE Committee, and everyone who has worked tirelessly to shape this year's programming. You will not be disappointed.

See you at The Depot!



**Jennifer Christiaansen, AIA**  
AIA Minnesota President



## Conference CE Committee

The Conference CE Committee has nine 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

**Madelyn Sundberg, AIA**  
**Dantès Ha, AIA**

### Committee Members

**Scott Anderson, AIA**  
**Catherine Britt, AIA, LEED AP BD+C**  
**Jim Butler, AIA**  
**Daniel Green, AIA**  
**Sarah St. Louis, Assoc. AIA**  
**Rachel Usher, AIA, LEED AP**  
**Nicole Washburn, 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.

**Unprecedented political realities in 2025 impacted progress on key priority policy areas, leaving much more work to do in the years ahead. Help us build and sustain MAPAC to continue our progress in 2026.**

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

## VISIT THE EXHIBIT HALL

**Check out our elegant, light-filled exhibit hall spaces!** Explore exciting new products and services in both the Pavilion and Great Hall on Tuesday and Wednesday. Grab a box lunch while you explore the halls midday on either day and join us for fun at the Exhibit Hall Social on Tuesday evening. And be sure to complete your punch card for a chance to win prizes!

## 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:

**M06.** Beyond Net Zero: Time, Carbon, and the Future of Smarter Energy Design

**M10.** Designing for Impact: What Architects Need to Know About LEED v5

**T24.** COTE Top Ten 2025 – Stanley Center for Peace & Security: Living Their Mission in a Living Building

**T38.** Building Circularity Minnesota: Reuse is the Future of Construction

**W46.** Accelerating Our Decarbonized Future: Next Century, Living Design of Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library

**W50.** From Goals to Performance: B3 in Practice

## 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 2026.

## REPORT YOUR CE CREDITS ONLINE

To receive credit for attending continuing education sessions during A'25 MN, attendees must complete the [online form](#), or request a paper copy from the Conference Check in desk and return it prior to the end of the Conference. Questions can be directed to [Deanna Christiansen, Hon. AIAMN](#).

**Plan to be on time to your sessions. Those who arrive late and miss a portion of the presentation should not claim continuing education credit.**



## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

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### Awards Celebration Sponsors



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#### Network

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AIA2025

## NOURISH YOUR BODY AND MIND

**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, T33, and W55).

**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** (W48)
- **Building Codes Knowledge Community** (M17)
- **Committee on Design** (M04, M07, T24)
- **Committee on the Environment** (M03, M11, T24)
- **Committee on Equity in the Built Environment** (W47)
- **Council of Firms Knowledge Community** (T39)
- **Women in Architecture Committee** (M03, M11, W60)

## JOIN THE DISCUSSION ONLINE!

Use the hashtag **#A25MN** to connect with hashtag **#A25MN** 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:** @aia-minnesota

Start	End	Event No. Title	Room	LUs	HSW	Ethics	GBCI
<b>MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3</b>							
8:30 AM	10:00 AM	<b>M01.</b> Window(s) into the Building Enclosure as a Complete System	Great Northern	1.5	•		
8:45 AM	10:00 AM	<b>M02.</b> Addressing Unmet Needs: Behavioral and Mental Healthcare in Minnesota	Zephyr	1.25	•	•	
8:45 AM	10:00 AM	<b>M03.</b> Applying the AIA Framework for Design Excellence in Everyday Practice	Great Hall	1.25	•		
8:45 AM	10:00 AM	<b>M04.</b> 2+2: Design for Integration	Rock Island	1.25			
9:00 AM	10:00 AM	<b>M05.</b> Mass Timber 101: Laying the Groundwork for Success	Southern Pacific	1.0			
9:00 AM	10:00 AM	<b>M06.</b> Beyond Net Zero: Time, Carbon, and the Future of Smarter Energy Design	Charles Frost	1.0	•		1.0
10:15 AM	11:45 AM	<b>M07.</b> Keynote: Honor Awards Jurors Show Their Work	Great Northern	1.5			
10:15 AM	11:45 AM	<b>M08.</b> Navigating the Business of Architecture in Uncertain and Steady Times	Southern Pacific	1.5			
10:15 AM	11:45 AM	<b>M09.</b> Visualizing Affordable Housing Perspectives: An Image-Based Evaluation	Rock Island	1.5			
10:15 AM	11:30 AM	<b>M10.</b> Designing for Impact: What Architects Need to Know About LEED v5	Zephyr	1.25	•		1.0
10:15 AM	11:30 AM	<b>M11.</b> Networking with Women in Architecture	Great Hall	1.25	•		
10:15 AM	11:30 AM	<b>M12.</b> Storytelling 101: How to Tell Client-Centric Narratives That Showcase Brand	Charles Frost	1.25			
12:00 PM	1:15 PM	<b>M13.</b> AIA Minneapolis Annual Meeting & Lunch	Great Northern				
12:00 PM	1:15 PM	<b>M14.</b> AIA St. Paul Annual Meeting & Lunch	Charles Frost				
12:00 PM	1:15 PM	<b>M15.</b> AIA Northern Minnesota Annual Meeting & Lunch	Luce Line				
1:30 PM	3:30 PM	<b>M16.</b> TOUR: Stone Arch Bridge Rehabilitation	Conservatory	1.0			
1:30 PM	3:00 PM	<b>M17.</b> Code Provisions for Toilet Room Design for All Persons	Great Northern	1.5	•		
1:30 PM	3:00 PM	<b>M18.</b> Can AI Succeed Where BIM Fell Short? Rethinking Architectural Delivery	Southern Pacific	1.5			
1:30 PM	2:45 PM	<b>M19.</b> Missing from the Top: Where are all the Women in Design Leadership?	Zephyr	1.25			
1:30 PM	2:45 PM	<b>M20.</b> Amplifying Diverse Voices in Predesign	Rock Island	1.25			
3:00 PM	5:30 PM	<b>M21.</b> Awards Celebration & Reception	Conservatory				
<b>TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4</b>							
8:00 AM	10:00 AM	<b>T22.</b> Architecture School Now: Rethinking Architecture's Role in a Changing World	Great Northern	2.0		•	
8:00 AM	10:00 AM	<b>T23.</b> TOUR: North End Community Center	Conservatory	1.0			
8:30 AM	10:00 AM	<b>T24.</b> COTE Top Ten 2025 - Stanley Center for Peace & Security	Zephyr	1.5	•		1.5
8:30 AM	10:00 AM	<b>T25.</b> AI for Architects: A Practical Introduction	Southern Pacific	1.5			
8:45 AM	10:00 AM	<b>T26.</b> Inspiring Spaces: Sustainable Design & Youth Empowerment in St. Paul	Rock Island	1.25			
8:45 AM	10:00 AM	<b>T27.</b> Generational Convergence: Newbs and Experts	Charles Frost	1.25			
10:15 AM	11:30 AM	<b>T28.</b> Keynote: Architecture Unplugged: Passive-Active Mechanisms for Architecture	Great Northern	1.25	•		
10:15 AM	11:30 AM	<b>T29.</b> Vanderboom Simulation Center: Design and Post-Occupancy Review	Rock Island	1.25			
10:15 AM	11:30 AM	<b>T30.</b> Train Your Own AI: Use Cases for Designing an AI Workflow with Your Data	Southern Pacific	1.25			
10:15 AM	11:30 AM	<b>T31.</b> Transforming Crisis into Housing Solutions at Avivo Village	Zephyr	1.25	•		
10:15 AM	11:30 AM	<b>T32.</b> Changing the Culture: Ethical Frameworks to Accelerate Progress	Charles Frost	1.25		•	
11:30 AM	1:30 PM	<b>T33.</b> Exhibit Hall & Lunch	Pavilion + Great Hall				
1:15 PM	3:00 PM	<b>T34.</b> TOUR: Walker West Music Academy	Conservatory	1.0			
1:30 PM	3:00 PM	<b>T35.</b> AIA Minnesota Annual Meeting	Great Northern				

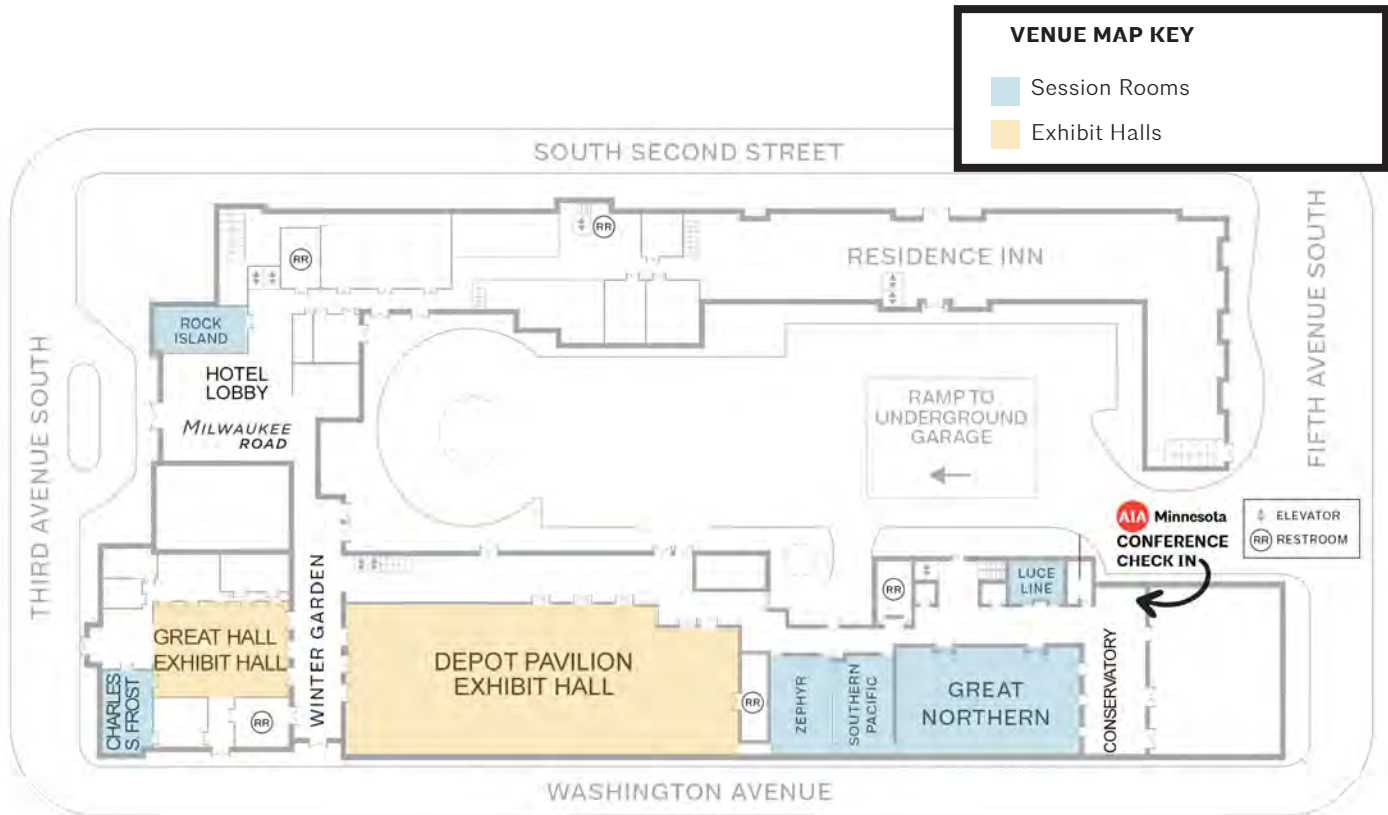
Start	End	Event No. Title	Room	LUS	H5W	Ethics	GBCI
<b>TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4 continued</b>							
3:15 PM	4:30 PM	<b>T36.</b> Cracking the Code: What You Need to Know about the Commercial Energy Code	Great Northern	1.25	•		
3:15 PM	4:30 PM	<b>T37.</b> Building Enclosure: Managing Risk and Optimizing Performance	Zephyr	1.25	•		
3:15 PM	4:30 PM	<b>T38.</b> Building Circularity Minnesota: Reuse is the Future of Construction	Southern Pacific	1.25	•		1.0
3:15 PM	4:30 PM	<b>T39.</b> Career Mapping: Navigating Professional Growth	Rock Island	1.25			
3:15 PM	4:30 PM	<b>T40.</b> The Ralph Rapson Traveling Study Award: Origins, Legacy, and Future	Charles Frost	1.25			
4:30 PM	6:00 PM	<b>T41.</b> Exhibit Hall Reception	Pavilion + Great Hall				
6:00 PM	7:30 PM	<b>T42.</b> LGBTQIA+ Reception	Luce Line				

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5**

8:00 AM	9:30 AM	<b>W43.</b> An Introduction to MN Statute 144G and its Effect on Assisted Living	Zephyr	1.5	•		
8:00 AM	9:30 AM	<b>W44.</b> Creating a Culture of Business Development	Charles Frost	1.5			
8:15 AM	9:30 AM	<b>W45.</b> Developing an Ethical AI Strategy for Design Firms: Challenges & Opportunities	Great Northern	1.25		•	
8:15 AM	9:30 AM	<b>W46.</b> Accelerating Our Decarbonized Future: Next Century, Living Design of Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library	Southern Pacific	1.25	•		1.0
8:15 AM	9:30 AM	<b>W47.</b> Beyond the Building Scale: Growing your Influence through Civic Leadership	Rock Island	1.25			
8:15 AM	9:30 AM	<b>W48.</b> ARE 101: Personal Experiences From Start to Finish	Luce Line	1.25			
9:30 AM	10:45 AM	<b>W49.</b> Exhibit Hall & Coffee	Pavilion + Great Hall				
10:45 AM	12:15 PM	<b>W50.</b> From Goals to Performance: B3 in Practice	Great Northern	1.5	•		1.5
10:45 AM	12:15 PM	<b>W51.</b> The Abbott Northwestern Care Center: Building Before the Building Starts	Zephyr	1.5	•		
10:45 AM	12:15 PM	<b>W52.</b> Paradox of Sustainability and Resilience Metrics	Charles Frost	1.5	•		
10:45 AM	12:00 PM	<b>W53.</b> Beyond Traditional Careers: Architects in Public Service	Rock Island	1.25			
10:45 AM	12:00 PM	<b>W54.</b> Transforming Shelter: Buildings that House and Heal	Southern Pacific	1.25	•		
12:15 PM	2:30 PM	<b>W55.</b> Exhibit Hall & Lunch	Pavilion + Great Hall				
12:30 PM	1:30 PM	<b>W56.</b> Fellows Lunch Gathering	Charles Frost				
2:15 PM	4:00 PM	<b>W57.</b> TOUR: Westwood Hills Nature Center	Conservatory	1.0	•		
2:30 PM	4:00 PM	<b>W58.</b> The Tree House: A Passive House, Technology, and Craft Case Study	Great Northern	1.5	•	•	
2:30 PM	4:00 PM	<b>W59.</b> Delegated Design: Navigating Risk, Responsibility, and Innovation	Zephyr	1.5	•		
2:30 PM	4:00 PM	<b>W60.</b> The FAIA Legacy Project: New Documentaries	Southern Pacific	1.5			
2:30 PM	3:45 PM	<b>W61.</b> The Luminary Arts Center: A Model for Community-Driven, Equity-Centered Design	Rock Island	1.25	•		
4:15 PM	5:45 PM	<b>W62.</b> TOUR: UMN, Fraser Hall, Chemistry Undergraduate Teaching Laboratory	Conservatory	1.0			
4:15 PM	5:30 PM	<b>W63.</b> Keynote: Unleashing the Power of Hope: The Science Behind Transformative Leadership	Great Northern	1.25			
4:15 PM	5:15 PM	<b>W64.</b> Fire and Life Safety Code Compliance in Outpatient Facilities	Zephyr	1.0	•		
4:15 PM	5:15 PM	<b>W65.</b> Health Equity Framework: Climate and Socioeconomic Factors that Impact Well-being	Southern Pacific	1.0	•		
4:15 PM	5:15 PM	<b>W66.</b> EUI: Criteria, Modeling, Design, and Verification	Rock Island	1.0	•		

## VENUE MAP

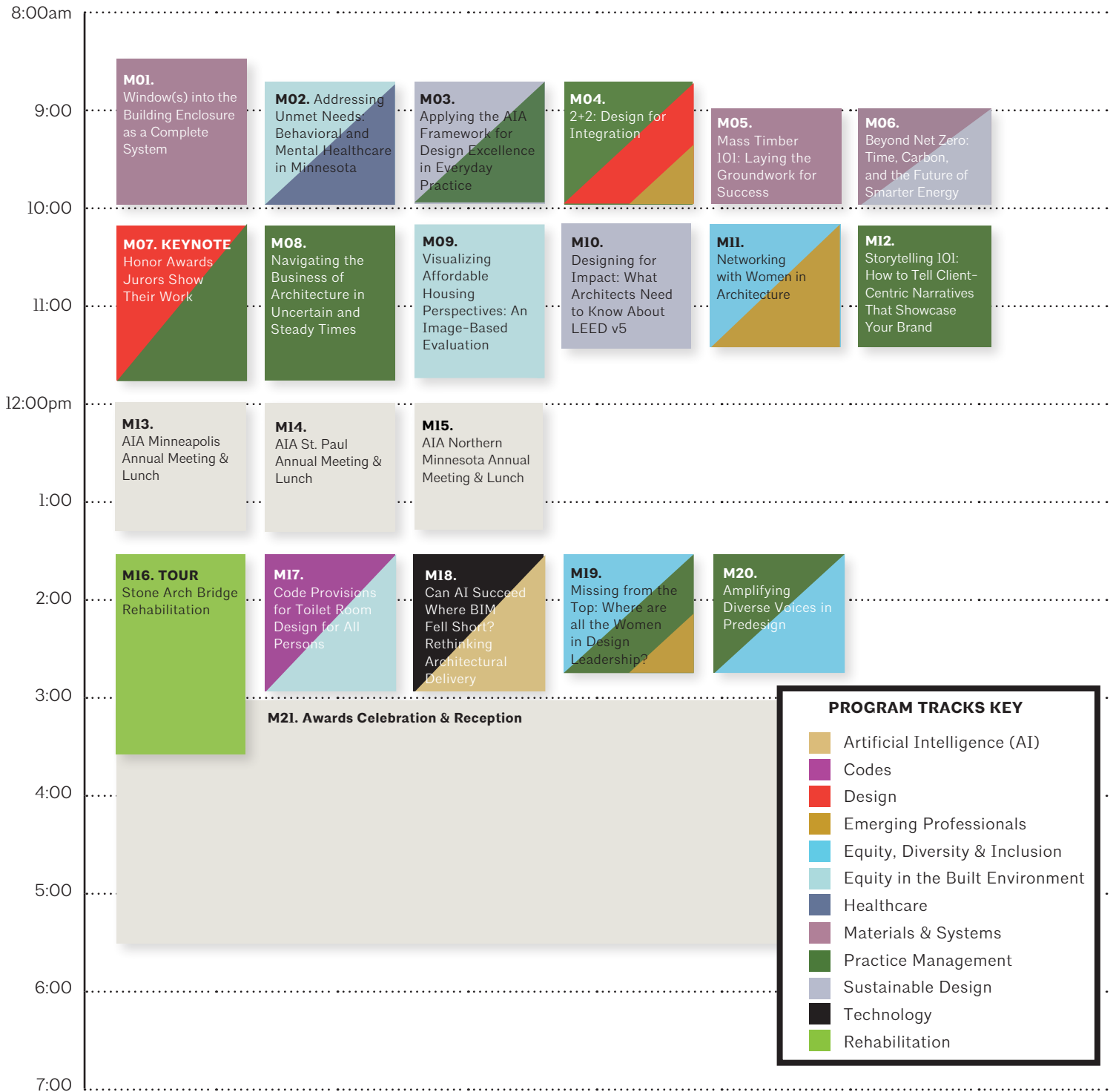
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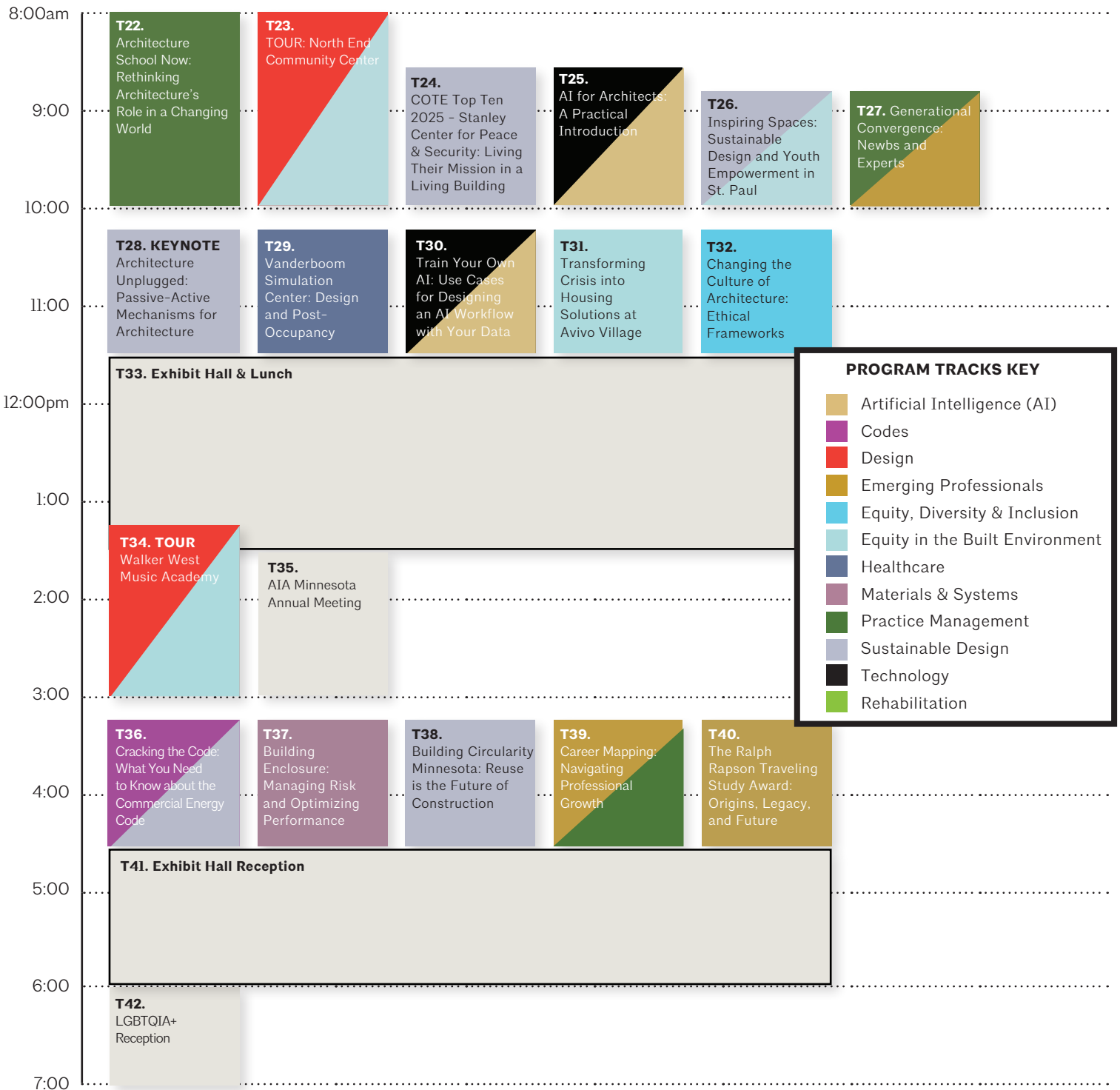
# SCHEDULE & PROGRAM TRACKS

## MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3



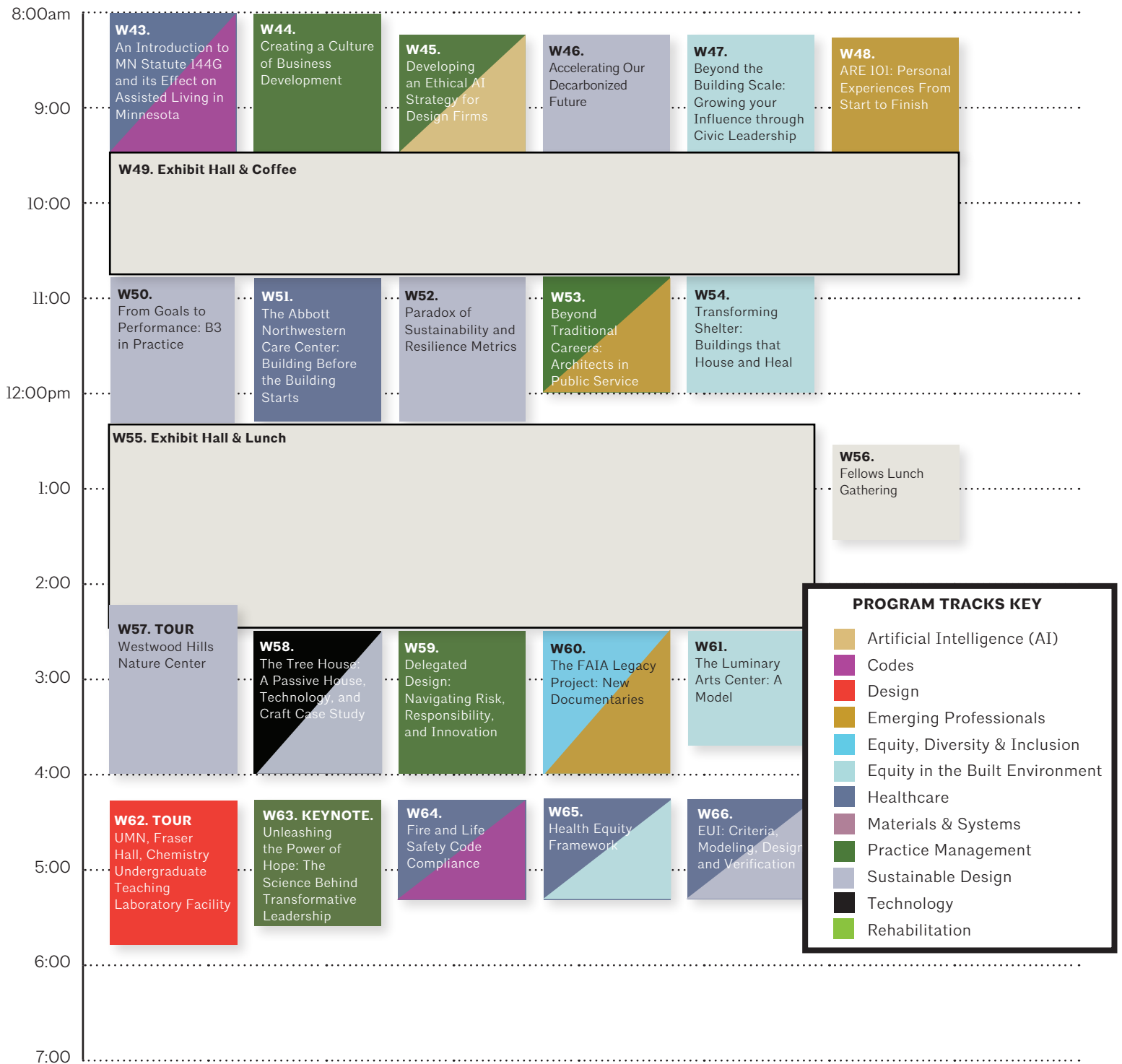
## SCHEDULE & PROGRAM TRACKS

### TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4



# SCHEDULE & PROGRAM TRACKS

## WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5



8:30-10:00 AM

M01.

## Window(s) into the Building Enclosure as a Complete System

1.5 LUs HSW Audience: Intermediate

Windows are an integral component of the building enclosure yet are often one of the weakest links. The complexity of building enclosure requirements and the expectations of building owners is getting more demanding. As the separator between the interior and exterior environments, the effectiveness of the building enclosure directly impacts the durability and safety of structures and the health and well-being of the occupants. Windows are a significant component and a potential large disruption to the continuity of the building control layers. Do you have a grasp on the different types of window systems, how they function, and integrate into the building enclosure control layers?

In this program, panelists will discuss and explore the environmental forces on the building enclosure, the control layers required, and how windows integrate into the control layers to create a complete and continuous system.



**Jack Rasmussen, AIA, NCARB, FMPC, CPHT, CEP** is a licensed architect specializing in building enclosure design and construction. He is the building science manager at Kraus Anderson Construction and an adjunct instructor at the University of Minnesota. In his 25<sup>th</sup> year in the

AEC industry, he has worked in an architecture firm, consulting firm, and with an owner/developer, giving him a unique perspective on the roles and goals of each member of a project team. He has worked on hundreds of buildings of all different types and in different climates. He holds the Fenestration Master professional certification.

8:45-10:00 AM

M02.

## Addressing Unmet Needs: Behavioral and Mental Healthcare in Minnesota

1.25 LUs HSW Ethics Audience: Entry

Approximately 1 in 4 Minnesotans experience symptoms of a mental health condition and 1 in 20 are living with a serious mental illness. A significant portion of those in need, particularly those with serious mental illness, struggle to access the care they need despite the increasing effectiveness and diversity of treatment

options. Common barriers include the cost of care, inadequate community support, limited access to mental health professionals, and the fear of discrimination.

Addressing mental and behavioral health is crucial to the wellbeing of our communities and understanding the complex matrix of the organizations and institutions currently providing care while looking for new solutions is critical. Minnesota has long been a leader in this area, with many creative and innovative solutions in motion, backed by national expertise and an unrivaled compassion among providers.

This panel discussion with state, county, and private hospital leaders will address misconceptions about mental health and mental illness, discuss ongoing efforts to address the unmet need across the state, emphasize the responsibility of the design community, and explore the ethical considerations when designing for people experiencing mental and behavioral health conditions in a variety of spaces.



**Todd Archbold** is a licensed social worker and the CEO of PrairieCare, one of the region's largest providers of specialty mental health care. Todd has experience developing specialty care models, including mental health hospitals, integrated clinics, consultation services, and an online mental health collaboration hub. He has led numerous award-winning projects including recognition for architectural design, innovations in patient care, and community impact. Todd was recognized among the 100 Most Influential Health Care Leaders in 2020 and 2024. He was also named one of the Most Admired CEOs in the Twin Cities by the *Minneapolis-St. Paul Business Journal* in 2024.



**Wade Brost** is the executive director of mental health and substance abuse treatment services at the Minnesota Department of Human Services, overseeing Minnesota direct care and treatment hospitals, intensive residential treatment programs, and residential substance use disorder programs. He has led system-wide improvements in quality, safety, and patient outcomes while fostering strategic, person-centered care. Wade has successfully developed leadership teams and transitioned programs to enhance and sustain mission, effectiveness and efficiency. A Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives, he holds a master's in social work and multiple healthcare licenses.

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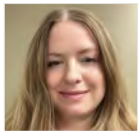
8:45-10:00 AM

**M02.** continued



(Moderator) **Brian Giebink, AIA**, is an architect and leads HDR's mental health practice. In his work, Brian introduces current research and design trends to improve safety, patient outcomes, and staff retention for behavioral health clients around the world. His dedication to

improving mental health environments is evident in his studio's award-winning work, frequent publications and speaking engagements, and collaboration with manufacturers to develop safe and normalized products for challenging environments. Brian believes all humans have value and strives to promote equity by building stronger connections for patients, family, and staff in mental health environments.



**Jessica Malone** is the clinical care improvement manager for psychiatry at Hennepin Healthcare, a nationally recognized care system that includes Hennepin Healthcare, a Level I Adult and Pediatric Trauma Center with the largest emergency department in Minnesota. Prior to

joining Hennepin Healthcare, Jessica worked in various community mental health settings, fostering her interest in systems supporting people experiencing severe mental illness. Jessica partners with clinicians and leaders across the healthcare system, improving processes to promote safe, effective, person-centered care. Jessica holds a Bachelor of Science degree in neuroscience and a Master of Nursing degree, both from the University of Minnesota.

**M03.**

**Applying the AIA Framework for Design Excellence in Everyday Practice**

1.25 LUs | HSW | Audience: Entry, Intermediate

Go beyond the award criteria and dive into the AIA Framework for Design Excellence to overcome daily challenges of professional practice. Join thought leaders in a valuable conversation about applying Design for Integration, Equitable Communities, Ecosystems, Water, Economy, Energy, Well-Being, Resources, Change, and Discovery. Learn how they overcome the realities and challenges of integrating sustainability into projects. After the panel discussion, come to the table with this group of industry leaders during the networking session (M11) in a deeper discussion of applying these criteria in practice.



**Sara Goenner Curlee, AIA, LEED AP** is the sustainability manager and a senior project architect at Pope Design Group. She uses her sustainability expertise to translate aspirational goals and regulatory requirements into common visions and successful outcomes. Within architectural practice, she's led the development and integration of firmwide processes and tools based on the AIA Framework for Design Excellence. Sara serves on the national AIA 2030 Working Group and has served as AIA Minnesota COTE co-chair, a technical reviewer for the national AIA COTE Top Ten Awards, and a task force member updating the AIA Framework for Design Excellence.



(Moderator) **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 both the AIA Committee on the Environment and the Minnesota Carbon Leadership Forum Hub. 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.



**Simona Fischer, AIA**, is an associate and director of sustainable practice with MSR Design in Minneapolis. She develops processes to integrate sustainable design seamlessly into the workflow of architectural practice, specializing in the intersection of energy performance, the

carbon and health of materials, and high-performance envelope assemblies for cold climates. Simona is currently serving on the national AIA Materials Pledge working group, and the Circularity and Low-Carbon Specs committees of the Minnesota Carbon Leadership Forum. In 2023 Simona was a recipient of the national AIA 2023 Young Architects Award.



**Lindsey Lyrenmann, PE, SE** is an associate with MBJ and co-leader of the firm's Minneapolis office. Passionate about the intersection of structural engineering and sustainability, Lindsey is dedicated to understanding and communicating the

environmental impact of structural design decisions. She is principally focused on collaborating with design teams to reduce embodied carbon and create healthy, resilient spaces.



**Karin Miller, LFA, LEED AP BD+C, O+M, ND, FITWEL AMBASSADOR, SEAM AP** has 15+ years of sustainability experience in Chicago, Cleveland, Minneapolis, New York, and Portland (Oregon), and as a director at Brightworks Sustainability, Karin works with a broad

spectrum of clients to advance sustainability through strategy development, measurement, communication, research, certification management, materials stewardship, and stakeholder engagement. She brings a deep understanding of the full project life cycle, guiding teams to embed sustainability and translate organization vision into practical implementation. Trained as an urban planner, her holistic perspective enables her to navigate complexity and drive projects to success.

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8:45-10:00 AM

**M03.** continued

**Marcy Conrad Nutt, AIA, LEED AP, CPHD** founded Yarrow Architecture to advance low-carbon, ecologically responsible, and occupant well-being-centered building. She places people, a blend of modern and vernacular design, and sustainable initiatives at the heart of her process—encouraging collaboration between clients and contractors while integrating Passive House education and methodology into daily practice. As a leader and volunteer with Passive House Minnesota and a member of the Reimagine Buildings Collective, Marcy enjoys making new connections, sharing her experience, building alliances with like-minded organizations, and educating the public on the benefits of moving beyond code-built projects into truly sustainable design.



**Thea Rozenbergs AIA, LEED AP BD+C** is a senior architect and sustainable design leader at Alliiance with over 15 years of experience. Her practice focuses on an holistic approach to integrating sustainability and resilience from goal setting through development of design details

and integration is specifications. Her research includes commercial plug loads, sustainable materials, embodied carbon, and regenerative water systems. Thea's architectural practice areas include net zero strategy, master planning, science and technology, manufacturing, higher education, and commercial typologies. She is a co-chair of the AIA Minnesota Committee on the Environment, and current member of I2SLs Lab benchmark tool technical advisory committee.



**Mary Springer, AIA, LEED AP**, an associate principal at Snow Kreilich Architects, has led some of the firm's most significant projects to date, all of which exemplify her astute ability to integrate forms and materials to support technical performance and client goals. Mary has

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(Moderator) **Angela Varpness, AIA, NCARB, LEED Green Associate, LFA** is a senior project manager at Perkins&Will, focusing on the commercial, cultural, and civic practices. Committed to collaboration, Angie focuses on delivering beautiful, functional spaces that align with client needs. In her previous role as a principal at JDD studio (James Dayton Design), Angie led both commercial and residential projects. 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.



**Kathryn Watson, AIA, LEED AP** is an architect with nearly twenty years of experience leading innovative sustainable projects across a wide range of market sectors. She is passionate about collaborating with clients and teams to turn ambitious sustainability goals into tangible, thoughtful design solutions for lasting impact. Her work seeks to shape spaces that endure, restore, and connect communities to their surroundings.



**Han Zhang, PLA, LEED AP BD+C** leads a culturally diverse team and manages a wide range of landscape design and master planning projects, ranging from intimate residential gardens to expansive hundred-acre campuses. Shaped by her dual cultural heritage and driven

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**M04.****2+2: Design for Integration**

Sponsored by [H Window](#)

1.25 LUs Audience: Entry

2+2 is an annual conference program hosted by AIA Minnesota's Committee on Design that brings together recent AIA Fellows and recent recipients of the Young Architects Award to present work and discuss a guiding principle from within the Framework for Design Excellence. This year, the panel will discuss Design for Integration.

Design for Integration posits that "good design elevates any project, no matter how small, with a thoughtful process that delivers both beauty and function in balance. It is the element that binds all the principles together with a big idea." This topic opens an interesting discussion as it pertains to design's purpose to achieve beauty and delight, from idea to craft upon all scales, through the lens of the greater Framework.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE >

8:45-10:00 AM

**M04.** continued



**Becky Alexander, AIA**, is an architect and senior researcher in LHB's climate solutions studio. Her work spans individual buildings to entire cities and includes long-standing leadership on two key statewide initiatives: Minnesota's B3 Guidelines, which set performance standards for public buildings, and the Regional Indicators Initiative, which helps communities plan for greenhouse gas reductions using data-driven tools and actionable strategies. Becky also collaborates with organizations to visualize the potential impacts of their decisions, prioritize high-impact actions, and develop effective climate action plans. Recognized as a leader in energy and climate action planning, she received the 2024 AIA Minnesota Young Architects Award.



**Greg Elsner, AIA, NCARB, LFA** is a principal and director of design at Shelter Architecture who helps the team deliver innovative, practical, and well-detailed work. Greg believes that the best designs live where craft intersects a mastery of material which is why Greg has remained

dedicated to the concept that making is learning. Being equally comfortable with a hammer as a drafting pen has sharpened his understanding of the entire design and construction process. This has led to his human-centric approach to sustainability, thoughtfully balancing site, materials, and craftsmanship.



**Karen Lu, FAIA's** commitment to design excellence and positively impacting future generations of architecture professionals and global citizens is evident in her professional work and service to the AIA and her community. Karen advocates for equity in the built environment and

the profession and leads Snow Kreilich's initiatives in this work. Her passion for making strategic connections and building meaningful relationships inspires Karen's approach to integrated design thinking. Karen's love of architecture is ultimately rooted in its complexity – the successful combination of multiple contexts, different points of view, and the relationship of the overall goal or idea to its many supporting details.



(Moderator) **Michael Friebele, Assoc. AIA**, is an associate principal at Perkins Eastman. After receiving his Master in Architecture from Kansas State University, Michael moved to Dallas where he spent ten years working in markets across the globe. Since moving to Minneapolis, Michael

joined Perkins Eastman, where his work focuses on connections, from physical to historical, as a means of informing performance driven and client/community centered design. In addition to practice, Michael is a writer, having contributed to *ENTER*, *Texas Architect*, and *The Architects Newspaper*. Michael currently serves as co-chair for AIA Minnesota's Committee on Design.



**Tate Walker, FAIA's** approach to architecture demonstrates how both beauty and performance can be achieved with modest means and a determined vision. He is an associate principal at OPN Architects, where he leads the Minneapolis office. In addition to traditional practice, he co-authored and democratized the AIA's Framework for Design Excellence as a resource for all architects. Tate believes that the quickest path to market transformation is through sharing ideas, best practices, and lessons learned to accelerate change.

9:00-10:00 AM

**M05.**

**Mass Timber 101: Laying the Groundwork for Success**

1.0 LUs Audience: Entry, Intermediate

Mass timber is gaining attention for its strength, beauty, and environmental benefits—but understanding the basics is critical before incorporating it into a project. This introductory session is designed to give builders, architects, and developers a practical foundation in mass timber construction.

Panelists will walk through the key characteristics of mass timber and explain why it's essential to involve a timber supplier early—ideally before schematic design and grid layouts are finalized. Waiting too long can limit feasibility or require costly redesigns. Attendees will learn how design choices affect structural planning, engineering, and cost, and get a clear overview of common technical considerations like fire ratings, moisture mitigation, and carbon performance.

Whether you're curious about trying mass timber for the first time or want to better understand how to plan for it, this session will provide the essential building blocks you need to start smart and stay efficient.



**Michael Pankratz** is a vice president at Cornerstone Timberframes. He grew up in Winnipeg and studied architecture at the University of Manitoba. Following university, he spent two years in commercial and residential construction, gaining valuable insight into project management and effective problem solving. Michael's favorite part of his job is creating personal connection with clients and helping them achieve their visions. Since joining Cornerstone in 2015, Michael has been instrumental in their adoption of mass timber. He is now helping drive the next phase of the company's growth by leading the sales and design teams.

9:00–10:00 AM

**M06.****Beyond Net Zero: Time, Carbon, and the Future of Smarter Energy Design**Sponsored by [Michaud Cooley Erickson](#)

1.0 LUs | HSW | 1.0 GBCI | Audience: Intermediate

For nearly two decades, “net-zero” has inspired architects and designers to push the boundaries of sustainable building performance. But as energy systems evolve and the electric grid becomes increasingly reliant on intermittent renewables like wind and solar, it’s time to reconsider what it really means to design resilient, future-ready buildings.

In this interactive workshop, participants will explore the evolving concept of net zero in the context of today’s—and tomorrow’s—electric grid. Together, we will examine how buildings can support grid stability by being more responsive and dynamic energy partners, and why simply balancing annual energy use may no longer be enough.

Attendees will dive into emerging strategies such as load shifting, thermal storage, demand response, and design decisions that enable buildings to align more closely with renewable energy availability.



**Vinay Ghatti** is a senior program manager with Willdan. He has over 22 years of experience serving building owners and design teams in evaluating the energy and environmental implications of design options and help make informed decisions to optimize the building performance. Vinay currently manages Willdan’s energy design assistance programs in Minnesota. Vinay has served as a member of USGBC’s LEED energy and atmosphere as well as indoor environmental quality technical advisory groups, assisting development of LEED rating systems. Vinay has an MS in energy performance from Arizona State University.



**Vinoth Kumar Sekar** is a senior project manager at Willdan, where he leads the implementation and operations of utility demand-side management programs across multiple states. With over 12 years of experience in energy consulting, he specializes in high-performance building design, decarbonization strategies, and energy efficiency program delivery. His expertise also includes grid-interactive buildings, renewable energy integration, and helping clients navigate the transition to electrification and sustainability. Vinoth currently serves as chair of the USGBC Iowa board and as a board member at Anawim Housing, supporting affordable housing initiatives. He holds a Master of Science in energy systems from Northeastern University.

10:15–11:45 AM

**M07.****Keynote: Honor Awards Jurors Show Their Work**

1.5 LUs | Audience: Entry, Intermediate, Advanced

Featured in this program are the three nationally recognized architects who juried the 2025 AIA Minnesota Honor Awards. Each will speak about their practice and approaches to their work through a presentation of their leading projects..



**Brandon Dake, FAIA**, is the founder of and K-12 market leader at Dake Wells Architecture in Springfield, Missouri. He inspires 21st century learning and teaching spaces for his educational clients. His leadership on the Reeds Spring Middle School and Exeter School has received national acclaim, including an AIA Honor Award for Interiors. At the root of his

passion for architecture and the future of education is a deep-seated commitment to helping people. This is evidenced in his ability to bring communities together around a strong, unified vision and in his involvement Victory Mission, World Serve International, and Habitat for Humanity.



**Katie Faulkner, FAIA**, founded West Work in 2020 with a mission to raise consciousness of sustainable design as a means toward meeting current human needs without compromising the well-being of future generations. The firm focuses on spaces and buildings for education, working, and living. Before West Work, Faulkner was a vice president of design for

Katerra, working on a mid-rise mass-timber housing prototype. As a founding partner of the firm NADAAA, she was recognized with notable awards including a Holcim Award and an AIA COTE Top Ten Award. In 2017, she received Boston Society for Architecture’s Women in Design Award.



**Helen Pierce, AIA**, is principal and design director with the 2025 AIA Architecture Firm Award recipient, LPA Design Studios in San Jose, California. Specializing in educational and civic projects, Pierce believes in the power of design informed by research and the understanding of place. Her projects are focused on integrated, sustainable solutions

including off-grid, net-zero, and LEED Platinum designs. Pierce is a graduate of Drexel University in Philadelphia, and her work has been recognized with over 40 AIA design awards including a national Architecture Award for TIDE Academy, a small public high school in Menlo Park, California.

10:15–11:45 AM

**M08.****Navigating the Business of Architecture in Uncertain and Steady Times**

1.5 LUs Audience: Entry, Intermediate, Advanced

In a profession fueled by both creativity and constant change, mastering the business side of architecture is essential. This panel brings together leaders from firms of varying sizes, structures, and market focuses to discuss how they navigate the complexities of practice—through both periods of uncertainty and stability.

In a candid conversation, four firm leaders will share firsthand insights on responding to economic fluctuations, evolving client expectations, staffing dynamics, and shifting workplace cultures. Together, they'll explore how to build resilient business models, foster adaptable leadership, and create cultures that thrive amid change.

Attendees will walk away with practical strategies—from adjusting staffing models and managing overhead to communicating transparently with clients and teams in challenging times. The panel will also examine how to plan for an unpredictable future—and why adaptability is now a cornerstone of running a successful architectural practice.



**Gretchen Camp, AIA**, has worked in the Twin Cities architecture community for over 20 years. In her current role as principal at ESG, she is responsible for identifying new multifamily and mixed-use project opportunities, managing client relationships and guiding projects in the

pre-design phase. Her involvement with the initial stages of project development and the municipal planning process includes presentations to cities for approval and working closely with community and stakeholders to gain consensus and move projects forward. Gretchen oversees the operations for the firm, leading initiatives such as staff recruitment and retention, project team workload management, and professional development.



**Dagmara Cygler, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP** is a partner at MSR Design. She has led a wide range of civic projects, from libraries and museums to higher education and residential work. Known for balancing program, aesthetics, and sustainability, her work has earned numerous

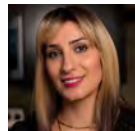
honors, including the IFLA Public Library of the Year Award and multiple national and state AIA design awards.



**Meredith Hayes Gordon, AIA**, is a principal with HGA and the national market sector leader for science and technology. Her practice focuses on collaboration with mission-driven clients across the country to create spaces that inspire and advance research to tackle society's biggest challenges. She also currently on the HGA Board of Directors. She has also been engaged with the professional community and served as President of AIA Minnesota (2017) and President of the Minnesota Architectural Foundation (2021). In 2020, Meredith received the National AIA Young Architect Award recognizing her national leadership and contributions to the profession.



**Chris Schmitt, AIA**, is a co-founder and principal of RoehrSchmitt Architecture with over 30 years of experience. He leads commercial, civic, and adaptive reuse projects, committed to creating buildings that work functionally, financially, and architecturally. His focus is on refining project management through integrated systems, smart coordination, and clear communication. As a practice leader, Chris also guides firm operations, business strategy, and long-term planning, shaping a studio culture rooted in clarity, performance, and thoughtful design.



(Moderator) **Ellie Ziaie, AIA, LEED AP BD+C** is a senior associate and project architect with BKV Group, leading multifamily, urban infill, and historic renovation projects. She leads nonprofit and mission-driven clients to develop trauma-informed, sustainable, and healing environments for individuals and communities. Ellie received AIA Minnesota's 2023 Next Gen Award, honoring early leadership potential and meaningful contributions to architecture and community service. In 2021, she was part of AIA's Next to Lead program, a national initiative recognizing design leaders committed to advancing the profession. She also founded BKV Workshop, the firm's public interest design committee, which delivers design expertise to underserved people and projects.

**M09.****Visualizing Affordable Housing Perspectives: An Image-Based Evaluation of Design**

1.5 LUs Audience: Entry, Intermediate, Advanced

This session introduces a visual evaluation method that centers resident perspectives in assessing how affordable housing design strategies shape resident experience and use. Drawing from Photovoice and visual sociology, the method compares photographs taken by residents, architects, and researchers to create a dialogue across three viewpoints: lived experience, design intent, and built conditions. Traditional evaluations focus on performance metrics; this approach reveals how residents use space, experience design strategies, and perceive architecture in daily life.

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10:15-11:45 AM

**M09.** continued

Through case studies at Northside Artspace Lofts and The Rose in Minneapolis, participants will explore how structured image analysis uncovers insights often missed in surveys or interviews. The method offers a replicable tool for architects and designers seeking to incorporate resident-informed, evidence-based feedback across project types and design phases.



**Molly Dalsin, AIA**, is an architect, educator, researcher, and founder of Mesh Architecture. With an initial interest in large-scale civic projects and the revolution of public space, Molly has now taken on an evolutionary practice consisting of multiple, smaller community interventions. Although she has worked on a myriad of building types, housing projects have become a priority. With a proclivity to understand financial and economic systems at play in real estate development, Molly has experience leading complex design processes with multi-disciplinary teams. She works to better understand the social impact of architecture beyond aesthetics and into effect through research, teaching, and built work.



**Matthew Finn, AIA**, is a project Manager at LHB with two decades of experience in the design of affordable and supportive housing across scales, programs, and typologies. Past and ongoing projects include housing for long-term homeless, youth, adults with HIV/AIDS, veterans, and seniors all with a focus on housing and services to ensure long-term stability and vitality for residents and the communities they live in. Matthew has also served as an adjunct faculty member at the University of Minnesota for more than a decade and continues to serve as a leader on AIA Minnesota's Housing Advocacy Committee.



**Heather Willy, Assoc. AIA** is a recent graduate of the University of Minnesota's Master of Architecture program and a current MS in Architecture Research Practices student. Her work focuses on affordable housing, examining how spatial arrangements and housing models shape everyday life. She brings a multidisciplinary lens to questions of housing justice, informed by a background in sociology, residential renovation and property management, and eDiscovery project management for RMBS litigation. Her work bridges design and research to reimagine how we design, inhabit and understand housing, both individually and collectively.



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10:15–11:30 AM

**M10.****Designing for Impact: What Architects Need to Know About LEED v5**

1.25 LUs | HSW | 1.0 GBCI | Audience: Intermediate

LEED v5 marks a significant evolution in green building certification, placing greater emphasis on decarbonization, ecological integrity, resilience, and occupant well-being. This session will equip architects and designers with a clear, practical understanding of what's new in LEED v5—beginning with its three core impact areas: decarbonization, ecological conservation and restoration, and quality of life.

Attendees will explore major updates to prerequisites and credits, including more rigorous energy performance thresholds, embodied carbon considerations, resilience measures, and strategies to enhance occupant health. The panel will also examine the restructured innovation pathways and project prioritization approach that increase flexibility across building types and sectors. A special focus will be given to the new decarbonization leadership requirements for Platinum-level projects—the most ambitious climate benchmarks in LEED's history.

Additionally, participants will be introduced to the transition from LEED Online to Arc, the new digital platform that enhances project documentation, performance tracking, and impact reporting. The session will also highlight how LEED v5 aligns with the AIA Framework for Design Excellence, offering opportunities to advance both firm-level sustainability goals and certifiable client outcomes. Finally, the panel will emphasize the role of interdisciplinary collaboration throughout the project lifecycle to deliver measurable sustainability results.



**Chayna Claeys, AIA, LEED-AP**, is an architect and sustainability specialist 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 an AIA Minnesota Committee on the Environment co-chair.



**Margaret Pipek** is a sustainability specialist at HGA. Since early in her career, she has been intrigued by how buildings can impact the people that live, work, or learn in spaces, and this along with her respect for nature was part of the reason she was originally drawn to focus her career on sustainability. Margaret is also a member of the Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council and is active with her local municipality's conservation committee.



**Brent Suski** is a director on the US Green Building Council's market transformation and development team. He is passionate about accelerating the adoption of green building practices that create healthier, more resilient, and more equitable communities, while delivering measurable environmental and economic benefits. In his role, he leads efforts to expand the reach and impact of LEED and other sustainability initiatives across key markets. With expertise in strategic development, stakeholder engagement, and program management, Brent works to accelerate the adoption of green building practices in his home state of Minnesota and across the Midwest.

**M11.****Networking with Women in Architecture**Sponsored by [Kolbe Windows and Doors](#) and [PCL Construction](#)

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

Come to the table and discuss the everyday challenges of sustainable design strategies. The annual WIA Networking Session has expanded to be a allow for participants to further engage in peer-to-peer dialogue as Part 2 of "Applying the AIA Framework for Design Excellence in Everyday Practice" (Session M03).

At this session, attendees join a thought leader from the earlier session in a small group discussion of the real-world challenges around application of Design for Integration, Equitable Communities, Ecosystems, Water, Economy, Energy, Well-Being, Resources, Change, and Discovery. All are welcome to join this WIA committee-hosted gathering. Participation in M03 is not required for this session.



**Sara Goenner Curlee, AIA, LEED AP** is the sustainability manager and a senior project architect at Pope Design Group. She uses her sustainability expertise to translate aspirational goals and regulatory requirements into common visions and successful outcomes. Within architectural practice, she's led the development and integration of firmwide processes and tools based on the AIA Framework for Design Excellence. Sara serves on the national AIA 2030 Working Group and has served as AIA Minnesota COTE co-chair, a technical reviewer for the national AIA COTE Top Ten Awards, and a task force member updating the AIA Framework for Design Excellence.

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10:15–11:30 AM

## MIL. continued



**Simona Fischer, AIA**, is an associate and director of sustainable practice with MSR Design in Minneapolis. She develops processes to integrate sustainable design seamlessly into the workflow of architectural practice, specializing in the intersection of energy performance, the carbon and health of materials, and high-performance envelope assemblies for cold climates. Simona is currently serving on the national AIA Materials Pledge working group, and the Circularity and Low-Carbon Specs committees of the Minnesota Carbon Leadership Forum. In 2023 Simona was a recipient of the national AIA 2023 Young Architects Award.



**Lindsey Lyrenmann, PE, SE** is an associate with MJB and co-leader of the firm's Minneapolis office. Passionate about the intersection of structural engineering and sustainability, Lindsey is dedicated to understanding and communicating the environmental impact of structural design decisions. She is principally focused on collaborating with design teams to reduce embodied carbon and create healthy, resilient spaces.



(Moderator) **Katie Merten, Assoc. AIA**, is a project manager for St. Paul Public Schools, where she oversees design and construction projects throughout the District. Prior to this, she spent seventeen years working as a project manager for different agencies within the federal government, including several roles in the Air Force, notably overseeing thirteen MILCON projects in seven years, and becoming a subject matter expert in anti-terrorism and force protection measures (ATFP). Katie is actively involved in AIA Minnesota, where she is a current co-chair for the Women in Architecture Committee, and the co-chair elect for the Architecture in the Schools Committee.



**Karin Miller, LFA, LEED AP BD+C, O+M, ND, FITWEL AMBASSADOR, SEAM AP** With 15+ years of sustainability experience in Chicago, Cleveland, Minneapolis, New York, and Portland (Oregon), and as a director at Brightworks Sustainability, Karin works with a broad spectrum of clients to advance sustainability through strategy development, measurement, communication, research, certification management, materials stewardship, and stakeholder engagement. She brings a deep understanding of the full project life cycle, guiding teams to embed sustainability and translate organization vision into practical implementation. Trained as an urban planner, her holistic perspective enables her to navigate complexity and drive projects to successful, measurable outcomes.



**Marcy Conrad Nutt, AIA, LEED AP, CPHD** founded Yarrow Architecture to advance low-carbon, ecologically responsible, and occupant well-being-centered building. She places people, a blend of modern and vernacular design, and sustainable initiatives at the heart of

her process—encouraging collaboration between clients and contractors while integrating Passive House education and methodology into daily practice. As a leader and volunteer with Passive House Minnesota and a member of the Reimagine Buildings Collective, Marcy enjoys making new connections, sharing her experience, building alliances with like-minded organizations, and educating the public on the benefits of moving beyond code-built projects into truly sustainable design.



**Thea Rozenbergs AIA, LEED AP BD+C** is a senior architect and sustainable design leader at Alliance with over 15 years of professional experience. Her practice focuses on an holistic approach to integrating sustainability and resilience from goal setting through development of design details and integration is specifications. Her research includes commercial plug loads, sustainable materials, embodied carbon, and regenerative water systems. Thea's architectural practice areas include net zero strategy, master planning, science and technology, manufacturing, higher education, and commercial typologies. She is a former co-chair of AIA Minnesota Committee on the Environment, and current member of I2SLs Lab benchmark tool technical advisory committee.



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10:15–11:30 AM

**M11.** continued

**Han Zhang, PLA, LEED AP BD+C** leads a culturally diverse team and manages a wide range of landscape design and master planning projects, ranging from intimate residential gardens to expansive hundred-acre campuses.

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**M12.**

## Storytelling 101: How to Tell Client-Centric Narratives That Showcase Your Brand

1.25 LUs Audience: Entry

Storytelling is essential to design work. From proposals to presentations, marketing to recruitment, a well-told story can communicate a firm's values, capabilities, and aspirations in ways that are illuminating, compelling, and persuasive.

In this session, participants will learn how to identify and shape dynamic narratives that are on-brand, client-centric, memorable, and shareable in many forms—from social media and video to white papers and word-of-mouth.

Participants will:

- Learn why audience is a key consideration in storytelling;
- Identify the key elements of a compelling narrative;
- Evaluate sample stories and consider fresh angles;
- Locate the essential “bones” in stories about projects, people, and processes;
- Outline narratives that apply to current work; and
- Share ideas and outlines with other participants



**Joel Hoekstra** is a Minneapolis-based content-strategy consultant and writer who helps firms tell client-centric stories that win work. He has held several marketing-communications roles at Twin Cities firms and has written extensively about design and architecture for *Metropolis*, *ENTER*, *This Old House*, *RIBA Journal*, *ARCHITECT*, and other publications. Learn more about Joel at [joelhoekstra.net](http://joelhoekstra.net).

**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 President, **Rebecca Muchow, AIA** and fellow members for lunch, networking, voting, and fun! Attend the AIA Minneapolis Annual Meeting to cast your vote for new leadership, learn about the chapter's accomplishments, and get a glimpse into our plans for the upcoming year.

**M14.**

## AIA St. Paul Annual Meeting & Lunch

Join fellow AIA St. Paul members and President **Alan Howell, AIA** for a lunchtime event featuring networking, voting, and celebration! Enjoy a delicious meal while socializing and reconnecting with fellow members. Vote on the slate of nominees for 2026 leadership positions and hear reports on chapter events, financial status, and plans for the year. Celebrate the success of the AIA St. Paul chapter and look forward to an exciting year ahead.

**M15.**

## AIA Northern Minnesota Annual Meeting & Lunch

AIA Northern Minnesota members, join President **Melissa Lefebvre, AIA** and fellow members for a lunchtime event of networking, voting, and celebration! Connect with fellow members over a delicious meal while celebrating the accomplishments of the past year. Cast your vote for our new leadership and get an exclusive look at the exciting plans for the year ahead.

1:30-3:30 PM

**M16.** Capacity 25**TOUR: Stone Arch Bridge Rehabilitation**

1.0 LUs Audience: Entry, Intermediate, Advanced

*The tour is an additional fee and will depart from The Depot.*

The Stone Arch Bridge in downtown Minneapolis spans the Mississippi River and was constructed between 1881–1883. The bridge originally included 23 kasota limestone arches built on granite piers

resting on sandstone bedrock. The bridge is 2100 feet long, includes an 817-foot, six-degree curve at the west end, and carried rail traffic until 1982.

In 2024 and 2025 a large masonry rehabilitation project was completed to replace hundreds of deteriorated stones, repoint the mortar on entire bridge, and made other repairs as needed. The tour will visit some of the repaired areas on the bridge and discuss methods used to remove the stone, install new stone, and some of the challenges with working on a 140-year-old bridge over the Mississippi river.

**Amber Blanchard, PE** is a transportation project manager specializing in major and unique projects around the Twin Cities Metro area for the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

**Todd Grover, FAIA**, is a principal and partner at MacDonald & Mack Architects in Minneapolis. He has worked for over 27 years in the historic preservation field on projects across the US. He is also a board member of Docomomo US, a national organization advocating for the preservation and reuse of modern and recent past resources.

**Lisa Karlgaard, PE** is Structural Project Manager at LHB, Inc. in Duluth, MN. She has 20 years of experience and specializes in historic bridge rehabilitation. Her work on historic bridges has reached to every corner of the state of Minnesota.

1:30-3:00 PM

**M17.****Code Provisions for Toilet Room Design for All Persons**

1.5 LUs HSW Audience: Intermediate

This program will investigate the various code requirements when designing toilet rooms for all persons.



**Scott Anderson, AIA**, is the building plan review supervisor for the City of Minneapolis. First licensed as an architect in California in 1989, he has been involved in a wide variety of projects in several states. Scott's long-time interest in code development and compliance led him to join the

City of Minneapolis as a plan's examiner in 2012. Scott is a licensed architect, ICC Certified Plans Examiner, 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.

**M18.****Can AI Succeed Where BIM Fell Short? Rethinking Architectural Delivery**

1.5 LUs Audience: Intermediate

Building Information Modeling (BIM) was introduced with the promise of revolutionizing architecture through integrated, object-oriented workflows. Yet, for many architects, BIM has not delivered on that promise. Instead of transforming delivery, it often created new complexities, mainly because it was forced into traditional models rather than redefining them. Now, with the rapid advancement of artificial intelligence (AI), a new opportunity is emerging.

AI has the potential not just to optimize design processes, but to reshape how architecture is delivered, from concept to completion. But can it truly succeed where BIM faltered? This session will critically examine BIM's legacy and use it as a framework to explore the potential of AI in architecture. Presenters will explore how AI can be integrated into delivery in meaningful ways—enhancing creativity, automating routine tasks, improving collaboration, and enabling more adaptive and responsive design workflows.

With contributions from leading technologists and practitioners, this discussion presents real-world examples, speculative scenarios, and an honest examination of what the future holds. Whether they lead a 10-person practice or a global firm, attendees will leave with a clearer understanding of how to position their organization to harness AI's transformative potential.

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1:30-3:00 PM

**M18.** continued



**Cory Brugger** is a partner and chief technology officer (CTO) at HKS. He is an industry-recognized expert in the development and integration of innovative technology in architecture and the built environment. As CTO he directs the vision and team dedicated to the development and deployment of advanced technologies and new processes for design and construction.



(Moderator) **Tim Dufault, FAIA**, is the president and chief revenue officer of Concert, a digital platform transforming project management in the AEC industry. Since founding the company in 2019, he's led its growth to over \$10B in project volume, backed by top global architecture and engineering firms. Previously, Tim was CEO of Cuningham, where he guided the award-winning architecture firm's global strategy. He is a licensed architect in Minnesota.



**Zach Gentry** is the CEO of Concert, a platform that automates project coordination across architecture, engineering and construction. A longtime innovator in building technology, his smart building solutions are deployed across more than a billion square feet of global real estate. He has led multiple companies at the intersection of digital systems and the built environment, with expertise spanning IoT, sustainability, and data integrity. Zachary holds an MBA and BS from UC Berkeley.



**Jashwanth Lakshmanan** stands out as a fusion of architectural design and IT mastery. With dual master's degrees from the University of North Carolina, he seamlessly integrates design intricacies with technological advancements. Serving as the senior innovation technologist at Gresham Smith, Jashwanth is a beacon in the tech-architecture landscape. His passion and expertise position him uniquely, steering the future of technology-driven architectural innovation.

1:30-2:45 PM

**M19.**

**Missing from the Top: Where are All the Women in Design Leadership?**

1.25 LUs Audience: Entry

While women now account for nearly half of architecture graduates, their representation in senior design leadership roles remains disproportionately low. This session explores the persistent gender imbalance that remains at this level, focusing on the nuanced and often invisible barriers that prevent women from attaining senior level positions of creative influence.

Drawing on current research, interviews and a panel discussion, this session unpacks the cultural, structural, and institutional factors contributing to this disparity such as firm culture and ownership models, unconscious and creativity bias, the myth of the lone "design genius," and limited access to design track mentorship and sponsorship. The session's panel is comprised of both female design leaders and firm leaders who will engage in conversation on becoming and/or advocating for women in design leadership roles through organizational change.

Attendees will leave with a deeper understanding of the barriers women face in achieving design leadership roles and considerations for actionable change in their firms.



**Jennifer Christiaansen, AIA, LEED AP** is a principal and managing director of Perkins&Will Minneapolis and the 2025 AIA Minnesota president. With more than 25 years of experience, she is dedicated to design for the greater good. In 2020, she received the AIA Minnesota Young Architect Award for her work advancing justice, equity, and inclusion within the profession. She holds a Bachelor of Science in architecture from the University of Virginia, a UMN Master of Architecture and attended the Diploma Programme at the Architectural Association in London. Jennifer's leadership inspires a bold forward-looking design practice that addresses critical issues in architecture—human-centered AI, equity, and climate consciousness—while remaining grounded in compassion and human connection.



**Dagmara Cygler, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP** is a partner at MSR Design. She has led a wide range of civic projects, from libraries and museums to higher education and residential work. Known for balancing program, aesthetics, and sustainability, her work has earned numerous honors, including the IFLA Public Library of the Year Award and multiple national and state AIA design awards.

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1:30-2:45 PM

**M19.** *continued*

**Karen Lu, FAIA's** commitment to design excellence and positively impacting future generations of architecture professionals and global citizens is evident in her professional work and service to the AIA and her community. Karen advocates for equity in the built environment and the profession and leads Snow Kreilich's initiatives in this work. Her passion for making strategic connections and building meaningful relationships inspires Karen's approach to integrated design thinking. Karen's love of architecture is ultimately rooted in its complexity – the successful combination of multiple contexts, different points of view, and the relationship of the overall goal or idea to its many supporting details.



**Samantha Mendiola, AIA,** is a design principal at HGA who incorporates thoughtful and innovative design solutions to projects for public, corporate, cultural and education sectors. Through her understanding of branding, placemaking and architectural design, Samantha

successfully develops innovative and exciting ways to visually communicate and deliver beautiful environments designed with a sense of purpose, discovery, and clarity. In practice group leadership and the chairing of HGA's National Design Council, Samantha has championed initiatives that nurture professional growth and design excellence.



(Moderator) **Kaitlin Schalow, AIA, LFA,** is a project manager and designer at HGA, specializing in the firm's Arts, Community, and Education practice. She believes in the power of architecture to uplift communities, centering people's needs in every project. As national

co-director of HGA's Community Action initiative, Kaitlin leads the firm's social impact efforts through pro bono services, charitable giving, and advocacy. Her work reflects a commitment to architecture as a civic responsibility, striving for a more just and inclusive future through her practice and community leadership. A past co-chair of the Women in Architecture (WIA) committee, Kaitlin continues to champion gender equity in the AEC industry.

**M20.****Amplifying Diverse Voices in Predesign**

1.25 LUs Audience: Entry

Project teams are increasingly asked to tackle more complex problems and consider how their solutions impact broader communities. To address these complex projects, design processes are evolving to include collaborative approaches within longer pre-design phases. The pre-design phase becomes crucial, then, for project goal definition and solution exploration that reflects diverse input from designers, researchers, and stakeholders including future occupants who are

considered "experts of their experience" (Sanders & Jan Stappers, 2016). Overlooking occupant inclusion and participation may decrease user buy-in, miss underlying issues, and repeat historical injustices.

Literature across planning and design fields (including the public realm) have defined participatory design and shared examples. This session will contribute to this growing knowledge by demonstrating the value of participatory processes in design practice today and highlighting its meaningful and effective application. Through case study discussion, presenters will explore and invite audience feedback on:

- Challenges and opportunities for cross-disciplinary team collaboration and occupant participation.
- Development and selection of engagement tools and exercises.
- Equitable selection of team members to empower diverse voices.
- Translating findings to design solutions.
- Storytelling engagement benefits and return on investment.



**Danya Hakky** is a cross-disciplinary designer and researcher specialized in understanding and influencing user behavior through the use of design. She has led a number of research projects within the realms of interior design, behavior, and sustainability and has also

explored social issues that indirectly influence design decisions. Danya believes in a human-centered design process that understands stakeholders and successfully meets their environmental and organizational needs. Her approach integrates design and research strategies to better inform decisions and increase creativity. Danya received her PhD from Virginia Tech and master's from UCA UK.



**Erin LeBrec** is a medical planner at HGA with 20 years of experience working with leading healthcare organizations nationally. Her expertise includes space programming, conceptual design, schematic design, design development, and construction documentation

for a range of project scales, including senior living facilities, community hospitals, and academic medical centers. Erin believes it is a combination of excellent communication and technical skills that contribute to well-planned facilities. She has a Bachelor of Science in Architectural Studies from the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee and is a Green Belt in Lean and Six Sigma.

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1:30-2:45 PM

**M20.** continued



**Luke Nichols, PLA** is a landscape architect at HGA with over a decade of related experience in the field. He has worked on residential, commercial, community, and institutional award-winning projects across various scales and localities. He enjoys the cocreation process and how it kindles conversations about land, agency, and human experience. His goals are to create gardens that root users in the transformative power of place-based horticulture. Luke has past experiences in community engagement, environmental sciences, and urban agriculture. He holds a Master of Landscape Architecture from the University of Minnesota and is FLAS and HWS Cleveland Fellow.



(Moderator) **Oshana Reich** is a design researcher, with HGA's design insight group who to build deeper understandings of markets, clients, and the people impacted by the firm's design solutions. With a background in urban studies and public administration, Oshana uses qualitative methods and participatory planning approaches to support research studies across settings. She is passionate about understanding how people perceive and behave in the built environment, and how to leverage those insights to inform the design process.



**Dominique Thomas** is the internal equity operations coordinator at HGA, where she helps drive the company's equity mission, values, and strategy. Passionate about fostering an inclusive workplace, she coordinates equity initiatives, develops resources, and helps build external partnerships nationally. Dominique's commitment extends to bringing diverse perspectives and stakeholder engagement to the table, resulting in more equitable project designs. Her dedication is evident in shaping HGA's culture, ensuring everyone can bring their authentic selves. Through this work, Dominique actively creates pathways for those often underrepresented, contributing significantly to HGA's vision for a diverse, inclusive, and equitable future.

3:00-5:30 PM

**M21.**

**Awards Celebration & Reception**

Gold Sponsor: [IMEG Corporation](#)

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

**Thanks to these event sponsors:**



8:00–10:00 AM

T22.

## Architecture School Now: Rethinking Architecture's Role in a Changing World

2.0 LUs | Ethics | Audience: Intermediate, Advanced

Architecture faces a critical moment—marked by climate urgency, technological disruption, social inequities, and fluctuating market pressures—which necessitate a profound self-reflection and a transformation within architecture across its three intertwined identities: practice, profession, and discipline. This session brings together UMN faculty leading new directions in architectural education and research:

- Technology Pioneers explores the integration of AI and data science into architectural design and pedagogy.
- Community Facilitators examines partnerships with Tribal Nations to foster culturally responsive design.
- Wellbeing Advocators highlights biophilic design's role in promoting health and sustainability.
- Interdisciplinary Champions showcases ecological and landscape integration in design practice.

The session encourages a rethinking of architecture's role and invites practitioners and educators to co-create a more resilient, ethical, and future-facing discipline.



**Jessica Garcia Fritz** is an assistant professor in the School of Architecture, the design justice liaison for architecture in the College of Design, an affiliate faculty for American Indian Studies at the University of Minnesota, and co-director of LAB-OR. As a citizen of the Cheyenne River

Sioux Tribe (Itazipco), her cross-disciplinary teaching and research challenge architecture's role in nation-state building through specification writing and the extraction of material territories in indigenous lands. Her publications include *The Organizer's Guide to Architecture Education* and her writing was published in the *Technology Architecture and Design Journal* and two editions of *Building Knowledge, Construction Histories*.



**Maura Rockcastle, PLA, ASLA** is an HWS Cleveland adjunct professor at the UMN College of Design and a principal + cofounder of TEN x TEN where she leads large-scale projects that navigate complex and culturally sensitive processes. Her design and leadership approach

are grounded in listening, experimentation, and empathy, allowing her to translate experiences into landscapes through spatializing stories. Maura's experience focuses on cultural, institutional, and public realm projects. Recognized as a national leader of design process innovation, adaptive reuse, and culturally significant landscapes, her projects have received national awards for design excellence, sustainability, and preservation from AIA, ASLA, the Architectural League of New York, and ULI.



**Malini Srivastava, AIA**, is an associate professor in resilient and regenerative design and director of the Masters of Science in Research Practices program in the UMN College of Design. Malini is the co-principal of the award-winning firm, Dandelab. Her work spans

research, teaching, and practice in urban-scale pervasive play frameworks, high-performance architecture, responsive building skins and other interventions to address efficient energy use in the built environment. Her eFargo research project received the Georgetown University Energy Prize in 2017 and an Architect R+D award in 2022. She is a 2018 recipient of the American Institute of Architects' Young Architect Award.



**Dingliang Yang** is a UMN McKnight land-grant professor and an assistant professor of architecture at the College of Design, as well as the founding partner of vari design. With a focus on cross-scale innovative design, his work is driven by research that responds to urban

regeneration. His recent focus lies on the integration of data science and AI into full-circle architecture and urban design process. Yang has been appointed to the board of the USA Minnesota Expo Bid Commission. His design research and built projects have earned over thirty awards.



(Moderator) **Jennifer Yoos, FAIA**, is Professor and Head of the Schools of Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Interior Design at the University of Minnesota College of Design (2020–Present), she is also a design partner (1997–Present) and president of VJAA. In

addition to prior teaching at Minnesota as a professor-in-practice, she was the NADAA Visiting Professor at Cooper Union and the Ruth and Norman Moore Visiting Professor at Washington University in St. Louis. She is co-author, with partner Vincent James, of a monograph on their work published by Princeton Architectural Press as well as their book *Parallel Cities: The Multilevel Metropolis* (2016).

T23. Capacity 20

## TOUR: North End Community Center

Sponsored by [Emanuelson-Podas](#)

1.0 LUs | Audience: Entry, Intermediate, Advanced

The tour is an additional fee and will include a round-trip shuttle bus from the Depot.



Currently housed in leased space in North End's relatively compact Rice Recreation Center, a building ill-equipped to accommodate the Community Center's expansive program needs, the

new facility will be a versatile and accessible asset for community members of all ages. The new building will feature 25,000 square feet of recreation and fitness spaces, community meeting rooms, a community kitchen, a teen center with recording studio, and staff offices.

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8:00-10:00 AM

**T23.** *continued*

**James Howarth, AIA**, is an associate principal with Snow Kreilich Architects and has worked collaboratively with the City since preliminary planning began for this project. Working in partnership with Parks and Recreation, James has helped the team plan, engage the community, design, and deliver this new community center through construction and after occupancy.

**Chris Stark** is an architect with the City of St. Paul's Parks and Recreation design and construction department. As the City's project manager, he has been involved with the planning, design, and execution of the new North End Community Center project. As an essential member of the City's team, Chris has intimate knowledge of the project's entire development.

8:30-10:00 AM

**T24.**  
**COTE Top Ten 2025 – Stanley Center for Peace & Security: Living Their Mission in a Living Building**

1.5 LUs | HSW | 1.5 GBCI | Audience: Intermediate

The Stanley Center's global mission focuses on three areas: mitigating climate change, limiting the spread and use of nuclear weapons, and preventing mass violence and atrocities. The design of their headquarters presented an extraordinary opportunity to advocate their mission through their built environment by pursuing Living Certification.

In this case study, hear from the architect on how they built a team, process, and a facility that educates, influences, and advocates for a more equitable, sustainable, and just world both during design and after project completion.



**Lyndley Kent, AIA, LFA** is a principal at Neumann Monson Architects, recognized for her leadership in sustainable and community-focused design. Her contributions earned her the 2021 AIA Iowa Young Architect Award and two national AIA COTE Top Ten Awards, one 2021

for an adaptive reuse project, and the second in 2025 for an adaptive reuse LBC project. Lyndley co-led the firm's first Living Building Challenge project and spearheaded the firm's Just Label renewal. She currently serves as the AIA Iowa Board Treasurer, nationally on the AIA COTE Leadership Group, and the WDM Bicycle Advisory Commission and the Iowa Bicycle Coalition.



**Sally Obernolte, AIA**, is a principal at Neumann Monson Architects. Across her 23-year career, she has managed projects that emphasize environmental stewardship, community engagement, and social impact. She co-led the firm's entry into the Living Building Challenge

with the Stanley Center for Peace and Security's new headquarters, on track to be the second adaptive reuse project in the world to achieve full Living Certification. Sally leads the firm's client experience team, and has an active voice in the industry, sharing insights on sustainable design and client engagement through speaking at conferences across the country.

**T25.**  
**AI for Architects: A Practical Introduction**

1.5 LUs | Audience: Entry

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is transforming industries everywhere—including architecture. But how can AI deliver real value and make a difference in your practice? This session goes beyond the buzz of flashy design software and generative tools. Instead, it will focus on how AI can help attendees achieve better business results.

In this entry-level presentation, the panel will break down the key components of AI, introduce practical and accessible tools, and give attendees a clear roadmap for getting started with AI in a range of everyday business tasks. This session is ideal for architects, firm leaders, and support staff from firms of any size who want a clear, jargon-free introduction to AI. No technical background is required.



**Katie Ham** is a Power BI Specialist at JLG Architects, with a passion for empowering firms to harness the power of data and AI. As a certified business analyst and power BI data modeler, Katie specializes in transforming complex project data into actionable insights,

helping teams streamline workflows and enhance efficiencies. Katie holds a degree in entrepreneurship with a minor in economics from Washington State University, and she is dedicated to making advanced analytics accessible and impactful for the architecture industry's evolving needs.



**Rachel Riopel, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP BD+C** is the senior director of digital strategy and innovation at MOREgroup with over 20 years of experience spanning multidisciplinary practice and technology leadership. She is recognized for advancing digital strategy and guiding innovation initiatives that bridge design, technology, and practice.

Throughout her career, Rachel has contributed to international industry and government collaborations, consistently championing practical approaches to applied design technology and digital transformation. Rachel holds a Bachelor of Science in Architecture and Environmental Design from North Dakota State University.

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8:30-10:00 AM

**T25.** *continued*

**Adam Wilbrecht, AIA**, is the director of digital practice at JLG Architects and is an architect and technology leader with over 30 years of experience at the intersection of architecture, software development, and emerging design technologies. His focus centers on the integration of digital tools and data-driven processes in the design and construction industry. Adam holds an M.Arch from the Southern California Institute of Architecture.

8:45-10:00 AM

**T26.**  
**Inspiring Spaces: Sustainable Design and Youth Empowerment in St. Paul's East Side**

1.25 LUs Audience: Intermediate

The panel will discuss how the built environment impacts the organization, the students they serve, and the community around them. Their new building will replace a dilapidated bank building on Arcade Street adjacent to Johnson High School in St. Paul. It will bring modern and sustainable design to the East Side of St. Paul and will be a space for students to learn about arts and technology in a building rooted in and influenced by both.

The project beautifies the site and has a baseline goal of LEED Silver certification, and also satisfies the SB2030 energy standard and the requirements of the St. Paul Overlay program.



**Jared Eder, AIA**, is a senior project architect at Studio BV with over fifteen years of experience. He began his career in Dallas, Texas working on large-scale mixed use and sports projects. Additionally, he has experience in hospitality, retail, corporate headquarters, workplace,

education, civic, and healthcare projects. He provides guidance throughout the design and construction process and enjoys the challenges inherent to design focused projects. He is a licensed architect in many states, has been with Studio BV for over 6 years, and enjoys working with clients every step of the way to realize their vision.



**Sean Sonabend** is a licensed engineer in the state of Minnesota and has been working in the state for over 20 years. He is currently a mechanical engineer at AKF Group. Sean's career has a focus on sustainability, and he has been part of multiple LEED Platinum projects, as well as a fully certified Living Building Challenge project while at AKF. Sean has also been on AIA Minnesota's Equity in the Built

Environment committee since 2019 and has been providing pro bono engineering support for a net-zero single family homes project with Change Inc.



**Kristine Wentworth, AIA** is a project architect at Studio BV. She has worked in Las Vegas and Minneapolis, with experience in hospitality, gaming, entertainment, workplace, and sustainable interior architecture. She is passionate about professional development and education to promote equity within the profession. 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 Sho-Ping Chin Women's Leadership Summit Grant recipient as well as a 2023 Twin Cities 30 Under 30 Award honoree through Interior Design Magazine.



**Vanessa Young** is a cofounder of 30,000 Feet and serves as the program director for the organization. Her multi-service, culturally-responsive role includes developing youth programs for experiential learning and creative academic enrichment. She has experience with community service and engagement and holds a degree in education.

**T27.**  
**Generational Convergence: Newbs and Experts**

1.25 LUs Audience: Entry, Intermediate, Advanced

Dive into the generational perspectives of working in architecture from industry professionals at various life and career stages. This program is a daring and innovative program that focuses on the challenges of the architectural workplace. Join us to hear and share workplace hot takes in a judgement free zone. Let's get the conversation started and figure out how to improve the workplace dynamics between and for all employees and learn more about each other.

This program will be split into three parts: introductory presentation, audience workshop, and a live panel discussion. The workshop will tackle the assumptions versus realities of day-to-day activities of the multiple generations represented in the field. The panel will serve as the platform to hear directly from emerging professionals and industry experts.



**Emily Dam** is a graduate from the University of Minnesota and joined 4RM+ULA in October 2022. She is passionate about urban design and how people interact with architecture in their everyday life. A firm believer that great design shouldn't remain a fantasy nor a far-reaching idea, she strives to use her creativity as a tool to communicate collective dreams so that they are transformed into reality.

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8:45-10:00 AM

## T27. continued



**James Garrett, Jr., FAIA, NOMA**, is a visual artist, writer and architect who expresses the urban condition through the lenses of art and design. James received the 2019 AIA Young Architect Award and the 2020 AIA Minnesota Gold Medal. He was elevated to the AIA College of Fellows in 2023. He served for 7 years on the Metropolitan Council Livable Communities and Transit Oriented Development committees and now serves on the Minnesota State Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board (CAAPB). James holds an A.B. degree in architecture from the College of Environmental Design at the University of California Berkley and a Master of Architecture degree from Parsons School of Design



**Erin McKiel, AIA**, is a seasoned project architect at 4RM+ULA Architects with a strong record of leading complex projects across the metro area. She brings deep experience in designing refined interior environments for institutional clients and is widely respected for her leadership in project delivery, collaborative approach and team development. A recipient of the 2012 Minnesota Young Architect Award, Erin is a dedicated mentor to emerging professionals and an active contributor to her local community. Her work is grounded in a commitment to sustainable design and community development, values that continue to shape both her practice and her impact.



**Makayla Natrop** is a graduate of Iowa State University and joined 4RM+ULA spring of 2024. She is passionate about accessibility, advocacy, and the intersection of day to day life and the built environment. A subscriber to the social model of disability, her approach to design is to

question what are ways to integrate inclusive design for the betterment of the community at large rather than the individuals needing to navigate accommodations for their day to day experience living with a disability.



(Moderator) **Chidiebere Uguru** graduated with her Bachelor of Architecture degree from Iowa State University. Since her graduation she has worked in firms that focus on a wide range of architectural projects – multi-family housing, dental, commercial and healthcare. Chidiebere has artistic interest and worked as an artist's assistant at Mosaic on a Stick. She joined 4RM+ULA as a designer in 2023 and has worked on DD, CD and CA phases of a project as well as art coordination. Projects she's had her hands on include transportation and healthcare. She will soon graduate with her Master's degree in Project Management from Harrisburg University.



**Lyssa Washington, Assoc. AIA**, is a Twin Cities native and has managed teams all over the metro area in a variety of project types. She is a creative problem solver, leader, effective communicator, and collaborator. Over her career, Lyssa has participated in all facets of project progression from master planning through construction administration. She has also led numerous community engagement processes often reaching audiences that are typically underrepresented. She leverages relationships and community building to meet and exceed project goals.

10:15-11:30 AM

## T28.

### Keynote: Architecture Unplugged: Passive-Active Mechanisms for Architecture

1.25 LUs | HSW | Audience: Intermediate

Doris Sung brings passive-active systems to sustainable design far beyond the simple “greening” of a building. Through grant-funded research, she is utilizing smart materials, such as thermobimetals, to self-ventilate, self-shade, self-structure, self-assemble, and self-propel in response to changes in climatic temperatures—all with zero-energy and no controls. More recently, she is rethinking the liminal surface of the façade as a part of a city's infrastructure and designing innovative building products that will improve public health for pedestrians outside while retaining “comfort” for interior occupants using a full range of biomaterials.



**Doris Sung** is an associate professor at USC School of Architecture, sole principal of DOSU Studio Architecture, and co-founder of TBM Designs. She publishes, lectures, and exhibits internationally while managing to bring her patented inventions to the market. With two TED talks under her belt, Doris has received a Cooper Hewitt National

Design Award, a Time Magazine Best Invention, a Falling Walls Breakthrough-of-the-Year Award, and the [next idea] award from ARS Electronica. She has been named a fellow of Google's R+D for the Built Environment, the U.S. Artist, the Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Center, the Bogliasco Foundation, and the Headlands Center for the Arts.

**Jennifer Christiaansen, AIA, LEED AP** is a principal and managing director of Perkins&Will Minneapolis and the 2025 AIA Minnesota president. **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. Together they will facilitate a discussion and Q&A following the keynote address.

10:15-11:30 AM

T29.

## Vanderboom Simulation Center: Design and Post-Occupancy Review

1.25 LUs Audience: Intermediate

Hiring trained professionals in this current environment is challenging. It's even more challenging in healthcare, where stressed-out staff and high turnover can impact the ability of a system to effectively deliver care. Allina Health is no stranger to this landscape and has been actively training staff and upgrading skills for years, although their facilities were not ideal.

Recognizing the importance of a robust training program, Allina decided to construct a new training facility resulting in the Vanderboom Simulation Center located at Abbott Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis. Through a post-occupancy analysis, learn how the flexibly designed facility adapts an existing warehouse on the Abbott campus into a simulation and care center that expands Allina's ability to train its health care providers on basic and ever-changing skills and care delivery, engage its immediate and expansive communities, furthers its sustainability goals, and how this space, that was designed to be flexible is being "flexed" well beyond initial intentions.

Panelists will review what design decisions might have been made differently, demonstrate how the unique combination of conference and simulation center augments training opportunities, and how the space is used as a living lab for new finishes and equipment for the new Patient Pavilion.



**Kimberly Holmquist** has led simulation at Allina Health since 2013, where the program has expanded from a single simulation room to a network of simulation sites across metro and regional locations in the Twin Cities, supporting over 10,000 learners from across the Allina

Health System last year. She played a key role in the design and development of the Vanderboom Simulation Center recognized by Becker's Hospital Review as one of the top simulation/education centers in 2024. Kimberly has been an RN for 30 years, holds a master's degree in nursing education and is a certified healthcare simulation educator.



(Moderator) **Michael Nelson, AIA, NCARB** is an architect and senior project manager at LEO A DALY and has been practicing for the past 28 years, of which the last 15 years has focused on a wide range healthcare projects of various types and scales including nursing homes, public

health facilities, small rural clinics, hospital expansions, and renovations. Michael was the project manager and architect for the Vanderboom Simulation center at Abbott Northwestern

Hospital and guided the team to the final design and through the construction process.



**Laura Seliski** is a senior interior designer at LEO A DALY. Agile and skilled, with 19 years of experience in workplace, industrial, federal, public, and higher education projects locally and across the country, her design process aims to craft spaces that support the client's goals and initiatives while promoting growth and well-being for occupants and the broader community. On the ANW Taff Sim Center project, Laura utilized 3D and 2D visualization to develop the interior spaces, finishes, art, and environmental graphics for the conference center, boardroom, and Sim Center in collaboration with Allina's interior and marketing teams.

T30.

## Train Your Own AI: Use Cases for Designing an AI Workflow with Your Data

1.25 LUs Audience: Entry, Intermediate, Advanced

Interest in Artificial Intelligence (AI) dominates conversations surrounding technology impacts on our business and industry. While popular commercial platforms raise concerns about authorship, copyright, and ethics (often limiting users to prompting "black box" systems), this course explores an alternative: empowering designers to orchestrate their own novel implementations without giving up information security or intellectual property.

The panelists will introduce a number of common AI platforms accessible to designers today, from cloud-hosted solutions to programs that can run directly on a designer's workstation. They will review different ways to integrate their own designs and data into AI workflows to influence design practices. The session covers ML workflows, including algorithm type selection, data preparation, and algorithm training. Practical examples demonstrating ML solving common design problems will be shown. Example files will be provided, and attendees are welcome to bring computers to follow the live presentation.



**Nate Miller** is the founder and CEO of PROVING GROUND. Nate has developed trusted relationships with some of the most reputable organizations in the building industry to create strategies, workflows, and tools for enabling a data-driven business process. Nate strives to help his clients discover meaningful, ethical, and practical uses of new technology to support business growth the creation of better built environments.

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10:15-11:30 AM

**T30.** *continued*

**Steve Sanda, RA** is director of strategy at PROVING GROUND. Steve is a licensed architect with deep experience in design and a passion for technology. His unique professional experience has afforded him numerous opportunities to influence the practice of architecture firms with regional, national, and worldwide exposure. Steve's goal is to use his experience with IT infrastructure and knowledge of architectural practice to tighten the gap between process and product.

**T31.**

## Transforming Crisis into Housing Solutions at Avivo Village

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

This session equips attendees with strategies for addressing urgent housing needs through design and community partnerships. Attendees will gain insights on navigating regulatory challenges, securing unconventional funding, and managing rapid schedules while prioritizing equity, empowering them to apply these techniques to future projects and business practices.



**Sheila Delaney** was co-catalyst behind the creation of Avivo Village North Loop and St. Cloud, two innovative housing projects. Sheila specializes in securing financing and building community and government partnerships to advance these groundbreaking initiatives. She led the effort to secure \$6.2 million for the Indoor Villages project, which became Avivo Village North Loop, and she helped raise \$8.5 million for Avivo Village St. Cloud. Sheila is passionate about creating housing solutions that honor the dignity and value of every individual, with a focus on enhancing the lives of society's most vulnerable.



**Alex Haecker, AIA, NCARB** is a principal architect at AWH Architects with over 25 years of professional experience in design, architecture, historic preservation, adaptive reuse, and rehabilitation. Alex has worked on a wide array of projects during the course of his career, but has focused on adaptive reuse, historic preservation, and urban infill. Along with his architecture practice he is deeply committed to serving the community by both serving on nonprofit boards and being a past 3-term commissioner on the Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission. His work encompasses residential, municipal, nonprofit, educational, and corporate clients across the nation.



**Kelly Matter** joined Avivo in November 2012. She has more than 30 years of experience in social service, workforce development, training, revenue development, and creating partners within the nonprofit and business communities. Prior to joining Avivo, Kelly held leadership positions at CommonBond Communities and Goodwill-Easter Seals. She is a board member of the University of Wisconsin Stout Foundation, chairing the scholarship committee, serves as board chair of Stepping Stone Emergency Housing, and is on the board of Totino-Grace High School.



(Moderator) **Craig Wilson, LEED AP** is a licensed landscape architect and planner at Green Your Bottom Line, with a focus on creating sustainable solutions, including unsheltered houselessness. With two decades of experience spanning landscape architecture, planning, community development and consulting, Craig has led impactful projects like Avivo Village North Loop, Avivo Village St. Cloud, and Agate's shelter in Longfellow, Minneapolis. He is also an adjunct faculty member at the University of Minnesota and a past president of ASLA Minnesota.

**T32.**

## Changing the Culture of Architecture: Ethical Frameworks to Accelerate Progress

1.25 LUs | Ethics | Audience: Entry

Changing the culture of the profession is an intensive, ongoing effort. In 2018, AIA Minnesota facilitated in-depth engagement around culture change for more than 100 members, involving research, analysis, and applied learning. On a parallel path, AIA Minnesota has also adopted Intercultural Development as its "theory of change" – a framework for skill building highlighted in the AIA Guides for Equitable Practice. Both of these efforts were the starting point of the Culture Change Initiative (CCI). CCI examines the current culture of the profession, defines the desired culture, and creates an ethical framework to accelerate progress.

In 2020, a national Community of Practice for Culture Change (CPCC) was created, composed of members of the profession; the CPCC collaborates regularly on pattern spotting, intervention experiments, and in supporting each other through the cultivation of change in their teams, firms and organizations. CPCC team members will share learnings from their work that can be adopted by teams, firms, and organizations, as well as demonstrating how systems thinking and intercultural competence can, over a short period of time, lead to culture change. Session attendees will engage in interactive activity using hypothetical scenarios to gain comfort with the interpersonal dynamics involved in systems interventions.

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10:15–11:30 AM

**T32.** *continued*

**Sara Du, Assoc. AIA**, excels in guiding projects that embody cultural and community values, effectively upholding project objectives through strategic execution. With her expertise in construction documentation and administration, Sara ensures fluid collaboration between stakeholders and builds lasting relationships throughout the process. By listening first and acting as a sturdy leader, Sara coalesces groups around decisions to bring about project success.



**Sean Higgins, AIA**, is a project Architect at Holst Architecture in Portland, OR, with professional experience with a wide range of project types, including K-12 educational facilities, corporate offices, spaces for arts and cultural institutions, and projects involving community engagement. Passionate about humanistic architecture, Sean believes the best projects are co-created with their communities. His approach aims to uncover the many layers of ecology, history, economics, and sociocultural contexts that exist in our world. Sean is currently a member of the AIA Minnesota Community of Practice for Culture Change Core Team, and an adjunct instructor at the UMN College of Design School of Architecture.



(Moderator) **Stephanie McDaniel, AIA**, operations director and principal at Perkins&Will, is passionate about fostering engaging design processes, creating inclusive spaces, and advancing equity in the profession. With 29 years in the industry, she carries her dedication to community and design into everything she does.



**Anna Pravinata, AIA, NOMA, LEED AP** has dedicated much of her professional career to designing industry-leading facilities for both corporate and higher education institutions. Anna utilizes her strengths in comprehensive planning, design, and attention to detail to translate clients' needs into state-of-the-art facilities. As a female architect of color, Anna champions equity in the profession by building diverse project teams and in the built environment by understanding and empathizing with the needs of traditionally marginalized individuals of different ages, genders, races, cultures, religions, and abilities. Anna currently sits on the board of directors for Minnesota Architectural Foundation. She was AIA Minnesota President in 2021.



**Mary-Margaret Zindren, CAE** is the EVP/executive director of AIA Minnesota, the three local chapters of the AIA in Minnesota, and the Minnesota Architectural Foundation. She has served as president of the AIA Conference of Architectural Component Executives (CACE) and is a recognized expert in board governance, strategic planning, equity, and culture change. She currently sits on the Board of Trustees for the Science Museum of Minnesota and on the AIA national Board of Directors.

11:30 AM–1:30 PM

**T33.****Exhibit Hall & Lunch**

This is your first chance to visit our 2025 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.**

1:15–3:00 PM

**T34.** *Capacity 25***TOUR: Walker West Music Academy**

1.0 LUs Audience: Entry, Intermediate, Advanced

*The tour is an additional fee and will include a round-trip shuttle bus from The Depot.*



Walker West is a vibrant music school, founded by African American musicians, offering affordable instruction for ages 5 to adult in jazz, gospel, classical, and improvisation. This tour

introduces their new, state-of-the-art facility inspired by African American culture, designed to welcome learners from all backgrounds, foster creativity, and develop a lifelong love of music.

**Wale Falade, AIA, NOMA**, is a principal at Locus Architecture who has led 100+ projects across the US and Canada. Awarded the AIA-MN 2025 Young Architect Award, he teaches and mentors in architecture, champions diversity, and advocates for democratizing design through collaboration, creativity, and engagement with clients and communities.

**Kyrshan Hynniewta, NOMA**, raised in the Eastern Himalayas, Kyrshan designs with a sensitivity to place and a focus on craft and constructability. He has completed buildings in India and worked on projects in Canada and the United States. At Locus Architecture, he translates this hands-on, global perspective into coherent solutions where each detail supports the larger system.

**Cynthia Saade, NOMA** is a trained architect from Lebanon who contributed to the country's first Passive House-certified project. She grew up with a deep appreciation for nature and art, which continues to inform her design approach. As a designer at Locus Architecture, she brings a sharp eye for uncovering unique patterns and connections, helping resolve complex challenges with thoughtful, creative solutions.



## TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4

1:30-3:00 PM

T35.

## AIA Minnesota Annual Meeting

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 2026.



2025 AIA/ACSA Topaz Medallion for Architectural Education recipient **Tom Fisher, Assoc. AIA**, director of the Minnesota Design Center, will present on “Minnesota’s Topaz Tradition,” including prior recipient Ralph Rapson’s contributions to our cityscapes. **Jennifer Christiaansen, AIA**, current AIA Minnesota president, will preside over the business meeting, which includes a vote on the slate of nominees for 2026 leadership positions. AIA Minnesota EVP/executive director **Mary-Margaret Zindren, CAE**, will present the State of the Association report. And **Phillip Koski, AIA**, president-elect of AIA Minnesota, will share his perspectives heading into his year as president.

3:15-4:30 PM

T36.

## Cracking the Code: What You Need to Know about the Commercial Energy Code

1.25 LUs HSW Audience: Entry

The commercial energy code is complex, and requirements stretch across the building envelope, mechanical, and lighting systems. Recent state legislation requiring significant energy efficiency improvements in the commercial energy code by 2038 will lead to increased focus on the energy code and more frequent code updates. Despite recent momentum towards sustainable design, many buildings – including those pursuing green building certifications – still fail to meet minimum energy code requirements. Energy code requirements drive operational cost savings for building owners, improved comfort for occupants, and increased resiliency to extreme weather events, but without proper implementation during design and construction, these

benefits are lost.

Successful energy code compliance requires dedicated work from design teams during all phases of a project, starting in schematic design. This session will equip participants with a foundational understanding of the structure and organization of the commercial energy code, compliance pathways within the code, and how to document compliance effectively across disciplines. Speakers will break down complex requirements and provide practical guidance so attendees can confidently navigate and apply the energy code. They will also share energy code compliance data from recent Minnesota projects reviewed through BuildUp MN’s Community Code Support program to illustrate common pitfalls in compliance.



**Sophia Jungbauer** works with designers, architects, and code officials to support compliance with Minnesota’s energy code through resource development and training initiatives. She manages 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.



**Jett Roeser** works at CEE as an energy engineer. He leads CEE’s energy model review work for the Minnesota Sustainable Building 2030 program and supports energy code compliance work as a technical reviewer for the Advanced Energy Codes Partnership program. Jett graduated from the University of Minnesota in 2019 with a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering and currently serves on the Board of Governors for the Minnesota chapter of ASHRAE.

(Moderator) **Julia Wells** oversees several focus areas of the Minnesota Advanced Energy Codes Partnership, including management of the BuildUp MN energy code compliance program. Julia leads a team that works across the design, construction, and code enforcement industries to support compliance with Minnesota’s commercial energy code, developing effective strategies to help close gaps in design and enforcement. In previous roles, 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.

3:15-4:30 PM

T37.

## Building Enclosure: Managing Risk and Optimizing Performance

Sponsored by [Intectural](#)

1.25 LUs | HSW | Audience: Entry

When designing the building enclosure from the substrate to the cladding, architects and designers face a host of challenges, from energy code and NFPA 285 fire testing compliance, to ensuring aesthetically pleasing façade design. This course, featuring a panel of four industry experts, explains design trade-off complexities and strategies to maximize flexibility while maintaining code compliance—and ultimately build a dependable, robust building façade.

First, experts will review the challenges of choosing and placing an air and weather barrier. Secondly, codes and thermal bridging will be analyzed to determine insulation and thermal spacer selection. Finally, the panel will explore critical challenges associated with continuous insulation and requirements of a rainscreen cladding system.



**Drew Clausen** studied architecture and urban planning at the University of Illinois in Champaign and has been an active participant in the building materials industry for 30 years. He currently leads the AEC Team at Owens Corning and consults with architects regarding a variety

of design challenges related to fire, thermal, moisture, acoustics, and sustainability. Drew is currently a member of the RAiNA (Rainscreen Association in North America) Education Committee.



**Geoff Duck** is a member of Cascadia Windows & Doors technical sales and management team with nearly 20 years of experience in the building products industry. In his current role, Geoff works with Cascadia clients to optimize their product configurations and specs to maximize

building envelope performance. Having held progressively senior roles in multinational companies including nVent and Pentair, Geoff has experience working across markets globally. Geoff lives in Vancouver, Canada, and holds a Bachelor's degree from the University of British Columbia.



**Mike Herbst** is the managing partner and one of the founders of Environmental Building Products, LLC. He has advised and assisted with the transition to engineered composite cladding, continuous insulation, thermally broken deep cavity attachment, understanding and attaining

effective air and water barrier membrane systems, rain screen design, and meeting the changes in the International Building Code, specifically NFPA 285, and ASHRAE 90.1. He is also a shareholder and founder of Architectural Attachment

Technologies, Inc., which developed and patented panel attachment system. This system is specifically designed to increase quality, control costs, and reduce install time for the retail market.



**Michelle Murray** has over 25 years of industry experience and manages the enclosure designer of record and rehabilitation services, as a national practice leader at Lerch Bates. Her role provides resources and mentorship to internal consultants and external project teams. She has

expertise in designing and implementing comprehensive waterproofing, façade, roof, and plaza systems for commercial and residential applications, as well as determining causation of building enclosure failures. Michelle provides leadership over internal and external quality assurance practices as a building envelope and waterproofing subject matter expert and contributes to ensure long-term durability and integrity of building science solutions.

T38.

## Building Circularity Minnesota: Reuse is the Future of Construction

1.25 LUs | HSW | 1.0 GBCI | Audience: Intermediate

In collaboration with the UMN's Center for Sustainable Building Research, MSR Design, and Doors Unhinged, Hennepin County's "Building the Foundation for Commercial Building Material Reuse" project, funded through the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, addresses key barriers to commercial building material reuse to help owners, design professionals and reuse installers bring these concepts into common practice. This session will provide an overview of the key objectives of our project, including focused education and outreach, project-level technical assistance, and business development workshops.

The session will also dive into the recently published resource, the Project Manager's Guide for Building Material Reuse in Commercial Projects. The guide focuses on process, with specification language, guidance for procurement, and case studies of successful reuse projects around the country. A selection of template documents are provided in the appendices to support reuse and deconstruction on commercial-scale projects by addressing barriers in current construction documents and workflows.

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3:15-4:30 PM

**T38.** *continued*



**Fernanda Acosta** joined Hennepin County Environment and Energy in 2024 as a zero-waste specialist. She supports the school recycling and construction and demolition grant programs, working with county schools, residents, and property owners to divert waste from the landfill.



**Olivia Cashman** is a construction and demolition waste specialist with Hennepin County's Environment and Energy Department. Olivia launched and now manages the county's building reuse grant and pre-demolition inspection program, working with property owners, contractors, and cities to reduce construction and demolition waste. Olivia also serves on the board of directors of a national organization encouraging the recovery, reuse, and recycling of building materials.



(Moderator) **Simona Fischer, AIA**, is an associate and director of sustainable practice with MSR Design in Minneapolis. She develops processes to integrate sustainable design seamlessly into the workflow of architectural

practice, specializing in the intersection of energy performance, the carbon and health of materials, and high-performance envelope assemblies for cold climates. Simona is currently serving on the national AIA Materials Pledge working group, and the Circularity and Low-Carbon Specs committees of the Minnesota Carbon Leadership Forum. In 2023 Simona was a recipient of the national AIA 2023 Young Architects Award.



**Liz Kutschke** is a research fellow at the UMN Center for Sustainable Building Research. She received a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Interior Design from the Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design in 2010, and a Masters of Architecture and a Master of Science in Architecture in Sustainable Design from the University of Minnesota in 2016 and 2017, respectively. Liz has a passion for research-driven architectural and urban design, and has focused on building energy use, learning from natural systems, and considerations of equity and social justice in the built environment.

# N|V|5

## Beyond Engineering

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3:15-4:30 PM

T39.

## Career Mapping: Navigating Professional Growth

1.25 LUs Audience: All

This session invites architects and designers to embrace a proactive approach in shaping their professional journeys. Participants will explore strategies to take ownership of their career paths, recognizing that intentional planning leads to rewarding opportunities. The discussion will also emphasize how firms can play a pivotal role in illuminating potential pathways and providing resources for individual growth. Together, attendees and panelists will uncover how collaboration between talent and organizations can empower everyone to realize their fullest professional potential.



**Stacey Demmer, AIA, LEED AP, WELL AP** is chief operating officer at LHB, a full-service architecture and engineering firm focused on innovative, thoughtful, and future-focused design solutions throughout the Midwest. Stacey is passionate about helping clients and team

members thrive in our rapidly changing world. A licensed architect since 2005 with over two decades of experience, she applies her forward-thinking design and management approach to lead operations. She harnesses the intellect and ingenuity of those she supports, guiding the firm to deliver smart sustainability solutions and identify value-added opportunities that enhance the business case for environmental stewardship in our communities.



**Isaac Karley, AIA**, is a Project Manager at LEO A DALY in Minneapolis. He focuses on civic and community projects and tries to approach his work with passion and a specific focus on engagement and listening. For him, passion draws people into meaningful conversations, and

listening creates the space for trust and collaboration. He has seen how the relationships that can grow from that mix—within firms and across the profession—have positively shaped his career and opened new opportunities along the way.

**Maddie McCauley, SHRM, SCP** is a talent management director at DLR Group who leads both the human resources business partner and talent acquisition functions. Her work focuses on aligning talent strategy with business goals, building a positive and inclusive culture, and attracting and retaining top talent. In addition to her role at DLR Group, she serves as a board member on Twin Cities SHRM's emerging professional advisory committee.



**Andrew Portis, AIA**, is a licensed architect with over 12 years of experience leading complex healthcare projects, including academic and pediatric facilities. As managing principal of HDR's Minneapolis studio, he champions a

culture of collaboration, creativity, and community empowerment. Andrew is passionate about aligning visionary design with client goals to deliver sustainable, impactful architecture. He actively mentors emerging professionals and fosters innovation to redefine the region's built environment. A trusted advisor and community partner, Andrew also serves on the State of Minnesota AELSLAGID Board.



**Mary Shaffer, AIA**, leads the architecture north central team at Mead & Hunt. 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) **Nicole Washburn, AIA**, serves as NELSON Worldwide's chief operating officer. With over 20 years of industry experience, including a concentration on operations, her career was built on expertise in holistic project delivery, encompassing leadership in systems,

project management, resource allocation, and risk/claims management. Nicole's passion and commitment to a well-managed design process has consistently resulted in successful outcomes, driven by quality relationships, clear communication, and exceptional service.

T40.

## The Ralph Rapson Traveling Study Award: Origins, Legacy, and Future

1.25 LUs Audience: Entry

This panel traces the origins, evolution, and future of the Ralph Rapson Traveling Study Award, honoring the legacy of architect, educator, and design visionary Ralph Rapson. From his formative years and leadership at the University of Minnesota to the founding of the award upon his retirement, the session explores how Rapson's commitment to design excellence shaped generations of architects.

Panelists will discuss the award's development—from early fundraising and community support to a growing endowment that continues to inspire emerging talent. Highlights include stories from past recipients, jurors, and submissions, showcasing the award's influence on careers and the profession. The session will also examine how digital tools and evolving design practices have reshaped the submission process.

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## TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4

3:15-4:30 PM

T40. *continued*

(Moderator) **Bartlett "Bake" J. Baker, Jr., FAIA, NCARB, LEED AP** retired recently after 40 years of experience with large planning and design projects, initially as an intern architect at Skidmore, Owings and Merrill in San Francisco, then as an architect and principal at HGA. In 2004, he joined McGough Companies as EVP and head of its preconstruction group. Bake currently serves on several volunteer boards and is past president of the Minnesota Architectural Foundation and current chair of the Ralph Rapson Traveling Scholarship Award committee. In his spare time, he audits classes at the University of Minnesota, rides his bike, and officiates at youth ski races.



**Michael Hara, AIA**, is a project designer for the arts, culture, and education studio at HGA. He is also a multiple time Ralph Rapson Traveling Study Award finalist and recipient in 2019.



**Jane Hession** is a Minneapolis-based architectural writer, researcher, and historian specializing in Midcentury Modernism. She is the author of five books. Jane was born and raised in New York's Hudson River Valley. She holds a Master of Architecture (M.Arch.) from the University of Minnesota and Bachelor of Arts degrees in English and Art History from SUNY Albany. She is a past president of the Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy and the Minneapolis Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians, and a founding partner of Modern House Productions.



**Sarah Hill, AIA** is a licensed architect and certified interior designer with more than 15 years of experience across residential, commercial, and civic projects—from intimate kitchen remodels to international airports. She is currently a project manager at PLAAD, an award-winning residential architecture firm based in Minneapolis with work spanning the country. Living with her family along the shores of Lake Superior in Duluth, Sarah enjoys blending technical know-how with a passion for thoughtful, people-centered design. She has been a three-time competitor in the Ralph Rapson Traveling Fellowship, earning finalist recognition in 2023 and 2025.



**Toby Rapson**, now the CEO of Ralph Rapson and Associates, Inc. as well as owner, has been passionate about the environmental and human impact of design since his days as a student. He is deeply committed to serving many local arts and nonprofit organizations in his hometown of Minneapolis, where he has been on over a dozen boards of directors. Always mindful of his father's admonition that "there's a lot of half-assed Modernism out there," Toby continues to practice architecture and manage the family's furniture business with both an artist's eye for detail and a true Modernist's commitment to use.

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.

**LGBTQIA+ Reception**

Sponsored by [North Central Sales](#)

Members of the LGBTQIA+ community are invited to attend this first gathering of what is intended to be a new AIA MN member group, providing connection, support, and celebration. Allies are also welcomed!

## WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5

8:00-9:30 AM

## W43.

**An Introduction to MN Statute 144G and its Effect on Assisted Living in Minnesota**

1.5 LUs | HSW | Audience: Entry, Intermediate

This program will help architects, engineers, contractors, developers, and care providers understand the current assisted living landscape, distinguish between the different licenses for assisted living facilities, recognize the new 144G statute and determine how it will affect current and future assisted living projects.

The session will also help architects, developers, and care providers navigate the new project submittal process. Lastly, it will help architects interpret the ways the new law will create opportunities for the architectural profession in Minnesota.

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8:00–9:30 AM

**W43.** *continued*

**Michael Mireau** is Minnesota's top state-licensed physical environment subject matter expert. He is one of the few responsible for creating the assisted living physical environment program and the Minnesota Department of Health team that oversees plan reviews, inspections, and surveys. He has been a licensed architect in Minnesota since 2013 and was the first-ever architect hired by the Minnesota Department of Health. He is passionate about ensuring Minnesota care providers are successful in developing and maintaining physical environments that enable health, safety, and well-being for those they serve.

**W44.**  
**Creating a Culture of Business Development**

1.5 LUs | Audience: Intermediate, Advanced

Fostering a firm-wide awareness of the importance of attracting new clients and partners, firms can help mitigate the risks associated with over-dependence on a select group of individuals to bring in new clients. Instilling the value in every team member's role in business development efforts and providing the tools they need to do so will help embed this culture into your firm's DNA.

This session will provide actionable strategies for transforming the often negative perception and dislike of business development activities into a more comfortable approach of building new relationships and a network of potential clients and partners. A template for crafting your firm's various value propositions will be provided along with a networking philosophy and approach. Attendees will come away with a roadmap of the recommended strategic planning, marketing support, metrics, communication, skills, accountabilities and reinforcement to help them create their own cultures of client development.



**Laurie Currell** is a veteran marketer, leader, trainer, and coach. She has spent her entire career working with marketing and BD professionals to communicate more confidently and persuasively. For over three decades, Laurie has passionately trained and coached hundreds of professional services marketers and seller-doers to attract more clients. She joined the SagePresence team in 2020, to help AEC professionals develop and deliver powerful messaging for networking, proposals, BD conversations, and shortlist interviews. She has also worked with AEC firms with strategy, process design, and structure.

8:15–9:30 AM

**W45.**  
**Developing an Ethical AI Strategy for Design Firms: Challenges and Opportunities**

1.25 LUs | Ethics | Audience: Entry, Intermediate

The design industry is facing rapid disruption from artificial intelligence (AI), with clients and competitors already adopting it, and startups threatening core services. This trend is expected to exert fee pressure and transform certain types of work and poses many ethical challenges regarding intellectual property and authorship. However, AI also presents a significant opportunity to improve project delivery efficiency, influence design outcomes, and expand services.

This session delves into the critical process of developing a long-term strategy for responding to AI at a design firm. Panelists will discuss essential components, including conducting a competitor and industry scan to understand AI's potential. They will also explore how to analyze an organization's AI readiness by assessing technical capabilities, identifying market opportunities, and evaluating vulnerabilities. A key focus will be on consulting with stakeholders across an organization, including leadership, to develop scenarios for AI's impact and determine appropriate, ethical means of implementation.

Finally, the program will address the crucial step of creating a roadmap to ensure the AI strategy leads to actionable change, aligned with professional obligations, across organizational structure, talent development, and service offerings. Participants will gain valuable insights into building a strategy to leverage AI effectively while mitigating its challenges.



**Nate Miller** is the founder and CEO of PROVING GROUND. Nate has developed trusted relationships with some of the most reputable organizations in the building industry to create strategies, workflows, and tools for enabling a data-driven business process. Nate strives to help his clients discover meaningful, ethical, and practical uses of new technology to support business growth the creation of better built environments.

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8:15-9:30 AM

**W45.** continued



**Steve Sanda, RA**, is director of strategy at PROVING GROUND. Steve is a licensed architect with deep experience in design and a passion for technology. His unique professional experience has afforded him numerous opportunities to influence the practice of architecture firms with regional, national, and worldwide exposure. Steve's goal is to use his experience with IT infrastructure and knowledge of architectural practice to tighten the gap between process and product.

**W46.**

**Accelerating Our Decarbonized Future: Next Century, Living Design of Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library (TRPL)**

Sponsored by [H Window](#)

1.25 LUs HSW 1.0 GBCI Audience: Entry, Intermediate, Advanced

The next century of conservation will be focused on circularity and carbon. TRPL seeks to set a new standard for sustainability, implementing the AIA Framework for Design Excellence in a beyond zero approach. The project is registered for full Living Building Challenge certification, LEED Platinum and Sites Platinum. The project is an awe-inspiring, architecturally significant destination that works with, not against nature and honors the 26th president's legacy as the conservation President.

TRPL fosters significant community engagement and partnering, as well as extensive ecological restoration. The team is developing new standards for soil organic carbon sequestration. They have developed a new biophilic design framework on this project. The site is a  
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8:15-9:30 AM

**W46.** *continued*

significant integrated part of the design; it is not separate from the library and is an integral part of the conservation experience. Prairie restoration at the project site hopes to extend the regenerative approach beyond its borders and is key to extending TR's legacy. This session will feature representation from the team including owner, design and construction team members. Best practices will be identified that can be carried forward to any project.



**Christine Beaubien, LEED AP** is a project manager for JE Dunn, specializing in high-profile and complex projects, including the historic Minnesota State Capitol restoration, with expertise rooted in her extensive experience managing projects from preconstruction through

closeout. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering from Michigan Technological University and has over 20 years' experience working in the construction industry. Her work focuses on management and control of project scopes that require thorough analysis, meticulous documentation, and extensive reporting. Her current focus is sustainability on the TRPL.



**Jenn Carroll, LFA** is a seasoned facilities and sustainability leader with over 30 years of experience across construction, emergency response, and environmental design. At the TRPL, she leads the charge in creating a harmonious balance between built and natural

spaces, championing sustainability and resilience to inspire a lasting legacy. Jenn works extensively with green building standards such as LBC, LEED, and SITES. Her efforts focus on optimizing building systems, fostering collaborative partnerships, and advancing regenerative design that supports both people and the place. Jenn's leadership reflects a commitment to building a better future, one that honors community, respects nature, and drives meaningful, sustainable change.



**Shay Koohi, Assoc. AIA, LFA, LEED GA** began her career in Iran and later completed both a Master of Architecture and a Master of Sustainable Design at the University of Minnesota. She currently serves on the AIA Minneapolis Board of Directors and has taught

as a part-time adjunct instructor at the UMN College of Design. Throughout her career, she has contributed to a wide range of projects, most notably the TRPL, where she has focused on sustainability strategies and building envelope design. She is also the founder of JLG's Biophilic Design Framework, which shapes the firm's approach to integrating nature into design practice.



(Moderator) **Beau LaCroix** is an architect who balances the art and science of complex projects to create unique solutions that meet and exceed the loftiest of client goals. A self-proclaimed "generalist" architect, he works on a variety of project types and brings to bear a wide range of project experiences to solve unique challenges. He sticks with projects from early design through construction, using his technical knowledge, attention to detail, and creative problem solving to achieve projects that meet the highest standards of quality and sustainability – including the TRPL.



**Jena Stanton, PLA, ASLA**, is a passionate problem solver and an associate at Confluence with over 13 years of experience in landscape architecture and urban design. A licensed professional in Minnesota and North Dakota, she believes that design excellence in landscape

architecture takes multi-disciplinary collaboration and is a union of art and science. Jena's practice is defined by her belief that design can improve our communities, our environment, and our quality of life.

**W47.****Beyond the Building Scale: Growing your Influence through Civic Leadership**

1.25 LUs Audience: Entry, Intermediate, Advanced

The systems that shape the built environment — where housing, jobs, amenities, and transportation routes are sited; prioritization of investment in people and places — are most influenced by those who hold positions of leadership in neighborhood, local, regional, and state government and in civic organizations. Hear how you can leverage your knowledge of architecture, the built environment, and systems thinking to further design excellence and to reinvigorate the historical role of architect as steward of the built environment. Learn various pathways to leadership taken by your peers — their first steps and next steps, the questions they've asked, the causes they've championed, the ways they've grown. Boost your confidence in raising your hand and saying "Yes!" to civic leadership opportunities and to shaping a better future for the public the profession serves.



**Michael Fischer, AIA**, is passionate about sustainability, especially as it pertains to cities. He joined LHB in 1990, founding the firm's government and urban design practices. He has served on city councils in Edina, MN, and Superior, WI, and has been a member of more

than 50 municipal boards, community task forces, and redevelopment committees. In his current role, he focuses on assisting city and county governments as they reimagine their buildings, sites, and operations to thrive in clean-energy future. He is the 2025 recipient of the Louis Lundgren Award for Service.

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8:15-9:30 AM

## W47. continued



**James Garrett, Jr., FAIA, NOMA**, is a visual artist, writer and architect who expresses the urban condition through the lenses of art and design. James received the 2019 AIA Young Architect Award and the 2020 AIA Minnesota Gold Medal. He was elevated to the AIA College of Fellows in 2023. He served for 7 years on the Metropolitan Council Livable Communities and Transit Oriented Development committees and now serves on the Minnesota State Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board (CAAPB). James holds an A.B. degree in architecture from the College of Environmental Design at the University of California Berkley and a Master of Architecture degree from Parsons School of Design.



**Ryan R. Murphy, AIA**, is president and co-Founder of Shamrock+, an innovative Savannah based firm specializing in reality capture, drone operations, and advanced visualization technologies for the AEC industry. He also serves as a Senior Architect at the U.S. Army Corps of

Engineers Headquarters, where he leads national Standards & Criteria initiatives to advance architectural practice, technical excellence, and resilience across Department of Defense facilities. As an At-Large Director of AIA Georgia, Ryan helped develop and establish the Citizen Architect Matching & Placement System (CAMPS), a scalable program designed to connect architects with civic leadership opportunities and strengthen community impact.



**Sam Olbekson, AIA, AICAE, NOMA**, is a citizen of the White Earth Nation of Ojibwe and an architect with over 25 years of design, planning, and cultural visioning experience. Sam serves tribal communities and Indigenous organizations by bringing a contemporary and

forward-thinking perspective to the design and planning process. Sam brings a wealth of experience and cultural knowledge. He has led a variety of mixed-use, urban design, residential, institutional, hospitality, landscape, educational, and community-oriented design projects. He is committed to advancing the cultural preservation, health, and well-being of Native communities through sound planning and practical design strategies that are beautiful, innovative, environmentally regenerative, and culturally specific.



**Tiersa Wodash, AIA**, is a licensed architect in Minnesota and Wisconsin and the founder of Brick and Mortar, a firm dedicated to advancing equity and revitalization through thoughtful commercial renovations that preserve main street character. She serves on the boards of

Just Housing, AIA Northern Minnesota, the Lincoln Park Business Group, and the I200 Fund. In Duluth, she has helped lead task forces of local professionals, stakeholders, and the City to improve permit and inspection services and processes, with the goal of shaping more inclusive, efficient systems that directly benefit the people and neighborhoods they serve.



(Moderator) **Mary-Margaret Zindren, CAE** is the EVP/ executive director of AIA Minnesota, the three local chapters of the AIA in Minnesota, and the Minnesota Architectural Foundation. She has served as president of the AIA Conference of Architectural Component Executives (CACE) and is a recognized expert in board governance, strategic planning, equity, and culture change. She currently sits on the Board of Trustees for the Science Museum of Minnesota and on the AIA national Board of Directors.

8:15-9:30 AM

## W48.

## ARE IOI: Personal Experiences From Start to Finish

1.25 LUs Audience: Entry

Attend this program and hear what three architects who have recently taken and passed the Architecture Registration Exam (ARE) have to say about their experience.

- How did they know it was the right time to begin taking their exams?
- How did they incorporate time to study with the rest of their life?
- What study materials did they use?
- How did they decide the order in which they took the exams?
- What was their experience scheduling?
- Which format of the test did they use and what was the actual test-taking experience like?

Take advantage of this opportunity to ask questions and get answers that will help your process be smooth and less stressful.



**Nate Anderson, AIA**, is an architect at Perkins&Will Minneapolis with a background in architectural photography—a skill that informs his creative process and allows him to connect with the wider architectural community. He completed both his Bachelor of Science and Master of Architecture at the University of Minnesota.



**Dantès Ha, AIA, NOMA**, is past president of AIA St. Paul, vice president of MSP NOMA, and a board member at the Victoria Theatre Arts Center, a nonprofit dedicated to creating an arts center in Frogtown. Dantès believes that community-focused design is the way forward.

In free time, Dantès enjoys video games, sampling new fast-food items, and watercolor painting, finding inspiration for creativity in every aspect of life.

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8:15-9:30 AM

W48. *continued*

(Moderator) **Evan Hall, AIA, NCARB** is an employee owner of Mead & Hunt. Evan believes strongly in the importance of becoming licensed. An advocate for alternative paths to licensure and maintaining strict standards for protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the people,

Evan also advocates for the diversification of the profession. Recently co-chair of both the AIA Minnesota ENTER Committee and the Architect Licensing Advisory Committee, Evan is also a co-steward of the local chapter of the Architecture Lobby which advocates for worker's rights and improving access to the profession.



**Olivia Sprotsy, AIA**, 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. Olivia graduated with her Master of

Architecture from the University of Minnesota.

9:30-10:45 AM

W49.  
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.

10:45-12:15 PM

W50.  
From Goals to Performance: B3 in Practice

1.5 LUs | HSW | 1.5 GBCI | Audience: Intermediate

The State of Minnesota's B3 (Buildings, Benchmarks, and Beyond) programs and tools support high-performance, sustainable buildings across their entire life cycle.

These programs establish project-specific performance requirements during pre-design, guide teams through sustainable design strategies, and ensure accountability through ongoing performance tracking and improvement during operations.

At the heart of the program is SB 2030, Minnesota's energy standard, which requires new buildings and major renovations to significantly reduce carbon-producing energy use compared to a 2003 baseline. For projects

beginning schematic design in 2025 and beyond, the standard sets a bold target: a 90% reduction.

This session will highlight the application of B3 and SB 2030 through case studies from four 2025 Best of B3 finalist projects. Minnesota-based architecture teams will share insights and strategies from the design of Paradise Commons, the Minneapolis American Indian Center, the Minnesota Veterans Home in Bemidji, and Wakan Tipi Center in Saint Paul. Each project illustrates a distinct pathway to meeting B3 program requirements while enhancing occupant wellness, honoring cultural context, and minimizing energy and carbon impacts.

Attendees will gain practical takeaways for integrating B3 principles into their own work—from ambitious performance goals to realized outcomes.



**Jennifer Garman, AIA**, leads the regenerative design initiatives of Cuningham's grow studio with her passion to create ecologically minded spaces. The value of her holistic, community-based approach is built into the design details of the built environment and woven into her

collaborations with clients and stakeholders to realize innovative visions for 21<sup>st</sup> century learning. Her work for schools across the nation is marked by her dedication to advocating for progressive learning spaces that positively impact people and the world around them.



**Tu-Anh Bui Johnson, Assoc. AIA, LEED AP**

**BD+C** is a healthcare and senior living planner with deep expertise in high-acuity care settings. She specializes in sustainable, person-centered designs that uphold dignity and well-being for aging and vulnerable populations. Her knowledge

of the VA Small House Design Guide and various care models has shaped innovative long-term care environments, notably in her recent work on the three new Minnesota Veterans Homes. She is a LEED BD+C accredited professional and actively contributes to the architectural community through her involvement on several AIA boards and committees.



**Eric Lagerquist, AIA, LEED AP** is an associate principal with Cuningham. Over the last 35 years, his project experience has included a wide variety of project types, from small tenant improvements to large multi-purpose community facilities across the country. Much of his

experience is focused on renovations and repurposing of existing buildings. He places an emphasis on working collaboratively with designers, clients, consultants, and contractors to achieve beautiful, functional, cost-effective, and sustainable built environments.

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10:45-12:15 PM

## W50. continued



(Moderator) **Pat Smith** is a Research Fellow at the UMN Center for Sustainable Building Research. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Carleton College and a Master's in both architecture and in science from the University of Minnesota. His research focuses on sustainable

building guidelines, policy development, performance benchmarking, and life cycle analysis. Pat contributes to the Minnesota Sustainable Housing Initiative and plays a key role in managing the State of Minnesota's B3 and SB 2030 programs, where he leads the development and implementation of the B3 Guidelines to support high-performance, sustainable building practices across the state.



**Leah Wirgau** is a member of HGA's sustainability team and an expert in the Minnesota B3, SITES, Living Building Challenge, and WELL Health-Safety rating systems. She has experience implementing strategies related to climate resilience, energy reduction, embodied

carbon, and material health. Her knowledge in deep green building and site practices guides related research and education, and supports industry-leading projects, as well as policies. Leah is also engaged in HGA initiatives related to holistic design and Indigenous advocacy.

## W51.

## The Abbott Northwestern Care Center: Building Before the Building Starts

1.5 LUs | HSW | Audience: Intermediate

The Abbott Northwestern Richard M. Schulze Surgical and Critical Care Center, scheduled to open in 2026, will be the latest addition to the 140-year-old Abbott Northwestern Campus in South Minneapolis. The Care Center will be ten stories of surgery, support, and inpatient spaces and will sit in the center of the Abbott campus – a tight urban site located between three of South Minneapolis' major thoroughfares.

As a quaternary (highest level) care facility, 24-hour operations need to be maintained throughout the disruptive and complex multi-year construction project. HGA and construction partner Mortenson worked closely with hospital and community stakeholders to develop an "enabling project" that maintained operations, retained – and in some cases improved – patient and staff experience, and respected the local community.

This panel discussion will review the how the team developed the enabling project that was critical to maintaining operations and safety. They will also discuss how the team navigated City and Department of Health requirements, including the newly implemented

Minneapolis 2040 Plan, and how the enabling project construction, completed prior to the completion of the building design, influenced the design process of the Care Center.



**Dan Grothe, AIA**, is a senior project manager at HGA. Known for his clear communication and quick ability to build trust, he fosters collaboration among clients, design teams, and contractors to meet timelines without sacrificing quality. Currently, he is the project manager for the Richard M. Schulze Surgical and Critical Care Center at Abbott Northwestern Hospital, one of Minnesota's largest healthcare projects. A University of Minnesota graduate, Daniel also serves as HGA's healthcare sector operations leader and is dedicated to enhancing project delivery across the healthcare practice.



**Tony LaCroix-Dalluhn** started as an emergency medical technician at Abbott Northwestern Emergency Department and is now vice president of facilities management and planning for the Allina Health system, a position he achieved after holding many clinical and non-clinical roles in his 31 years at Allina Health. Over the decades, Tony's journey has spanned hands-on patient care to high-level strategic leadership, giving him a unique perspective on how clinical needs and operational excellence intersect. His career is marked by a commitment to patient safety, facility innovation, and collaborative problem-solving, always seeking ways to bridge gaps between frontline staff and executive leadership.



**Sydney Wittmier** is a project executive at Mortenson. With 16 years of experience in the construction industry, Sydney brings a deep passion for the built environment and a strong commitment to collaborate with industry and community partners in creating an inclusive environment on all construction projects. She actively challenges the equity gap as it relates to leadership positions in the industry, and works to create opportunities for small, women and minority owned businesses, with a hands-on approach to mentorship and outreach.

## W52.

## Paradox of Sustainability and Resilience Metrics

1.5 LUs | HSW | Audience: Intermediate

Regenerative design is a transformative approach to architecture that catalyzes the relationship between people and other living systems to build social and ecological health. When ecological systems are used to support social needs, complex relationships and interactions can begin to take place. Regenerative design evolved out of a reaction to the mechanistic methodology of green design, which assumes the impacts of a development can be dissected, quantified, and solved.

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10:45 AM-12:15 PM

**W52.** continued

For regenerative design to transform practice, it must demonstrate improvements in the health of people and ecosystems. This success must not only provide good stories and beautiful designs, but must also survive scientific review. Metrics link regenerative design to science; however, this interpretation of science could be limited to counting and weighing, and therefore arrive at a distorted understanding of performance.

This session will explore the history of regenerative design and approaches to metrics to guide architects toward addressing the challenges of the future. By navigating the paradox of creating and using regenerative design metrics, innovative measures will evolve to enable more effective integration of the living and the built world.



**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 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.

10:45 AM-12:00 PM

**W53.****Beyond Traditional Careers: Architects in Public Service**

1.25 LUs Audience: Intermediate, Advanced

Considering options, leadership growth, improving overall projects, and buildings in your career? Hear about successful transitions to public service that benefit both personal and professional growth, as well as advance all aspects of design/user satisfaction/sustainability/HSW in our built environment.

The individuals on this panel have diverse experiences in the public sector and will share the critical “whys” one could move to public sector work, and share their experiences working at a variety of public institutions, including state and local entities. Panelists will talk about how their work has benefited all stakeholders, advanced their skillsets as architects and improved the built environment.



**Mandi Tauferner Bailey, AIA, LEED AP** is a design project manager at the University of Minnesota. For 13 years prior, she worked in award-winning firms as a designer and project manager and has 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. Mandi has been an active member in both AIA Minnesota and SARA and is a 2017 AIA Minnesota Leadership Forum graduate.



(Moderator) **Sally Grans Korsh, FAIA**, is a nontraditional architect who has been “rewired” not retired for the past five years, serving on two appointed Minnesota state Boards (architect registration and Perpich Center for Arts Education), MnHS advisory, and neighborhood groups. Her last paid position was at a nonprofit in Washington DC overseeing 2,100 colleges and universities as director of facilities and environmental policy. Prior roles included sustainability, comprehensive planning and budget work for the Minnesota State Colleges and University campus system, and 8 years as founder of her own firm developing affordable housing and working on other community development initiatives.



**Amy Meller, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP** is an architect for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Prior to joining the DNR, Amy was an instructor in the Dunwoody architectural program. Amy has extensive project experience that includes historical research, physical and materials evaluations, design services, construction documentation and construction administration for historic preservation, restoration, adaptive reuse, and residential design projects. Amy is also credentialed under the Secretary of the Interior's professional qualifications for Architecture and Historic Architecture.



**Meg Parsons, FAIA, NCARB, ALEP, LEED BD+C** has been involved in execution of educational projects since 1989 and active in a wide range of projects from high schools to elementary schools, from pre-referendum planning through construction. Meg was elevated to the AIA College of Fellows in 2020 and is past principal and chair of the board at Cuningham. She has served as an architect member with the Minnesota Board of Architecture, Engineering, Land Surveying, Landscape Architecture, Geoscience and Interior Design (AELSLAGID) and is past director for Region 4 of the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB).



**Alissa Luepke Pier, AIA**, has served in a variety of increasing leadership positions advancing Robbinsdale school district campuses and buildings for four years. Prior to joining the school district, she had her own successful firm for 17 years as an architect and strategist. She served on the Minneapolis Planning Commission for over 12 years where she was a commissioner, secretary, and vice president, chairing the Committee of the Whole meetings for over three years of the twelve. For this work and her active volunteer leadership “Building it Right” she received 2022 AIA Minnesota Louis Lundgren Award for Service.



10:45 AM-12:00 PM

W54.

## Transforming Shelter: Buildings that House and Heal

1.25 LUs | HSW | Audience: Entry

Many individuals with lived experience of homelessness have experienced trauma, before and during their experience of homelessness. Historically, homeless shelters have been a “make do” endeavor, providing a place to sleep out of the elements but offering little personal space in buildings not originally intended for housing. These conditions can trigger a trauma response in the individuals being served, which limits their ability to stabilize their lives.

Using trauma-informed design principles in the design of new shelters and supportive housing offers the opportunity to help residents not only survive but thrive in the stability of a healing environment. Trauma-informed design principles will be explored through examples of the design process used for three different shelter and supportive housing facilities from the perspectives of the architectural team, service providers, and the owner, and the critical design input provided through engagement with the individuals with lived experience of homelessness themselves.



**Amy Blair** is the housing and homeless services manager for the Washington County Community Services Department, bringing over a decade of experience in homeless planning and program development. She leads strategic efforts to address housing instability and currently serves

as the primary liaison for the Emergency Housing Services Building project, coordinating with both internal teams and external partners. Her work focuses on improving access to emergency housing and support services across the county.



**Trevor Burns** is the associate director of operations at Avenues for Youth, where he supports the daily operations across multiple sites in the Twin Cities metro. Driven by a lifelong commitment to service instilled by his parents, Trevor joined the U.S. Navy after high school. After completing his service, he transitioned into the private sector as an operations director before returning to mission-driven work during the COVID-19 pandemic by joining Avenues. He is proud to support the organization's growth, including the development of a new trauma-informed facility that will expand housing and services for youth experiencing homelessness.



**Michelle Pribyl, AIA**, leads the housing studio at LHB, a multi-disciplinary architecture, engineering, and planning firm known for its leadership in regenerative design. With more than 29 years of experience, Michelle delivers

high-quality design of sustainable housing for underserved populations. Passionate about issues related to affordable and supportive housing, she has focused on design innovation for both new buildings and renovations, using trauma-informed design principles to inform her work.



**Wendy Wiegmann** first joined Simpson Housing Services as a case manager in 1998, was the director of programs for 17 years, and has been the associate director since 2022. Wendy believes in the power of housing coupled with individualized, strength-based services. Wendy was the 2007 recipient of the Bruce Vento Award for Distinguished Service and is a community leader in efforts to end homelessness. She currently serves on the board for Hennepin County Healthcare for the Homeless.

12:15-2:30 PM

W55.

## 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 prizes, too! **Lunch is provided at no additional cost ONLY for attendees that select this event during their registration.**

12:30-1:30 PM

W56.

## Fellows Lunch Gathering

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. She will also answer questions related to AIA national, including the hire of a new AIA CEO/EVP, informed by her service on the AIA national Board of Directors. **Registration for this event is reserved for AIA Minnesota Fellows.**

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5

2:15-4:00 PM

**W57.** Capacity 25**TOUR: Westwood Hills Nature Center**

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

*The tour is an additional fee and will include a round-trip shuttle bus from The Depot.*

The project is a Net Zero Energy design. WHNC sought to replace their small, aging facility with a new building whose overarching purpose and vision is connecting people to nature, and serve as

a teaching tool for sustainable design strategies. HGA's site design expands an existing specimen prairie, creates an outdoor classroom space on the site of the old building, and provides expanded parking for visitors to the new facility.

**Nancy Blankford, FAIA**, is recognized for her expertise and commitment to design excellence. She is a skillful collaborator, adept at instilling a sense of place in her designs. With over 25 years of experience on a variety of community and cultural projects, her work engages users in novel ways and inspires healthy, vibrant communities. Nancy expertly synthesizes the mission and project goals of her clients, helping successfully reposition organizations for the 21st century via innovative, sustainable strategies and bold designs.

**Mark Oestreich** has served as the nature center manager at Westwood Hills Nature Center in St. Louis Park since 1999, after joining the staff as a naturalist in 1990. Mark holds a degree in biology/outdoor education with a minor in natural history from Northland College in Ashland, Wisconsin. Throughout his tenure, he has led staff teams, developed innovative programming, and overseen facility operations. Mark was one of the key city staff members that helped in the design and development of Westwood Hills' new interpretive center building. Mark's work reflects a deep commitment to connecting people with nature through education, thoughtful design, and community engagement.

**Glenn Waguespack, AIA**, is a design principal and practice group leader at HGA who has spent most of his career designing public-sector and community projects that uncover surprising opportunities within their constraints, resulting in award-winning, impactful architecture. Recent parks and recreation work under his design leadership includes the zero-energy Westwood Hills Nature Center, Best of B3 2025 Best of SB2030 Award winner Lake Waconia Regional Park Paradise Commons, and the Ravine Landing Trailhead Building in Cottage Grove, the first CLT building constructed in Minnesota.

2:30-4:00 PM

**W58.****The Tree House: A Passive House, Technology, and Craft Case Study**

1.5 LUs | HSW | Ethics | Audience: Intermediate

Architecture is about joyful buildings. Climate change makes clear our ethical responsibility to protect our future by make higher performing buildings and cities. Between those duties, habit, knowledge, and real or perceived time and costs often compromise the end result of our efforts. The Tree House is a study in Joy, of building small(er), but also the potential of following a rigorous Passive House certification process. Spoiler Alert: this project, although robust, ultimately fell just short of achieving final compliance. Details of why, and the practical techniques used in this very small building, the panelization process, and its interface with Passive House will be explained as a model for crafting sustainable construction. The mostly fiber-based house contains half a dozen "trees" that make up a stairway, closets, railings, and even an entire boathouse. The in-depth, practical case study will also share the selection and use of digital modeling tools to design these complex geometries, communicate intent, and achieve their practical execution. The BIM and scripted-algorithm process will be discussed, as well as the transfer and communication of this information to fabricators.



**Tim Eian, Assoc. AIA**, is an architect educated in Germany with over 20 years of experience practicing in Germany and the US. He has been instrumental in educating and transforming how Minnesota owners, developers, municipalities, legislators, and building professionals think about high-performance buildings. Tim designed the first certified plus-level Passive House homes in the U.S., Wisconsin, Michigan, and Minneapolis, in some of the most challenging climates on earth. Tim founded Passive House Minnesota—now a chapter of the Passive House Network—and was a founding board member of the Passive House Alliance US.

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2:30-4:00 PM

W58. *continued*

**Geoffrey Warner, FAIA**, is a principal at Alchemy and the founder of weeHouse. He has made a career of embracing Big Thinking for Small Projects. A product of the Midwest, Geoffrey embraces the farmer's practical, hands-on sensibility, combining it with an

admiration for the poetics of the industrial and agrarian landscape. His weeHouse® and related explorations leverage design systems and prefabrication with an emphasis on craft, restraint, efficiency, and a celebratory use of resources. Alchemy's uniquely integrated process embraces balanced aesthetics; practical production; and efficient cost, materials, and energy use. Looking to the future of architectural practice, Alchemy paves a way for others that is both achievable and sustainable.



**Eric Winter, AIA**, proudly wears his farmer's sense from growing up in southern Minnesota. He is a product of Minnesota and a graduate of the University of Minnesota's Masters of Architecture program. His passion for collaboration comes from his background in

nonprofit, educational, and religious architectural design. He brings strong digital modeling and 3D representation skills to Alchemy's design process.

## W59.

## Delegated Design: Navigating Risk, Responsibility, and Innovation

1.5 LUs | HSW | Audience: Intermediate

Delegated design is an essential component of project delivery, particularly in complex building systems such as structural, mechanical, fire protection, and façade assemblies. While this approach can bring efficiency, it also introduces risk if roles, responsibilities, and performance criteria are not clearly defined. When not properly coordinated, delegated design can blur responsibilities and compromise code compliance, performance, and public safety.

This panel will examine the evolving practice of delegated design through the lenses of architecture, engineering, construction, and legal risk management. Panelists will discuss how delegated design is treated in standard contracts and how architects can maintain control over design intent while working with specialty designers. The discussion will contrast delegated design with design-assist to clarify common misconceptions and highlight differences in responsibility and liability.

Attendees will learn practical strategies to coordinate scopes, protect the integrity of life safety and code-compliant systems, and manage risk effectively. Real-

world examples will illustrate both successful and problematic applications, helping architects make informed decisions about delegated design on future projects. This session is ideal for professionals who want to better understand how to use delegated design responsibly and effectively.



**Kate Golden** is senior vice president and general counsel at Mortenson, a leading US-based construction and real estate development firm. She leads the company's legal, compliance, and governance functions. She joined Mortenson in 2006 and has held several leadership roles,

becoming general counsel in 2023. Kate oversees the company's legal functions, corporate governance, and compliance, while also contributing to Mortenson's strategic direction as a member of its senior leadership team. A licensed professional engineer, she holds degrees in civil engineering and law, and is known for her commitment to inclusive leadership and mentoring in the construction industry.



(Moderator) **Tom Hysell, FAIA**, a recently retired principal at Alliance, concentrated his career on project management for large complex projects, nationally and internationally. Tom has served as president of AIA Minneapolis and AIA Minnesota. He is NCARB certified, with

professional registrations in twelve states and Canadian provinces. He is currently serving on the AIA Documents Committee and the AIA Strategic Council.



**Mark Kalar, AIA**, is a principal and general counsel at Cuningham, where he is responsible for contracts, risk and claims management, and licensing. A practicing architect before becoming a lawyer, Mark's years of design experience help him negotiate contracts and resolve disputes

with real-world examples and practical results. He serves on the AIA Documents Committee and Minnesota State Bar Association's Construction Law Section governing council.



**Patrick O'Connor** retired from the firm of Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath, LLP in 2022, following forty years practicing law. Patrick is co-author of Bruner & O'Connor on construction law, a twelve-volume construction law treatise (Thomson-Reuters 2002; updated annually).

Patrick is a fellow, and past-president, of the American College of Construction Lawyers. He served as chair of numerous ABA construction, bond, surety, and insurance committees. He currently provides neutral and expert services.

2:30–4:00 PM

W60.

## 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 21 to date.



This session will feature the premiere of three new completed short films. Featured in these films are **Sally Grans-Korsh, FAIA**, **Julie Snow, FAIA**, and **Joan Soranno, FAIA**.

Additionally, session attendees will hear from Legacy Project Team members describing 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.

**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, LEED AP**, 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) **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.



2:30-3:45 PM

W61.

## The Luminary Arts Center: A Model for Community-Driven, Equity-Centered Design

1.25 LUs HSW Audience: Intermediate

Architects contribute to the design of spaces that serve diverse communities equitably while also addressing cultural relevancy and sustainability. This session explores how designers can use community input to devise inclusive design solutions to create culturally resonant and safe spaces. Through a case study on the national and local award-winning Luminary Arts Center in Minneapolis, participants will learn strategies for advancing equity and inclusivity in the design of community-centric spaces. Expect insights on integrating community-driven design principles for enhanced HSW outcomes.

The session will include an interactive presentation and a panel discussion with key stakeholders from the Luminary Arts Center project (including client representatives, community leaders, architects, and project designers) with a Q&A segment to foster deeper engagement. Attendees will walk away with a toolkit of strategies for incorporating community feedback into design processes, methods for approaching accessible design, and examples of how to balance cultural heritage with functionality and safety standards.

The session will provide actionable insights that can directly impact how attendees approach their projects and client engagements, especially in underserved communities. By applying these strategies, architects can enhance their impact through equitable design for their communities.



**Greg Elsner, AIA, NCARB, LFA**, is a principal and director of design at Shelter Architecture that helps the team deliver innovative, practical, and well-detailed work. Greg believes that the best designs live where craft intersects a mastery of material which is why Greg has remained dedicated to the concept that making is learning. Being equally comfortable with a hammer as a drafting pen has sharpened his understanding of the entire design and construction process. This has led to his human-centric approach to sustainability, thoughtfully balancing site, materials, and craftsmanship.



**Julia Gallagher** is the director of the Luminary Arts Center and is responsible for the general management of its 220 seat blackbox-style theater in the North Loop neighborhood of Minneapolis. With a BA in theater Management,

Julia has nearly 15 years of experience in the performing arts industry at institutions including the Luminary Arts Center, Minnesota Opera, Mixed Blood Theatre, and the Guthrie.



**Kurt Gough, Assoc. AIA**, is a founding partner at Shelter Architecture. His journey can be traced back to his youth when he demonstrated an early aptitude for drawing. Later, his passion for art became the focus of his first career in theater.

After spending a decade as a scenic designer and prop artisan for institutions including the Guthrie Theater and Baltimore Center Stage, he began his second act in design earning his Master of Architecture from the University of Minnesota and working for two Twin Cities firms before founding Shelter.



(Moderator) **Ivonne Chand O'Neal, Ph.D** is a senior researcher and program evaluator specializing in impact assessment in the arts and culture sector. She facilitated the community feedback process for The Luminary Arts Center in Minneapolis. She has expertise in translating

theories of learning, creativity and cognitive problem solving into engaging, memorable learning experiences for youth. Her specialties also include designing comprehensive research studies and large-scale program evaluations in the following areas: creative youth development; impact of the arts on communities, marginalized and immigrant populations; creativity; arts education; arts integration; school-to-prison pipeline; student engagement; visitor studies; cross-cultural arts strategic planning; and human flourishing.

4:15-5:45 PM

W62. Capacity 25

## TOUR: University of Minnesota, Fraser Hall, Chemistry Undergraduate Teaching Laboratory Facility

Sponsored by [Dunham Associates](#)

1.0 LUs Audience: Entry, Intermediate, Advanced

*The tour is an additional fee and will include a round-trip shuttle bus from The Depot.*



A historic 1920's law library, Fraser Hall, will be transformed into a new hub for undergraduate chemistry enhancing connections to the historic Cass Gilbert campus masterplan and critical

relationships to its immediate, highly visible, site along the Mississippi River front. New laboratory classrooms will consolidate, modernize, and increase the capacity of the existing outdated general, life science, and organic chemistry labs on campus.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE &gt;

4:15-5:45 PM

**W62.** *continued*

**Aaron Amosson** joined VJAA in 2020 after practicing architecture in Minnesota, California, Connecticut, and New York City. A graduate of Yale University, Aaron has over 20 years of experience on a wide variety of project types, from small residential structures to large corporate headquarters and academic buildings. With deep experience in all phases of design and construction, from programming workshops to construction administration, he has particular expertise in building design and construction detailing.

**Bryan S. Desma, AIA**, is an architect and senior construction administrator at BWBR with nearly 30 years of experience and holds a Bachelor of Architecture from Louisiana State University. He excels at keeping complex construction projects moving smoothly, particularly those involving diverse stakeholders and multiple consulting disciplines. His experience spans the education, government, and healthcare markets.

**Paul Lawton, AIA, LEED AP, ALEP** is the university architect and director of design at the University of Minnesota. With more than 20 years of experience designing educational spaces, he has led projects across the Upper Midwest, developing strategic initiatives and innovative solutions that align architectural vision with institutional priorities. Paul is also an Accredited Learning Environments Planner and a LEED Accredited Professional. His commitment to inclusive design and sustainable practices aligns strongly with the University's strategic goals.

**Jacquelyn Peck, AIA, LEED AP BD+C** is a senior project manager at BWBR, spending more than 15 years specializing in science, technology, and education projects. Her past AIA Minnesota involvement includes membership on the Housing Advocacy and Emerging Professionals committees. To Jackie, the joy of architecture is the opportunity to translate clients' needs into design through a deep understanding of how they work, play, and interact on a daily basis. She is skilled at managing the realities of schedule and budget while creating efficient, beautiful spaces that encourage positive interaction and inspiration.

**Jennifer Yoos, FAIA** is Professor and Head of the Schools of Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Interior Design at the University of Minnesota College of Design (2020-Present), she is also a design partner (1997-Present) and president of VJAA. In addition to prior teaching at Minnesota as a professor-in-practice, she was the NADAA Visiting Professor at Cooper Union and the Ruth and Norman Moore Visiting Professor at Washington University in St. Louis. She is co-author, with partner Vincent James, of a monograph on their work published by Princeton Architectural Press as well as their book *Parallel Cities: The Multilevel Metropolis* (2016).

4:15-5:30 PM

**W63.**

## Keynote: Unleashing the Power of Hope: The Science Behind Transformative Leadership

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

1.25 LUs Audience: Entry, Intermediate, Advanced

The most powerful leaders don't just manage teams—they give people hope. This session unpacks the Science of Hope as a cognitive framework that fuels visionary thinking, resilience in uncertainty, and the kind of leadership people want to follow. This keynote will additionally address the importance of reframing communication around climate action in a way that energizes communities rather than overwhelms them; communicates to the client that they have a role to play; and communicates a message of hope.

Hope-based leadership gives you the tools to inspire action by creating the conditions where people believe a better future is possible—and that they have a role in making it real.



**Molly Kawahata** is an award-winning speaker, strategist, and host of [The Full Spectrum Podcast](#). A former climate advisor in the Obama White House and founder of Systemic Impact Strategies, she helps organizations harness evidence-based practices and the science of hope to drive performance and transformative change. Her life story was depicted in

Patagonia's award-winning film [THE SCALE OF HOPE](#), which chronicles her pursuit of ice climbing in Alaska, her mental health journey, and her mission to reshape societal narratives with hope and empowerment. Her story has resonated with audiences worldwide. The film has amassed over one million views on YouTube, was previously featured on Delta Airlines, and is now part of the permanent archives of the New York Museum of Modern Art. Molly serves on the Advisory Board of the Environmental Voter Project. In her free time, Molly is an avid ice climber, with a particular passion for Montana and the Alaska Range.

4:15-5:15 PM

**W64.****Fire and Life Safety Code Compliance in Outpatient Facilities**

1.0 LUs HSW Audience: Entry, Intermediate, Advanced

This presentation provides an overview of fire and life safety code requirements specific to outpatient healthcare facilities. As these facilities continue to evolve in size and scope, maintaining compliance with NFPA, IBC, and local regulations is critical.

Attendees will gain insight into key code provisions, including occupancy classification, means of egress, and fire protection systems. The session will also highlight common compliance challenges and offer best practices for integrating code requirements into the design of outpatient care settings.



**Colin McKay** is the market director for Midwest Healthcare in the Jensen Hughes Healthcare Serviceline based in Cleveland, Ohio. He has nearly 20 years of experience in healthcare compliance, inspection, testing, and maintenance of fire protection systems, and supporting

compliance with local, state, federal and Joint Commission/DNV standards and regulations. Colin oversees and conducts on-site life safety assessments, provides code consulting, fire procedure development and training, and assists with emergency management programs supporting Jensen Hughes' healthcare clients throughout the United States.



**Katherine Rabush** is a licensed fire protection engineer who specializes in code consulting and fire protection design. She supports and manages projects involving new and existing buildings, applying NFPA, IBC, and local or project-specific codes. Katherine works closely

with clients, architects, and AHJs to find practical, code-compliant solutions that meet both project goals and safety requirements.

**W65.****Health Equity Framework: Climate and Socioeconomic Factors that Impact Well-being**

1.0 LUs HSW Audience: Intermediate

Health equity is established when everyone has a fair opportunity to achieve optimal health. This requires removing obstacles to good health such as poverty, discrimination, powerlessness, and lack of access to good jobs with fair pay, high-quality education and housing, safe environments, and health care. With the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' 2025 focus on prevention, wellness, and chronic disease management, health equity becomes important because of its effect on people's overall sense of wellness.

By considering concepts such as salutogenesis (a focus on the origins of health and well-being rather than the origins of disease) and a building's capacity for enhancing its occupants' resilience, a set of factors emerge that can be arranged into a toolkit. This presentation will introduce a framework for health equity and a toolkit that can be used to gauge a building's impact on its community.

The panel will include case studies that evaluate several existing buildings in regard to how they react to each of the tools used in the design process. Join this session to discuss the application of these important concepts as we discuss how the built environment can contribute to the health equity of our communities.



**Michael Grage, AIA**, is a principal at GBBN Architects. Michael loves weaving art and science together in healthcare architecture, involving the client 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 ensure every voice is heard and the most comprehensive design solution is found. He is a member of GBBN's equity in project process team, a group that is exploring methods to ensure projects can be delivered in ways that benefit a broader community.



**Rachel Wotawa Schweikl, AIA, EDAC**, is a medical planner at GBBN Architects. Drawn to the complexity and impact of healthcare architecture, Rachel brings designers and end users together to solve clients' trickiest puzzles. Balancing form and function, she helps discover

operational efficiencies while creating uplifting spaces for patients, their families, and medical providers. As a member of GBBN's equity leadership team, Rachel also contributes to research that focuses on ways the architecture industry can support health equity in the built environment.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5

4:15-5:15 PM

W66.

**EUI: Criteria, Modeling, Design, and Verification**

1.0 LUs HSW Audience: Entry, Intermediate, Advanced

Using the Kellen Research Building at Mayo Clinic as a case study, panelists will explore how to establish an EUI target for a project, how to progressively develop energy models to inform design decisions, and share their experience and “lessons learned” from monitoring and analyzing actual energy usage against the predicted results.

Mayo Clinic’s project manager for the Kellen Building will share the owner’s perspective on establishing the project’s target EUI, structuring contracts to emphasize its importance, and key input during design. HDR’s associate principal for education and science will explore the approach taken to progressively developing energy models to guide design decisions to meet the EUI target and share insights on the strategy to analyze the actual energy use during the first full year of occupancy.



**Phil Plonka** is the section head for architecture and engineering design services at Mayo Clinic and was the project manager for the Kellen Research Building.



**Greg Ramseth, AIA**, leads the education and science practice for the Minneapolis office of HDR and was the project manager for the Kellen Research Building.

**NEXTGEN AIA MN IS HERE!**

The effort launched at last year’s Annual Conference – NextGen AIA MN – has resulted in a new strategic workplan focused on better supporting Emerging Professionals (architecture students through the first 10 years of practice). The plan is by EPs, for EPs, unanimously and enthusiastically adopted by the AIA MN Board of Directors.

Stop by the boards in the Conference Check-in area to:

- Learn about the goals and objectives of the 5-year plan;
- Add your implementation ideas; and
- Sign up to be a part of making this plan a reality!

**HEALTH DESIGN KNOWLEDGE COMMUNITY IS REENGAGING!**

The Health Design KC comes together to share what we know, learn from one another, and stay ahead of the trends shaping our field. Whether you’re just starting out or leading major projects, this is a space to collaborate, grow, and design spaces that truly make a difference.

Interested in the Health Design KC?

Complete a brief survey! Your response will help us shape future programming, determine the most beneficial topics, and identify the best timing and format for gatherings.





EXHIBIT HALL HOURS

The Exhibit Hall is open during the following times:

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

**Wednesday, November 5**  
**9:30-10:45am** Exhibit Hall & Coffee  
**12:15-2:30pm** Exhibit Hall & Lunch

EXHIBIT HALL HIGHLIGHTS

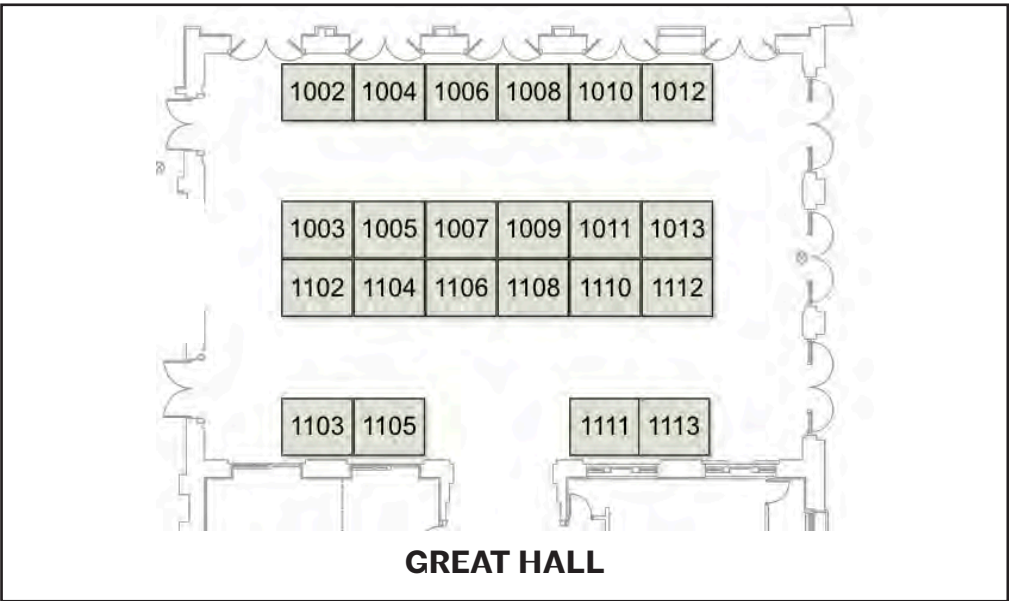
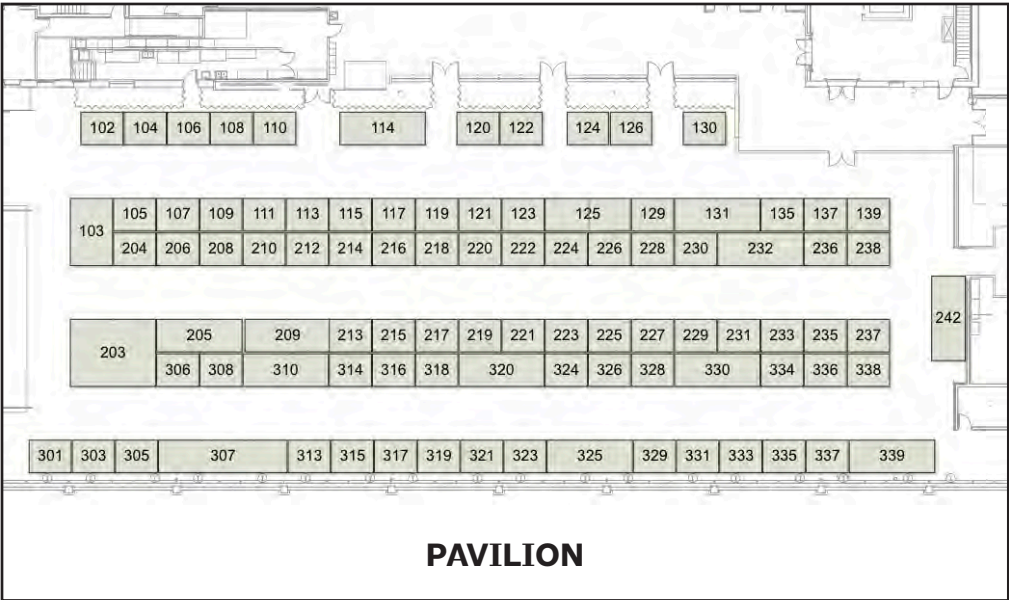
- Free coffee** sponsored each day.
- Free lunch** in the Exhibit Hall (for those who register for events T33 and W55).
- Punch card game to win prizes.** Complete the card by visiting all participating exhibit booths for a chance to win prizes.
- Exhibit Hall Social** on Tuesday afternoon. Join in and 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’25 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.

[Click here](#) to see this year’s list of exhibitors at the conference.



## #

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## A

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Phil Anderson  
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Center for Energy and Environment (CEE) is a clean energy nonprofit with nearly 40 years' experience offering research, program development and implementation, community engagement, policy advocacy, and project financing. Areas of work represented include new construction consulting, ratings, and certifications and Wise Window Hub, which supports triple-pane window adoption.

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## M

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**MN Concrete & Masonry Contractors Association 335**

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Founded in 1978, Nor-Son Construction, LLC is a premier construction management and general contracting firm with a strong reputation for delivering high-quality, innovative, and cost-effective building solutions. Headquartered in Baxter, MN, with an additional office in Eden Prairie, MN, we serve clients throughout the Upper Midwest. Our commitment to craftsmanship, collaboration, and customer satisfaction has established us as a trusted partner in the industry for 47 years across the Midwest. With us, you are free to step back and watch your business thrive.

**Northern Sourcing, Inc./Oxbow Hardwoods****1103**

4584 Island Lake Drive  
Duluth, MN 55803  
218-221-6202  
Andrew Richey  
[andrew@northernsourcinginc.com](mailto:andrew@northernsourcinginc.com)  
[northernsourcinginc.com](http://northernsourcinginc.com)

Northern Sourcing and Oxbow Hardwoods provide high quality hardwood flooring products sourced from the world's best manufacturers and present them to the design build, architect, and interior design community.

**NV5****231**

1295 Bandana Boulevard North  
St. Paul, MN 55108  
651-634-0775  
Robert Wasik  
[robert.wasik@nv5.com](mailto:robert.wasik@nv5.com)  
[nv5.com](http://nv5.com)

NV5 is a global engineering and consulting firm in both the private and public sectors. From infrastructure engineering to building design and technology, our project portfolio demonstrates success in major market sectors around the world.

## P

**Peikko USA****122**

525 East Mifflin Street  
Lebanon, PA 17046  
888-734-5561  
Colin Butler  
[colin.butler@peikko.com](mailto:colin.butler@peikko.com)  
[peikkousa.com](http://peikkousa.com)

Peikko is a privately-owned company founded in 1965 and is headquartered in Lahti, Finland. Peikko supplies a large selection of concrete connections and composite beams for both precast and cast-in-place solutions in a wide variety of applications. Peikko's innovative solutions make your construction process faster, safer, and more sustainable.

**Pella Windows & Doors****203**

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Brooklyn Park, MN 55445  
952-915-6080  
Caroline Murray  
[murrayc@pellamn.com](mailto:murrayc@pellamn.com)  
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**PMY Group****1111**

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Stillwater, MN 55082  
651-705-1250  
Jiggs Lee  
[jiggs.lee@pmygroup.com](mailto:jiggs.lee@pmygroup.com)  
[pmygroup.com](http://pmygroup.com)

Formerly True North Consulting Group – PMY Group is a global entity engaged in empowering technology, intelligence, and experience for education & public sector projects, sports & entertainment, stadiums & venues, and retail & media. Common services are audio/video design, data/voice/wireless cabling infrastructure design, and security design.

**Pulse Products****334**

6130 Blue Circle Drive, Suite 100  
Hopkins, MN 55343  
715-294-0147  
Jack Lalim  
[jack@pulseproducts.com](mailto:jack@pulseproducts.com)  
[pulseproducts.com](http://pulseproducts.com)

Pulse Products is a lighting manufacturers rep agency showcasing our decorative and architectural lines and products.

## Q

**Quaker Windows and Doors****320**

504 US Highway 63 South  
Freeburg, MO 65035  
800-347-0438  
Scott Romens  
[sromens@quakerwindows.com](mailto:sromens@quakerwindows.com)  
[quartzluxurywindows.com](http://quartzluxurywindows.com)

Quartz Luxury Windows and Doors by Quaker blend timeless elegance with cutting-edge OptiCore and SolidCore technologies, offering unmatched thermal efficiency, durability and sleek design. Customizable finishes and expansive glass options create sophisticated, energy-efficient solutions for high-end homes that define luxury with style and performance.

## R

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St. Paul, MN 55108  
612-542-7033  
Steve West  
[steve.west@gorapids.com](mailto:steve.west@gorapids.com)  
[rapidscontract.com](http://rapidscontract.com)

Rapids Contract & Design creates, equips and delivers exceptional foodservices spaces where communities come together. Rapids partners with design of new or existing foodservice operations with design, energy and labor savings equipment and provides start to finish project management expertise.

**REHAU****225**

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701-799-9131  
Judy Schwark  
[judy.schwark@rehau.com](mailto:judy.schwark@rehau.com)  
[rehau.com/us-en/millwork](http://rehau.com/us-en/millwork)

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**Rochester Concrete Products****1009**

7200 Broadway Avenue  
Rochester, MN 55906  
507-288-8850  
Keith Ehmke; Joe Dubois  
[keith.ehmke@rochesterpcp.com](mailto:keith.ehmke@rochesterpcp.com)  
[joe.dubois@rochesterpcp.com](mailto:joe.dubois@rochesterpcp.com)  
[rochesterpcp.com](http://rochesterpcp.com)

Rochester Concrete Products manufactures innovative, high-quality concrete products: Interlock dry-cast pavers, GeoCeramica composite slabs, Silver Creek wet-cast landscape tiles, Rockwood segmental retaining wall systems and Recon big block retaining wall systems.

**Rulon International****208**

2000 Ring Way  
St. Augustine, FL 32092  
904-584-1400  
Brandon Hatley  
[bhatley@rulonco.com](mailto:bhatley@rulonco.com)  
[rulonco.com](http://rulonco.com)

Rulon International is a leading manufacturer of suspended wood ceilings, wood walls and acoustical wood ceilings and walls.

## S

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Brisbane, CA 94005  
888-653-3333  
Randy Zucker  
[randy@mrgroup.net](mailto:randy@mrgroup.net)  
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612-239-6624  
Daryl Kirt  
[daryl@scenicsign.com](mailto:daryl@scenicsign.com)  
[scenicsign.com](http://scenicsign.com)

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**Schuler Shook****204**

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**Schu Marketing****226**

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Sara Koos  
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[scrantonproducts.com](http://scrantonproducts.com)

Manufacturer of toilet partitions, HDPE/plastic lockers, shower stalls, HDPE/plastic benches, vanities, etc.

**Sierra Pacific Windows****337**

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800-824-7744  
Mark Wallace  
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[sierrapacificwindows.com](http://sierrapacificwindows.com)

Sierra Pacific Windows offers a wide selection of energy efficient aluminum clad wood windows for residential and commercial projects. Our product lines range from custom expansive windowscapes, to high quality windows that provide high performance.

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[sonusinteriors.com](http://sonusinteriors.com)

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Tim O'Neill  
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**Stoneworks Architectural Precast/  
Cast Stone 206**

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763-633-2200  
Kirt O'Konek  
[sales@stoneworksap.com](mailto:sales@stoneworksap.com)  
[stoneworksap.com](http://stoneworksap.com)

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**Sun Control of Minnesota 1004**

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Roseville, MN 55113  
651-335-0172  
Karissa Dunham  
[karissa@suncontrolmn.com](mailto:karissa@suncontrolmn.com)  
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**Synergy Products 131**

7176 Shady Oake Road  
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952-224-2202  
Chad Mayes  
[team@synergy-trt.com](mailto:team@synergy-trt.com)  
[synergy-trt.com](http://synergy-trt.com)

Synergy Products partners with architects, builders, and designers to deliver premium window and door solutions. From concept to completion, our team provides deep product expertise, specification support, and project coordination—building collaborative relationships that help achieve design intent, performance, and enduring quality.

**T****Taracon Precast 326**

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Hawley, MN 56549  
701-370-0615  
Casey Stremick  
[casey.stremick@taraconprecast.com](mailto:casey.stremick@taraconprecast.com)  
[taraconprecast.com](http://taraconprecast.com)

Taracon Precast, based in Hawley, MN, manufactures high-quality architectural and structural precast concrete products including wall panels, hollowcore slabs, double tees, beams, columns, and stairs. They serve Midwest construction markets with customizable, durable, and aesthetically refined solutions from commercial, industrial, and residential projects.

**Tarkett Sports / FieldTurf USA, Inc. 232**

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Calhoun, GA 30701  
418-931-8421  
Mathieu Martel  
[mathieu.martel@tarkettsports.com](mailto:mathieu.martel@tarkettsports.com)  
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**TCC Materials / Amcon Masonry 301**

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St. Paul, MN 55120  
651-686-4255  
Mark Reichenbach  
[mreichenbach@tccmaterials.com](mailto:mreichenbach@tccmaterials.com)  
[tccmaterials.com](http://tccmaterials.com)

TCC Materials, we are a leading manufacturer with offerings in specialty packaging, masonry, and hardscaping industries. Our manufacturing facilities are located in Minnesota, Wisconsin, North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, Georgia, Pennsylvania and New Hampshire, providing the United States and Canada with pre-mixed concrete, mortars, grouts, tile products, concrete repair products, hardscape products, masonry products, and decorative landscape solutions.

**True North Facades 213**

800 Park Drive  
Owatonna, MN 55060  
612-246-0133  
Matt Krier  
[matt@truenorthfacades.com](mailto:matt@truenorthfacades.com)  
[viracon.com](http://viracon.com)

True North Facades is an manufacturers rep firm representing various premium glass and glazing products including Viracon, DeSCO, Sentinel, LTS, Freemarq Innovations, Armor Apply, Orazen, etc.



## U

**USAI Lighting 329**

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New Windsor, NY 12553  
845-565-8500  
Darrin Stone  
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[usailighting.com](http://usailighting.com)

USAI Lighting is dedicated to staying ahead of the technology curve and effectively translating the needs of specifiers into forward thinking, high performing and beautiful lighting products. We believe that less is more and continue to develop small and compact cutting-edge products that deliver increasing performance and energy savings – solving even the most complex challenges faced by specifiers today.

## W

**W. L. Hall Company 103**

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[wlhall.com](http://wlhall.com)

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**Wausau Tile / Origin Stone 117**

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Edina, MN 55416  
707-507-9610  
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[pjanda@janda-associates.com](mailto:pjanda@janda-associates.com)  
[wausautile.com](http://wausautile.com)

Manufacturer of terrazzo tile, precast terrazzo, architectural precast concrete, precast concrete pavers/pedestals on grade, and site furnishings in concrete, metal and plastic. Custom colors and finishes are our specialty. Orijin Stone is a natural stone fabricator specializing in interior and exterior stone tile, pavers custom counter tops, sinks, fireplace surrounds.

**Weather Shield Windows & Doors 235**

1 Weather Shield Plaza  
Medford, WI 54451  
715-748-2100  
Julie Davies  
[julie.davies@weathershield.com](mailto:julie.davies@weathershield.com)  
[weathershield.com](http://weathershield.com)

Weather Shield delivers high-performance, customizable products for residential and commercial projects. What began in Central Wisconsin has grown into one of the nation's leading window and door manufacturers. Decades of dedication to quality and continuous improvement have helped build lasting relationships with homeowners, builders, architects, and distributors across the country.

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**Woodstone, Inc. 228**

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Roseville, MN 55113  
952-808-8662  
Faith Gilbertsen  
[fgilbertsen@woodstoneinc.com](mailto:fgilbertsen@woodstoneinc.com)  
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We are a Native-owned general contractor that provides construction management, preconstruction, design build and bid build services.

## X

**Xcel Energy 1006**

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