

Nominees for the AIA | LA Board of Directors 2009



PAUL A. DANNA
AIA
Vice President/
President-Elect



STUART C. MAGRUDER
AIA, LEED®
Treasurer



STEVEN EHRlich
FAIA
Director



MAHMOUD GHARACHEDAGHI
FAIA
Director



MARGARET GRIFFIN
AIA
Director

Platform

The mission of the AIA is to serve as a voice and a resource for our members. AIA/LA's ability to continue to fulfill this role depends on our outstanding chapter staff and the involvement of our members. I see the role of the Vice President/President-Elect as one of enabling, educating and encouraging:

- enabling these groups to achieve their goals by championing their needs
- educating our community about the important work being done by our chapter
- encouraging members and non-members to get involved and realize that the more we put into our organization the more we get back, personally and as a profession.

Biography

Paul Danna, AIA joined AIA Los Angeles in 1990 and served on the chapter's Board of Directors from 2002 to 2005, as Secretary and Executive Committee member from 2004 to 2005. For four years Paul co-chaired the chapter's Political Outreach Group, furthering its efforts to influence governmental policies and practices impacting our profession and our environment. As a Principal with DMJM Design, he leads the design of projects for the firm's Los Angeles studio. Paul is a graduate of the University of Michigan, The Institute for Architecture and Urban Studies, and the Harvard University Graduate School of Design.

Platform

I will energize AIA/LA's engagement with the culture of Los Angeles. We stand at a significant time: a time of physical change in the city as we build denser; a time when we are remembering the value of building in tune with our natural world. To have a role in these changes, we must engage the political forces of the city and we must be experts in sustainable building. On the Board, I will create connections between architects and the politicians that legislate the built environment, and advocate for sustainability.

Biography

Stuart Magruder, AIA, LEED®, runs Studio Nova A Architects, Inc. The firm is focused on integrating sustainability with design to create works of beauty and durability.

Prior to starting the Studio, Stuart worked for Richard Meier & Partners and Eric Owen Moss Architects. He received his master's degree from SCI-Arc, with a thesis on the nature of Los Angeles. Undergraduate work was completed with honors at Princeton University. Active in the AIA/LA, Stuart participates on the Committee on the Environment and the Political Outreach Committee. He is also the Young Architect's Forum regional liaison for AIA National. Stuart is a licensed architect in the states of California and New York.

Platform

I believe in the continued growth and development of public outreach to improve the voice of our profession within the larger community. As Director, I will work to spark public interest and participation in the designs that shape our environment – through home and project tours, editorial coverage in media, and lecture/educational series specifically geared to the local, general population. It is important for our communities to ask questions, engage in the built environment and encourage our profession to explore new paradigms to help solve community and sustainable environmental challenges.

Biography

Steven Ehrlich, FAIA, Design Principal of Ehrlich Architects, learned early on the significance of how architecture responds to culture and environment. Six years in Africa at the beginning of his career taught Ehrlich the sustainable wisdom of indigenous architecture.

Under Ehrlich's direction, the firm has won seven National AIA Awards and was selected in 2003 as the California AIA Firm of the Year. In 2007, the Palm Springs Art Museum curated a retrospective show of the firm's work and Ehrlich teaches and lectures extensively in the US and abroad.

Current projects include two projects for Arizona State University, the Art Center at the University of California, Irvine, five residential towers in Taipei, and a house in Dubai.

Platform

We are in the midst of, if not a recession, a severe economy crisis. There are many challenges facing our profession and our society. Our response to those challenges will determine the success and future of our profession. As Director my goal is to:

- Align all AIA resources and programs to strengthen our architectural offices, especially small and midsize firms.
- Since the success of our profession is based on the individual success and knowledge of our members, I will emphasize the mutual support and sharing of practice techniques which will strengthen all our practices.
- As a long time advocate of sustainable design, I will encourage the design of livable, sustainable, healthy communities and revitalized cities.
- Enhance our role in society by providing a strong voice for design leadership.

Biography

A member of AIA/LA for 25 years, **Mahmoud Gharachedaghi, FAIA** has been: member of the FAIA Nomination Committee for the past 4 years, Chair of the Volunteers Committee for the past two AIA National Conventions in LA, and a lead speaker at the 2000 and 2001 National AIA Convention in Philadelphia and Denver. Mahmoud is very active in sustainable design. As a board member of the City of Los Angeles Sustainable Task Force and a founder of the Sustainable Policies Institute, he helped to prepare the first *Sustainable Building Reference Manual*. Mahmoud has taught design studios at USC and is a frequent lecturer at USC, UCLA and other universities. He received his second Master Degree in Architecture from USC in 1979.

Platform

As a board member, I would be interested in promoting outreach agendas and partnership potentials between the AIA/LA and other organizations in the City that expand dialogues of the culture of design, environmental issues, and technological opportunities. I'm interested in developing partnership strategies, programming opportunities, and liaisons with organizations such as the LA Forum for Architecture and Urban Design, ASLA, IIDA, the Young Architects Forum and others throughout the City. These outreach efforts will also provide opportunities for fresh dialogues with the next generation of architects in LA including emergent firms and young practitioners, while also promoting diversity within the AIA membership.

Biography

Margaret Griffin, AIA, is a Principal of Griffin Enright Architects, a collaborative practice that yields creative, forward-thinking designs. Their work is published extensively and has received numerous awards for design excellence including local and state AIA Awards, the Annual Interiors Award, and the American Architecture Award. Margaret is an educator with more than sixteen years of experience at numerous universities and is currently teaching design and technology at SCI_Arc. She has a BArch from Syracuse University, an MArch from UVA, and a Fellowship from the American Academy in Rome where she studied the relationship between Landform and Urbanform. She is also a board member and Secretary of the LA Forum for Architecture and Urban Design.

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INGALILL WAHLROOS-RITTER
AIA
Director



DEBORAH J. WEINTRAUB
AIA, LEED®
Director



MICHAEL A. ENOMOTO
FAIA
AIACC Representative



NASIM YALPANI
ASSOC. AIA, LEED® AP
Associate Director

Platform

By stating that his office acts as an educational establishment, Rem Koolhaas suggests that there are no boundaries between the practitioner and the student of architecture. In other words, architecture blurs these boundaries through a theoretical discourse of the design process and through the intelligent application of interdisciplinarity. On the one hand, the academic practicum benefits by professional involvement and provides a forum to pursue experimental research. On the other hand, the profession benefits by engaging with the academic conversation of conceptual and critical thinking and through an active pursuit of an interdisciplinary dialogue with, for example, engineers, fabricators and practitioners of emerging technologies. This discourse is not only vital to the profession – the ultimate goal being a social, political and cultural relevance – but likewise engages students and the emerging practitioners/educators, tying them intrinsically to the profession.

Biography

Ingalill Wahlroos-Ritter, AIA is an architect, educator, and design consultant specializing in the experimental use of glass. She is principal of the architecture firm [WROAD] with her partner, Roland Wahlroos-Ritter. Their most recent work includes commercial and residential projects in Los Angeles and Seoul. She is also Senior Associate at the structural engineering firm Dewhurst Macfarlane and Partners.

Ingalill is currently Chair of the School of Architecture at Woodbury University and Lecturer at Yale University. She taught at SCI-Arc, the Bartlett, Oxford, and Cornell. She received her M.Arch from UCLA and was Project Architect on the Corning Museum of Glass with Smith-Miller+Hawkinson Architects. Ingalill is an LA Forum Board member and serves on the AIA/LA 2x8 Committee.

Platform

As an architect in the public sector, I mediate between the profession, the public, and policy makers, and assist each to achieve their objectives. I see myself as an architectural ambassador. On the AIA/LA Board, I hope to work to expand the profession's role in crafting the future of our region. I believe the AIA/LA should have a larger voice in the dialogues that shape the future, such as setting the priorities for public funding of new facilities or re-thinking our transportation and roadway network for the anticipated population growth. Towards this end, I am interested in expanding the alliances between the AIA/LA and other interests who regularly weigh in on these matters, and in working to create influential forums to showcase the creative perspective of architects.

Biography

Deborah J. Weintraub, AIA, LEED® is Chief Deputy City Engineer of Los Angeles, the first architect and first woman in the position. She manages multi-million dollar design and construction programs for animal care, fire, libraries, police, recreational/cultural facilities, the zoo, sanitation, and the Los Angeles River. Previously Deborah worked for Edison providing sustainability consulting, and for the Los Angeles Canadian Consulate General, promoting Canadian expertise in sustainable design. Prior, she ran her own firm in New York. Deborah earned a Master of Architecture from Berkeley, and a Bachelor from Princeton. She has published designs and papers, and presented at varied forums. Married with two children, she is a long time member of the AIA and the US Green Building Council.

Platform

The AIACC, arguably the most active statewide component in the nation, does important work for its members, including advocating for our profession at our state legislature, developing the Integrated Practice Delivery model and coordinating the work of the various statewide components. The AIA/LA as one of the largest components in the nation should be seen as a leader, locally, nationally and statewide. I would like to establish AIA/LA as the “go-to” organization at the state level in matters that concern design and the other elements of the practice of architecture. I will work with other AIA/LA representatives and the AIACC to see to it that LA becomes a proactive leader of the California Council. I pledge myself to carry your mandate to the Council and to act on behalf of all architects in Los Angeles.

Biography

Michael A. Enomoto, FAIA is a partner at Gruen Associates. He is an internationally recognized mentor, leader and visionary who successfully promoted new and innovative standards for collaborations between architectural firms across the nation. A graduate of Cal Poly, SLO, Enomoto has led dozens of landmark public and private projects of various sizes and types totaling over \$1.5 billion in construction costs. He recently served on the Los Angeles Quality and Productivity Commission and was the past president of the Asian American Architects/Engineers Association. He is the recipient of the Society of Marketing Professional's 2003 Leonardo Award and is the 2008 President of the Southern California Development Forum. As the 2007 AIA/LA Chapter President Enomoto has previously served on the Board of Directors of the AIACC. He has lectured on professional practice at UCLA, Woodbury University and at Cal Poly Pomona.

Platform

I recently participated in an NCARB-sponsored forum, where I found myself among fellow Associates articulating how overwhelming and arduous the path to licensure is. This Board position is a prime opportunity to enhance the AIA/LA's support of this process. Having recently completed the exams, internship programs, and awaiting the Oral makes me an ideal voice for Associates. I plan to create programs such as an IDP/CIDP course for both “interns” and “supervisors” in the Seminar Series, develop an IDP “mentor” pairing program, and professional development forums. I am confident I will successfully represent the Associate members of our chapter.

Biography

Nasim Yalpani, Assoc. AIA, LEED AP is a Designer at RTKL Associates Inc. She graduated with her Bachelor of Architecture from the University of Southern California in 2006 as Magna Cum Laude, receiving the AIA School Medal. Since then, Nasim has worked on a number of mixed-use, planning and entertainment projects, such as LA Live! Currently she coordinates several office programs including the Young Designers Forum, Professional Development Committee, and Staffing Committee. Nasim serves on the USC Architectural Guild Board in the Recent Graduate position. She has recently completed the AREs, IDP & CIDP, and become a LEED AP.