2024 AIA Fellowship

Candidate Michelle Amt
Organization VMDO Architects
Location Charlottesville, Virginia
Chapter AIA Virginia;

Category of Nomination

Object 2 (Practice Management, Technical Advancement) > Practice (Technical Advancement)

Summary Statement

In her projects, practice, and advocacy, Michelle Amt unites design, sustainability and system-wide transformation to create a thriving future for all.

Education

Princeton University, 1995-1997, Master of Architecture
Ecoles d'Art Américaines de Fontainebleau, 1993, Diplôme
University of Florida, 1989-1993, Bachelor of Design in Architecture

Licensed in:

New York State, Virginia

Employment

VMDO Architects, 2017-present
McDonough Innovation 2011-2017
William McDonough + Partners 2000-2011
Perkins Eastman Architects 1997 - 2000
Ranon + Partners 1993-995

WRNS STUDIO

October 3, 2023

Lisa Lamkin, FAIA
Chair, Jury of Fellows
The American Institute of Architects
1735 New York Avenue, NW
Washington DC 20006-5293

Dear Ms. Lamkin and Fellows Jury,

It is my great honor to sponsor Michelle Amt for elevation to Fellowship in the American Institute of Architects. Throughout her career, Michelle's work has always been a call to action. She seamlessly blends building and material science into design thinking, illustrating for clients and our profession how good design is a change agent for healthier, resilient, and productive communities and organizations. Through her efforts, Michelle has shown the power of design is not limited to a building footprint but can expand and contribute to the betterment of client business models, government policies and adjacent industries.

Michelle's translation of the design process into actionable frameworks and metrics for clients has resulted in roadmaps of great value for other projects, other design sectors, and our profession at large. I have been fortunate to collaborate alongside Michelle for several years, but I tapped her guidelines long before we met. Michelle's 2007 Google Sustainability Guidelines became our touchstone for research and implementation as we helped the Hawaii Department of Education drive sustainability through 256 campuses. Stepped resilient strategies mapped with process flows and a decision matrix provided an order and pathway for action early in the process and reinforced team agency. Additionally inspiring, her planning work for clients including UC Davis, the Maui Land and Pineapple Company, and Catalina Conservancy are essential for today's necessary focus on district and neighborhood strategies, microgrid and utility load sharing, and circular economies.

Laser focused on continual improvement, Michelle uses the evaluation of her projects to spark discourse and engage and motivate people. At several conferences and symposiums, she shared not only tools for healthier, low-carbon material selection but her decision-making model *and* her analysis on the specification versus installed hit rate for numerous projects. Revealing pinch points in procurement, she presented strategies and solutions that led to inspired industry collaborations. This is one example of how her knowledge of process and result had rippling benefits for the AEC community.

Michelle's influence extends deep into the profession and community. She led her firm's commitment to AIA's 2030 Commitment and ILFI's JUST program, pledges for practice transformation through design data transparency and equity through firm policies respectively. Through articles and presentations, her transparent public communication of their success and challenges illustrate pathways and motivates individuals and firms. Her work with organizations like the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education, the Center for Green Schools, and the International WELL Building Institute has helped to align metrics and bridge benchmarks. She engages state legislators on policy and code change and trains our future generation of architects on strategic engagement practices. Michelle manages to find avenues to educate and inform through mentorship and conversation architects at every point in their career. A founding member of the Virginia AIA Committee on the Environment (COTE), Michelle joined the national AIA COTE Leadership Group, through which she worked to improve the *Framework for Design Excellence* and AIA Policy Statements. She will serve as national COTE chair in 2024.

Michelle has shown how architecture is a holistic endeavor. Through her broad engagement and her detailed and diverse work, she is advancing beauty, sustainability, resilience, equity, and health. Our profession is made profoundly better by Michelle's collaboration, beautiful sustainable projects, educational commitment, communication dexterity, and her tenacity and grace. I hope you agree that Michelle is an ideal candidate for elevation to the AIA College of Fellows.

Sincerely,

Pauline Souza, Partner | Director of Sustainability, FAIA, LEED Fellow

501 SECOND STREET
4TH FLOOR, STE. 402
SAN FRANCISCO
CALIFORNIA, 94107
415.489.2224 TEL
415.358.9100 FAX
WWW.WRNSSTUDIO.COM

1.0 Summary of Achievements

In her projects, practice, and advocacy, Michelle Amt unites design, sustainability and system-wide transformation to create a thriving future for all.

TRANSFORMATIVE PROJECTS

At the forefront of holistic sustainability, Michelle's projects demonstrate design for circularity at all scales, from products to buildings to districts to portfolios. She has advocated for safer chemistry and supply chain transparency in built environments since long before the advent of the Healthy Building Network, the Health Product Collaborative and the AIA Architecture + Design (A+D) Materials Pledge.

Her projects have changed the way we build. They continue to affect not just the thousands of people who live and work in them but the owners and communities who will build again, now with a new perspective around the power of design. From projects like NASA's Sustainability Base, which led the way in redefining high-performance for federal buildings, to Fashion for Good, which transforms the fashion industry toward circularity, Michelle reminds us that each decision is a choice and every time we can choose to take climate action, improve community resilience, support human and ecological health, address injustice, and support robust communities.

Michelle's projects illuminate pathways to a regenerative future—one with clean water and energy, healthy soils, circular material flows, and engaged and supported communities.

TRANSFORMATIVE PRACTICE

Scaling sustainable solutions only comes by redesigning the systems and processes we use to create our projects. Michelle has championed transforming practice, guiding VMDO to sign on to the AIA 2030 Commitment and report each year (climate action) and to become Virginia's first architecture firm with a JUST label (equity). From these external engagements to internal innovations like revamping VMDO's specifications protocol and materials library to align with the AIA A+D Materials Pledge (climate action, human and ecological health, equity), Michelle leverages how we create to improve the qualities of what we create—raising the bar on not just those projects with high sustainability aspirations but across the firm's portfolio. Her commitment to data-driven decision-making means that she invests in measurement, research, and interdisciplinary collaborations. This quantification, combined with a friendly honesty about what we have accomplished and where we are falling short, has made her a trusted voice both in her firm and in the larger design and built environment community.

TRANSFORMATIVE ADVOCACY

Just as project-based work will not deliver change on the scale we need, one firm cannot transform the profession. Michelle is committed to collaboration with other firms, sharing best practices and tools, and learning from some while mentoring others, all in pursuit of maximizing the social and environmental benefits of the built environment. Her leadership of and work with the AIA Committee on the Environment, and in particular the COTE Top Ten Awards program, has focused on educating members and elevating exemplars that we can all learn from. She is an active member in the Sustainable Design Leaders Group, sharing what's she's doing through her practice transformation work, charting a path for others and learning from their journeys. She has volunteered on the WELL Materials Concept Advisory to share her knowledge and decades of experience in advocating for supply chain transparency and healthy materials. She has also served as a resource to legislators, local officials, and school districts who are curious about sustainability but do not know where to start. Michelle's optimism, enthusiasm, and authenticity make her a powerful advocate.

Section 2: Accomplishments

GWU Thurston Hall Renovation

2.1 Significant Work: Introduction

Michelle Amt

AIA, NOMA, LEED AP BD+C, WELL AP

EDUCATION

Master of Architecture
Princeton University, 1997

Diplôme
Ecoles d'Art Américaines de Fontainebleau, 1993

Bachelor of Design in Architecture
University of Florida, 1993

REGISTRATIONS + CERTIFICATIONS

- Licensed Architect, State of Virginia + New York
- Certificate of Authorization Holder, NCARB
- LEED AP Building Design + Construction, USGBC
- WELL AP, International WELL Building Institute
- Fitwel Ambassador, Center for Active Design
- Climate Reality Leader, 2020

PROFESSIONAL

The American Institute of Architects

- Member: AIA Committee on the Environment (COTE) National 2020 - 2025 (2024 Chair)
- Founding Member: AIA Virginia COTE

US Green Building Council, Corporate Member

National Organization of Minority Architects, Member

WORK HISTORY

VMDO Architects
Charlottesville, VA | (2017 - Present)
Associate Principal

Director of Sustainability + Inclusion for an 80-person firm focused on education, athletics, and community projects, primarily for public clients

McDonough Innovation
Charlottesville, VA | (2011- 2017)
Chief of Staff

Chief of Staff for an international consultancy focused on implementing Cradle to Cradle principles across a range of project types (industrial design, education, communications, and architecture)

William McDonough + Partners
Charlottesville, VA | (2000 - 2011)
Director

Project architect for a national/international firm focused on high performance and sustainable design

Perkins Eastman Architects
New York, NY | (1997 - 1999)

Intern architect for a national/international firm in their educational studio, focused on K12 design.

Rañon + Partners
Tampa, FL | (1993 - 1995)

Intern architect for a regional firm focused on K12 and higher education design.

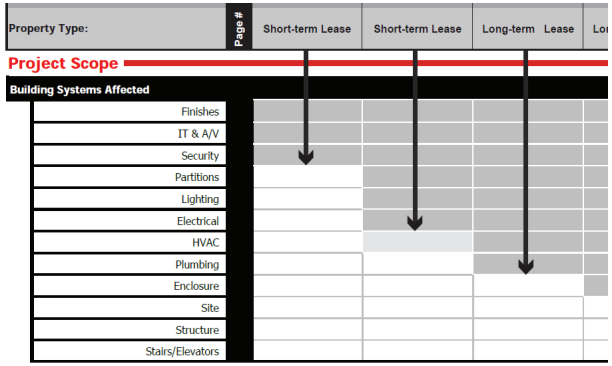
2.1 Significant Work: Frameworks

Fashion for Good Centre
C&A Foundation (now Laudes Foundation) Amsterdam, NL
2017 | McDonough Innovation
Project Manager

Michelle managed the creation and realization of the Fashion for Good Centre (comprised of a start-up accelerator program, a learning hub and an exhibition space) and she developed a case study/roadmap focused on circular fashion, one that can easily be applied to the making of architectural products and the built environment. The Centre launched both physically and virtually in April 2017 and is ongoing.

Sustainable Facility Guidelines
Confidential Client
2008 | WM+P
Project Manager

Michelle developed facility guidelines for one of the largest privately held companies in the United States, with 140,000 employees across 80 countries. The guidelines outlined strategies and recommendations around climate action, water, health, and materials, and their applicability to the company's different facility types around the globe (leased offices, owned offices, wet manufacturing, dry manufacturing, and snackfood manufacturing). The guidelines were the company's first comprehensive set of sustainability policies related to its facilities and established many of the policies that remain in place today.

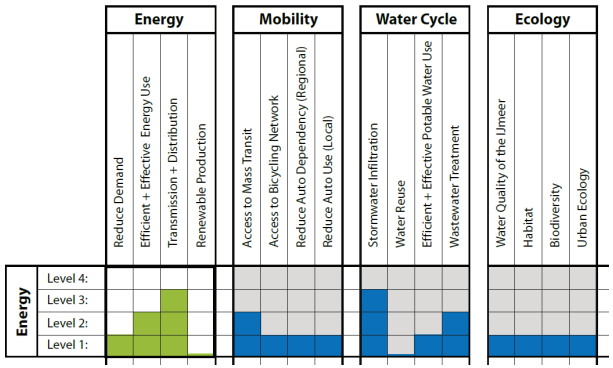


Google Sustainability Guidelines
Google (now Alphabet) | Mountain View, CA
2007 | William McDonough + Partners (WM+P)
Project Manager

As a companion to DEGW's guidelines for workplace design, Michelle developed sustainability guidelines for Google that covered multiple typologies and locations, from short term fit-outs to new campuses, driven by the founders' strong personal commitment to the environment and healthy workplaces. At the time of their deployment, Google was opening 80,000 sf a week across the globe, and all projects were required to follow the new sustainability guidelines.

Product Supply Sustainability Roadmap
Confidential Client
2012 | WM+P
Project Manager

Working with supply chain specialists within a Fortune 500 American multinational company, Michelle developed an educational resource for suppliers to help them improve their ecological footprint in support of the company's 2020 sustainability action plan. The roadmap outlined strategies that were coded for their applicability to facilities, supply chain, and transportation/warehousing and were supported by global case studies.



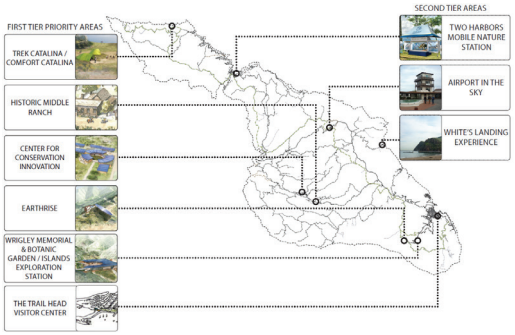
IJburg Phase I Assessment
Project Bureau IJburg | Amsterdam, NL
2009 | WM+P with DHV BV
Project Manager

Michelle led the assessment of the sustainability-related performance of IJburg Phase I neighborhood, a 40 hectare community of 45,000 people to the east of the City of Amsterdam. Working with input from resident forums that articulated values around mobility, energy, water, community, solid waste, and ecology as important qualities for evaluation, she helped develop principles and a community-driven framework for improving performance and measuring progress. The client embraced these tools for developing subsequent phases.

Treasure Island Sustainability Peer Review
City of San Francisco | San Francisco, CA
2009 | WM+P
Author

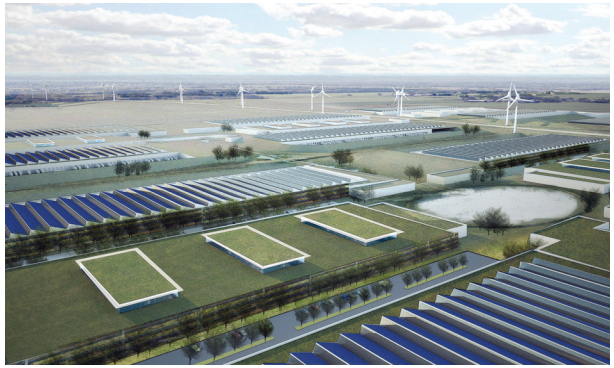
At the request of the developer, Michelle performed a high-level review and performance analysis of the concept plans for the Treasure Island redevelopment (by SOM with Arup). She constructed a framework for sustaining approaches that informed a term sheet included in the agreement between the City and Treasure Island's developer. The matrix mapped the strategies proposed by the concept planning team against the City's stated goals, and revealed new strategies to include for consideration in the next draft of the sustainability plan.

2.1 Significant Work: Planning



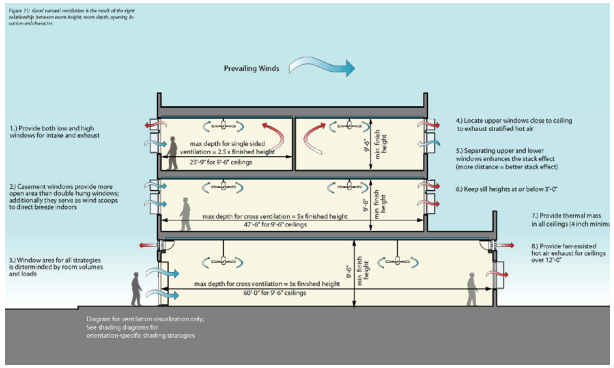
Imagine Catalina: A Vision for the Future
Catalina Conservancy | Catalina Island, CA
2012 | WM+P
Project Manager

In partnership with Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architects, Michelle led the development of a flexible, 40-year strategic plan and vision for Catalina Island, a 42,000 acre conservancy off the coast of Los Angeles. In addition to planning the physical exhibition, research, and camping components, the master plan integrates the Conservancy's mission for educating visitors, improving research, and rewilding the island with the development of its physical infrastructure, including mobility, energy, water, and habitat. The plan also provides guidance on appropriate materials, systems, and construction methods to support the overall performance and supply chain impacts of the project over time.



Klavertje 4 Greenport Venlo
Provide of Limburg | Venlo, NL
2008 | WM+P
Planner

Michelle developed a master plan framework and industrial ecology analysis to inform the development of the new Klavertje 4 "Greenport" (regional flower auctions and fresh food processing and logistics), toward carbon neutral operations. It was one of the first projects to look at industrial-scale sustainability in terms of both buildings/landscape (e.g., stormwater, mobility, habitat, energy production) and program (waste materials from one business becoming inputs for another, waste heat from one process becoming primary heat for another).



Hali'imaile Housing Development Standards
Maui Land & Pineapple Company | Maui, HI
2007 | WM+P
Planner + Sustainability Lead

Michelle created the Housing Development Standards for a new community designed to optimize energy and water demand using a combination of building and district-based solutions. Hali'maile was one of the first projects that integrated sustainability at the building scale (such as natural ventilation, radiant ceilings, zero-energy design, and design for disassembly) with district-wide solutions (such as neighborhood water treatment and reuse), merged under the umbrella of a New Urbanist approach to planning.

"Michelle Amt and I collaborated on applying emerging approaches in green buildings to the scale of communities by using energy, water, waste and other urban systems as key informants in master planning—pioneering thinking in the early 2000's. Michelle always sought creative and innovative solutions through cross-disciplinary engagement. This is readily evident in our work on Halli'imaile, which was included in the *Sustainable Communities* exhibit at the National Building Museum (2008 - 09), published in the Green Issue of *Urban Land* (2009) and presented at Greenbuild (2006), as well as in the *Almere Principles*, which guide growth and development in the Almere community. The principles were so well embraced by the city that they are now etched in stone in front of city hall."

– Diane Dale, FASLA, JD
Former Director of Community Planning, William McDonough + Partners

2.1 Significant Work: Buildings

American University School of International Service
American University | Washington, DC
2010 | WM+P
Project Team

LEED v2009 Gold Certified

The new 75,000 sf building is designed to embody and demonstrate the School for International Service (AUSIS) mission of public service, environmental stewardship, human rights, and social justice. At AUSIS:

- Michelle developed and refined the daylighting approach through iterative analysis (with Loisos Ubbelohde)
- Michelle worked with AUSIS students to develop criteria for product selection that aligned with the School's mission around equity, climate action, and environmental justice
- Michelle delivered AU's first LEED Gold Certified building that remains a touchstone of built sustainability

David Allan Hubbard Library Renovation + Addition
Fuller Theological Seminary | Pasadena, CA
2009 | WM+P with House + Robertson
Project Manager / Project Architect

LEED v2009 Silver Certified

The 98,000 sf, $22 million renovation of and addition to an existing Quincy Jones library demonstrates that projects on difficult urban sites with limited budgets are still opportunities for increasing density, improving energy and water efficiency, and facilitating access for the surrounding community. At Hubbard Library:

- Michelle authored the building concept and layout, including its role as a new gateway (with the Fuller chapel, unbuilt) to the Fuller Theological Seminary campus
- Michelle worked with student focus groups to accommodate different study preferences (individual, group, and collaborative models) that reflected the Seminary's diverse population (130 denominations from 80 countries)
- Michelle helped reduce total energy use by 40%, despite doubling the building size

Bernheim Arboretum Visitor Center
Bernheim Arboretum | Clermont, KY
2005 | WM+P with Barnette Bagley Architects
Project Team

LEED v2009 Platinum Certified

The new 6,400 sf Visitors Center serves as an educational touchstone for daytime and overnight visitors to the 16,000 acre woodland. The design embodies the sustainable content within, demonstrating both biological and technical materials cycles, and animating in response to the changing seasons and weather. At Bernheim:

- Michelle integrated salvaged and reclaimed timber from nearby bourbon barrel warehouses, and site-milled structural lumber from Arboretum property
- Michelle helped deliver a naturally-ventilated, shaded space whose environment is tempered solely through radiant heating, resulting in low energy and water use intensities

2.1 Significant Work: Buildings

Stead Park Recreation Center
DC DGS | Washington, DC
Under Construction, Opens 2023 | VMDO
Sustainability + Wellness Lead

LEED v4 Gold Tracking | Zero-Energy Ready

This 12,000 sf renovation of and addition to a historic park structure in the heart of Washington DC will not only increase neighborhood services and revamp the grounds, it will serve as a model of climate action as the District's first zero-energy community center. At Stead Park:

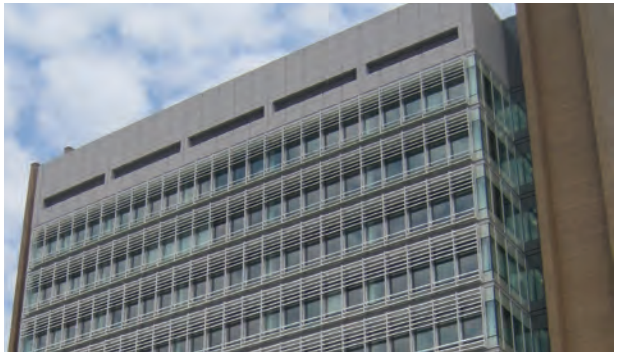
- Michelle successfully advocated for the first use of geo-exchange for this client
- Michelle helped improve ventilation rates to allow the building to successfully keep CO2 rates well below 900ppm in a range of occupancy scenarios
- Michelle incorporated future climate modeling in the design of both the stormwater and energy systems to accommodate changing weather patterns, including more frequent and intense storms and prolonged periods of extreme heat

Bluestone Elementary School
Harrisonburg Public Schools | Harrisonburg, VA
2017 | VMDO
LEED + Research Lead

LEED for Schools Gold Certified | Zero-Energy Ready
Livable Buildings Award Winner - 2019

Bluestone ES is a new high-performance 103,000 sf elementary school comprised of innovative learning neighborhoods to support differentiated opportunities for collaboration in core learning spaces, circulation areas, teacher resource rooms, and maker hubs that can be rearranged to support desired levels of autonomy and collaboration. At Bluestone Elementary:

- Michelle developed a new protocol for post-occupancy evaluations to test the effectiveness of both the systems design and the design of the learning environments, in collaboration with the UC Berkeley Center for the Built Environment
- Michelle helped achieve the first LEED Gold school in central Virginia, and the first elementary school to earn UC Berkeley Center for the Built Environment's Livable Buildings Award, an international award given annually to a single project that demonstrates leadership in sustainable design and user satisfaction



Richard H. Poff Federal Building Renovation
U.S. GSA | Roanoke, VA
2016 | WM+P with TransSystems
Project Manager + Sustainability Lead

LEED EBO&M Gold Certified

The 340,000 sf, $51m ARRA modernization of the Poff Building included replacement of a deteriorating 1970s curtain wall, new lighting and HVAC systems, bathroom upgrades and new roofing. The project demonstrated to the GSA the community and climate benefits of renovating stranded assets rather than building new, and it recast the building's relationship to the community from inward looking to outward facing. At the Poff Federal Building Renovation:

- Michelle led the analysis to refine the design and quantify the cost, performance, and qualitative benefits of building interventions, including electric lighting and daylighting, ventilation, and thermal control
- Michelle helped achieve the first LEED EBO+M Gold Certified government facility in the region

2.1 Significant Work: Buildings

Charlottesville Middle School
Charlottesville City Public Schools | Charlottesville, VA
Under Construction, Opens 2026 | VMDO
Sustainability, Wellness, + Community Engagement Lead

LEED v4 for Schools Gold Tracking | Zero-Energy Ready

The 186,000 sf renovation of and addition to Charlottesville's only public middle school will reduce the City's carbon footprint, upgrade learning environments, support educator and student health and performance, and reconfigure the campus to accommodate grades 6-8. At CMS:

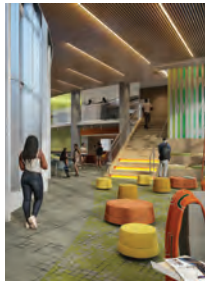
- Michelle pioneered a VMDO program for paid peer engagers—members of the community that scaffold the design team and build community trust and capacity around the project with a focus on historically marginalized groups. The project was approved by the City Council and the School Board in its first round, despite a decade of false starts and failed attempts previous to VMDO's involvement
- Michelle helped reduce the building's energy use by 65% (while improving indoor environmental quality), convert to all-electric building systems, and reconfigure the roofscape to accommodate enough photovoltaics to meet the campus's annual energy demand—the City's first zero-energy ready project
- Michelle worked with educational researchers at UVA to develop and deploy a custom pre-occupancy survey (which includes questions about safety, inclusion, sustainability, comfort, community, and teaching methods) to be used as the benchmark for both post-occupancy research and for teacher professional development modules on how to best use the building

Centennial Village
University of Miami | Miami, FL
Under Construction, Phase 1 Opens 2025 | VMDO
Sustainability + Wellness Lead

LEED v4 Gold Tracking | WELL v2 Gold Tracking

This new 622,000 sf first-year student residential village at the University of Miami breaks new ground in resilience, performance, and wellness. The first phase of the project is scheduled to be completed in August 2025, with subsequent phases opening in 2027 and 2029. At Centennial Village:

- Michelle worked with UM climate researchers to establish worst case flooding scenarios—based on RCP 8.5 from the IPCC 5th Climate Assessment— and then developed a design response (elevating major equipment to the second level, with the first level designed to flood)
- Michelle established design criteria for indoor environmental quality based on the WELL Building Standard and related research, which included increased ventilation rates, circadian lighting, biophilia, and safe materials. Centennial Village is the first residence hall registered for WELL certification
- Michelle led performance analysis and system design to reduce energy use using chilled beams (a first for UM), aggressive heat recovery, low lighting power density, and low window-wall ratio, resulting in a complex that uses 48% less energy than conventional construction, despite being connected to the campus central plant



2.1 Significant Work: Service

AIA National Committee on the Environment (COTE)
Leadership Group (2022 - 2025), 2024 Chair

Michelle's involvement with AIA National has focused on COTE and initiatives related to climate action, health, and equity. She has served on committees updating the Design for Resources section of the Framework for Design Excellence and revising the AIA Policy Statements. Her work for the COTE Leadership Group included revamping the AIA COTE Top Ten Awards program to align it more closely with the current Framework for Design Excellence and other AIA programs such as the A+D Materials Pledge and the 2030 Commitment—all through the lens of making it easier for firms to submit and for jurors to review. She is part of the team working to align metrics across AIA programs, and has been coordinating COTE's initiatives with the Committee on Climate Action and Design Excellence (CCADE) using the AIA's Theory of Change framework. She will serve as the COTE LG chair in 2024.

Green Building Infusion Unit
VA Department of Education
Contributor (2023)

Michelle participated in the update of VADOE's infusion unit curriculum on green buildings. Infusion units are used by instructors as part of existing courses (such as building management, building trades, carpentry, civil engineering, HVAC and renewable energy) at high schools, community colleges, and trade schools across Virginia.

Climate Futures Design Research Challenge
University of Virginia (UVA) School of Architecture
Reviewer (2023)

Michelle helped select which projects to fund in the inaugural year of a design research challenge focused on climate justice through transdisicplinary collaboration.

UIA World Congress of Architects
Reviewer (2023)

Michelle served on the science track peer review committee for Panel 1: Design for Climate Adaptation.

Renew Americas Schools Program
US Department of Energy
Reviewer (2023)

This $500 million program promotes implementation of clean energy improvements at K-12 public schools across the country. Michelle was involved in both phases, reviewing concept papers and full submissions, resulting in $178 million being awarded to 24 selectees.

AIA National Knowledge and Practice Team Retreat
(2022)

Michelle often offers VMDO as an example to AIA staff of how mid-sized regional firms use the resources being generated by the AIA and its Knowledge Communities. In October 2022, this included hosting the AIA Knowledge and Practice Team in VMDO's Charlottesville office as part of their 2022 retreat.

AIA Virginia Architects SPEAK UP! Program
Participant (2021 + 2022)

Michelle met with state delegates to explain how architects can be a resource to legislators around issues of safety, health, climate action, and resilience, and to identify (and help remove) impediments to building net zero energy buildings in the state.

AIA 2030 Commitment Video
Speaker (2021)

Michelle participated in an AIA video promoting the 2030 Commitment, encouraging firms to sign on and report as a tool for practice transformation.

AIA Re-Opening America: Strategies for Safer Schools
Contributor (2020)

Michelle helped develop a set of guidelines for both architects and school administrators that translated the emerging recommendations from the CDC, ASHRAE, and WHO around COVID-19 transmission to the design of schools.

AIA COTE Advocacy
Member (2019 - 2021)

As part of her participation in the AIA COTE advocacy, Michelle helped craft the 2020 AIA Policy Platform, which focuses on Climate Action, Healthy Communities, and A Future Economy.

WELL Materials Concept Advisory
International WELL Building Institute
Member (2018 - 2022)

Michelle helped update the WELL Building Standard Materials Concept through the lenses of ingredient transparency/content, emissions, and worker protection.

Juror
- USGBC Virginia Awards (2022)
- AIA National COTE Awards, Chair (2021)
- San Diego AIA Design Awards (2020)
- University of Virginia
- North Carolina State University
- University of Florida
- Catholic University

Reviewer
- AASHE Conference + Expo (2017 + 2018)
- Green Schools Conference + Expo (2018)

2.1 Significant Work: Presentations, Lectures, + Events

NATIONAL

2023 AIA Conference on Architecture (A'23)
"Performing Beautifully - The COTE Top Ten Awards"
San Francisco, CA | June 8, 2023

Speaker. A'23 Conference session to celebrate the 2023 AIA COTE Top Ten Winners. Panelist with Lori Ferriss (Goody Clancy), Katie Ackerly (David Baker Architects), and Avi Rajagopal (Metropolis Magazine). 250 attendees.

2023 AIA Conference on Architecture (A'23)
"Radical Transparency: One Firm's Journey with the 2030 Commitment"
San Francisco, CA | June 8, 2023

Speaker. Overview of VMDO's six years of 2030 reporting, including specifics on benchmarks, lessons learned, and how other firms can also use it as a tool for practice transformation. 50 attendees.

2023 AIA Conference on Architecture (A'23)
COTE Open Forum: "Realizing Climate Action and Climate Justice"
San Francisco, CA | June 9, 2023

Facilitator. The annual Open Forum event at conference engages members in direct dialog. COTE LG members led group discussions focused on: the 2030 Commitment, Climate Action/Climate Justice, Inflation Reduction Act, Resilience + Adaptation, Advocacy, the Framework for Design Excellence, COTE Chapters. 150 attendees.

2023 AIA Leadership Conference
"Deep Dive Workshop: Integrating the Framework for Design Excellence in your Chapter + Firm"
Washington, DC | February 15, 2023

Speaker. With Adam Torrey (Clark Nexsen), Elaine Gallagher-Adams (L3SP), and Mary-Margaret Zindren (AIA-MN). 200 attendees.

HITT CO | LAB Masters Series
"Renewable Energy Spotlight: Innovations in Net Zero"
Virtual | September 15, 2022

Panelist. With Roger Chang (BuroHappold), Sam Coats (HITT Contracting) and Anica Landreneau (HOK). 150 attendees.

2021 Greenbuild
"Zero-Energy = Zero Added Cost"
Virtual | September 22, 2021

Speaker. An overview of VMDO's zero energy projects, how they differ, and lessons learned across them all. With Brian Turner (CMTA). 400 attendees.

2021 Center for Green Schools Conference (Summer)
"Zero-Energy = Zero Added Cost"
Virtual | June 28, 2021

Speaker. An overview of VMDO's zero energy projects, with expanded content around how to use zero-energy features as teaching tools. With Brian Turner (CMTA). 75 attendees.

2021 Center for Green Schools Conference (Winter)
"Design for Equity"
Virtual | February 18, 2021

Speaker. Discussed VMDO's efforts to expand equity in project work, including increasing community engagement, unearthing hidden histories, and expanding post-occupancy evaluations. 40 attendees.

2020 NBI Getting to Zero Status Update
"Transforming Markets to Zero-Energy"
Virtual | September 24, 2020

Speaker. With Alexi Miller (NBI), Kathryn Wright (USDN), Darryl Boyce (ASHRAE), and Dan Arons (Perkins Eastman). 350 attendees.

2020 ACUHO-I Virtual Summit
"Designing Residential Spaces for Health + Wellness"
Virtual | June 24, 2020

Speaker. With Seth Weinshel (GWU) and Dade Van Der Werf (VMDO). 80 attendees.

2020 Living Future Unconference
"JUST: A Journey of Discovery + a Story of Hope"
Virtual | June 18, 2020

Speaker. With Ashley Mulhall (Orcutt Winslow), Heidi Creighton (BuroHappold), Heather Holdridge (Lake|Flato). A review of the challenges /opportunities of the JUST label. 100 attendees.

2019 Living Product Expo
"Tracking Tools for One + All"
Nashville, TN | October 9, 2019

Speaker. With Pauline Souza (WRNS Studio) and Anne Hicks Harney (Long Green Specs). 80 attendees.

AIA U
"Performing Beautifully: Lessons Learned from 2021 COTE Top Ten Award-Winning Teams"
Virtual | filmed June 2021, available on-demand

Speaker. With Julie Hiromoto (HKS). A 90-minute on-demand course that explores the design strategies and outcomes of the 2021 AIA COTE Top Ten Award winners.

2.1 Significant Work: Presentations, Lectures, + Events

REGIONAL

AIA Virginia Emerging Leaders in Architecture
"Resilience: The Big Picture"
Charlottesville, VA | February 10, 2023

Speaker. Overview of resilience concepts and the implications for the built environment. 25 attendees.

AIA Virginia Committee on the Environment (COTE)
"Embodied Carbon 101: Process + Firm Culture"
Charlottesville, VA | October 4, 2022

Speaker. Overview of how VMDO is incorporating (and is not yet incorporating) embodied carbon considerations at each phase of design. 63 attendees.

AIA Virginia Emerging Leaders in Architecture
"The COTE Top Ten + the Framework for Design Excellence"
Virtual | October 8, 2021

Speaker. 25 attendees.

South East Association of Housing Officers (SEAHO)
"Designing for Health + Wellness"
Louisville, KY | February 27, 2020

Speaker. With Jim Richardson (VMDO) and James Smart (U Miami). Overview of opportunities for supporting health and wellness through residence hall design. 80 attendees.

AIA Virginia Architecture Exchange East
"JUSTice for All"
Richmond, VA | November 8, 2019

Speaker. With Rob Winstead (VMDO). Overview of the challenges and rewards of pursuing the JUST label. 30 attendees.

ACC Housing Directors Conference
"Wellness + Sustainability in Residence Halls"
Charlottesville, VA | November 6, 2019

Speaker. With Michele Westrick (VMDO), Frances Lengowski (VMDO). Overview of wellness and performance opportunities in residence halls. 50 attendees.

ACADEMIC

Virginia Tech College of Engineering
"Zero-Energy Design: Case Studies"
Virtual | October 28, 2022

Speaker. Overview of zero energy design concepts and how they can effect site design, for civil engineering candidates. 25 attendees.

Ball State University USGBC - Student Chapter
"Integrating JEDI into Practice"
Virtual | February 2, 2022

Speaker. Overview of building implications for expanded engagement with equity, justice, and inclusion. 25 attendees.

University of Virginia USEM 1570
"Designing a Carbon Neutral Future"
Virtual | October 6 + 12, 2020

Speaker. Overview of operational and embodied carbon concepts for environmental studies majors. 20 attendees.

Virginia Tech School of Education
"Creating Healthy, Happy, High-Performing Schools"
Virtual | November 9, 2020

Speaker. Overview of opportunities to support climate action and equity in school design, for future school superintendents. 15 attendees.

University of Virginia ETP 1559
"Write Climate: Climate Action and Built Environment"
Virtual | March 1, 2021

Speaker. Overview of how the built environment contributes to climate change - and what to do about it. 25 attendees.

LOCAL

AIA DC
"DE&I Panel Discussion with Mid-Sized Architecture Firms"
July 15, 2021

Panelist. With Omar Vega (Beyer Blinder Belle), Abigail Brown (Hickok Cole) and Ahmed Kurtom (Design Force). 50 attendees.

Piedmont Virginia Community College
"Sustainability at the PVCC Bolick Center"
February 22, 2023 (Invited Lecture)

Speaker. With James Vidoni (VMDO). 40 attendees.

AIA Central Virginia
"Pandemics, Health + ZE Design"
Virtual | July 8, 2020

Speaker. With Brian Turner (CMTA). 40 attendees.

2.2 Honors, Awards, + Recognitions

Note: Between 2011 - 2017, Michelle was working as Chief of Staff at McDonough Innovation on projects that were often under NDAs and therefore were not applying for awards.

"I have worked with Michelle Amt on [McDonough Innovation and William McDonough + Partners] projects that chart new territory in sustainability across scales—products, buildings, urban plans, and frameworks—and around the world.

In all of them, Michelle brought her optimism, rigor, a collaborative spirit, and a deep belief in the power of design to effect positive change.

I recommend her unreservedly for her leadership."

– William McDonough, FAIA
Co-Author of Cradle to Cradle: Remaking the Way We Make Things

NATIONAL AWARDS

2023 Architecture Award
AIA National
Lubber Run Community Center

2023 Design Award
Association of College Unions International (ACUI)
UVA Student Health and Wellness

2022 Award
ASHRAE Technology Regional
Lubber Run Community Center

2023 Best Renovation of Existing University Housing, Student Housing Business Annual Innovator Awards
GWU Thurston Hall Renovation

2022 Best Project: Sports/Entertainment
ENR Mid Atlantic
Lubber Run Community Center

2021 Education Facility Design Awards
AIA Committee on Architecture for Education
Bluestone Elementary School

2021 Livable Building Award
UC Berkeley Center for the Built Environment
Discovery Elementary School

2020 Citation of Excellence
Learning by Design
Alice West Fleet Elementary

2019 Livable Building Award
UC Berkeley Center for the Built Environment
Bluestone Elementary School

2019 Project of Distinction
Association for Learning Environments
Bluestone Elementary School

2014 Good Design is Good Business Award
Architectural Record
NASA Sustainability Base

2013 Environmental Award, Sustainable Built Environment
Acterra Business
NASA Sustainability Base

2011 Leadership Innovation Award
Center on Environmental Innovation + Leadership
NASA Sustainability Base

2011 White House GreenGov Presidential Award, Lean, Clean + Green
NASA Sustainability Base

2011 Award of Merit - Green Building
Engineering News Record
NASA Sustainability Base

2010 Real Property Award for Green Innovation
General Services Administration (GSA)
NASA Sustainability Base

2009 Lifecycle Building Challenge Award
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Bernheim Arboretum + Research Forest Visitors Center

2004 Professional Award
American Society of Landscape Architects
UC Davis Eco-Effective Strategies

2.2 Honors, Awards, + Recognitions

REGIONAL AWARDS

2023 National Capital Region
Community Leadership Award - Climate Champion
U.S. Green Building Council
Lubber Run Community Center

2022 Award
Virginia Association for Learning Environments
Cardinal Elementary School

2022 Award of Honor
AIA Virginia
Lubber Run Community Center

2021 Project of the Year
DBIA Mid Atlantic Region
Virginia Tech Central Innovation District

2021 Platinum Design Award
Virginia School Boards Association
Alice West Fleet Elementary

2019 AIA Virginia
Honorable Mention Award
NASA Sustainability Base

2013 Governor's Environmental + Economic Leadership Award (GEELA) Sustainable Practices or Facilities
NASA Sustainability Base

2010 Best Green Project
Silicon Valley Business Times' Structure Awards
NASA Sustainability Base

2009 Outstanding Achievement Award for Best Greenhouse Gas Reduction
LBC
Bernheim Arboretum + Research Forest Visitors Center

2008 Governor's Environmental + Economic Leadership Award
California Environmental Protection Agency
Treasure Island

2005 Honor Award for Excellence in Design
AIA Kentucky
Bernheim Arboretum + Research Forest Visitors Center

LOCAL AWARDS

2023 Award: Historic Resources Winner
AIA DC
GWU Thurston Hall Renovation

2022 Citation for Sustainability
AIA DC
Alice West Fleet Elementary

2022 Chapter Design Awards
AIA DC
Lubber Run Community Center

2019 Lasting Changemaker Award
Community Climate Collaborative
VMDO Architects

PERSONAL AWARDS

2016 Distinguished Alumni Award
University of Florida, School of Architecture

EXHIBITIONS

2008 Green Community Exhibition, National Building Museum
Hali'imaile Housing Development Standards

"Michelle's reach extends far beyond her project work. I have watched her cultivate a culture of transparency and honesty within both the AIA Committee on the Environment and within the Sustainable Design Leaders (SDL) Group. As part of a panel on the JUST label that she and I participated in at the 2020 International Living Future Institute's annual conference, Michelle's commitment to industry-wide collaboration and willingness to share, learn, and grow together really brought home why social justice initiatives hold value and contribute to sustainable design efforts. She brought that same commitment and collaborative spirit to a dialogue she facilitated between SDL firms about social equity, which extended beyond disseminating information to inspiring and empowering others to integrate inclusion into their sustainability efforts.

Michelle's commitment to constant evolution and improvement is also evident in her important contributions to the AIA COTE Top Ten Awards. Her refinements to both the criteria and submission process demonstrate her proactive engagement with industry developments and her role as a catalyst for positive change—maintaining the program's high bar while also working to make it more accessible to firms and projects of all sizes."

– Heather Holdridge, EIT, Associate AIA, LEED Fellow
Director of Design Technology
Lake|Flato Architects

2.3 Publications

BY MICHELLE

AIA | COTE Newsletter, Michelle Amt

Through her writings for the AIA COTE bimonthly newsletter, Michelle has focused on educating members on the Top Ten Awards program and criteria, explaining why winners are exemplars that everyone can learn from, and how participating in the program is another platform for practice transformation towards a sustainable future.

The newsletter reaches over 14,000 members. Articles are also published on AIA KnowledgeNet under the Committee on the Environment.

"RIBA's *Climate Guide* is a Rich Companion to the *Framework for Design Excellence*." October 2023 (forthcoming).

"Performing Beautifully: the 2024 COTE Top Ten Winners." July 2023.

"Why the AIA COTE Top Ten Matters." May 2023.

"Revamped AIA COTE Top Ten Launches in September." August 2022.

LinkedIn/VMDO, "Radical Transparency: Our Commitment to 2030." April 23, 2023.

An analysis of VMDO's six years of reporting to the 2030 Commitment and lessons learned. The article embraces complete transparency around VMDO reporting, including detailed information on how benchmarks are derived and both the benchmark and the projected energy use intensity (pEUI) of every project in their portfolio. The article has been republished in multiple venues and provided as a resource in the 2030 Commitment's Open Forum at A'23. It has been influential in getting more firms to be transparent about their progress toward the 2030 Commitment targets. As of June 2023, website statistics show that over 800 people have read the entire blog and the LinkedIn post has received over 5,600 unique impressions.

VMDO, Michelle Amt. "Strategies for Reducing Risk of COVID-19 in Schools." June 18, 2020.

AIA, "Reopening America: Strategies for Safer Schools." June 2020. With participants Betsey Dougherty (Perkins Eastman), Brian Minnich (GWWO), Dennis Knight (Whole Building Systems), Emily Grandstaff-Rice (Arrowstreet), Gail Sullivan (Studio G), Jenine Kotob (Hord Coplan Macht), JoAnn Wilcox (Mahlum), Joel Mills, Josephine Lau (U. Nebraska), Kevin Van Den Wymelenberg (U. Oregon), Juliana Grant (Public Health Nerds), Michael Nieminen (Kliment Halsband), Molly Scanlon (Phigenics), Rebecca Baibak (Integrus), Stacey Crumbaker (Mahlum).

VMDO, Michelle Amt. "Evolving a JUST Perspective." August 24, 2019.

Catalyst Quarterly, Green Schools National Network. "The Thinking Person's Guide to Climate Change." Winter 2018.

VMDO, Michelle Amt. "Taking Responsibility for Climate Change." October 20, 2018.

VMDO, Michelle Amt. "Living Buildings in Higher Eduction: The Future of Sustainability?" August 2, 2018.

VMDO, Michelle Amt. "Focusing on Impact + Transparency as Tools for Change." April 30, 2018.

VMDO, Michelle Amt. "The Importance of Strong Communities." November 15, 2017.

Cradle to Cradle i Det Byggede Miljø : En Manual Til Den Danske Byggeindustri **(2013).** Edited by Kasper Guldager Jørgensen (GXN) and Søren Lyngsgaard (Vugge til Vugge Denmark)

Michelle was a lead writer for this first-of-its-kind manual on how to implement Cradle to Cradle concepts in the built environment.

The Almere Principles for an Ecologically, Socially, and Environmentally Sustainable Future of Almere 2030. (2008) F. Feddes (Ed.) for The Municipality of Almere

Almere hired William McDonough to develop principles to guide its growth from a city of 190,000 to 350,000 by 2030 under the Schaalsprong Almere plan. In addition to helping facilitate the public engagement process, Michelle wrote the supporting text that explained concepts behind and applications of the Almere principles.

2.3 Publications

ABOUT OR QUOTING MICHELLE

GB&D Magazine, Yuyan Zhang. "VMDO Architects Bring Nature and Color to George Washington University." May 31, 2023.

Architect Magazine, Terri Peters. "What Makes Architecture Excellent Today?" September 14, 2021.

Treehugger, Lloyd Alter. "Why Net Zero is the Wrong Target." June 22, 2021.

Building Green, Candace Pearson and Nadav Malin. "Net-Zero Energy Isn't the Real Goal: 8 Reasons Why." June 7, 2021.

NBC29, Max Marcilla. "Charlottesville City Schools begin Community Outreach on Planned Reconfiguration." June 2, 2021.

Architect Magazine, Wanda Lau. "AIA Announces the 2021 COTE Top Ten Award Winners." April 21, 2021.

AIA, "Why Should My Firm Participate in the 2030 Commitment?" February 22, 2021.

Design the Future, Kira Gould and Lindsay Baker. "Episode 34: Michelle Amt." February 11, 2021.

Architectural Record, Joann Gonchar. "Profession Must Zero in on Carbon to Meet 2030 Climate Goals." November 30, 2020.

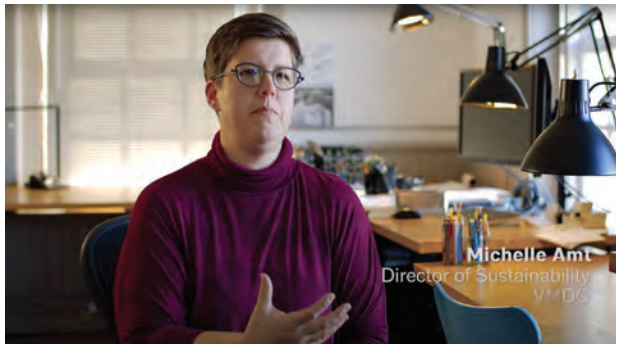
Redshift by Autodesk, Zach Mortice. "What Will Architecture Design Look Like After COVID-19? Flexible and Resilient." August 20, 2020.

NBC29, Andrew Webb. "Charlottesville Architecture Firm Creates Renderings for Socially Distant Classrooms." July 7. 2020.

Wellness Within Your Walls, Audrey Gray. "What You Need To Know About Offgassing." June 2020.

Green Schools National Network, Maria Cuzzocrea Burke. "Art and Biomimicry Collide to Create Discovery Elementary Schools 'Nature's Hideout'." April 4, 2019.

Carbon Radio. Joseph Plummer. "Educational Design and Sustainability." December 3, 2018.



"Michelle Amt is an inspiration to me and to everyone who believes that transparency is essential if we are ever to move sustainable design out of its self-congratulatory echo chamber into the mainstream of practice. She leads by example, and invites us all in, as if to say, 'C'mon in, the water's fine!'"

—Z. Smith, FAIA, LEED Fellow, WELL AP
Principal, Director of Sustainability & Building Performance
Eskew Dumez Ripple

2.3 Publications

ABOUT MICHELLE'S WORK

INTERNATIONAL PUBLICATIONS

Women's Wear Daily, Rosemary Feitelberg. "Fashion for Good Encourages Consumers to Be More Responsible About Consumption with New 'Museum' in Amsterdam." October 11, 2018.

Dezeen, Augusta Pownall. "Fashion For Good Museum in Amsterdam Promotes Responsible Fashion," October 2018.

NATIONAL PUBLICATIONS

Architect Magazine, Ian Volner. "Lubber Run Community Center." June 5, 2023.

Fast Company, Elissaveta Brandon. "Renovating this 1930's 'doughnut' building meant losing space but gaining natural light." February 27, 2023.

New Buildings Institute, Erin Murphy. "Net Zero Buildings Week Spotlights Heroes, Resources." July 14, 2022.

Building Design + Construction, _. "Net Zero Energy Design Enhances Multidimensional Community Center." January 17, 2022.

The Architect's Newspaper, Jonathan Hilburg. "At UVA, the New Data Science Center Blends Classic Looks with Contemporary Sustainability." October 25, 2021.

Building Design + Construction, John Caulfield. "Wellness is Now Part of More Colleges' Health Services." September 20, 2021.

Metropolis Magazine, Elissaveta Brandon. "In Virginia, A Community Center Takes Cues from the Landscape." August 4, 2021.

US DOE National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), Paul Torcellini. "Affordable Zero Energy K12 Schools: The Cost Barrier Illusion." 2021.

Building Green, Candace Pearson. "Why Schools Are Embracing Net Zero Energy." June 6, 2017.

National Public Radio, Joe Palca. "NASA Uses Lessons From Space To Design An Efficient Building." December 1, 2015.

The Architect's Newspaper, Kindra Cooper. "Here's How Amsterdam Built an Archipelago to Solve Its Housing Crunch." July 20, 2015.

Huffington Post, Jennifer Grayson. "Innovation Earth: Bringing NASA Technology Back To Earth." July 25, 2014.

Architectural Record, Lydia Lee. "NASA Sustainability Base." June 16, 2014.

Building Design + Construction, Tiffany Hsu. "NASA Sustainability Base To Open Next Month." June 6, 2011.

Fast Company, Ariel Schwartz. "NASA to Break Ground on Super-Green "Sustainability Base." January 2011

REGIONAL / LOCAL PUBLICATIONS

School Construction News, Eric Althoff. "Future Virginia College Building Designed for Net Zero." July 8, 2021.

Collegiate Times, Momiji Barlow. "Hello Hokies: New Creativity and Innovation District Comes to Virginia Tech." June 8, 2021.

Charlottesville Tomorrow, Tamica Jean-Charles. "The Long Awaited, $90 million Buford Middle School Renovation Will Begin in June." April 28, 2023.

The Miami Hurricane, Jenny Jacoby. "Construction on Centennial Village to Begin Over Summer." May 5, 2022.

Daily Press, Sian Wilkerson. "W&M Launches Plan to Reinvent Student Housing." April 21, 2022.

UVA Today, Whitelaw Reid. "Field of Dreams: UVA Softball Team's Palmer Park Drawing Big Crowds." April 12, 2022.

NBC29 News, Madison McNamee. "The University of Virginia Holds Groundbreaking Ceremony for Contemplative Commons." October 9, 2021.

Alexandria Living, Susannah Moore. "New Uses Coming to Original Mount Vernon High School." June 26, 2021.

NBC29, Kasey Hott. "PVCC Builds First Higher Education Zero Energy Building." June 2, 2021.

News @ the U, Mike Placentino. "University of Miami Unveils Plans for New On-Campus Residential Village." January 7. 2019.

UVA Today, Jane Kelly. "New Student Health and Wellness Center Designed to be 'Cutting Edge'." September 28, 2018.

Section 3: Exhibits

NASA Sustainability Base

3.1 NASA Sustainability Base

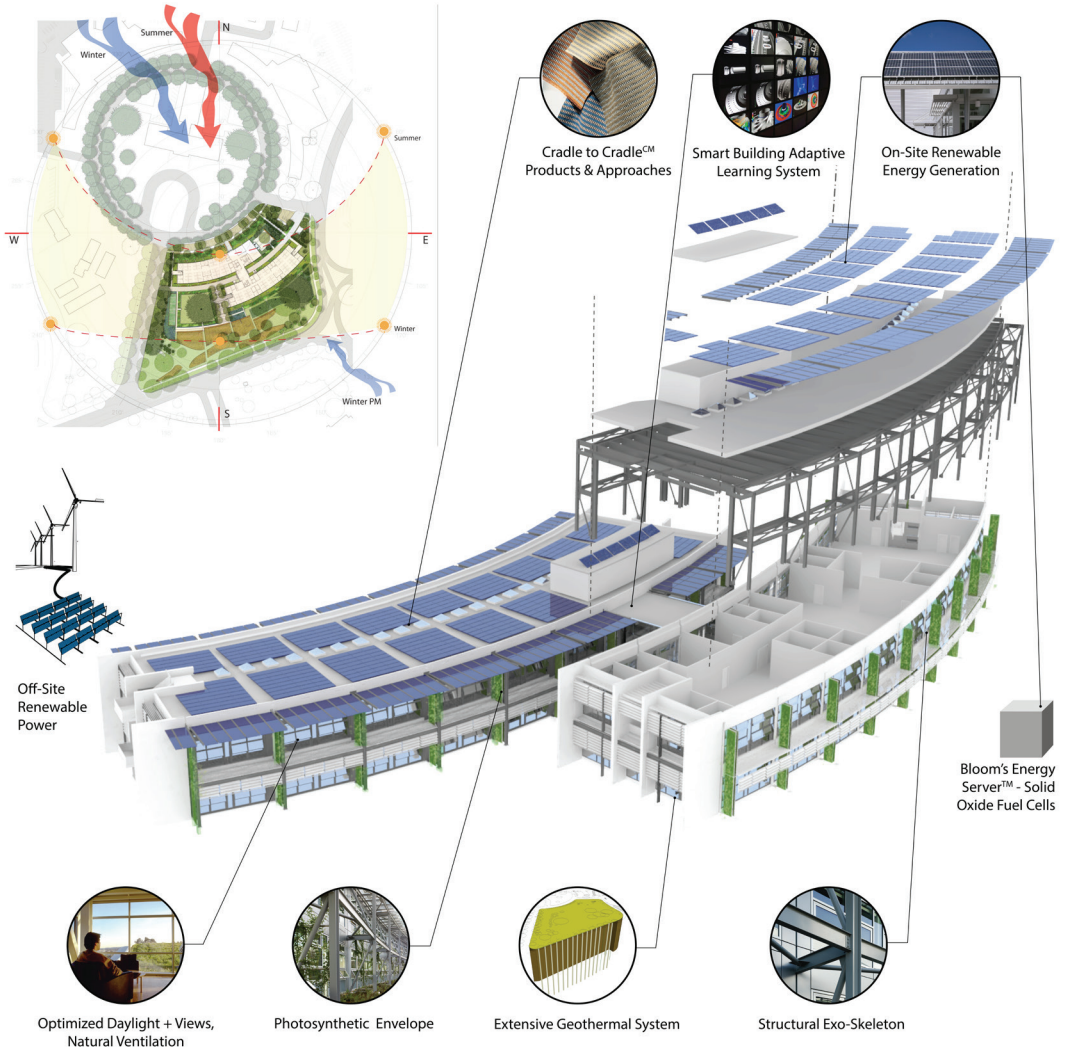
Architecture Firm of Record + Design Firm: AECOM & William McDonough + Partners
Completion: 2012
Role of Nominee: Project Manager (Concepts to Design Development)

Conceived as a space station on earth, the 50,000-sf facility at the Ames Research Center is an office building, a laboratory for emerging technologies, and "an evolving exemplar for the future of buildings," according to NASA. Situated at the front entrance of the historic campus, the building follows a circular drive to create two gently arced workspaces suffused with daylight. A steel exoskeleton improves building resiliency during earthquakes, creates a clear-span for uninterrupted workspace, and provides an armature for shading devices.

The design effectively combines passive and active heating/cooling and daylighting strategies to reduce building energy demand by 65%, compared to a conventional office. On-site, a biogas-fueled BloomBox® ES-5700 fuel cell (NASA technology) combined with a roof-mounted solar array (also NASA technology) produces almost twice the building's energy demand. Excess production is metered onto the local electrical grid at the Ames substation. Inside, technology developed for the International Space Station recycles sink/shower greywater for toilet flushing. Outside, irrigation uses locally remediated Superfund-site groundwater.

Challenge:

Create a new model for green building that showcases NASA technologies and sensibilities.



Declaration of Responsibility: I have personal knowledge of the nominee's responsibility for the exhibit listed above. That responsibility included: Project under direction of the nominee; Nominee's firm executed the project.
- Kevin Burke, AIA, former Managing Partner, William McDonough + Partners

3.1 NASA Sustainability Base

Role:

Michelle served as project manager from early concepts through the end of design development (when she went on maternity leave). In that role, she helped establish performance criteria for the project, coordinated with the consultant team on building analysis (including daylighting/glare, thermal bridging/WUFI, energy modeling, and water modeling), coordinated with NASA research staff on technology piloting, and conducted product research through the lens of Cradle to Cradle. She also aligned the development of the design with LEED BD+C criteria, enabling the project to achieve its LEED Platinum certification upon its completion.

Impact:

- The LEED Platinum Certified office uses 90% less potable water than a conventional building and is a net energy exporter

Ripple:

- For its time, NASA Sustainability Base was "one of the greenest Federal buildings ever built" according to NASA and represented state-of-the-art sustainable design. It remains a flagship of sustainable design.

Awards/Publications:

- "NASA Uses Lessons From Space To Design An Efficient Building," National Public Radio, November 2015
- "Innovation Earth: Bringing NASA Technology Back To Earth," The Huffington Post, July 2014
- "NASA to Break Ground on Super-Green "Sustainability Base," Fast Company, January 2011
- Architectural Record 2014 Good Design is Good Business Award
- Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Award (GEELA), 2013 Sustainable Practices or Facilities
- Acterra, 2013 Business Environmental Award, Sustainable Built Environment
- Center on Environmental Innovation & Leadership, 2011 Leadership in Innovation Award
- White House GreenGov Award 2011, Lean, Clean and Green
- ENR California, Best Projects of 2011, Award of Merit – Green Building
- Silicon Valley Business Times' Structures Awards 2010, Best Green Project
- GSA Real Property 2010 Award for Green Innovation

"The collaborative process yielded a highly sustainable and beautiful design— optimized for building performance and representative of our values."

– Steven F. Zornetzer, Ph.D, NASA Ames Research Center, Associate Center Director

"A sleek new building at NASA's Ames Research Center... is one any rocket scientist would love."

- Forbes Magazine

"A vision brought to life."

- Kirkus Reviews

3.2 The George Washington University Thurston Hall Renovation

Architecture Firm of Record + Design Firm: VMDO Architects
Completion: 2022
Role of Nominee: Sustainability + Wellness Lead

The ambitious 200,000 sf renovation removed five stories of the south central portion of the existing building, enhancing the building's courtyard and access to natural light. This bold and transformative move stems from the client's goal to de-densify the building in order to provide more flexible, safe, and healthy places for learning and gathering. "Found" spaces, like the former central lightwell, are transformed into flexible, programmable spaces such as a light-filled courtyard that promotes the development of a vibrant, engaged, and inclusive community.

Challenge:

Transforming one of GWU's oldest and densest residence halls into a student-centered, high-performance model of sustainability.

Role:

Michelle was the sustainability and wellness lead on the project team. In that role, she helped convince GWU to pilot high efficiency water source heat pumps for heating, cooling, ventilation, and domestic hot water, reducing overall building energy use by 40% when compared to a code-compliant building. To meet the District's strict stormwater management requirements, she pushed for rainwater harvesting and reuse within the building. She advocated for increased ventilation rates as part of the project's new dedicated outdoor air system, which is complemented by improved filtration, and safe and healthy materials to provide exemplary indoor air quality.

Michelle also conducted a gap analysis for WELL certification at project outset, aligned development of the design with WELL criteria, and updated the gap analysis at project completion. WELL certification is still under consideration by GWU.

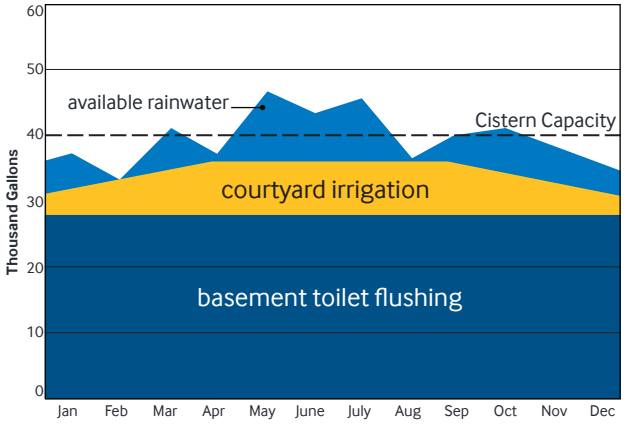
BEFORE

AFTER

Declaration of Responsibility: I have personal knowledge of the nominee's responsibility for the exhibit listed above. That responsibility included: Principal investigator for sustainability / wellness.

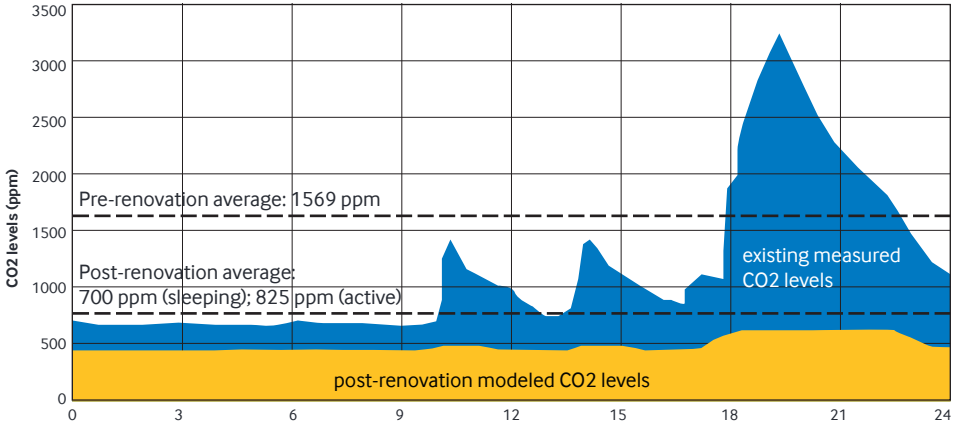
- Dade van der Werf, Thurston Hall Project Manager and Associate Principal, VMDO Architects

3.2 The George Washington University Thurston Hall Renovation



Thurston captures rainwater for reuse in courtyard irrigation and toilet flushing.

Measured CO2 levels before renovation showed average levels of over 1500 ppm, with peaks as high as 3000 ppm. The new design maintains CO2 levels below 1200, with the average below 850.



Impact:

- Saved 83% of the exterior walls, floors and roof of the historic building, reducing the embodied carbon of the project and preserving a neighborhood landmark
- Improved building ventilation rates and reduced measured average ventilation rates by 50%, from 1564 ppm to under 850ppm
- Designed the building to capture rainwater for reuse in toilet flushing and courtyard irrigation. Between this system and high-performance fixtures and equipment, the building reduced potable water use by 40% and can handle 89% of a 2-year 24 hour storm
- Reduced lighting power density by 65%
- Trending LEED v4 Platinum (Construction Final Review submitted August 2023)

Ripple:

- The heat pumps at Thurston have been so successful that GWU is anticipating using heat pumps in all future projects

Awards/Publications:

- 2023 Award: Historic Resources Winner, AIADC
- 2023 Best Renovation of Existing University Housing, Student Housing Business Annual Innovator Awards
- "VMDO Architects Bring Nature and Color to George Washington University," Green Building and Design (GB&D) Magazine, May 2023
- "Renovating this 1930s 'doughnut' building meant losing space but gaining natural light," Fast Company, February 2023
- "George Washington University Thurston Hall Renovation, Washington, D.C.," AIA COP 27 Exemplary Climate Action Projects, November 2022
- "New Students Move into GW, including the Recently Renovated Thurston Hall," GW Today, August 2022
- "Inside GWU's renovated Thurston Hall, featuring a not-Amazon, no-cashier convenience store," Washington Business Journal, August 2022

"The new Thurston Hall is unrecognizable from its older self—proving, once again, that buildings can be reborn without being demolished."

- Fast Company

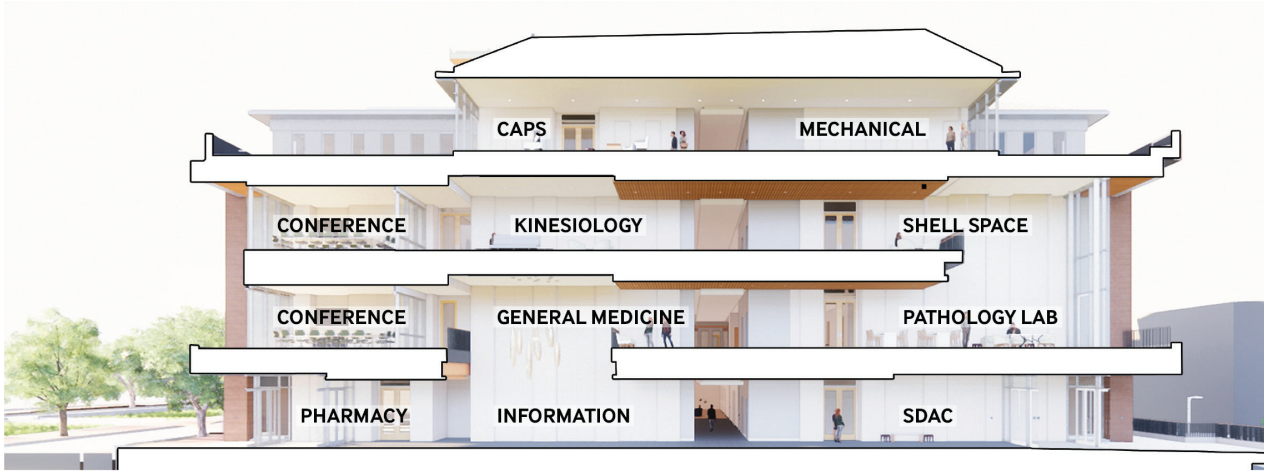
"This is a design solution that presents: a deep understanding of what makes a dynamic, student-focused residential community; a positive alignment with our guiding principles and mission; a protective sensitivity to the historic building and urban context; and an overall sense of creativity and purpose in an approach to making every component invite robust student interaction."

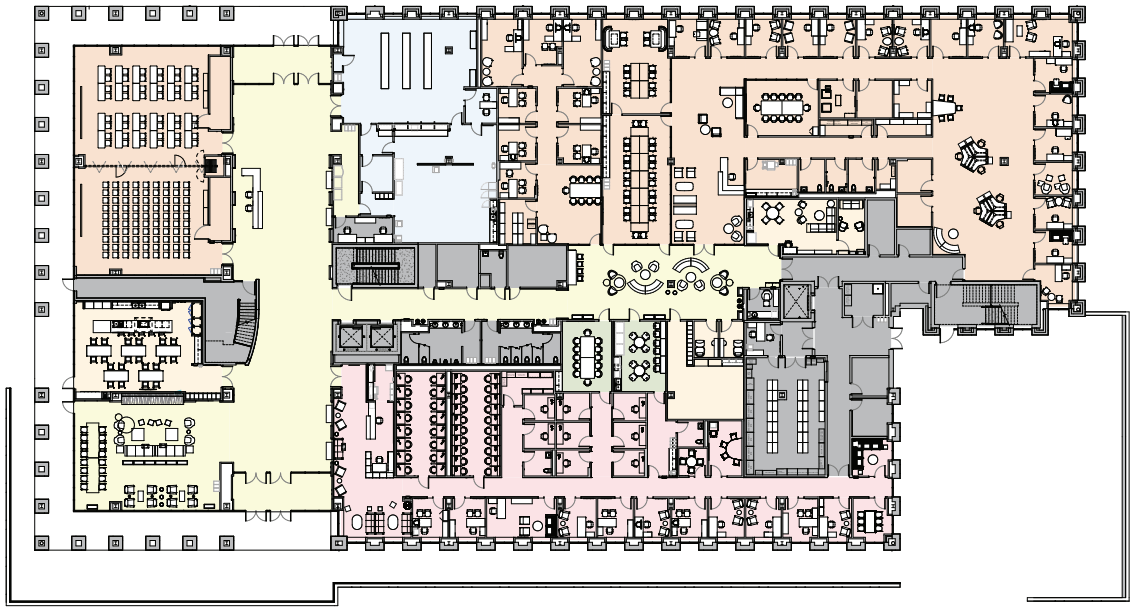
–Adam Aaronson
Assistant VP of Construction Management
The George Washington University

3.3 University of Virginia Student Health + Wellness Center

Architecture Firm of Record + Design Firm: VMDO Architects + Duda Paine
Completion: 2021
Role of Nominee: Sustainability + Wellness Lead

The Student Health and Wellness Center showcases comprehensive and innovative student health services with an expanded emphasis on wellness and preventive healthcare as the signature of the new facility. The new 240,000 sf building significantly increases Student Health's capacity to address new and expanding needs, but it also integrates student life and healthcare together by introducing students to critical aspects of social, physical, psychological, personal, and environmental wellness. The project brings together all the major campus health departments – Medical Services, Counseling & Psychological Services, Office of Health Promotion, and the Student Disability Access Center – as well as the Kinesiology Department and student wellness spaces. The design encourages a sense of community with flexible areas for social interaction and individual contemplation. Interior finishes, lighting, furnishings, and colors result in an environment more like home than traditional clinical spaces.





Challenge:

Create a new center that brings together departments in a way that promotes and empowers all aspects of student wellness: medical and mental health, accessibility services, movement, nutrition, and education.

Declaration of Responsibility: I have personal knowledge of the nominee's responsibility for the exhibit listed above. That responsibility included: Principal investigator for sustainability / wellness.

- Amy Eichenberger, AIA LEED AP
Senior Project Manager, University of Virginia

3.3 UVA Student Health + Wellness Center

A VR workshop was used to explore the student experience, allowing the team to improve wayfinding and design for inclusion. Learn more on this engagement here.

The project includes places that promote healthy behaviors, such as teaching kitchens, meditation spaces, movement studios, and contemplation gardens.

Role:

Michelle served as sustainability and wellness lead on the project. In this role, she helped establish the sustainability goals for the project, provided support and monitored results throughout the project life, and managed the project's successful LEED certification. As part of that work, she led the LEED Integrated Process for Health Promotion (IPHP) initiative, including facilitated workshops with stakeholders, university medical and wellness staff, and students, with outcomes that affected building programming, layouts, system design, and material specifications. She performed in-depth gap analysis for WELL v2 and Fitwel certifications and provided support for the project's Fitwel certification. She conducted the first whole building life cycle (embodied carbon) analysis for the University and shared the results with both the client and students through invited lectures.

Impact:

- UVA Student Health and Wellness achieved LEED v4 Gold certification and Fitwel Certification (2 Stars) – both firsts for UVA
- Post-occupancy evaluations have shown both high occupant satisfaction scores and high utilization rates in its first year of post-pandemic operation

Ripple:

- Practices introduced to the client in this project (embodied carbon analysis, the IPHP pilot credit, Fitwel certification, student engagement methodologies, materials criteria) are now being considered for future UVA projects

Awards/Publications:

- 2023 Design Award, Association of College Unions International (ACUI)
- "UVA Opens New Student Health Building, Shining Spotlight on Wellness," UVA Today, October 2021

3.4 Fashion for Good Centre

Architecture Firm of Record + Design Firm: Multiple
Completion: 2017
Role of Nominee: Project Manager

Fashion for Good was founded to 1) raise awareness and educate the public about the impacts of the current fashion industry; 2) create a platform that connects those working on sustainable innovation with brands, retailers, manufacturers, and funders to bring new ideas and technologies from niche to norm; 3) demonstrate that sustainable fashion is achievable today (and show the world how to do it).

Sustainable fashion was defined through the lens of Cradle to Cradle, a philosophical approach (and corresponding product certification) that seeks to eliminate the concept of waste by designing objects to return either to soil (i.e., compostable) or to industry for remanufacture into products at the same or higher level of quality. Foundational principles of Cradle to Cradle are safe chemistry, clean water, equity, circularity, and renewable power.

Fashion for Good consisted of three workstreams:

- An interactive museum of sustainable fashion and tech incubator
- Cradle to Cradle certification of a fast-fashion t-shirt
- Creation of a C2C Certified "How-To" Guide

Challenge:

Promote and stimulate a sustainable and responsible clothing industry, which means clothing produced with attention to the impact on people and the environment.

Role:

Michelle served as the Fashion for Good initiative project manager for McDonough Innovation, which was in charge of establishing founding principles for the initiative (the Five Goods) and providing each workstream with Cradle to Cradle content, oversight, and integration.

Impact:

- Fashion for Good has scouted over 2800 innovators, of which 165 were funded; started 219 pilots, with 184 implementation cases; and secured over 600 million Euros in capital to support sustainable fashion innovators and innovations

Ripple:

- There are 165 certificates for apparel and textiles listed in the C2C Certified Product Directory, up from 22 in 2017, and they include major retailers like C&A, H&M, Ralph Lauren, Jack and Jones, and Lee Wrangler. Many certifications are shared building blocks that enable other manufacturers to achieve C2C certification much more easily
- Read more at Fashion for Good's Five Year Progress Report

What Fashion for Good Managing Director Katrin Ley has written about fashion could just as easily apply to the construction industry:

'Today's fashion industry is caught in a vicious cycle of 'take-make-waste' — we buy 60% more clothing than we did 15 years ago yet we keep each item only half as long. Within a year of being produced, an estimated 60% of all clothing finds its way into landfills or ends up being burned. And although the fashion industry has created millions of jobs for women and men around the world, working conditions can be unsafe and wages remain low, barely covering the cost of living... To create a truly Good Fashion industry, incremental improvements are not enough — to make the change, disruptive innovation is needed.'

The Five Goods that Fashion for Good is organizing around (Good Materials, Good Economy, Good Energy, Good Water, and Good Lives) are very similar to the criteria of AIA Architecture and Design Materials Pledge, and the collaborative rethinking of the entire design value chain is precisely what needs to happen to move architecture to become a truly regenerative force. Fashion for Good charts a sustainable future not just for apparel, but for all of design and manufacturing – including architecture.

– Michelle Amt

Declaration of Responsibility: I have personal knowledge of the nominee's responsibility for the exhibit listed above. That responsibility included: Project under direction of the nominee; Nominee's firm executed project.
- Megan McGill, Senior Programme Manager Laudes Foundation (Formerly C&A Foundation), Client Representative

3.4 Fashion For Good: Museum + Technology Incubator

Architecture Firm of Record + Design Firm: Architecture: Gensler | Exhibit Designer: Local Projects | Initiative Lead: McDonough Innovation/Boston Consulting Group
Completion: 2017
Role of Nominee: Sustainability Lead

Challenge:

Transform a historic property in central Amsterdam into incubator space and interactive museum on sustainable fashion.

Role:

Michelle provided support to the Gensler team, reviewing incubator layouts and providing guidance on materials selections and substitutions. She was also part of the exhibit designer selection committee, attended project work sessions with Local Projects and provided content review as the inaugural exhibition was developed.

Impact/Ripple:

- The museum has hosted over 90,000 visitors since it opened in 2017
- 96% of museum visitors report changes in their behavior around clothing within 14 days of visiting the museum

Awards/Publications:

- "Fashion for Good Encourages Consumers to Be More Responsible About Consumption with New 'Museum' in Amsterdam," Women's Wear Daily, October 2018
- "Fashion For Good Museum in Amsterdam Promotes Responsible Fashion," Dezeen, October 2018

"Fashion for Good has ignited collaborative innovation, unlocked much-needed investment, and convened a close collective dedicated to bold and ambitious action within the fashion industry."

— Leslie Johnston, CEO, Laudes Foundation

Declaration of Responsibility: I have personal knowledge of the nominee's responsibility for the exhibit listed above. That responsibility included: Cradle to Cradle Consultant, Sustainability + Wellness Lead.

- John Tolit, RSA LEED AP Former Design Director, Gensler

3.4 Fashion for Good: T-Shirt Certification Pilot Project

Architecture Firm of Record + Design Firm: McDonough Innovation + MBDC
Completion: 2017
Role of Nominee: Initiative Project Manager

Challenge:

Demonstrate Cradle to Cradle (C2C) certification (and product circularity) is achievable in the fast fashion market. At the time, no major fashion brand had achieved C2C certification and companies were struggling to meet the rigorous criteria.

Role:

Michelle provided support to the MBDC team as they conducted their product assessment, accompanying the team on project visits to manufacturers, aligning lessons learned with both the exhibit design and the "How-To" Guide.

Impact:

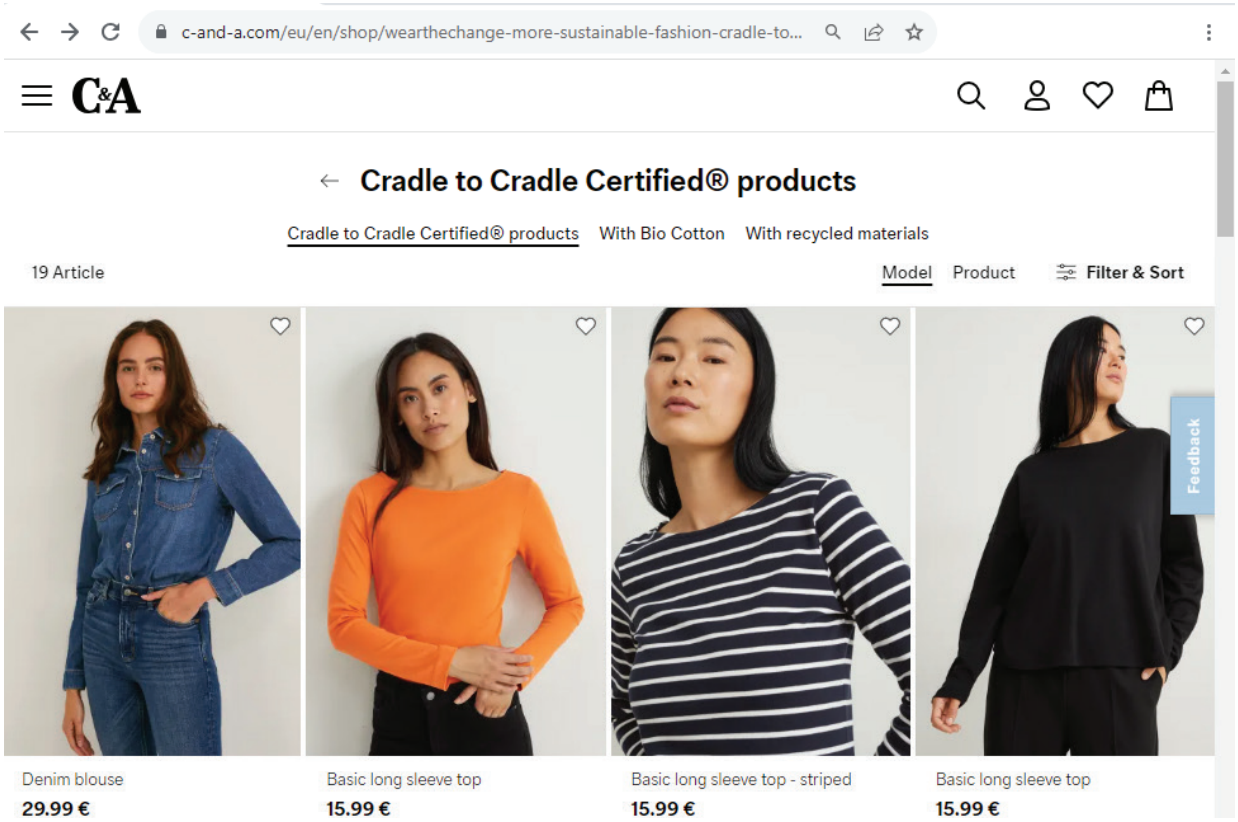
- C&A premiered the first C2C Certified collection at the Fashion for Good opening in 2017

Ripple:

- C&A has launched five additional C2C Certified collections
- Cotton Blossom and Pratibha Syntex are still producing C2C Certified products today, for a range of brands (not just C&A)

Awards/Publications:

- "How C&A created the world's first Cradle to Cradle T-shirt," Greenbiz, September 2017
- "C&A: 'This cradle-to-cradle T-shirt turns into compost in 11 weeks'," Fashion United, May 2017



"The cradle-to-cradle collection is an important milestone for us – and for the industry – and it demonstrates that the creation of circular fashion is already possible. The industry will need greater collaborative efforts related to circular economy, like Cradle to Cradle, as well as more brands who want to develop products for new use."

– Jeff Hogue, C&A Chief Sustainability Officer (former)

Declaration of Responsibility: I have personal knowledge of the nominee's responsibility for the exhibit listed above. That responsibility included: Nominee's firm executed the project.

- Howie Fendley, Former Director of Projects + Senior Chemist, MBDC

3.4 Fashion for Good: Cradle to Cradle How-To Guide

Architecture Firm of Record + Design Firm: McDonough Innovation, MBDC, Boston Consulting Group (BCG)
Completion: 2017
Role of Nominee: Initiative Project Manager / Roadmap Co-Author

Challenge:

Demonstrate to high-volume apparel manufacturers how to achieve Cradle to Cradle certification of their products.

Role:

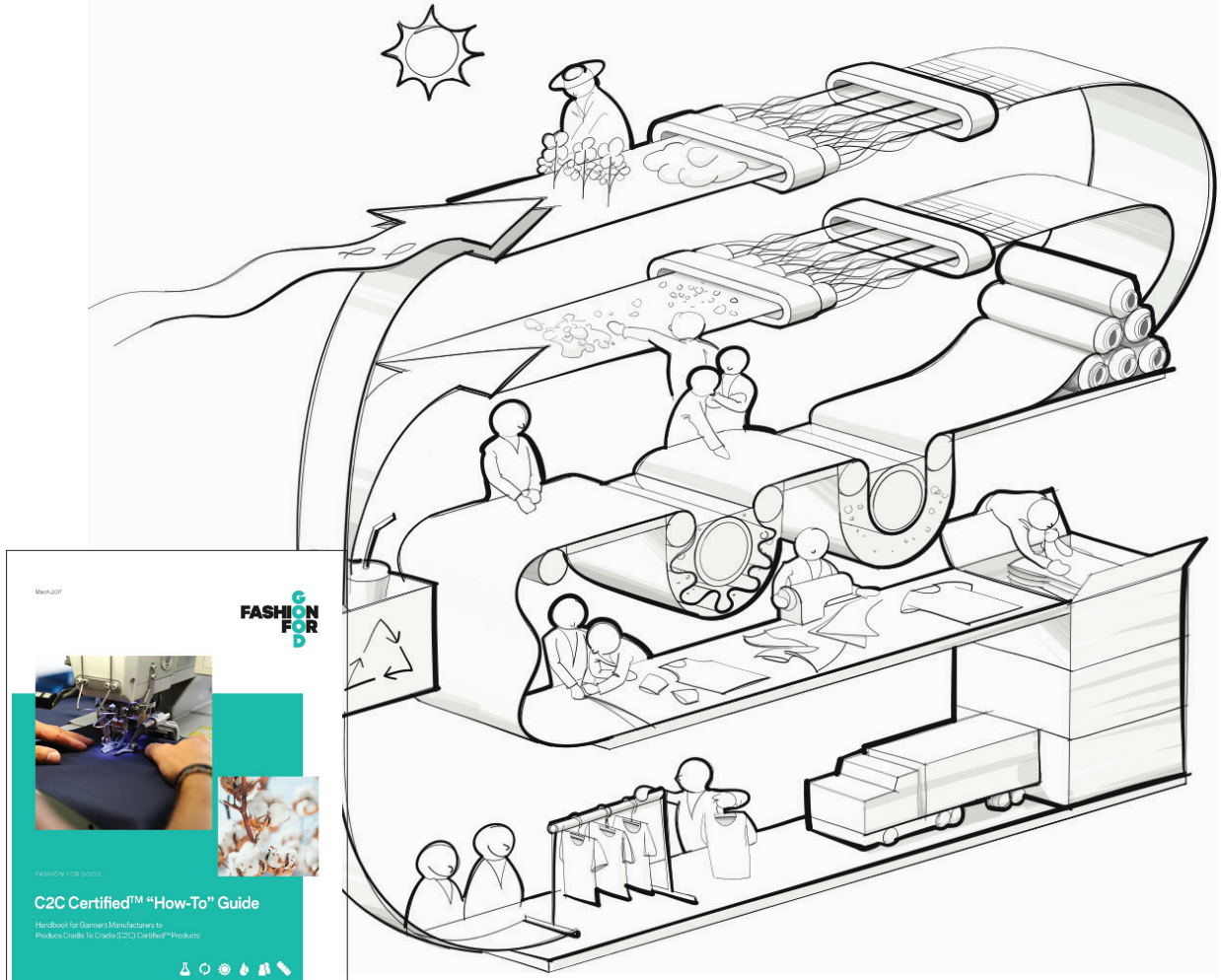
Michelle and her team worked with Boston Consulting Group to take lessons learned in the T-Shirt Certification Pilot Project, particularly around the collaboration with the two manufacturers involved (Cotton Blossom and Pratibha Syntex) and create a guide for manufacturers. The guide maps the landscape of certification programs along material health, circular economy, water quality, renewable energy, and social fairness, and provides information on considerations for manufacturers, using case studies from Pratibha Syntex and Cotton Blossom to indicate the scale of changes required and successful solutions. In addition, the guide contains reference documents such as a sample project plan, a supplier optimized Bill of Materials, and a list of C2C considerations for common materials (fibers, dyes, performance additives, and finishes).

Impact:

- The guide was the first of its kind, directed toward manufacturers and providing both tools to help them quickly conduct a gap analysis for producing C2C Certified products and resources for improving performance against C2C criteria

Ripple:

- The number of apparel-related C2C certifications has increased 750% since the program launch
- The guide has had over 9,000 unique views since it



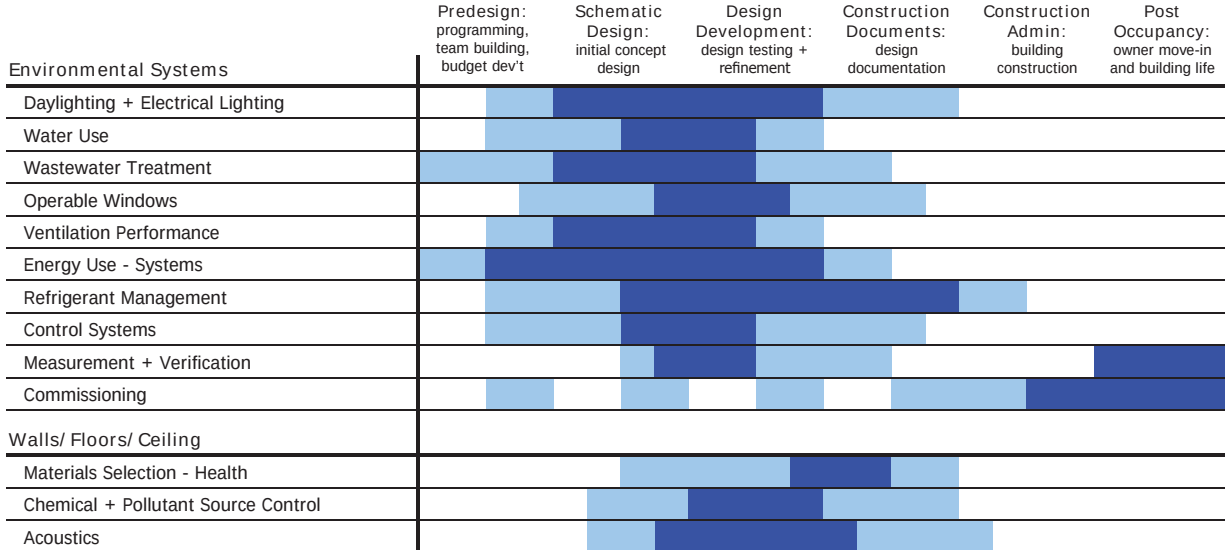
Declaration of Responsibility: I have personal knowledge of the nominee's responsibility for the exhibit listed above. That responsibility included: Project under direction of the nominee; Nominee's firm executed the project.
- Aly Khalifa, Chief Operating Officer, MBDC

3.5 Google Sustainability Guidelines

Architecture Firm of Record + Design Firm: DEGW with William McDonough + Partners (WM+P)
Completion: 2007
Role of Nominee: Project Manager / Author

In 2006, Google was opening 80,000 sf of office space a week to accommodate a burgeoning workforce. They wanted guidelines to give to their design and construction teams that would maintain the Google culture and reflect their values around sustainability—no matter if it was a ground-up new construction or a short-term fit-out.

Through work sessions, Google staff articulated the most important aspects of Google culture: innovative thinking, experimentation, intense creativity, and efficient teamwork. The guidelines were developed to support those aspects, through the lenses of workplace performance, led by DEGW, and sustainability, led by William McDonough + Partners.



A decision timeline showed where the windows of impact occurred along a typical project timeline, and linked to sections that described in more detail applications based on building size, type, and lease duration.

Challenge:

Synthesize US and international green building standards, chart the territory beyond best practices, and make it all simple, legible, and actionable across project scope, location, typology, and ownership structure.

Role:

As the WM+P project manager, Michelle reviewed building science research, facilitated workshops with Google stakeholders, and collaborated with DEGW and specialized consultants on the structure and content of the final sustainability guidelines, which she then authored. Sustainability was integrated into everything from performance principles to criteria for building selection, layout, and design for flexibility. Content included alignment with USGBC certification programs, systems selection, materials selection, controls, daylighting and electrical lighting, acoustics, water harvesting and reuse, building enclosures, mobility, stormwater management, landscape and habitat, and energy production. The guidelines were designed to be accessible to a range of users, with quick reference charts for HVAC system and renewables selections; entries arranged by issue, building type, design scale, and ownership; and guidance on whether a particular approach or strategy was globally applicable, regionally applicable, or under pilot.

Impact:

- The guidelines informed Google's Real Estate and Workplace Services (REWS) development from 2007-2012, when Google's workforce grew from a little over 10,000 employees to over 53,000 employees

Ripple:

- The guidelines actively influenced approximately 8 million square feet of construction and were used by hundreds of design and construction teams

Declaration of Responsibility: I have personal knowledge of the nominee's responsibility for the exhibit listed above. That responsibility included: Project under direction of the nominee; Largely responsible for the design.
- Mary Davidge, Director, Global Design, Real Estate and Workplace Services (retired), Google

3.5 Google Sustainability Guidelines

"I first began working with Michelle over 15 years ago and I have been continually impressed by her long term contribution to the profession of architecture, in particular innovative solutions for high quality design incorporating human health, climate resiliemce and the circular economy. All areas in need of strong, steady leadership in the profession today.

Michelle has a unique skillset combining technical expertise, collaboration, innovation and long term vision. She has been successful in leading large complex projects, and she has a deep understanding of the needs of her clients. I was the client representative as Michelle managed the development of the first set of design guidelines for a rapidly growing technology company. This was a complex project that required Michelle to work closely with a variety of stakeholders, including executive leadership, end users, architects, engineers and specialty consultants. She was brilliant in bringing people together who had very diverse perspectives and synthesizing the needs and recommendations into work that went far beyond our expectations. The result of this work was extraordinary and upon completion, successfully provided guidance to [Google's] architecture and design for many years.

I believe that Michelle exemplifies the qualities of an AIA Fellow and I do not hesitate to recommend her for this honor. "

Mary Davidge, LEED AP BD+C, LEED Fellow, ILFI Living Future Hero
(Retired) Director of Global Design, Google Real Estate & Workplace Services

		Natural Ventilation	Mechanical Ventilation	Comfort Cooling	Mixed Mode	Side Wall Displacement	Floor Supply Displacement	Floor Supply Air Conditioning	Passive Chilled Beams	Chilled Ceiling
BUILDING FORM	The building is existing	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	There is limited riser/ shaft capacity	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	The building has a narrow plan (<50' or 15m)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	The building will have exposed thermal mass	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	There are large floor to ceiling heights (<10' or 3m)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	There is a floor void (18" or 450mm)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

The resources contained guidance for system selection based on project characteristics, such as program, envelope, privacy, existing building conditions, budget, and maintenance.

The document's general organization is by topic: big-picture intentions, strategies to meet these intentions broken down by short-term lease/long-term lease/new construction, which were color-coded to indicate whether it was globally/regionally applicable or if it was currently being piloted. Additional resources such as material assessments and LEED cross-walks were also provided.

3.6 Climate Action Leadership

Architecture Firm of Record + Design Firm: VMDO Architects, PC.
Completion: On-Going
Role of Nominee: 2030 Reporting Manager, Director of Sustainability

Challenge:

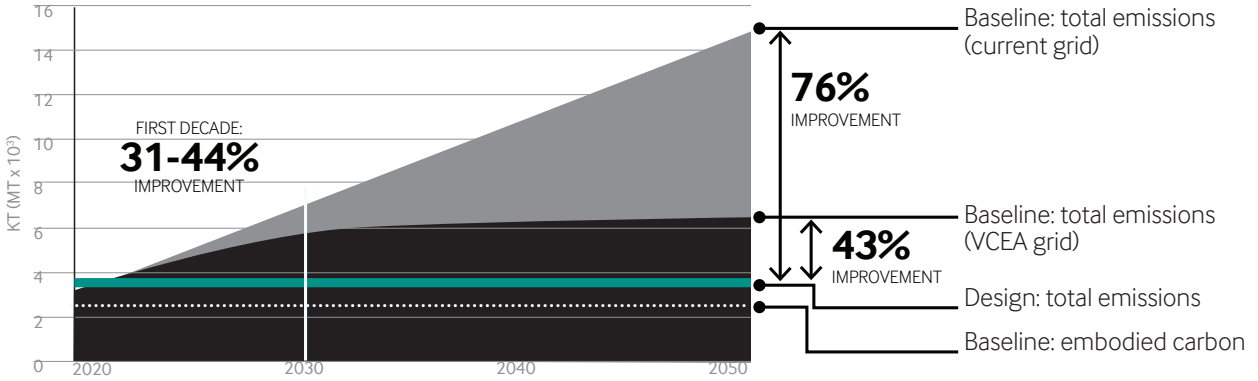
Embedding climate action within a firm of 80 people, across two offices and three practice areas, in a systemic and holistic way.

Role:

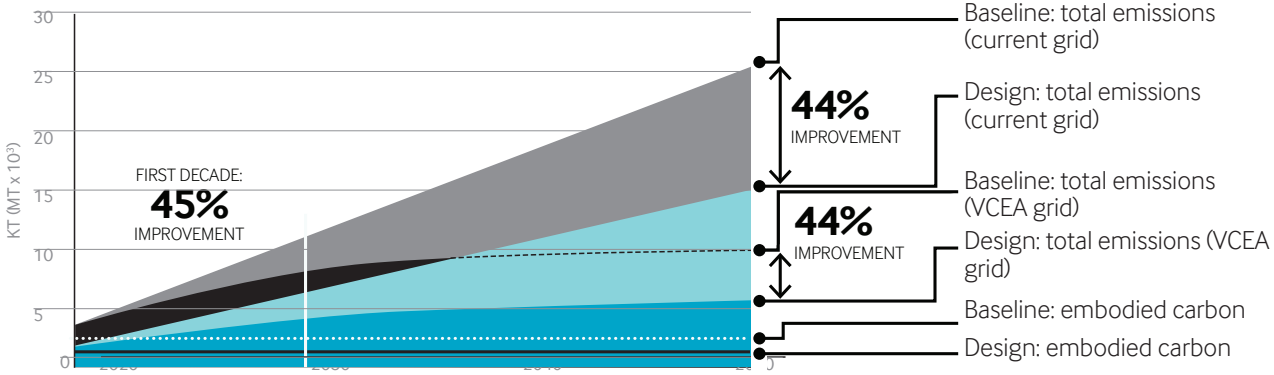
Michelle has led the charge on implementing the AIA 2030 Commitment at VMDO, from drafting VMDO's first Sustainability Action Plan (2017) to completing the firm's annual reporting for the past six cycles. Portfolio-wide analysis from the first two years of 2030 reporting revealed that residence life projects were under-performing, so Michelle developed and led initiatives specifically focused on this typology, including a Passive House gap-analysis of a recently completed residence hall. She has taken best practices around systems and detailing on VMDO's zero-energy projects and brought them into projects firm wide. Her work has led to better project energy performance and greater awareness of how to achieve high-performance outcomes across the firm.

Michelle also leads the firm's investigations into measuring and reducing the embodied carbon of their projects. In addition to performing whole-building life cycle analysis for project teams, she has led research into VMDO's common zero-energy assemblies and educated clients on low-carbon approaches to their projects and building standards. VMDO integrated embodied carbon into their reporting for the 2030 Commitment in 2021.

CARBON EMISSIONS: LUBBER RUN

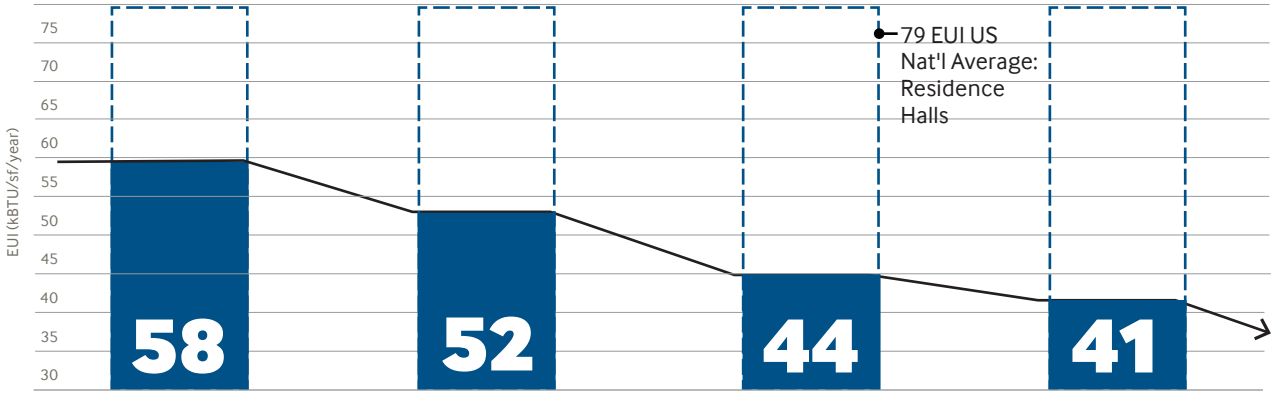


CARBON EMISSIONS: UR WELL-BEING



Each year, VMDO selects three projects to include in Ethos, their internal publication focused on fostering design dialogue. To raise awareness and expand discussion to include local and global impacts, Michelle assesses projects using the AIA Framework for Design Excellence. In this graphic, she shows how with a greening electrical grid, Lubber Run, a new zero-energy community center, has roughly the same 30-year climate impact as a code-compliant renovation because of its high embodied carbon.

3.6 Climate Action Leadership



Glenn + Towers (2015)
Georgia Tech

Renovation + Addition
4-Pipe Fan Coil | Central Plant

Thurston Hall (2022)
George Washington U

Renovation + Addition
WSHP | Existing Boiler Reuse

Centennial Village (2025)
University of Miami

New Construction
WSHP | Central Plant

West Woods (2025)
College of William & Mary

New Construction
GSHP | Central Plant

As a direct result of the 2030 Commitment reporting, a robust focus on residence hall performance within the VMDO portfolio has led to a significant drop in energy use intensity (EUI), regardless of whether it is renovation or new construction, connected to a central plant, reusing existing equipment, or including dining.

Knowledge Management. Enabling teams to perform their best requires them to understand the goals and the context, to learn from each other, and to have access to the right tools at the right time. At VMDO Michelle has built an infrastructure for sharing tools and resources, including a lunchtime "Sustainability 101" lecture series, a monthly newsletter that summarizes current events in both the AEC and larger sustainability world, and a firm wide intranet.

She has facilitated groups around performance topics like building detailing and credentialing and developed tools to help teams perform quick daylight, carbon, and zero-energy analysis. She chairs the firm wide Sustainable Design Advocacy where teams share best practices across studios and typologies and identify projects that need further support around building performance and sustainability.

Impact:

- VMDO is a 6 year reporter to 2030 Commitment and reports 100% of its portfolio.
- Percentage of gross square footage with energy models has gone from 28% in 2018 to 95% in 2022
- Average lighting power density (LPD) reduction has gone from 25% in 2018 to 70% in 2022
- 78% of gross square footage reported in 2022 had embodied carbon results
- VMDO average residence hall EUI reduction has gone from 26% in 2018 to 47% (before renewables) in 2022

Ripple:

- Michelle has shared lessons learned publicly through national and local presentations and articles. She is a regular participant in discussions around driving climate action through practice in the Sustainable Design Leaders network

Awards + Publications:

- Upcoming Presentations
  - ArchEx (AIA Virginia) November 1-3, 2023
  - AIA Middle Tennessee | Sept 7, 2023
- 2023 AIA Conference on Architecture (A'23) "Radical Transparency: One Firm's Journey with the 2030 Commitment" San Francisco, CA, June 8, 2023
- "Radical Transparency: Our Commitment to 2030," VMDO Website, April 2023. Republished, COTE Newsletter, March/April 2023
- Lasting Changemaker Award (VMDO Architects), Community Climate Collaborative, 2019

Declaration of Responsibility: I have personal knowledge of the nominee's responsibility for the exhibit listed above. That responsibility included: Project under direction of the nominee.

- Terry Forbes, AIA Managing Principal, VMDO Architects

3.7 Sustainability + Specifications

Architecture Firm of Record + Design Firm: VMDO Architects, PC.
Completion: On-Going
Role of Nominee: Database Leader, Director of Sustainability

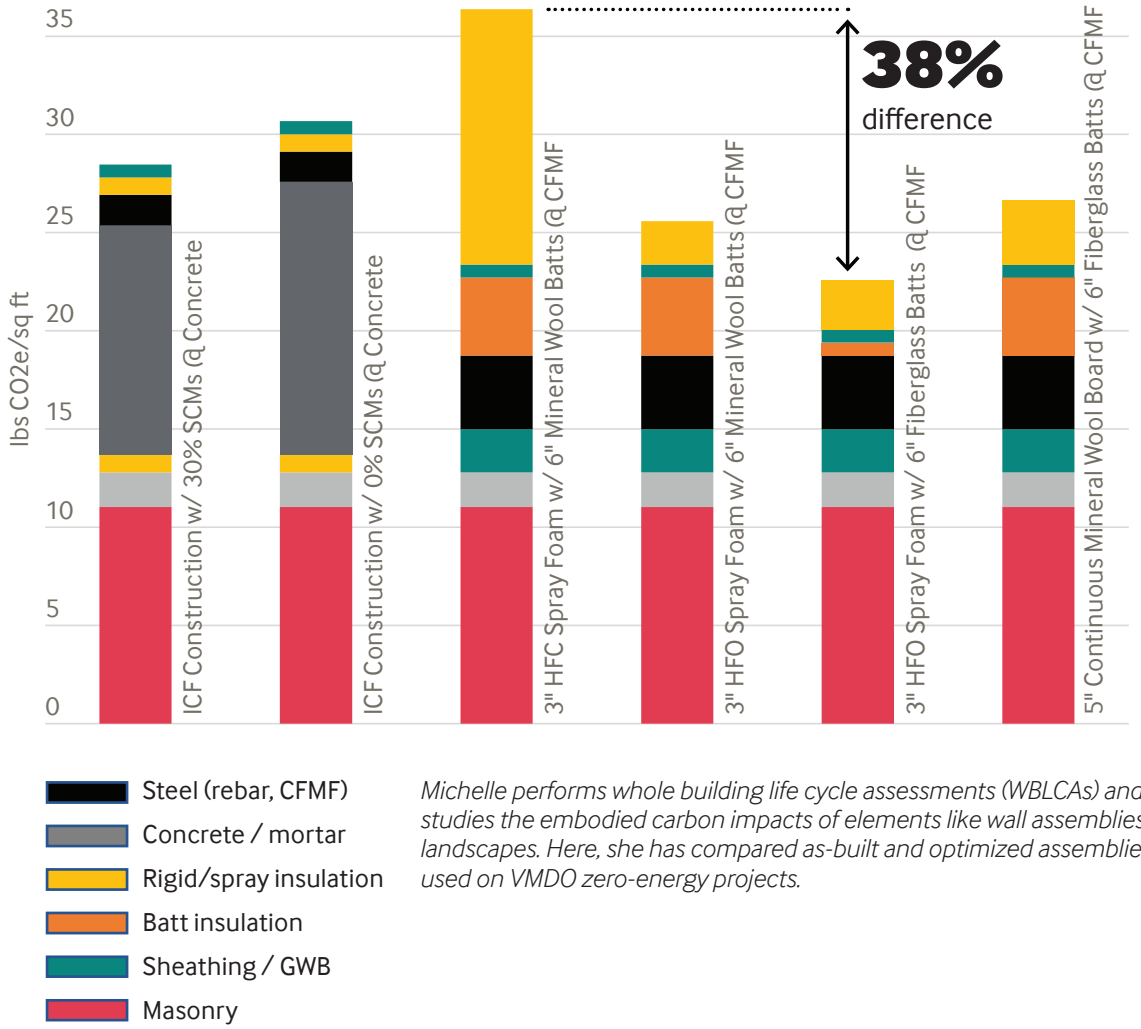
Challenge:

Reducing the amount of duplicative research on building products/materials while simultaneously raising the bar across all projects on material chemistry, supply chain transparency, environmental impact, and indoor environmental quality.

Role:

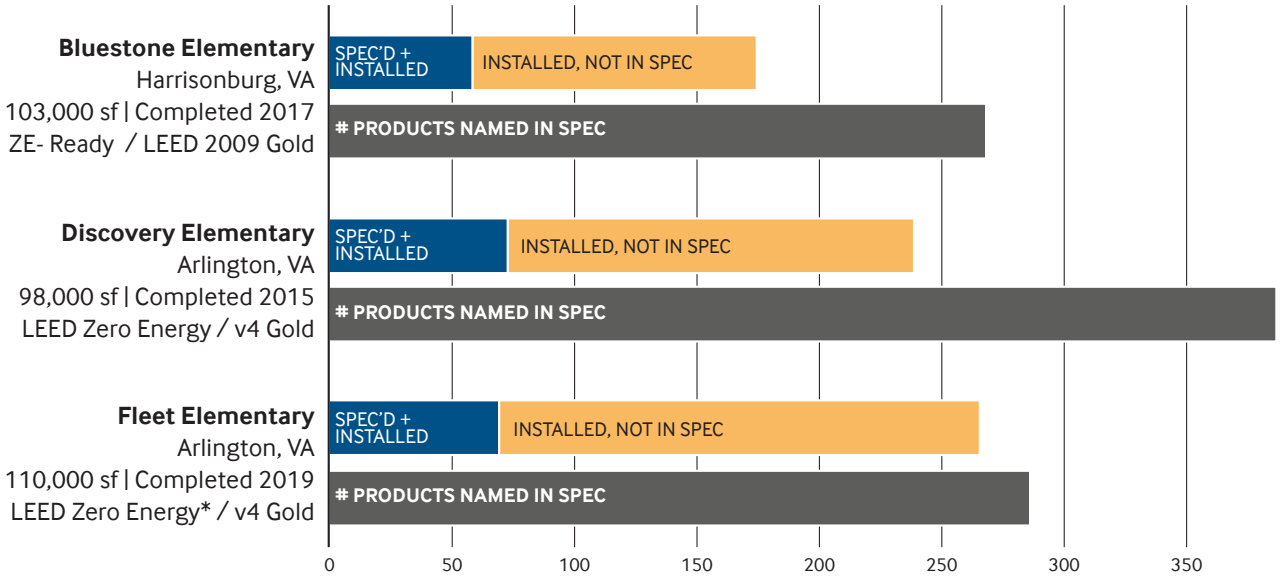
Michelle's career has been grounded in the search for safe and healthy materials. At William McDonough + Partners, she developed a firm wide precursor to the Health Product Declaration—the Materials Screening Tool—which asked manufacturers for information related to product chemistry, recyclability, carbon and water footprint, and social impacts. Her interest in material toxicity and recyclability, the cornerstones of Cradle to Cradle, led her to advocate for VMDO signing on to the A+D Materials Pledge in 2019, and to revamp the VMDO Materials Library and specifications protocol around Pledge criteria for human health, social health and equity, ecosystem health, climate health, and circular economy.

To facilitate better material selections and identify where VMDO's process was delivering less sustainable results, Michelle developed a firm wide database that compiles sustainability info on all products researched and/or specified on VMDO projects. On a project basis, materials are tracked by how they were specified (Basis of Design/ list of acceptable products/not specified), if they were installed, if they brought with them accessory products not in the specification, and whether they met LEED and Red List criteria.



Michelle performs whole building life cycle assessments (WBLCAs) and studies the embodied carbon impacts of elements like wall assemblies and landscapes. Here, she has compared as-built and optimized assemblies used on VMDO zero-energy projects.

3.7 Sustainability + Specifications



The VMDO Materials Database, led by Michelle, has allowed VMDO to learn about the gaps between what is specified and what is installed in their projects and how to achieve better sustainability outcomes. The above graph compares specifications to submittals of three zero energy public schools in the same region, with a similar materials palette.

By analyzing the data, Michelle was able to identify that the Basis of Design approach was delivering the best results, both in terms of intent and in terms of material chemistry and recyclability. The result of this work has been continual improvements in VMDO's basis of design materials and greater rigor in submittal reviews, while at the same time reducing firm wide the amount of time spent researching materials.

Michelle participated in the WELL Concept Advisories for Movement (2018-2019) and Materials (2018-2022), groups which work on the quarterly updates to the WELL Building Standard. The focus of her work there was to incorporate the latest information around health and the built environment; to align the program with other standards and labels already in use (such as RESET, LEED, Cradle to Cradle); and to reduce the unnecessary burden on manufacturers and design teams while raising standards around material health and occupant wellness.

Impact:

- An analysis of three projects (same typology/ performance, same project teams, same region) showed a 53% increase in products meeting VOC criteria, 34% more products with ingredient disclosure, and 18% more products with Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) once the new protocol was implemented
- Since this specifications revamp in 2019, all VMDO projects pursuing LEED have achieved exemplary performance in BPDO credits for Material Ingredients and Environmental Product Declarations, as well as at least two points for low-emitting materials
- Projects not pursuing LEED are using the same specifications review protocols which has raised the bar across the VMDO portfolio

Ripple:

- Michelle has shared VMDO's approach to specifications and materials vetting in presentations, inspiring other firms to do the same
- Michelle shared the challenges of implementation around materials specifications with the WELL Materials Concept Advisory, influencing the standard and IWBI's dialogues with manufacturers

Awards + Publications:

- "Tracking Tools for One and All," Living Product Expo (Nashville, TN), Oct 9 2019

Declaration of Responsibility: I have personal knowledge of the nominee's responsibility for the exhibit listed above. That responsibility included: Project under direction of the nominee.

- Terry Forbes, AIA Managing Principal, VMDO Architects

"As a change agent and difference-maker, Michelle's fingerprint can be found on a variety of industry initiatives—a few of which I have been fortunate to collaborate with her on, including serving together on the WELL Materials Concept Advisory. Michelle consistently brings both expertise and wit to the table, resulting not only in high quality outcomes but also ones that are enjoyable to achieve as a group."

— John Mlade, LFA, WELL AP, LEED Fellow
Director, Sustainability & Healthy Environments
Wight & Company

3.8 Transforming Practice: Post-Occupancy Evaluations

Architecture Firm of Record + Design Firm: VMDO Architects, PC.
Completion: On-Going
Role of Nominee: Research Lead

Challenge:

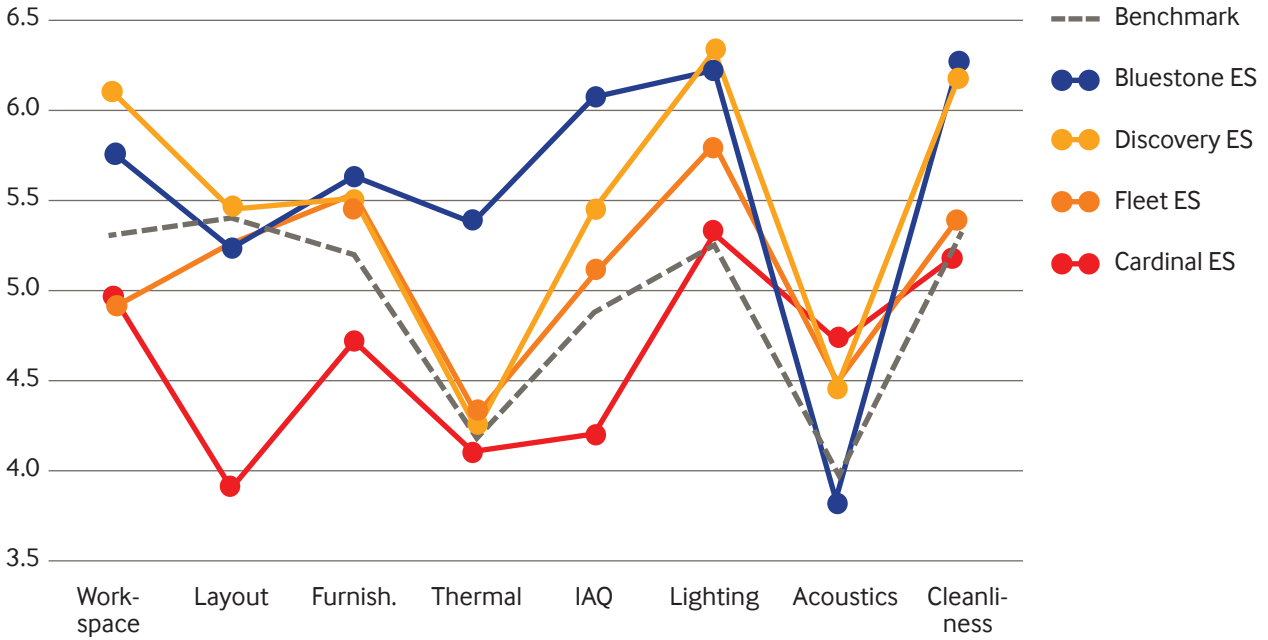
Developing a systemic approach—across building typologies—to understanding how buildings are performing once they open, and gathering those lessons learned to inform designs currently on the boards.

Role:

Michelle has led pre- and post-occupancy evaluations at VMDO since 2018. Measured energy and water data is compared against monthly modeled results to ensure the building is performing as intended; interviews with key stakeholders provide a fuller picture of how the project is achieving (or not achieving) the goals set out for the project. Occupant surveys, regularized through collaboration with the Center for the Built Environment at UC Berkeley, gather data from users on everything from thermal and visual comfort to safety, maintenance, acoustics, and lighting.

Michelle led the development of a custom VMDO module that asks questions around the firm's priorities, such as raising sustainability awareness, building community and connection amongst occupants, providing community assets, and supporting mental and physical health. K12 surveys includes questions on how educators spend their time, developed in collaboration with researchers at the University of Virginia's YouthNext program, to try to capture how design can affect how educators teach.

The VMDO module also specifically addresses inclusion, access, and safety for marginalized groups. According to UC Berkeley researchers, this was the first time they knew of a firm that was incorporating feedback on inclusion and belonging as part of their post-occupancy process. Survey results are reviewed with the full project team (including consultants), follow-up measures identified, and then presented back to the client and users. Lessons learned from these discussions are used to inform current work.



Comparing POE survey results across project typologies allows VMDO to identify where users need more support or have useful feedback on ways to improve the designs moving forward.

Impact:

- Since 2019, the protocol has been deployed on 18 projects with over 1,500 respondents participating.

Ripple:

- VMDO's custom module has been freely shared with other firms through the Sustainable Design Leaders Network and is now being offered to other CBE survey users

Awards + Publications:

- VMDO has received two Livable Buildings Awards—given annually to one project that best exemplifies design, performance, and occupant satisfaction—for Discovery Elementary School (2021) and Bluestone Elementary School (2019)

Declaration of Responsibility: I have personal knowledge of the nominee's responsibility for the exhibit listed above. That responsibility included: Project under direction of the nominee.

- Terry Forbes, AIA Managing Principal, VMDO Architects

3.9 JEDI Advocacy

Architecture Firm of Record + Design Firm: VMDO Architects, PC.
Completion: On-Going
Role of Nominee: Director of Inclusion

Challenge:

Integrating equity, diversity, inclusion, and justice considerations within an 80-person practice and its projects, and helping other firms do the same.

Role:

Michelle joined VMDO on September 6, 2017—two weeks after the deadly white nationalist rally that turned Charlottesville into a household name and brought justice, equity, diversity and inclusion (JEDI) to VMDO's literal doorstep. Michelle has led the continual evolution of the firm's operations and projects towards greater inclusion and equity, directing VMDO's Equity Advocacy and eventually becoming the Director of Inclusion at VMDO in 2020. She has openly shared VMDO's approach, successes, and challenges through public speaking and professional collaborations.

SDL JEDI Resource. Michelle led the Sustainable Design Leaders membership to create a resource for firms who wanted to incorporate equity initiatives in their practice. A complement to the AIA Guides for Equitable Practice, the resource included a curated list of educational materials and activities, a synopsis of how other firms were organizing their JEDI initiatives (scope, management, frequency, targets), things to look for when hiring a DEI consultant, and a list of common roadblocks to implementation with solutions.

Impact /Ripple: the resource was shared with the entire SDL Network, representing over 275 architecture, engineering, and construction firms.

JUST Label. Michelle proposed the JUST label as one of her first initiatives when joining VMDO to organize and improve firm operations through a social justice lens. VMDO was the first firm in Virginia, and only the third in the Mid-Atlantic, to achieve the label in 2019, and the firm renewed under JUST v2 in 2022. Participating in the program revealed previously unknown issues in the firm, particularly around gender pay equity and living wage, and Michelle led initiatives to improve operations which led to higher scores (and greater firm wide equity) in the firm's recent renewal. Participation also means transparency: in addition to scores in different categories, the firm's policies and high-level statistics are publicly accessible on the JUST organizations website.

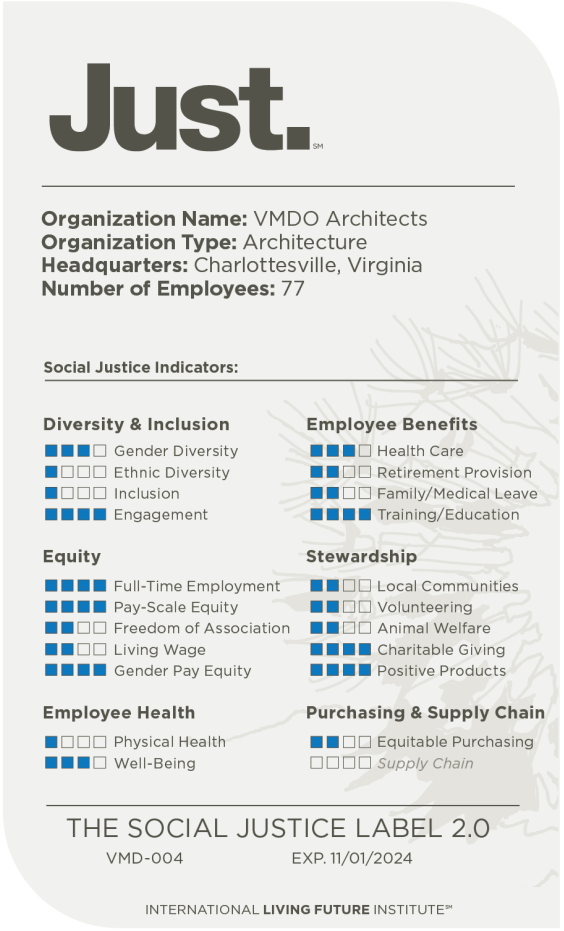
Impact/Ripple: Michelle has shared VMDO's experience with JUST in local and national presentations and through articles. In its most recent renewal, the firm saw improvements in the areas of living wage, gender pay equity, engagement, well-being, retirement, and training/education.

Firmwide Education. In the months after the murder of George Floyd, VMDO staff organized into small groups focused on how to better advocate for JEDI within the firm's operations, project work, and advocacy. A uniting theme across all groups was the need for more education around JEDI. Michelle led equity education efforts across the firm, which took three forms:

- Michelle developed an invited lecture series where leading JEDI advocates in the Charlottesville community were paid to present their work to the office.

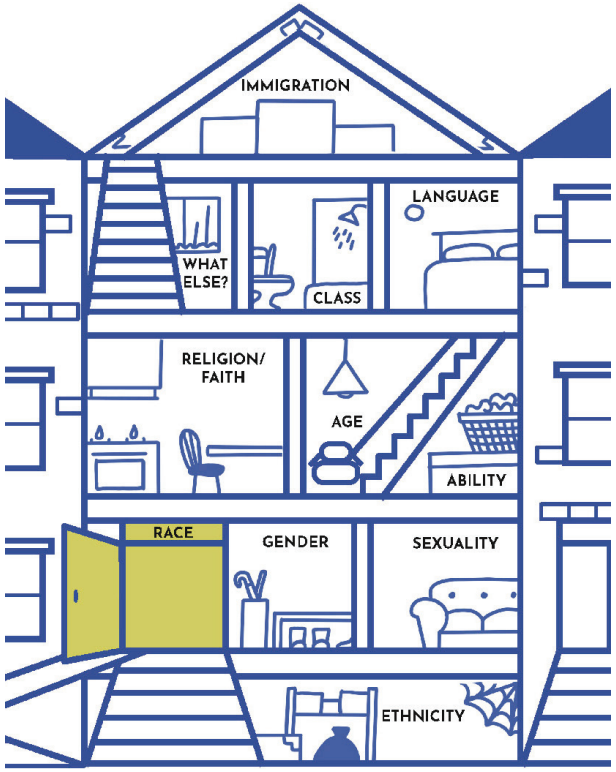
Declaration of Responsibility: I have personal knowledge of the nominee's responsibility for the exhibit listed here. That responsibility included: Project under direction of the nominee.

- Terry Forbes, AIA Managing Principal, VMDO Architects



Michelle has led VMDO's efforts to achieve the JUST label. At the time of its initial award, VMDO was the first in Virginia and only the third architecture firm in the mid-Atlantic to achieve the label.

3.9 JEDI Advocacy



Firm-wide training sessions by Team Dynamics focused on the different components that make up each person's identity, using the diagram above which they refer to as "our embodied identity house."

- Michelle engaged an outside consultant (Team Dynamics) to administer the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) survey and provide a series of four 2-hour firm wide training sessions around identity and inclusion. Firmwide survey results were analyzed, and leaders were coached to develop individual plans for improving their intercultural competency. In 2023, VMDO had a second set of trainings focused on intercultural conflict.
- VMDO Equity Lunches are informal gatherings where staff can learn and ask questions about topics like redlining, privilege, accessibility, and intersectionality. Michelle shared with the office her personal experiences navigating the world as a cisgender lesbian in the "Gender Identity and Sexuality" session.

Impact /Ripple: In all, over 70% of the total staff particpated in the initial IDI training sessions. All leadership in the firm (shareholders, directors and senior associates) received intercultural training and individual assessments/ improvement plans.

Hiring + Pipeline. The JUST label highlighted the lack of diversity within VMDO, which is a challenge of both the profession and of the office's location in Central Virginia. Michelle helped refine VMDO's hiring process through an equity lens. This included coming up with separate rubrics for reviewing resumes and portfolios, specialized job descriptions, and standardized interview questions. In addition, the firm disrupted its historic patterns for recruitment (friends of friends, alma maters) and started actively recruiting with an eye to underrepresented groups and institutions. Understanding the profession has a pipeline problem, Michelle led the charge to establish annual scholarships at local HBCUs Hampton University and the University of the District of Columbia, which are used at the discretion of the faculty for second- and third-year undergraduates to keep them in the field of architecture.

Impact/Ripple: To date, over $20,000 has been used across the two institutions to provide emergency support and travel funding to eight promising undergraduates.

Awards + Publications:

In addition to serving as resource for other firms, Michelle has presented VMDO's JEDI journey in articles and in public presentations.

- "Integrating JEDI into Practice," USGBC / Ball State University, February 2, 2022. Virtual, 25 attendees
- "Design for Equity," Center for Green Schools Conference, February 18, 2021. Virtual, 30 attendees
- "JUST: A Journey of Discovery and a Story of Hope," Living Future Unconference, June 18 2020. Virtual, 100 attendees
- "JUSTice for All," Architecture Exchange East (Richmond) November 8, 2019. In-person, 40 attendees
- "Evolving a JUST perspective," VMDO website, August 2019

"Michelle is a nationally-recognized leader in sustainability and equity-driven design. It has been a privilege to know and learn from Michelle, who has elevated VMDO's practice to be a more human-centered, ethical one. Her dedication and commitment to positive progress for the profession and industry is exemplary. "

– Jenine Kotob, AIA
Director, Program Development + Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Strategies
The American Institute of Architects (AIA)

3.10 National Advocacy

Architecture Firm of Record + Design Firm: N/A
Completion: Ongoing
Role of Nominee: Advocate

Declaration of Responsibility: I have personal knowledge of the nominee's responsibility for the exhibit listed below. That responsibility included: Project under direction of the nominee.

- Terry Forbes, AIA Managing Principal, VMDO Architects

Michelle is a leading voice in advocating for climate action, resilience, health, and equity at all scales.

AIA Committee on the Environment (National)

Michelle joined the AIA COTE Leadership Group in 2022 after serving as jury chair for the 2021 AIA COTE Top Ten Award. She is the 2024 Chair-Elect, which means she'll serve an additional year on the committee, cycling off in 2025.

She has served on committees revising the Design for Resources section of the *Framework for Design Excellence* and revising the AIA Policy Statements.

Impact/Ripple:

- Both of these resources are widely used by AIA staff and members to define best practices and to advocate for better outcomes, both within projects and across practice
- In her role as Chair-Elect, she mapped the COTE Strategic Plan along the AIA's Theory of Change framework. That work is now informing the Board-level AIA Committee on Climate Action and Design Excellence (CCADE)'s Theory of Change, which will be used to guide their Strategic Plan

The focus of her work for the COTE Leadership Group has been revamping the AIA COTE Top Ten Awards program to align it more closely with the *Framework for Design Excellence* and other AIA programs such as the A+D Materials Pledge and the 2030 Commitment—all through the lens of making it easier for firms to submit and for jurors to review.

Impact/Ripple:

- Michelle re-integrated the Super Spreadsheet into the program and expanded its metrics in support of the *Framework for Design Excellence,* allowing for better data quality in the awards program and providing all projects with appropriate metrics for measuring sustainability
- Through streamlining and alignment with other AIA programs, Michelle reduced the amount of data inputs to the awards platform by 65% and COTE-specific text by 50%

AIA 2030 Commitment

Michelle has openly encouraged other firms to join the AIA 2030 Commitment, using VMDO as a model mid-sized regional firm. She starred in the AIA video *Why should my firm join the 2030 Commitment?* and speaks regularly on the importance and value of the program. In April 2023, VMDO became one of the few firms to provide complete transparency on the energy performance of their portfolio, including listing projected and measured energy use intensities and clearly defined baselines against which those projects are measured. In addition, Michelle shared an analysis of VMDO's six years of reporting and lessons learned in "Radical Transparency: Our Commitment to 2030".

Impact/Ripple:

- As of June 2023, website statistics show that over 800 people have read the entire blog and the LinkedIn post has received over 5,600 unique impressions. Michelle presented this content at the 2023 AIA National Conference in San Francisco

Sustainable Design Leaders (SDL) Network

Michelle has been an active participant in this group since 2018, sharing best practices and working with the members to raise performance across all firms, not just hers.

Impact/Ripple:

- In addition to the JEDI resource mentioned previously, Michelle has presented on challenges/opportunities with embodied carbon modeling, the process of obtaining the JUST label (and what's next), and on the updates to the AIA COTE Top Ten Awards

"The AIA's 2030 Commitment Working Group tracks our profession's progress towards achieving a carbon neutral built environment. Michelle Amt's *Radical Transparency: Our Commitment to 2030* was a transformative moment towards these efforts, as it dispelled myths and simultaneously invited other firms to share their efforts, going into great detail, breaking down by building type and explaining why their firm is falling short. The article inspires shared learning, and invites others to be transparent about their successes and limitations. Michelle's leadership, promoting a Way of Absolute Candor and inspiring collaboration not only between firms but also between AIA Knowledge Communities has our utmost respect and gratitude."

– David Arkin, AIA
AIA 2030 Commitment Working Group co-Chair 2023 - 2024