

Stephanie Leedom, AIA
Candidate for 2026–2028 At-large Director

Stephanie Leedom is a Division Chief for the Overseas Buildings Operations (OBO), Office of Project Development and Coordination at the U.S. Department of State in the Western Hemisphere. In this role, she oversees a team of architects and a portfolio of projects across Latin America and the Caribbean. Stephanie began her career at OBO in 2016, managing new Embassy design projects in Honduras, Mexico, Malawi, and Namibia. For her successful management of these projects, she received the OBO Project Manager of the Year award in 2019.

With over 25 years' experience in planning and design, Stephanie's professional experience includes serving as Director of Planning & Development for the Fairfax County Park Authority; Supervisory Architect and Regional Workplace Executive at the General Services Administration (GSA) in Washington, D.C.; and private sector urban design experience at Zimmer Gunsul Frasca Partnership in Los Angeles and as an architectural designer at DeStefano + Partners in Chicago, where she started her professional career. One of her most profound professional experiences was serving as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Honduras, working with local municipalities to design and build community infrastructure projects including parks, rec centers, and housing while creating transparency in governing processes. It was there she learned the values of resourcefulness and resilience, which are two of her tenets for success in project management and in life.

Stephanie is a licensed architect in the Commonwealth of Virginia. She holds a Bachelor of Architecture degree from Virginia Tech as well as a Master of Urban Design from the University of Michigan. Stephanie is serving as an at-large councilor on the AIA Strategic Council (2024-2026) and has been co-chair of both Equity (2024) and Connected Communities (2025) study groups in her first two years on the council. Stephanie is fluent in Spanish and enjoys putting that to practice in her work throughout Latin America. In addition to her career, she enjoys time with her husband, three children, and their spoiled rescue pit bull Jessie. When she needs time to recharge you will find Stephanie running local trails, watching baseball, reading, or baking for her family and friends.

Jeff Pastva, FAIA

Candidate for 2026–2028 At-large Director

Our profession is beset by threats and challenges, from the stubborn decline in billings to the impending talent gap and AI encroachment that will make practice even harder. As problem solvers, we naturally want to try to solve them all. However, if we want to grow our influence with policymakers and the broader public we need to insert ourselves into issues that affect the lives of our fellow citizens.

One success story is climate action, an urgent matter the AIA has pledged significant resources to. AIA members and leadership are speaking with one voice at all levels and leading the conversation. There is, however, an issue just as critical, where I have seen us sidelined in the national conversation and largely cut out from local working groups: the housing crisis. Despite the clear intersection between housing and our profession, we are not regularly at the table and not doing enough to be there. This is an area where the AIA can lead at the local, state, and national level on an issue that affects everyone. My expertise and knowledge can be the driving force behind it.

Just as with climate action, the need has never been greater to solve this pressing issue. As architects, we have the creativity, know-how, and problem-solving skills to lead the country out of this. In my almost 20 years of practice, I have been deeply involved in this issue in the triumvirate of practice, policy and publication. That includes designing over 1500 units of affordable housing, establishing the AIA Pennsylvania Statewide housing committee and dedicating magazine volumes to it. I also develop housing at all income levels and have brought a mix of 500 units online in the past 4 years. Through the latter, I have worked with land banks, municipalities, and policymakers to give them ideas and have successfully worked through projects that make sense for all stakeholders. I know this issue. Pivoting to a new topic takes dedication and I am in the position to do just that.

Once we re-establish ourselves as an authority on a pressing issue like housing, we can go back to solving other problems. For now, my vision is to stay focused, prove that the AIA should have a permanent seat at this table, and show how our ideas will lead to success. Put me in coach.

Professional

Vice President of Development, Scannapieco Development Corp/Urban Intent Senior Project Architect, Bright Common Architecture + Design
Project Architect, JDAVIS
Project Architect, Donovan Architects

American Institute of Architects

2024 Member College of Fellows 2021 Resolution 21-1 & 21-3 Sponsor
2019 College of Fellows Certificate of Appreciation 2018 Blueprint for Better Champion
2017 AIA National Young Architect Award

2017-2019 College of Fellows Quarterly Editor (FKA The Fellows Newsletter/Fellowscope) 2015-16
Young Architects Forum Advisory Committee; Communications Director
2015-16 YAF CONNECTION Editor

AIA Pennsylvania

2022 PAC Chair
2021 President
2021 AIA Pennsylvania Statewide Housing Committee Founder 2019 Government Affairs Chair
2016-2022 Board of Directors
2018 AIA Pennsylvania Strategic Council Co-founder 2017-18 Communications Committee Chair
2016 Emerging Professional Award 2014 Young Architect Regional Director

AIA Philadelphia

2016-current CONTEXT Editorial Board 2016-19 Board of Directors
2013 College of Fellows Emerging Professional Component Grant Awardee 2012-13 Young Architects
Forum Philly Co-chair

Civic Leadership

2024 Moving MONTCO Forward – Affordable Housing Committee Member 2018-2020 LISC/ULI
Housing Committee Member
2014 – current Community Design Collaborative Volunteer
2013-2020 SOSNA Architectural Review Committee Founding Member + Chair

Education

2006 BArch - Syracuse University School of Architecture

Jason Takeuchi, AIA**Candidate for 2026–2028 At-large Director**

Jason Takeuchi, AIA, NCARB, NOMA, D.Arch is a fourth-generation Japanese American born and raised in Honolulu, Hawaii . As an Eagle Scout and the grandson of World War II U.S. Army veterans, Jason has held a lifelong value of service to his community.

A mission-driven architect, Jason is passionate about the resilience of his community through stewardship of the unique culture and environment of Hawaii. He has achieved these shared visions with many Hawaii-based clients and organizations through focusing on the sustainability and prosperity of people and place.

His last name, Takeuchi, is the sum of two words: Take, meaning bamboo, and Uchi, meaning "within." Like the resilience of bamboo, Jason's career is dedicated to building resilience within people, missions and communities locally and nationally.

Dr. Adam Pantelimon, Intl. Assoc. AIA
Candidate for 2026-2028 At-large Director

Adam is a globally recognized leader and futurist with a diverse career across multiple sectors, driven by a passion for integrating cutting-edge technologies and innovative solutions into both public and private sector initiatives.

After teaching for seven years at three European universities and maintaining his practice where he employed 19 people, currently Adam is a Government of Canada servant where he plays a key role in the development of the National Building Code, and the Platform to Decarbonize the Construction Sector at Scale. As a director with the ministries of Health, Infrastructure, and Seniors & Housing, he led the creation of sustainable development regulations, standards and guidelines to give architects the tools they need to create resilient communities. He collaborates closely with key stakeholders, including the U.S. National Institute of Building Sciences and other U.S. agencies, to advance policy development and facilitate technological innovation in the building sector, ensuring that his work aligns with both emerging technologies and long-term policy objectives. A Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects, his broad professional memberships across Canada, the UK, the U.S., and France highlight his global influence and leadership in the built environment.

Adam has been deeply involved within the American Institute of Architects (AIA) leadership, including serving as AIA International Director (2022-24), Co-Chair for the 2024 AIA International Spring Conference, as a founding member (2017) & as AIA Canada President (2020-2021), and as AIA International Region Director (2016-17). His other roles include Chair of the AIA Public Architects Committee (2022), founder of the Public Architects Symposium on "The Climate of Public Architecture" (2022) and serving as an awards juror, including the AIA Vermont Design Awards and AIA Washington Council Civic Design Awards.

As a leader with AIA, Dr. Pantelimon strives to drive both cutting-edge advancements and inclusivity, ensuring that the sector evolves in a way that is both forward-thinking and accessible to diverse perspectives. With AIA and beyond, his key goals are:

- 1) To drive the transformative integration of artificial intelligence (AI) in the architecture, revolutionizing efficiency, sustainability, and design through data-driven innovations and intelligent automation, creating the smart, sustainable cities of tomorrow;
- 2) To establish an equity platform for architects, ensuring access to work opportunities in all environments—whether large US urban centers, small communities, or rural areas, nationally and internationally—by considering local legislation, and fostering partnerships with local industries;
- 3) To advance his commitment to support the young generations, architectural education, and cultural exchanges, advocating to foster alliances with other fields to predict the future of society that involves contributions such as from sociology, economics, technology, and political science, warranting that AIA becomes a “Global Portal” and the “World’s 22nd Century Professional Institute”.

**Brad Benjamin, AIA,
Candidate for 2026 - 2027 AIA National Treasurer**

Brad Benjamin, AIA, LEED AP bd+c, is the founder and principal of Radium Architecture, an innovative architecture studio based in Greenville, South Carolina. With a broad and diverse portfolio spanning architecture, planning, and interior design, Brad and his firm are known for delivering distinctive and efficient solutions tailored to clients' unique needs and goals. He is committed to fostering strong relationships with clients and advocates for the transformative power of design as a key driver of value.

Brad has been an active and dedicated member of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) since joining as an undergraduate student at Clemson University in 1996. A cornerstone of his involvement in AIA is his unwavering commitment to mentoring the next generation of architects. He actively guides emerging professionals, helping them take ownership of their careers early by instilling confidence and practical advice on leadership, responsibility, and professional development.

Early in his career, Brad quickly distinguished himself as a leader on the state, regional, and national levels. In 2012, he was honored by Building Design & Construction magazine as one of their prestigious "40 Under 40." He was also recognized in 2008 with an AIA South Carolina Presidential Citation—the youngest recipient in the organization's history at the time—and again in 2018. Notably, Brad is one of only two AIA members to have received both the AIA Young Architects Award and the AIA Associate Member of the Year Award. Additionally, he holds the distinction of being the youngest ever Chair of the AIA Trust, a position held in high regard since the Trust's founding in 1952 by the American Institute of Architects.

Encouraged by his wife, Cindy Benjamin, AIA, Brad founded Radium Architecture in 2011 with a vision to create purposeful, sustainable, and socially responsible spaces that benefit both clients and communities. Under his leadership, the firm has cultivated a strong reputation for designing environments that balance functionality with aesthetics. Brad has also become a frequent speaker at AIA conventions and professional seminars, where he shares insights and practical guidance with aspiring architects, often alongside Al Rubeling,

FAIA, to discuss the challenges and triumphs of establishing a successful architecture practice.

Brad resides in Greenville with his wife, Cindy, their son, Jake, and their beloved pitt bull-basset mix, "Goose." Together, they have meticulously renovated and expanded a vintage Craftsman bungalow, reflecting their passion for both architecture and community.

Education

Clemson University, Clemson, SC - Master of Architecture, May 1999

Daniel Center for Building Research and Urban Studies, Genoa, Italy, Fall 1996 Bachelor of Science in Construction Science and Management, May 1996 Bachelor of Science in Design (Architecture), May 1994

American Institute of Architects, National Component

AIA Strategic Council, 2022-2024; Best Practices Chair, 2024

AIA Finance and Audit Committee, 2024

AIA Center for Practice Committee, 2021 - 2023

AIA Trust, 2020 Chair, 2018 Treasurer

AIA Leadership Institute Conference Regional Coordinator, 2016 Young Architects Forum, Chair 2014, Board Member 2010 – 2014 AIA/AGC Joint Committee, 2012

National Associates Committee Knowledge Director, 2007 - 2008 Board Knowledge Committee, 2008

Strategic Planning Advance, 2008

South Carolina Board of Architectural Examiners

Internal Review Committee, 2020 - Current 2x Lecturer, "Ethics in Architectural Practice"

American Institute of Architects, South Atlantic Region

Regional Associate Director 2007 – 2008

Board Member, 2016 - 2017

American Institute of Architects, South Carolina Chapter

President 2017, Board of Directors 2015 – 2018

AIASC Leadership Development Academy Director, 2016 - 2018 IDP State Coordinator, 2009 – 2015

Emerging Professionals Director, 2005 – 2007

AIASC EP Development Academy Director, 2005 – 2007 AIASC IDP Friendly Firms Program creator, 2005

American Institute of Architects, Greenville Section

President, 2009

Associate Director, 2004

Honors and Distinctions

2014 American Institute of Architects Young Architects Award

2012 *Building Design + Construction* “40 Under 40”

2008 & 2018 AIA South Carolina Presidential Citations

2007 American Institute of Architects Associate Member of the Year

Lisa L. Kennedy, FAIA
Candidate for 2026 - 2027 AIA National Treasurer

Lisa L. Kennedy, FAIA, attended the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and received a Bachelor of Science in Architectural Studies in 1981 and a Master of Architecture in 1984. While in school, she served as local chapter president of the Association of Student Chapters/American Institute of Architects, (ASC/AIA, now AIAS) and as the North Central States Regional Director and as a Director at Large on the ASC/AIA National Board of Directors. She also created and held two ex-officio positions on the Wisconsin Society of Architects Board of Directors: Student Representative in 1983, and Associate Representative in 1985.

Outside of architecture school at the university, Ms. Kennedy was the manager of the student government office, served as Secretary of the Student Senate, and was appointed to the Chancellor's Campus Environment Committee.

Ms. Kennedy became a registered architect in 1987 and worked for several small Milwaukee-area architectural firms whose focus ranged from traditional practice to design/build, and for the Milwaukee Redevelopment Corporation, a private, non-profit civic development group. Ms. Kennedy started her own practice in 1987, offering architectural and interior design services, and operated it until 1999 when she transitioned to Vice President of Design and Construction for Manna, Inc., one of her former clients. The company, founded by former NBA player Junior Bridgeman, owns and operates over 500 restaurants nationally. After retiring from practice in 2020, she was selected as the Executive Director of AIA Wisconsin through a nationwide search.

Ms. Kennedy served as President of the Wisconsin Society of Architects (now AIA Wisconsin) in 1994 and was the youngest person and first woman to serve in that capacity. She was elected as the AIA North Central States Regional Director in 2001 and served on the national Government Affairs and Membership Committees, as well as the chair of the Institute Honors for Collaborative Achievement Awards jury during her tenure, which ended in December of 2003. She also served as chair of the 2004 AIA National Convention, which was held in Chicago. In 2014 she was elected to the Wisconsin Architects Foundation Board of Directors for a three-year term. She was elevated to Fellowship in the American Institute of Architects in 2017 and served as a Regional Representative for the national College of Fellows. In her role as Executive Director, she served on the Council of Architectural Component Executives (CACE) Executive Committee from 2022-23 and remains on the AIA's national Government Advocacy Committee.

In 1990, she received an Outstanding Young Alumni Award from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She became an adjunct faculty member at the university in 1996 and was appointed by former Wisconsin Governor Tommy Thompson to serve on the Examining Board of the Department of Regulation and Licensing from 1996 – 1999. In 1997, she was appointed to a subcommittee of the National Council of Architectural Registration

Boards, to write and pre-test questions for the Graphics Division of the Architectural Registration Exam.

In 2005, Ms. Kennedy was selected to receive AIA Wisconsin's Golden Award, which the highest honor that the society confers upon a member. The award recognizes "her significant contributions to the American Institute of Architects at the local, state and national levels, her distinguished service to the profession of architects on licensing and other government affairs issues and the inspiration she has provided other architects to get involved and make a difference in shaping their profession and their communities."

In 2009, Ms. Kennedy was awarded the Donna Schuloff Award, which is an annual award recognizing outstanding service and leadership.

Ms. Kennedy has been involved in a number of Milwaukee civic organizations as well. She served on the community of Whitefish Bay Board of Appeals from 2000-2004. She served on the Board of Directors of both the Wisconsin Women's Business Initiative Corporation, an organization that provides training and capital to disadvantaged and startup businesses, and Professional Dimensions, a professional women's group. She has served on committees for the Milwaukee Foundation's Women's Fund, a charitable foundation, and for the Girl Scouts of the Milwaukee Area. In 1997, Ms. Kennedy was awarded the Outstanding Woman of Achievement Award by the YWCA of Greater Milwaukee and was honored by the Business Journal of Milwaukee as one of the "40 Under 40" area business leaders.

Ms. Kennedy is mom to her two adult daughters, Erin and Stefanie. She performed her tour of duty as soccer team manager, Girl Scout leader, chauffeur, and supportive fan. She is a self-professed sports nut, having played league tennis, soccer, softball, and golf. She has been most active in tennis, playing in leagues and tournaments year-round, including advancing to the nationals of the 1996 Virginia Slims Legends tournament in Delray Beach, Florida, and finishing 3rd at the USTA 8.0 Women's Senior Doubles National Championships in 2014. She has competed three times in the National Senior Olympic Games in tennis, winning the Gold Medal in 2023 in Pittsburgh.

Timothy C. Hawk, FAIA

Candidate for 2026 President-Elect | 2027 President

“We must show enterprise to advance society and drive prosperity for those we serve.”

I practice architecture in the Midwest and my clients are pragmatic about what they want. They want more square footage, more space for collaboration, and more parking. But—and this might sound familiar to you—it is my job to understand what they need, and what they need are environments that sustain us and help us thrive.

Note that I just stated that I practice architecture, rather than “I am an architect”. It’s intentional, because there are so many ways to identify as an architect in today’s world. Architects do so many things. Some run a business and teach as I do, others provide C-suite strategies, others engage communities, and still others work with agencies to set policies that will endure. You might say that there are a lot of ways to pronounce the word “architect”. You might also be compelled to re-think, re-design, and re-envision our profession itself. But, for me, it starts by remembering that architecture is a practice in the first place. And to practice is to strive, to practice is to adapt, to practice is to listen and learn, and to practice is to design and align ourselves with the people whose lives are improved, measurably and immeasurably, because of our compassion and talent. The truth is that 99% of the work we do, no matter where we are, is for people we’ll never meet.

We will never know the thousands of people whose lives will be shaped by our work in 10, 20, or even 50 years.

Yet, those people are our clients, too. We will never know their challenges or struggles or delight in the homes or workplaces or schools we design today. Those people are the reason I say I practice architecture. Because it’s not about me being an architect. It’s about being in a perpetual state of answering the greatest need of our clients today, which is to design a brighter, healthier, more adaptable, more equitable future, which is not only possible, but imperative.

My first job was for a talented, charismatic architect in Chicago who told me that the way to improve lives was to make beautiful places. I believe that’s true. But I also believe that beauty is not always about place, and it’s not always about aesthetics, either. It’s about empowerment. I’ve seen what happens when architects are empowered to recognize the opportunity to do extraordinary work when it appears, and to go out and get that work when it doesn’t appear, when they are empowered to expand the partnerships of our industry however broadly you define it, when they are empowered to be the focused and unified voice for the designed environment, when they are empowered to expand research, exchange ideas, and establish a multi-disciplinary knowledge base, when they are empowered to advocate for design’s capabilities on the Hill, in state legislatures and in

cities and towns, and, above all, when they are empowered to foster and cultivate emergent, diverse, and varied voices.

I want us to Do Better Together.

Doing better together starts with doing something to improve the world we've found and the world we're making for future generations. Doing better together starts with doing something...because architecture is a practice in the first place.

Doing better together means encouraging contributions from everyone because the environments we create should be for anyone to enjoy, including the clients we know and the ones we'll never know who may occupy our buildings in 10, 20, or 50 years. Doing better together means never stopping because architecture is a perpetual practice that unifies all of us and the 100,000 members of the AIA.

I am asking for your vote, because I do not believe architecture is just about forging an identity but about having the courage to solve problems that we are uniquely able to solve.

#empoweredDESIGN

American Institute of Architects

Treasurer, AIA National Board, 2022-2023

At-large Director, AIA National Board, 2019-2021

Chair, Government Advocacy, 2019-2020

Strategic Council, 2016-2018

Chair, Interior Architecture KC, 2009

AIA Ohio

Director, 2007-2008; 2016-2023

AIA Columbus

President, Board of Directors, 2009

Secretary, Treasurer, Director, 2003-08

Architects Foundation

Treasurer, 2025

Director, 2024

Neighborhood Design Center, Columbus

Director, 2024-Present

Columbus Center for Architecture & Design

Co-Founder, Columbus Center for Architecture & Design, 2010

Honors

AIA Ohio Gold Medal Firm, 2005

AIA Ohio Mentor Award, 2021

Ohio State University; Distinguished Alumnus, 2021

WSA; Columbus | Chicago

CEO/President, 2005-present

Principal, Design Lead, 1993-2004

OSU Knowlton School

Lecturer, 2022-present

Columbus State Community College

Adjunct Professor, 2000-present

Lucien Lagrange & Associates; Chicago 1989-1993

Master of Architecture, Ohio State University

BS in Architecture, Ohio State University

Post-graduate Studies, University Illinois-Chicago

<https://www.architecthawk.me>

Yiselle Santos Rivera, AIA,

Candidate for 2026 President-Elect | 2027 President

Born and raised in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Yiselle Santos Rivera, AIA, NOMA, NCARB, SHRM-SCP, LSSYB, LEED AP BD+C, WELL AP is an award-winning architect, educator, and changemaker working at the intersection of design, equity, and leadership. As Founder and CEO of YSR, LLC, she leads a visionary consultancy rooted in Intercultural Experience Design, Healthcare & Wellness Architecture, and Organizational Change Management. Her firm delivers culturally attuned design strategies that advance health, belonging, and systemic transformation across the built environment.

Before founding YSR, LLC, Yiselle served as Principal and Global Director of Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (J.E.D.I.) at HKS, Inc., where she championed a global People First strategy for 1,600+ employees across 26 offices. Her leadership embedded equity into firm-wide policies, launched award-winning engagement platforms, and catalyzed structural reforms—from institutionalizing Martin Luther King Jr. Day as a paid holiday to creating HKS's J.E.D.I. Council and Affinity & Inclusion Group framework.

A powerful voice for change, Yiselle has served as a Board member for both AIA, AIA DC, and NAAB, advocating for policy innovation that harmonizes regulatory compliance with equity-centered design. Her AIA service includes pivotal leadership on the Equity and the Future of Architecture Committee, the AIA COVID-19 Response Committee, and the AIA New Urban Agenda Task Force, all focused on aligning architectural practice with resilience, justice, and inclusive policymaking.

She co-founded LA.IDEA DC, the AIA DC's first Latin American committee, and created WIELD (Women Inspiring Emerging Leaders in Design), which was honored with the 2019 AIA Diversity Recognition Program Award. A proud Latina and openly queer leader, Yiselle brings her whole self to her work. Through teaching at Howard University, mentoring emerging professionals, and amplifying community voices, she models what inclusive leadership in architecture can look like.

Her writing has been featured in *Out in Architecture* and *Latinas in Architecture*, and her thought leadership has been spotlighted in *Architect Magazine*, *Modern Steel Construction*, and *DesignIntelligence*. Her honors include the 2022 AIA Young Architects Award, the 2024 *Washington Business Journal* Diversity in Business Award, and being named one of DC's Top 50 Women Leaders.

She believes architecture is not just about buildings—it's about designing systems, spaces, and cultures where everyone can thrive.

“One year. One vision. One AIA.”

Let’s build the future—together.