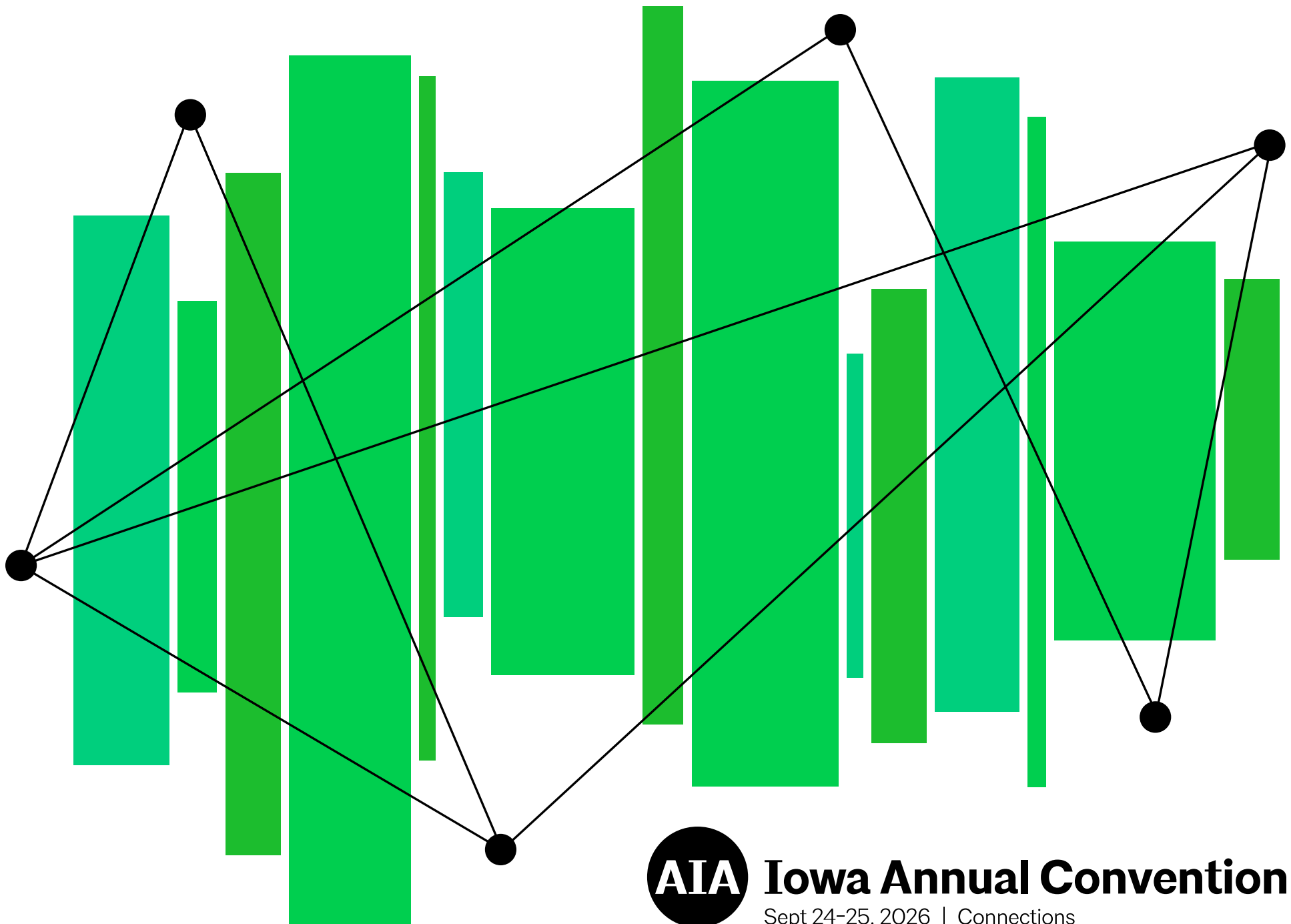
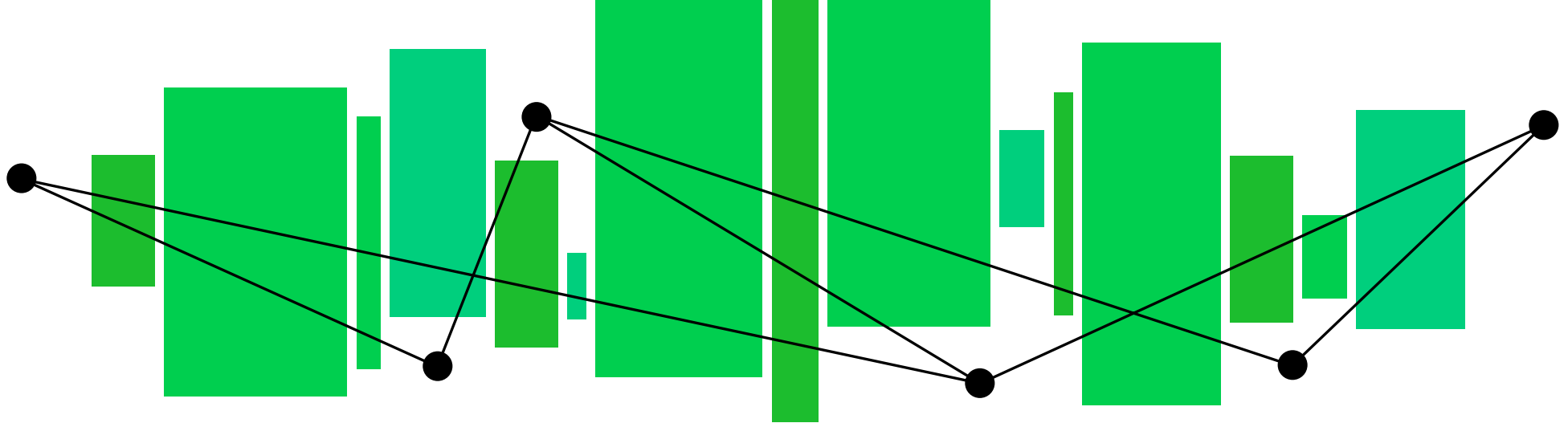




Iowa Annual Convention

Sept 24-25, 2026 | Connections

[Registration Information](#)



Welcome to AIA Iowa's Fall Convention: CONNECTIONS.

Connection is fundamental to the practice of architecture. Just as architects carefully combine structural systems, materials, and details to ensure a building's integrity, the results of our work bring together people, places, ideas, and possibilities. Architecture is ultimately about relationships — between the built and natural environment, between history and innovation, and between the communities we serve and the futures we imagine. In a profession shaped by rapid change and increasing complexity, meaningful connection has never been more important. Ideas move quickly, challenges demand new perspectives, and the best solutions emerge through collaboration.

As architects, we bridge disciplines and priorities, blending time-tested practice with emerging technologies and approaches. We connect ecological responsibility with economic realities, cultural

context with contemporary needs, and visionary thinking with practical execution. This year's convention invites you to explore what it means to place connection at the heart of design. Together, we will engage in conversations that strengthen our profession and shape the future of architecture in Iowa. Through workshops, keynote presentations, project discussions, and shared experiences, we will collaborate with colleagues, communities, clients, and industry partners to exchange ideas, listen thoughtfully, and build trust across teams and stakeholders.

At its core, CONNECTIONS is about the power of collaboration to spark innovation and create lasting impact. By bringing together diverse voices and perspectives, we strengthen not only our projects, but also the architectural community itself. Together, let us explore how deeper connections can inspire better design, stronger partnerships, and a more resilient and vibrant future for Iowa's built environment.

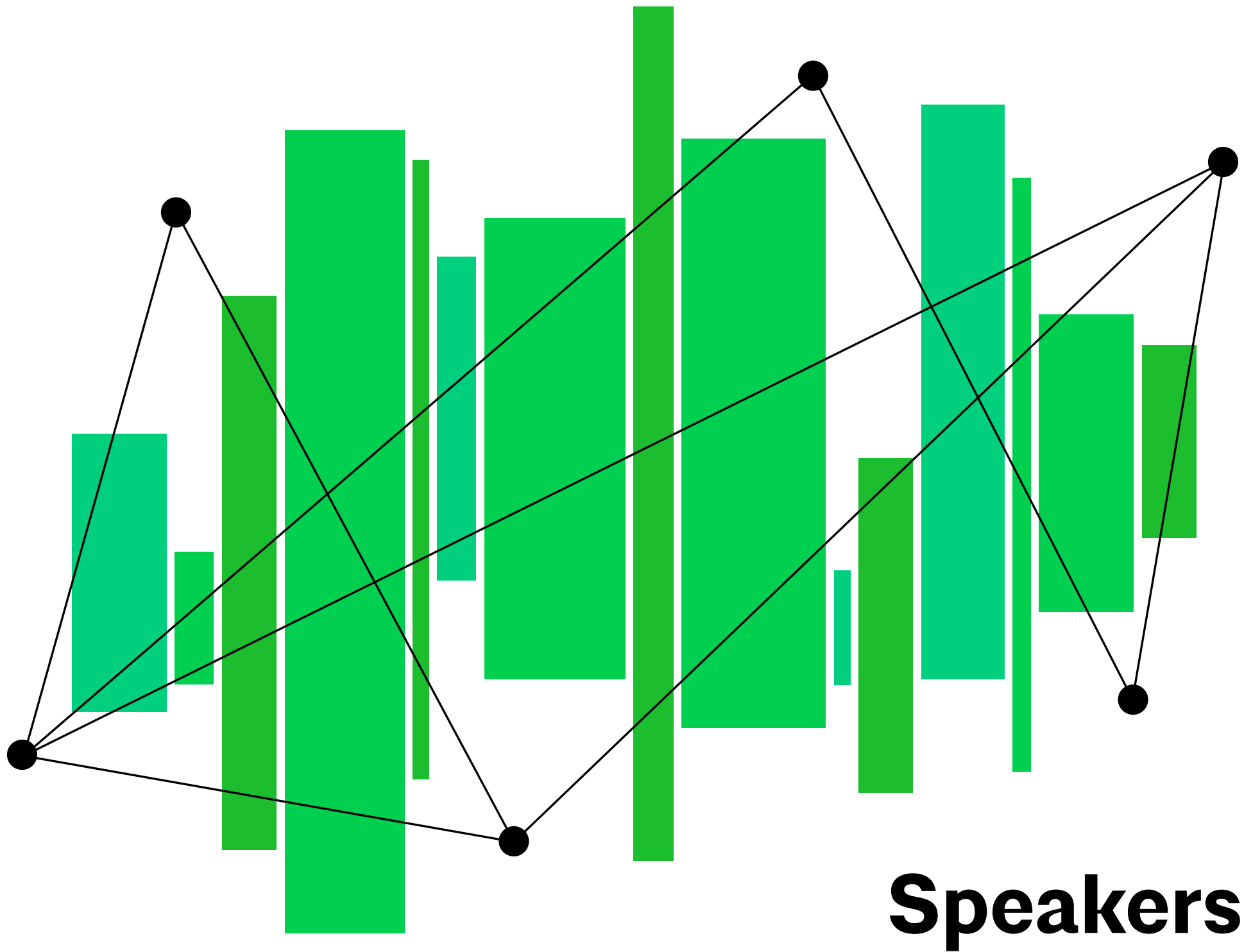
Steve King, AIA
AIA Iowa Convention
Committee Co-Chair

Zach Detterman, AIA
AIA Iowa Convention
Committee Co-Chair

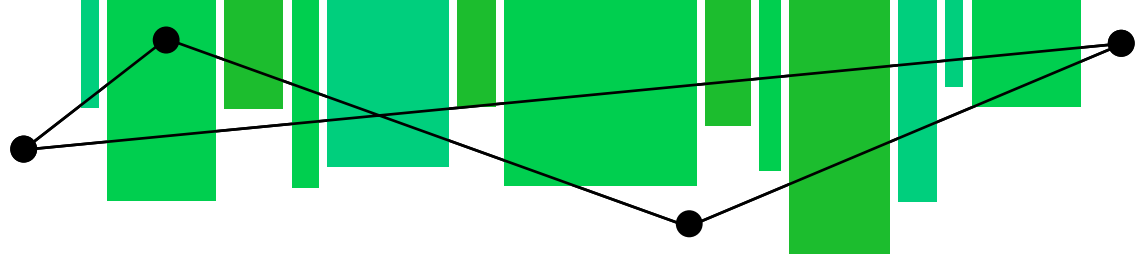
Join us at the AIA Iowa Annual Convention to create new contacts and reconnect with those from the past.

Attendees include architects, engineers, interior designers, landscape architects, facility managers, planners, Iowa State University students and faculty, and more!

- Gain insight into trends from over 160 exhibit booths
- Learn about the latest products and services available in the market
- Expand your knowledge by choosing from 20 workshops
- Learn best practices from 4 well-known keynote speakers
- Network with over 1,000 attendees from the AEC community



Speakers



Thursday, September 24, 8:15 a.m.
Assembly Hall, Lower Level
1.25 LU HSW

Thamarit Suchart, AIA

Chen + Suchart Studio
Scottsdale, AZ

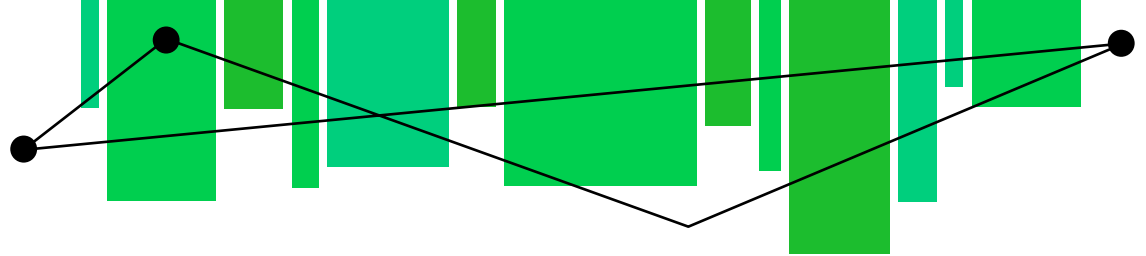
Thamarit Suchart is a principal and co-founder of Chen Suchart Studio. Chen Suchart Studio is a full-service architecture and design firm based in Arizona. Our work spans residential, hospitality, and commercial, with a particular emphasis on design-forward new construction. Founders Thamarit “Tommy” Suchart and Patricia Chen have been working together since meeting at the Rhode Island School of Design, from which we both earned a degree in Architecture. We have worked for iconic architects, and founded Chen Suchart in 2010.

Chen Suchart’s work has been recognized for its combination of formal inventiveness and programmatic flexibility, and our varied work and educational backgrounds have supported a practice that is both pragmatic and playful, rigorous and ranging, and intuitive and informed. We have been delighted to partner with visionary clients such as the Los Milics Winery and Tasting Room; Molteni&C; and numerous extraordinary individuals.

Our residential work emphasizes a keen understanding of site and landscape, a bold profile, and a capacity to work with materials in fresh and unexpected ways. Our clients—many of whom have become close friends throughout the process—have chosen us for our attentiveness, our hyper-collaborative approach and respect for their aspirations, and our extraordinary technical facility. We see ourselves as conductors of an orchestra, working in perfect harmony in service of a life well lived.

Tommy and Patricia each earned a Master of Architecture in Urban Design degree from the Harvard Graduate School of Design and Tommy is licensed in Arizona. Chen Suchart’s work has been nationally and internationally recognized by institutions such as Interior Design Magazine, Wallpaper* Magazine; the Architect’s Newspaper, the American Institute of Architects; Dezeen; ArchDaily; and more.

Speakers



Thursday, September 24, 3:45 p.m.
Assembly Hall, Lower Level
1.25 LU HSW

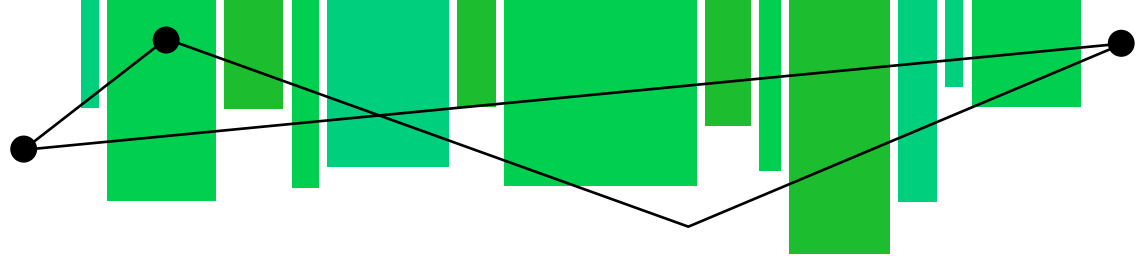
Mimi Hoang, FAIA

nARCHITECTS
Brooklyn, NY

Mimi Hoang co-founded nARCHITECTS with Eric Bunge with a belief in architecture as an agent of positive change, that connects people and environments in unexpected ways. Her work across civic and private realms fosters engagement and is guided by an ambition to respond to changes in contemporary life – be it climate, housing, or affordability crises. Born in the tropics of Vietnam, she brings a global outlook and an obsession with nature to unite social and environmental resiliency with spatial and material innovation.

nARCHITECTS received a National Design Award in Architecture by the Cooper Hewitt Smithsonian Design Museum and an American Academy of Arts and Letters in Architecture Award. Currently an Adjunct Associate Professor at Columbia University, Mimi received her M.Arch from the Harvard Graduate School of Design and her Bachelors of Science from M.I.T. Architectural Record recently recognized her with a Women in Architecture Design Leadership Award.

Speakers



Friday, September 25, 8:30 a.m.
Assembly Hall, Lower Level
1.25 LU HSW

Angela Ward
Hyatt, FAIA

Schwartz/Silver
Boston, MA

Angela is principal and president of Schwartz/Silver Architects, a 25-person firm dedicated to creating architecture that enriches the public realm. Raised in rural Iowa, she earned a Bachelor of Architecture from Iowa State University (1991) and a Master of Architecture from Harvard University (1994). Angela joined Schwartz/Silver immediately after completing her graduate studies and has spent more than three decades shaping the firm's portfolio of civic, academic, and cultural projects, with a special emphasis on library design. Her work has been recognized with over 30 design awards, including eight national awards, and has been published widely in architecture and library journals.

With a deep understanding of every aspect of library planning and design, Angela is helping redefine the role of the modern library. As a planner, she transforms institutional goals into compelling spatial strategies. As a communicator, she translates complex technical information into clear visual narratives that foster meaningful dialogue among clients, stakeholders, and communities. And as a designer, she challenges conventional thinking, guiding clients toward innovative and enduring approaches to one of society's most important civic building types.

In 2023, she was elevated to Fellow of the American Institute of Architects for her contributions to the profession in the field of library design. Her portfolio includes renovations of campus libraries at Connecticut College, H.H. Richardson's Billings Library at the University of Vermont, Princeton University, and Hood College; library master plans for Yale University, Mount Holyoke College, and Johns Hopkins University; and public libraries for cities and towns throughout New England and beyond.

A strong advocate for community service, Angela serves on the Boston Landmarks Commission, where she helps identify, protect, and preserve buildings and sites that embody Boston's architectural, cultural, and social history. Earlier this year, she chaired the AIA Architecture Awards and Twenty-five Year Award jury, recognizing the year's most distinguished achievements in our profession.

Speakers



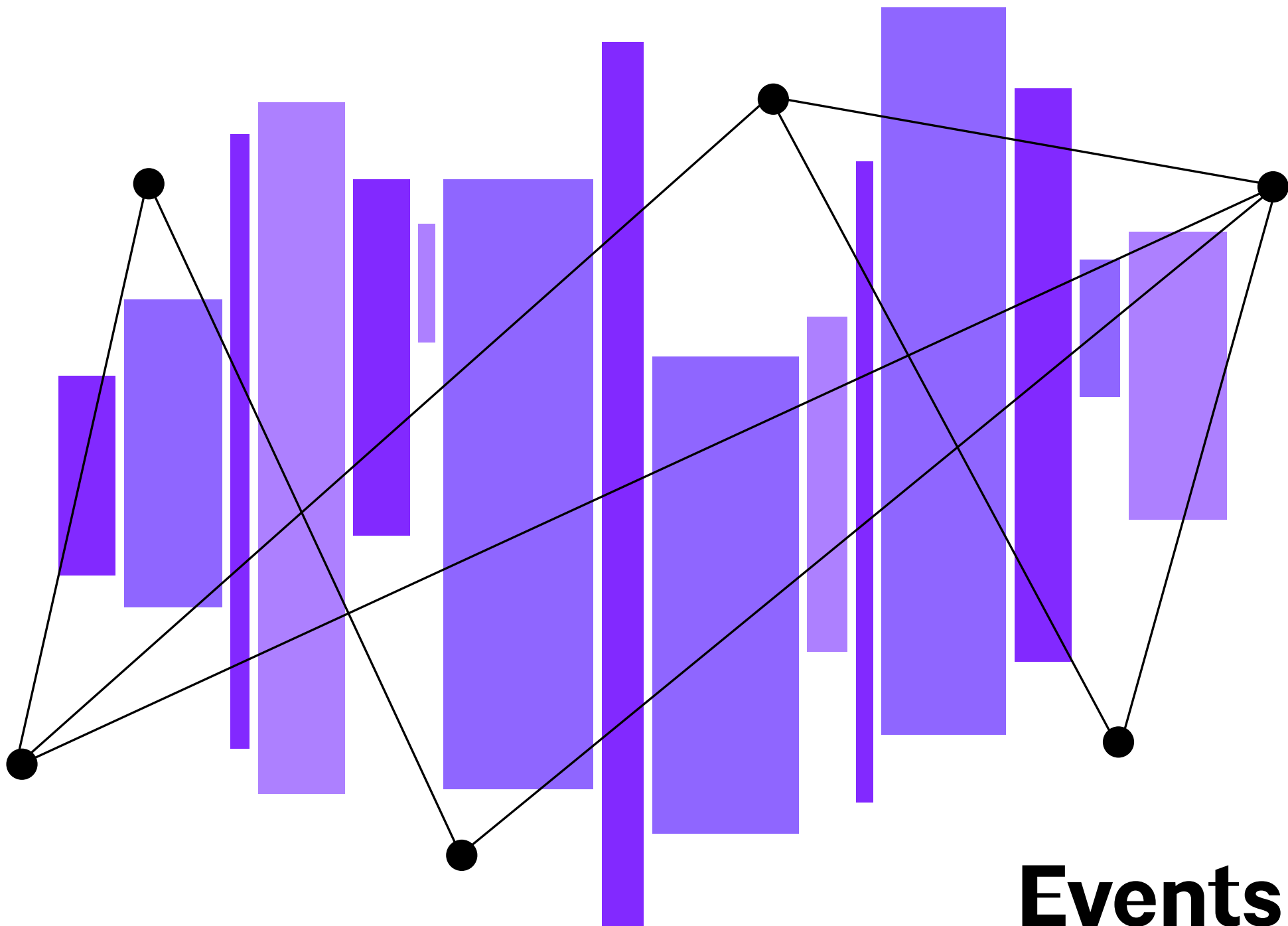
Friday, September 25, 3:30 p.m.
Assembly Hall, Lower Level
1.25 LU HSW

Jeffrey Huber, FAIA

Brooks Scarpa Huber Architects
Fort Lauderdale, FL

Jeffrey E. Huber, FAIA, is a partner at Brooks Scarpa Huber, where he leads the firm's South Florida office. In addition to his practice, he is a Professor at the School of Architecture at Florida Atlantic University.

A distinguished architect and landscape architect, Huber specializes in public realm projects that seamlessly integrate ecological, landscape, urban, and architectural design. His research, teaching, and professional work have earned over 85 national design awards, including multiple honors from Progressive Architecture, the American Institute of Architects (AIA), the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), the American Architecture Awards, and the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA). His work has been widely published in books and periodicals, including Architect, Residential Architect, The Plan, The Plan Journal, Landscape Architecture Magazine, and Architectural Record.



Events

Lunch Program

[Dining Hall, Lower Level](#)

[Thursday Lunch, September 24, 11:45 a.m.](#)

Architects and exhibitors come together for a delicious meal catered by the Iowa Events Center. Each year the convention committee secures a top-notch lunch speaker to present on topics that are near and dear to the hearts of all AEC community members. Enjoy the food and conversation with your fellow attendees!

The Excellence in Energy Efficient Design Awards

[Dining Hall, Lower Level](#)

[Thursday Lunch, September 24, 11:45 a.m.](#)

The Excellence in Energy Efficient Design awards program celebrates projects that support AIA's Climate Action Plan and Blueprint for Better initiative through outstanding efforts in reducing energy use. Award candidates are selected from projects whose designers participated in the Commercial New Construction program offered by Alliant Energy and MidAmerican Energy Company. Projects with the highest annual energy savings percentage in each utility's service territory are selected for an award.

[Sponsored by Commercial New Construction program](#)

Cocktail Party Hosted by

Convention Exhibitors

[Exhibit Hall, Upper Level](#)

[Thursday, September 24, 5:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m.](#)

Design professionals! With the first day of the convention wrapping up, head back to the Main Exhibit Hall to enjoy a complimentary beer (or two), tasty treats, or a drink from the cash bar with colleagues, allied members, and exhibitors. Take a walk through the 163 exhibits showcasing the latest products available- there is something that will appeal to designers in any practice! Don't forget the door prize drawing taking place at the projection stage—you must be present to win!

[Sponsored by Bolton & Menk, Inc | GAF Commercial | Johns Manville & TWR Solutions | Turner Construction Company](#)

Award Celebration

[World Food Prize](#)

[100 Locust St, Des Moines](#)

[Thursday, September 24, 7:00 p.m.](#)

[2 LU](#)

Join us in honoring the winners of the annual awards contest. An evening of conversation and refreshments with colleagues is the perfect night cap to round out the first day of the convention. This event will recognize the exceptional design of Iowa architects from the past year. Be sure to purchase your tickets during online registration.

[Sponsored by Neumann Brothers](#)

Feed Your Future: Emerging Professionals Breakfast

[Room 310, Lower Level](#)

[Friday, September 25, 7:30 a.m.-8:00 a.m.](#)

An event created specifically with emerging professionals in mind, come mingle with the Board of Directors, Committee Chairs, and peers to discuss how AIA Iowa can be the steppingstone to a successful career. Come Feed Your Future at the EP Breakfast and learn more about our group mentorship program.

[Sponsored by IMEG Corp](#)

Masonry Institute of Iowa Architectural Design Awards

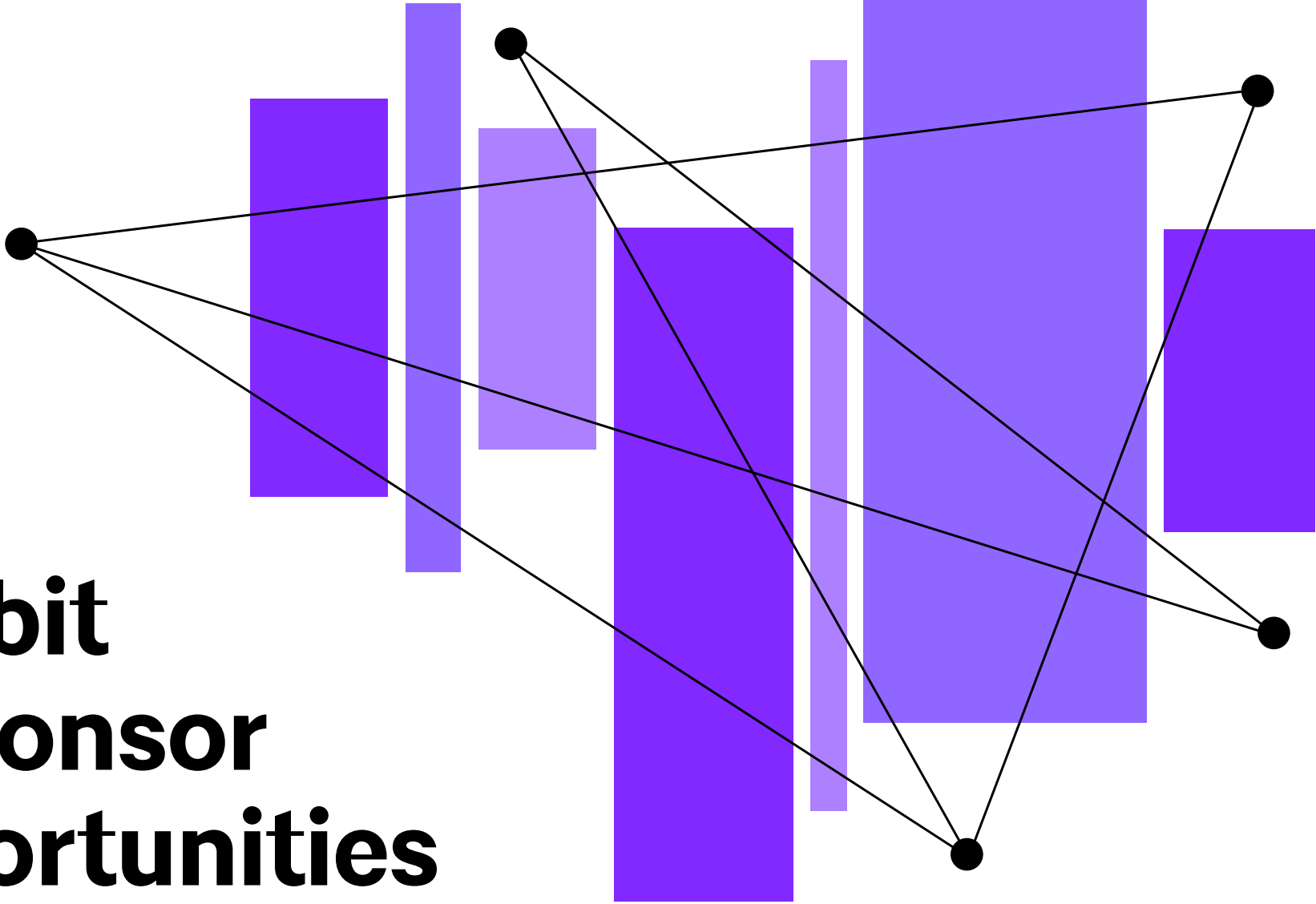
[Lecture Hall, Lower Level](#)

[Friday, September 25, 8:15 a.m.](#)

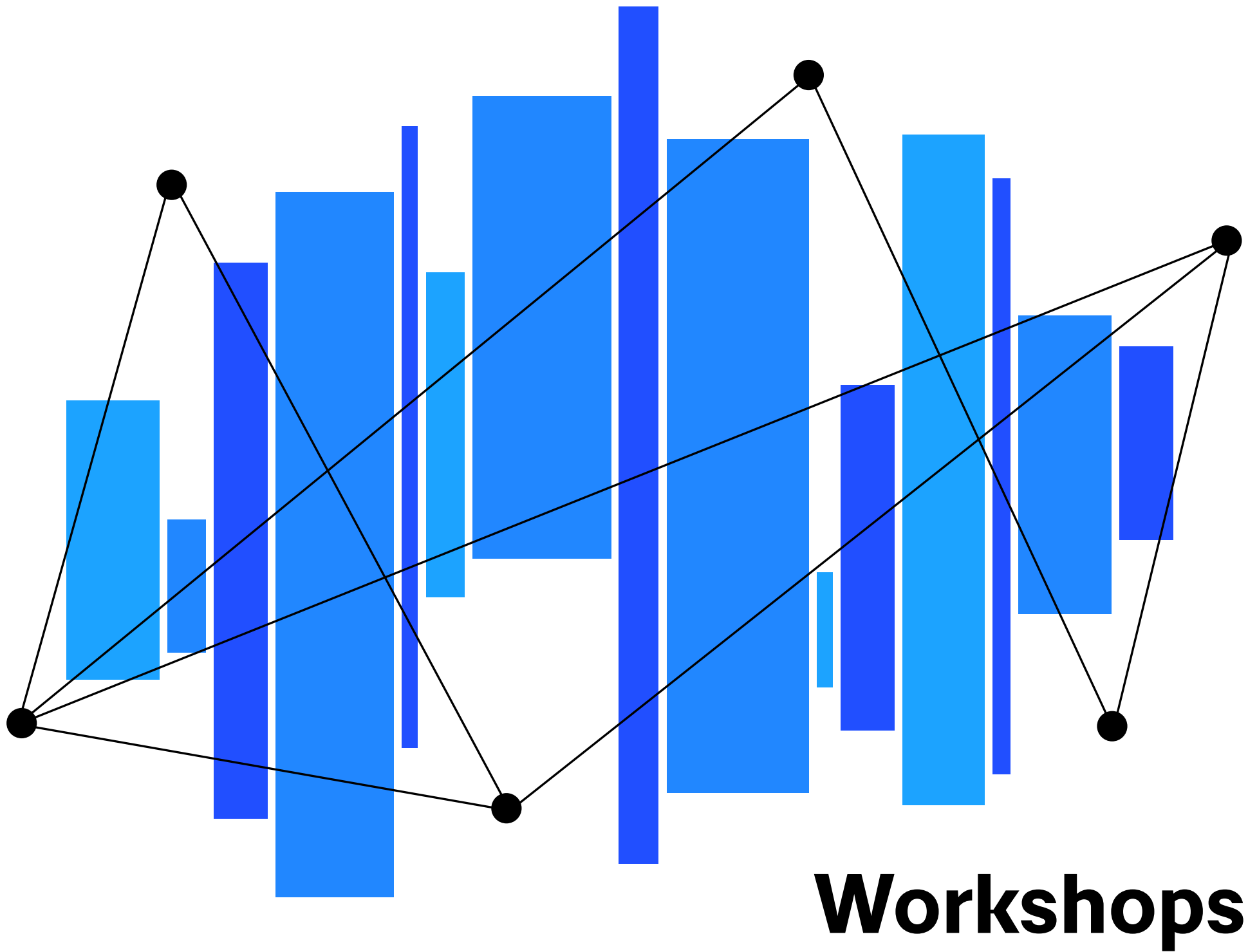
The Masonry Institute of Iowa's Architectural Design Awards celebrates Masonry and Architectural Design Excellence in Iowa. Entries are judged by a panel of architects from outside of Iowa focusing on the excellence of each individual project, including creative use of masonry, structural and architectural design, proper masonry installation details, technical innovations and their influence on design selection, and suitability of design to its environment.

[Sponsored by the Masonry Institute of Iowa](#)

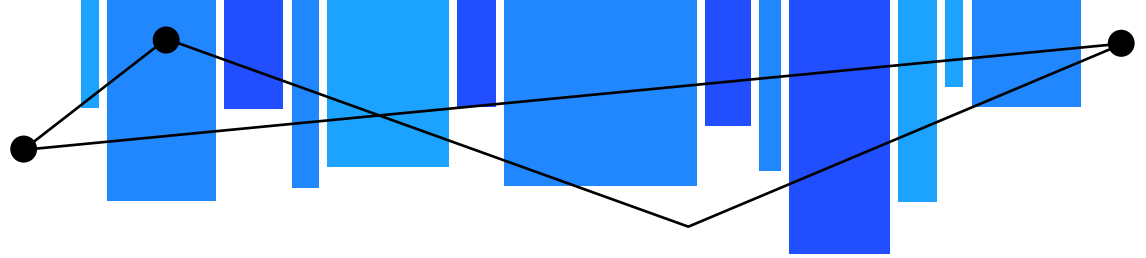
Exhibit & Sponsor Opportunities

An abstract graphic featuring several vertical and horizontal rectangles in various shades of purple. Four black dots are positioned at the corners of a central rectangle, with thin black lines connecting them to form a diamond shape. Additional lines extend from these dots to other parts of the graphic, creating a network-like structure.

Opportunities for [exhibitions](#) and [sponsorship](#) are available. This is your opportunity to showcase your business to over 1,000 attendees from the AEC community. For more information about these opportunities visit AIAIowaEvents.org or contact AIA Iowa at info@aiaiowa.org or 515-244-7502.



Workshops



Session 1: Thursday, September 24, 10:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

1.

Connecting Expertise to Recovery: The Role of Architects and Building Professionals in Disaster Response, Reconstruction, and Resiliency Planning

Connections Track

This course will provide the attendee with the knowledge needed to support their community in a time of crisis. Re-building a community after a natural disaster does in fact take a village, where in order to have a successful recovery, requires persistence, patience, perseverance and professionalism. Many survivors do not know what they do not know when it comes to rebuilding. Having a steady cadre of design, engineering and construction professionals in the community will aide in the recovery and building of resilience of the community. This workshop will provide the attendee with the necessary tools to consider when an event strikes their community.

By attending this workshop participants will be able to: Understand how the health of survivors are impacted physically, financially, and emotionally and share some foundational knowledge on what to be aware of as well as how to assist residents. Learn about enrolling licensed & insured contractors; building codes; and education for residents. Topics such as installing back-flow preventers and elevating HVAC as well as electrical. Discuss reconstruction and climate adaptation methods for more fortified and resilient buildings in the future.

Educate architects and others in the construction profession to be mindful of post disaster; and specifically, organizations, funding, and niche knowledge in the disaster recovery world.

Presented by: Sheriffa Jones, Spencer Chamber of Commerce, Brian Baer, The Elevated Studio (1 HSW LU, 1 GBCI)

2.

How to Utilize AI Features Within MBI's Source1 Digital Plan Room

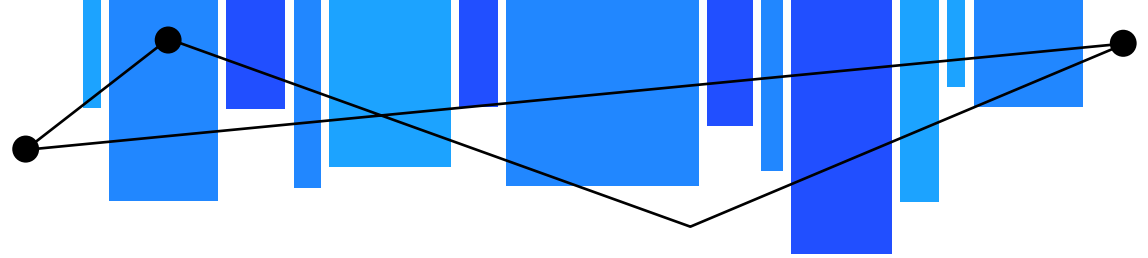
Up & Coming in the Profession Track

Introductory course on how to use the design studio feature in Source1, where architects can share project details, track interested bidders, identify vendors and maintain oversight of their respective projects.

By attending this workshop participants will be able to: Learn how to utilize a feature within Source1 that we are calling the "Design Studio". Understand how to manage their projects within this feature, and all the steps that it will entail. Create their notice to bidders directly on our platform. Explore the AI features and capabilities within our system to identify any missing criteria when they are uploading documents.

Presented by: Mike Schmitz, Altus CXO, Adam DoBraska, Master Builders of Iowa (1 LU)

Workshops



Session 1: Thursday, September 24, 10:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

3. The Death of Disposable: Why Architecture Didn't Stop at the Walls

Project Design & Context Track

The profession is rediscovering something many architects once understood instinctively: architecture does not end at the walls. Many of the architects we most admire also designed furniture because they understood that people experience buildings through comfort, atmosphere, and everyday use. Drawing from historical precedent, post-occupancy lessons, and contemporary practice, this course explores how furnishings and interior environments contribute to occupant well-being, long-term usability, and overall project success. Firms that understand this layer of design create better projects, happier clients, and stronger long-term relationships.

By attending this workshop participants will be able to: Explain how historically significant architects used furnishings and interior environments to improve occupant comfort, usability, and overall building performance.

Evaluate how furnishings and interior environments influence occupant well-being, accessibility, comfort, and long-term usability within the built environment.

Identify design approaches that transformed secure institutional spaces into collaborative and supportive learning environments for middle school students.

Apply strategies for integrating furnishings and interior environments earlier in the design process to improve occupant outcomes, project completeness, and overall building performance.

Presented by: Anna Aversing, Assoc. AIA, Design Ranch, Inc; Gary Gnade, Design Ranch, Inc. (TBD)

4. Design for All—Above and Beyond ADA Standards

Building Code & Compliance Track

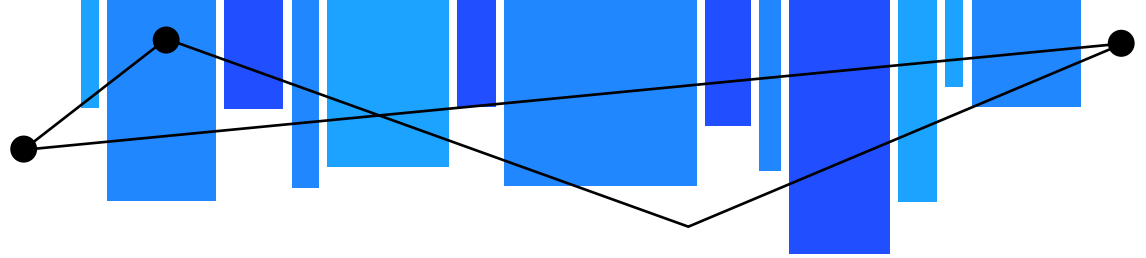
All people experience varying abilities throughout their lives. Accommodating the needs of all people, to the greatest extent possible, requires thinking beyond minimum standards. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Standards have not been revised since 2010. They are also minimum standards that were agreed upon by consensus. This session will highlight thoughtful examples architects have employed to help people deal with their physical, visual and cognitive limitations, as well as distractions, to safely navigate the built environment.

By attending this workshop participants will be able to: Understanding the underlying intent and requirements of the ADA, the ADA Standards. Understanding current 'hot button' issues related to accessibility standards.

Examining design details that increase safety and reduce the likelihood of trips, missteps, and falls. Understanding the principles of the 'design for all, for the life span' philosophy.

Presented by: Dr. Arvid Osterberg, Iowa State University (1 HSW LU, 1 GBCI)

Workshops



Session 1: Thursday, September 24, 10:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

5.

The Human-Nature Connection: Harnessing Natural Design to Elevate Resilience

Technology, Sustainability, & Innovation Track

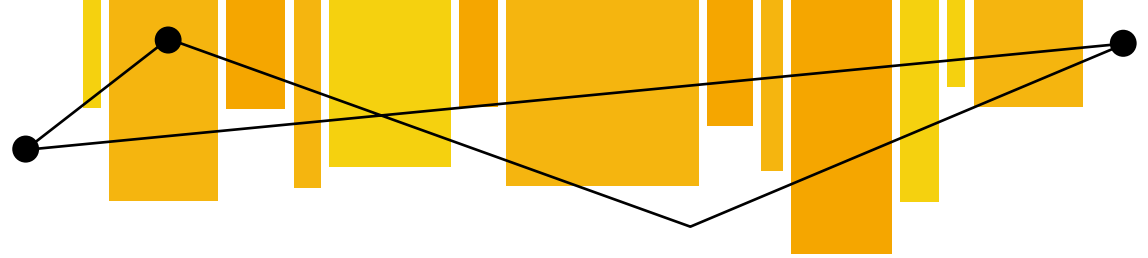
Habitat and biodiversity are the basis of a functioning world. The strategic use of native plantings, habitat area, and biophilic design principles represents significant, but often overlooked, opportunity to enhance human wellbeing and natural ecosystem functionality while boosting resilience in the face of climate change and natural disasters. This course will demonstrate how building professionals can exemplify the human-nature connection in their projects, site designs, and personal lives.

By attending this workshop participants will be able to: Analyze the relationship between wellbeing and connection to nature using concepts of landscape function and biophilia.

Apply concepts of native site design and ecosystem flow to produce tangible benefits for building occupants, the ecosystem, and the surrounding community. Describe the importance of nature, habitat, and wildlife in designing for longevity and resilience. Evaluate how habitat and biodiversity loss impact human health and building function.

Presented by: Martha Norbeck, AIA, C-Wise (1 HSW LU, 1 GBCI)

Workshops



Session 2: Thursday, September 24, 1:15 p.m.-2:15 p.m.

6.

Reichardt Community Recreation Center Case Study: Navigating Social, Environmental, and Economic Impacts During Planning & Design

Connections Track

Through a case study analysis of a recently completed community recreation center, this workshop will explore an inclusive and equitable design process that resulted in a project design that is highly reflective of the community it serves and its contextual surroundings. We will present strategies for how to navigate community goals, environmental stewardship and project budgets during a very collaborative design process.

By attending this workshop participants will be able to: Learn how to utilize engagement strategies during planning and design to create inclusive and equitable spaces that reflect the community they serve. Learn how to design spaces that foster a sense of community, center physical, mental, and social wellbeing while developing community pride. Learn how to balance goals of energy efficiency with cost effectiveness and operational efficiency. Learn strategies to balance community desires budget constraints, code requirements, and environmental impact while creating a projects to have generational impact.

Presented by: Mindy Aust, AIA, MA Architecture; Anna Squier, AIA, MA Architecture; Katherine Darnstadt, AIA, Latent Design (1 HSW LU, 1 GBCI)

7.

Connected by Design: Multidisciplinary Women Leaders Shaping the Future of the Built Environment

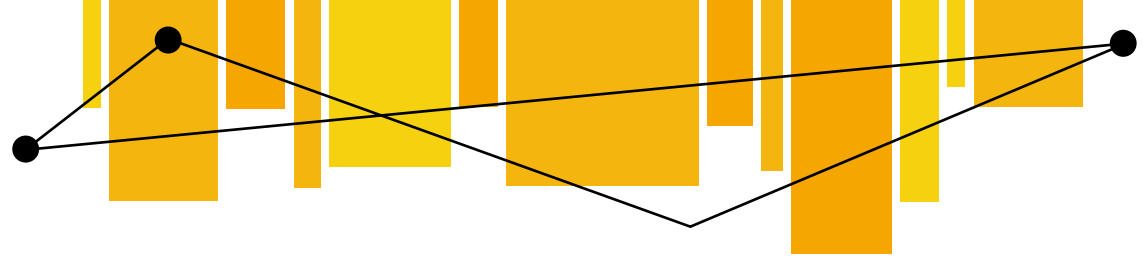
Up & Coming in the Profession Track

The built environment is increasingly shaped by collaboration among professionals from diverse disciplines. Architects, engineers, planners, landscape architects, interior designers, construction professionals, sustainability experts, owners, and community advocates each bring unique perspectives that influence project outcomes and community impact. This dynamic panel discussion brings together accomplished women leaders from across the Architecture, Engineering, and Construction (AEC) industry and Urban Development to explore how multidisciplinary collaboration strengthens project delivery, enhances innovation, improves stakeholder engagement, and creates more resilient and equitable communities, while creating pathways for future generations. Through real-world project experiences and leadership insights, panelists will discuss strategies for navigating complex interdisciplinary teams, fostering effective communication, mentoring emerging professionals, and developing leadership skills that transcend traditional professional boundaries.

By attending this workshop participants will be able to: Identify the roles and responsibilities of key disciplines within the AEC industry and evaluate how interdisciplinary collaboration contributes to safer, healthier, and more effective project outcomes. Analyze communication and coordination strategies used by multidisciplinary project teams to reduce project risks, improve decision-making, and enhance the health, safety, and welfare of building occupants and communities. Examine case studies demonstrating how diverse professional perspectives contribute to sustainable, resilient, accessible, and user-centered design solutions that positively impact the built environment. Develop strategies for leadership growth, mentorship, and professional relationship-building that support career advancement and strengthen collaboration across disciplines.

Presented by: Vishnu Priya Sai Ramesh, Assoc. AIA , Emergent Architecture; Alenka Poplin, Iowa State University; Naura Godar, AIA, RDG Planning & Design (1 HSW LU)

Workshops



Session 2: Thursday, September 24, 1:15 p.m.-2:15 p.m.

8.

Lofty Goals: Goldfinch Lofts Takes Affordable Housing to New Heights

Project Design and Context Track

Situated at the corner of Ingersoll Avenue and 35th Street in Des Moines, Goldfinch Lofts is a three-story mixed-use development setting a new benchmark for sustainable design. The project features ground-level retail and restaurant spaces with 28 mixed-income apartments above. The project connects Passive House design, mass timber, net zero carbon goals, affordability, occupant health, and collaborative decision-making into one ambitious development. Goldfinch Lofts demonstrates that affordability, carbon reduction, and occupant well-being do not have to be competing priorities; when connected early, they can strengthen one another.

By attending this workshop participants will be able to: Describe how Passive House design principles, including envelope performance, air tightness, thermal bridge reduction, and balanced ventilation, can improve occupant comfort, indoor air quality, and energy resilience in affordable multifamily housing.

Evaluate how mass timber and low-carbon material strategies can reduce embodied carbon while supporting durable, healthy, and environmentally responsible building design. Explain how leveraging early-stage energy modeling provided by utility incentive program can help project teams compare design options, reduce operational energy use, and make informed decisions that support occupant welfare and long-term affordability. Identify lessons learned from the Goldfinch Lofts project team's coordination process, including how developer goals, architectural design, PHIUS consulting, certification requirements, and energy analysis were connected to pursue a high-performance affordable housing outcome.

Presented by: Vinoth Kumar Sekar, Wildan; Janna Alampi, EPICx Studio; Cody Knop, Knop Killeen Architects; Alison Clemens, Design Engineers (1 HSW LU, 1 GBCI)

9.

Design That Pays Off: Supporting Green Building Strategies for Schools & Local Governments

Building Code and Compliance Track

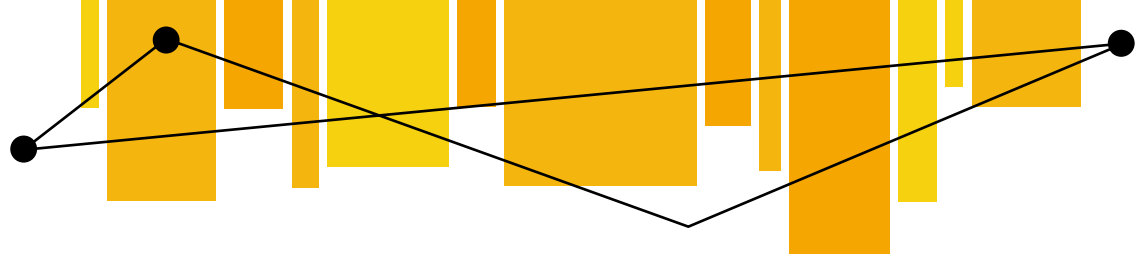
This workshop explores how sustainable retrofit strategies can help schools and local governments create healthier, higher-performing public facilities while reducing energy use and operating costs. Through real-world case studies, participants will learn how energy efficiency upgrades, renewable energy projects, and practical green building improvements are being successfully implemented in community facilities. Presenters, Clean Energy Districts of Iowa and Center for Green Schools will share lessons learned from projects supported through technical assistance programs, toolkits and highlight measurable outcomes related to building health, occupant comfort, and long-term savings. Attendees will leave with actionable ideas and practical approaches for discussing and designing resilient, efficient, and healthier public spaces.

By attending this workshop participants will be able to: Identify effective and practical green building strategies utilized in CEDI's case studies to understand the design, implementation, and outcomes of successful public facility projects Evaluate how energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements can reduce operating costs and support long-term sustainability goals for local governments and educational institutions

Apply lessons learned from technical assistance programs to inform future sustainable design and retrofit opportunities within public and community facilities. Leverage free, industry-validated toolkits, technical fact sheets, and professional development resources to design and retrofit energy-efficient K-12 learning environments that optimize indoor air quality (IAQ), mitigate building-related health risks, and directly enhance student cognitive performance.

Presented by: Abigail Steffens, Clean Energy Districts of Iowa; Lisa Greenfield, USGBC (1 HSW LU, 1 GBCI)

Workshops



Session 2: Thursday, September 24, 1:15 p.m.-2:15 p.m.

10.

Steel Deconstruction and Reuse: The Architect's Role in a Circular Future

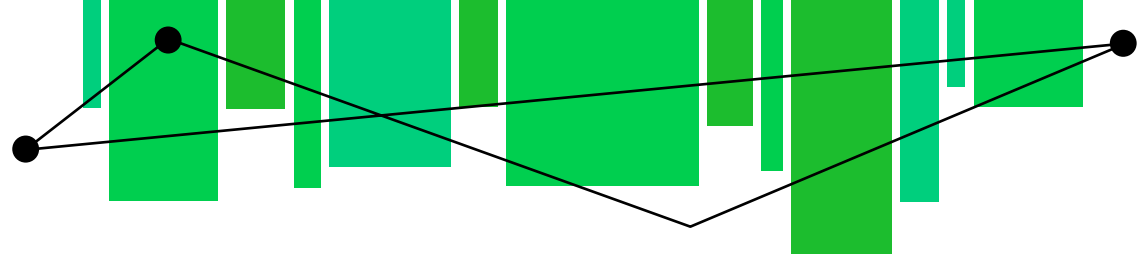
Technology, Sustainability, & Innovation Track

Steel reuse can eliminate up to 97% of the embodied carbon associated with new steel production, yet in North America, it remains rare. This workshop examines what deconstruction and steel reuse mean for architects: how early design decisions unlock reuse opportunities, how case studies demonstrate what's possible, and what policy, market, and project-delivery barriers architects are uniquely positioned to help overcome.

By attending this workshop participants will be able to: Explain why direct steel reuse delivers far greater carbon benefits than recycling, understand the steel mill's carbon footprint, and articulate to clients and project stakeholders as part of an embodied carbon reduction strategy. Describe how deconstruction differs from conventional demolition, recognize the range of approaches from full deconstruction to selective salvage, and identify how real projects achieved meaningful reuse. Identify how architects can have the most influence in early engagement with the full project team and framing the sustainability vision for clients. Describe the key barriers slowing structural steel reuse in the U.S. and describe opportunities for architects to help move reuse from exception to expectation.

Presented by: Nima Balasubramanian, American Institute of Steel Construction;
Elizabeth Lapira, American Institute of Steel Construction (1 HSW LU, 1 GBCI)

Workshops



Session 3: Friday, September 25, 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

11.

Speak up: Case Studies in Architecture as a conversation between generations

Connections Track

Vincent Scully described architecture as “a conversation between generations.” This session argues for the value of paying closer attention to that conversation—one in which we have the rare opportunity to participate and contribute as we practice. Through a series of case studies looking backward, forward, and sideways, we will consider how buildings speak: to each other, to us as architects, and to the communities they serve. We have much to learn from their point of view on materiality, structure, experience, and connection to the public realm. Taking the time to translate a building's intentions into dialogue can spark a richer response in our own work, as we occupy our fleeting moment of influence between the past and the future. Along the way, we will ask what makes a good conversation in the first place: curiosity, attention, and the hope of meaningfully contributing to it.

By attending this workshop participants will be able to: Illustrate how analysis of past architectural case studies can inform present-day decisions related to material assemblies, structural expression, and durable design strategies that support the health, safety, and welfare of occupants. Identify how careful study of site, climate, cultural context, and public realm conditions can shape more responsible building placement and design responses that better serve both current users and future generations. Discuss how architectural precedent can deepen an architect's understanding of human spatial perception, sensory experience, and ritual or communal use, leading to design decisions that improve comfort, well-being, and public experience. Raise awareness of how a more deliberate and inquiry-based design process can help architects move beyond immediate formal responses to develop buildings that are more context-responsive, resilient, and aligned with long-term public benefit.

Presented by: Presented by: Dan Maginn, FAIA, Dake Wells Architecture (1 HSW LU)

12.

NCARB & You: AXP, ARE, & the Path to Licensure

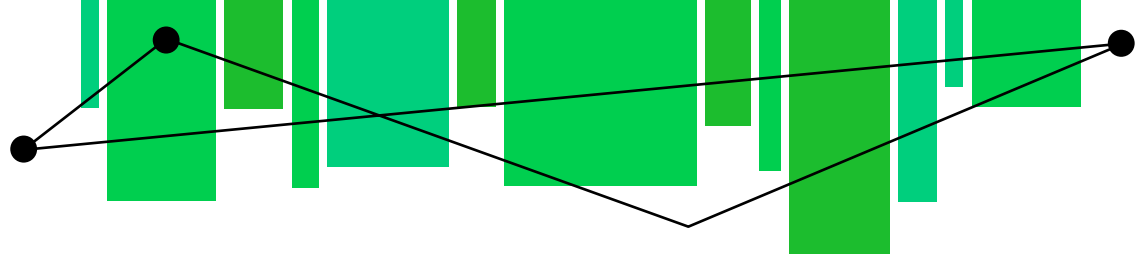
Up & Coming in the Profession Track

This session will provide information useful for all stages of NCARB / AXP candidates, including students and young professionals. Basic level overview of the AXP/ARE categories, the Education, Experience, and Examination process, and answering general questions on the path to licensure.

By attending this workshop participants will be able to: Understand the requirements for completing AXP and becoming licensed. Learn more about how to develop the knowledge, experience, and skill required for the Architectural Registration Exams and the independent practice of architecture. Identify tools and resources available for AXP candidates, as well as what to expect in today's Architectural Registration Exams. Identify the value of licensure, why it is important in society, and how it impacts a career.

Presented by: Leila Ammar, AIA, Iowa State University (1 LU)

Workshops



Session 3: Friday, September 25, 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

13.

Hear Me Out: Design Beyond ADA with DeafSpace

Project Design and Context Track

This course introduces DeafSpace, a collection of design concepts developed at Gallaudet University through collaboration among students, faculty, and deaf scholars. DeafSpace responds to the marginalization of the d/Deaf community by informing design solutions via real-world experiences and challenging deficit-based assumptions about deafness. Attendees will study the five core DeafSpace categories—space and proximity, sensory reach, mobility and proximity, light and color, and acoustics and electromagnetic interference—using examples from real world, built projects. The course encourages hearing designers to reconsider cultural assumptions and apply inclusive strategies that better support d/Deaf users in everyday environments.

By attending this workshop participants will be able to: Identify and explain the five core categories of DeafSpace—space and proximity, sensory reach, mobility and proximity, light and color, and acoustics/electromagnetic interference—and their relevance in inclusive design for the d/Deaf community. Analyze how traditional design approaches may marginalize d/Deaf users, and articulate strategies for integrating DeafSpace principles to create more equitable environments. Evaluate the impact of the five categories of DeafSpace on the spatial experience and safety of d/Deaf individuals in built environments

Develop a greater understanding of d/Deaf culture and frameworks that define them in a hearing-centric society to reshape the designer's lens without hearing bias.

Presented by: Mikayla Garver, RDG Planning & Design, Maya Struhard, RDG Planning & Design (1 HSW LU)

14.

Six things the State Building Code Bureau wished you knew before project submittal

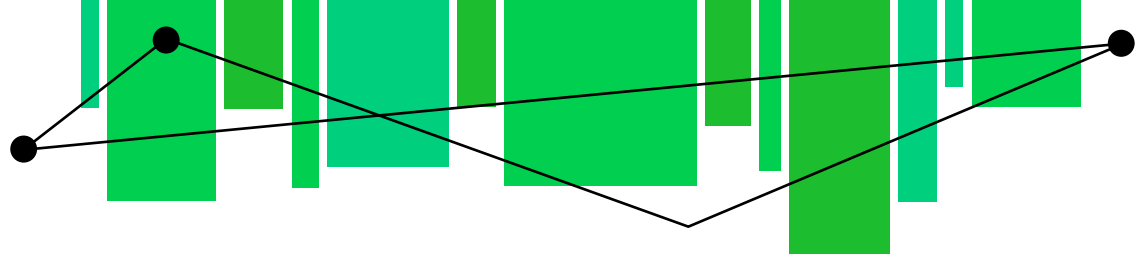
Building Code and Compliance Track

Many time we wish we have the inside knowledge needed for a flawless code review. We will teach you the 6 things you need to know to have a faster and more flawless code plan review and associated inspections.

By attending this workshop participants will be able to: Learn about what administrative code and building codes the State uses and how the local jurisdictions do this process differently. Learn about the State's plan review process from an Architectural process as well as an Engineering process including fire suppression. Learn about 6 processes that many submittals don't have, which slows the processes, and lead to much longer approval times and possible building code variances. Start to understand the limitations of building code as well as keeping to a standard process when dealing with universities, State organizations, colleges, K-12, daycares and health care facilities.

Presented by: Dave Ruffcorn, Department of Inspections, Appeals and Licensing (1 HSW LU)

Workshops



Session 3: Friday, September 25, 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

15.

From Model to Reality: The Tools Closing the Gap Between Design Intent and Construction

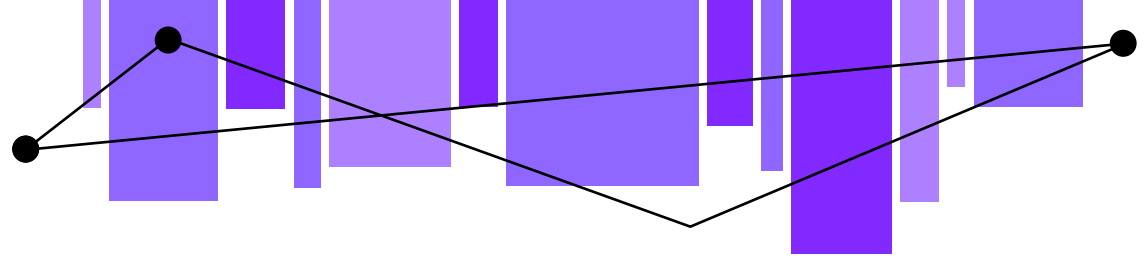
Technology, Sustainability, & Innovation Track

Design intent doesn't always survive construction! Coordination failures, layout errors, and undocumented site conditions create costly, and sometimes dangerous, gaps between design and execution... In this HSW session, Weitz Company's construction technology team demonstrates tools currently deployed on active projects (autonomous drones, Gaussian Splatting, robotic layout, and BIM clash detection), showing exactly how each one protects design accuracy, reduces rework, and keeps workers safe!

Identify how photogrammetric & volumetric capture technologies generate timestamped, as-built documentation to verify design intent in the field, thereby reducing professional liability exposure and protecting the health and safety of building occupants by minimizing the risk of undocumented conditions progressing undetected through construction. Explain how BIM and automated clash detection identify and resolve conflicts between architectural, structural, and MEP systems in the digital model prior to construction, directly protecting worker health and safety by eliminating the need for improvised, high-risk field remediation that occurs when coordination failures are discovered under active construction conditions. Describe how robotic layout technology translates a verified BIM model into precise physical markings on the job site floor, reducing worker exposure to hazardous conditions by minimizing the time trades spend performing manual layout tasks on active, high-traffic construction sites, and ensuring the structural and life-safety elements of the architect's design are installed exactly as specified. Explain how SmartTagIt replaces paper-based job hazard analysis and toolbox talks with real-time, mobile pre-task planning that field crews can access, record, and measure. By capturing safety conversations through audio and video documentation, the platform improves worker comprehension, breaks down language barriers, and generates the measurable safety metrics that support a proactive job site safety culture.

Presented by: Presented by: Vince Ward, The Weitz Company; Jashua Marriott, The Weitz Company; Ryan Catus, The Weitz Company (1 HSW LU)

Workshops



Session 4: Friday, September 25, 2:15 p.m.-3:15 p.m.

16.

Time & Talents: Volunteer voices from Iowa's Design Community

Connections Track

Volunteering is one of the most meaningful ways architects and designers can invest in their profession and their communities — yet it's often the first commitment to fall away under the pressures of practice. This panel discussion brings together volunteers from four of Iowa's leading architecture and design non-profits — the ACE Mentor Program, Iowa Women in Architecture, the Iowa Architectural Foundation, and AIA Iowa — to share their experiences, reflect on the personal and professional rewards of service, and make the case for why giving back matters. Attendees will hear firsthand accounts of how volunteer engagement has shaped careers, built community, and strengthened the profession across Iowa. Panelists will also share information about current volunteer opportunities within each organization, offering attendees a practical pathway to get involved. Whether you're early in your career or a seasoned practitioner, this session is an invitation to consider how your time and talents can make a difference — and how the experience might change you in return.

By attending this workshop participants will be able to: Identify the missions, programs, and community impact of four Iowa organizations — ACE Mentor Program, Iowa Women in Architecture, Iowa Architectural Foundation, and AIA Iowa — and articulate how each advances the architecture and design profession in the region. Recognize how volunteer engagement with professional and community organizations supports holistic career development, including leadership, mentorship, equity, and civic responsibility within the built environment. Evaluate the alignment between personal and professional values and the volunteer opportunities offered by each organization, in order to make informed decisions about meaningful civic engagement. Apply knowledge gained from panelist experiences to identify actionable next steps toward volunteering with a local non-profit organization that supports the architecture and design community.

Presented by: Tim Bungert, AIA, BBS Architects | Engineers; Vishnu Priya Sai Ramesh, Assoc. AIA, Emergent Architecture; Steve King, AIA, RDG Planning & Design (1 LU)

17.

Applied Research Panel - Integrating Academia into Everyday Practice

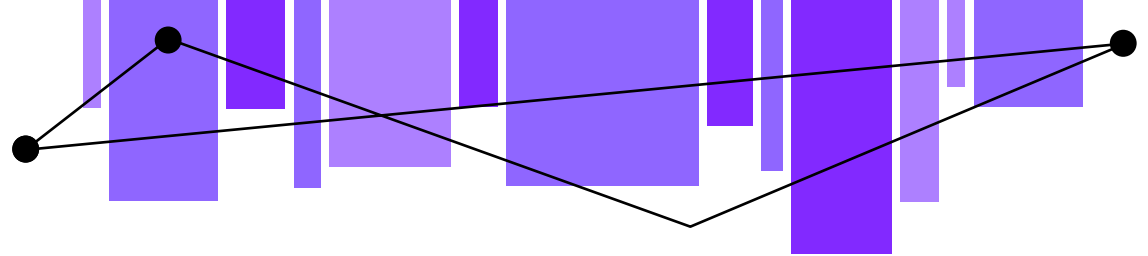
Up & Coming in the Profession Track

Join us for an engaging panel discussion exploring the intersection of research and architectural practice! This session brings together professionals and educators who are actively integrating research, technology, and academic inquiry into their work in practice. Hear from a variety of individuals as they share their own paths, experiences, and strategies for carrying research beyond school and into real-world projects. Learn how research-driven thinking is shaping design decisions, firm culture, and the future of the profession. This session is designed to offer valuable insights for architects, emerging professionals, and students at all experience levels.

By attending this workshop participants will be able to: Learn about emerging technologies, research methodologies, and evidence-based design strategies that can be integrated into architectural practice to improve occupant health, safety, and welfare. Learn about real-world case studies demonstrating how research initiatives and applied studies have informed the design of environments that better support community needs, sustainability, and long-term resiliency. Learn how applied research can enhance their approach to complex topics such as sustainability, community, and resiliency as a resource in grounding the design intent of everyday project work. Recognize opportunities for students and young professionals to pursue research interests within the architecture community.

Presented by: AIA Iowa Emerging Professionals Committee (1 HSW LU, 1 GBCI)

Workshops



Session 4: Friday, September 25, 2:15 p.m.-3:15 p.m.

18.

Connections Through Construction: Embracing Context-Responsive Design

Project Design and Context Track

This workshop explores the design and construction of a new kindergarten in Ullo, Ghana through collaboration between a local MEP consulting firm, Engineers Without Borders, ASHRAE partners, and community leaders. Attendees will examine how local construction practices, limited infrastructure, climate conditions, and material availability shaped strategies to support healthier learning environments for children. Drawing on on-site lessons learned, presenters highlight how “context is king” reshaped the design approach—favoring simple, adaptable, and community-responsive solutions. The session challenges conventional assumptions about design and construction while showing how resource-conscious, locally informed thinking can lead to more resilient and meaningful design.

By attending this workshop participants will be able to: Describe how local Ghanaian construction practices, material availability, and labor conditions influence the design and execution of K-12 educational facilities.

Explain how passive cooling, indoor air quality strategies, solar photovoltaic systems, and rainwater catchment can improve health, safety, and resilience in educational environments with limited infrastructure resources.

Identify ways architects and engineers can adapt project design decisions to align with community context, constructability, long-term maintenance, and local capacity in rural environments. Discuss how cross-cultural collaboration experiences between professional firms, nonprofit organizations, and local stakeholders can inspire more creative, context-responsive approaches to educational design.

Presented by: Sam Stinson, Design Engineers; Amy Infelt, Design Engineers (1 HSW LU, 1 GBCI)

19.

Closing the Loop: Bridging Design Intent and Real-World Building Performance

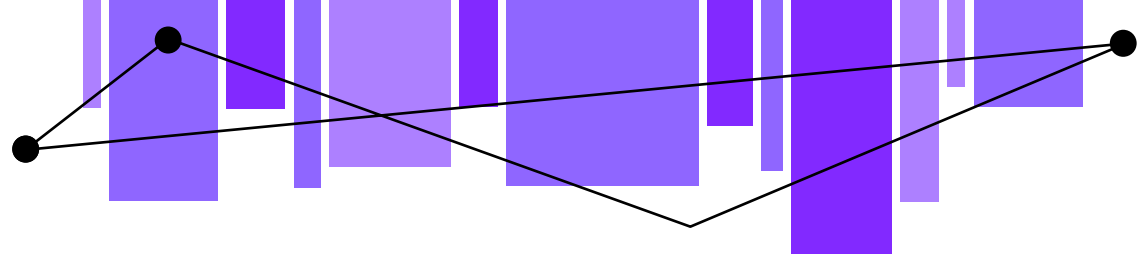
Building Code and Compliance Track

Energy models, high-performance design strategies, and innovative systems often define project goals, but how do they perform once buildings are occupied and operated? This session explores the gap between modeled performance and real-world outcomes through insights gathered from recently completed projects. The format will be either a panel discussion featuring project stakeholders (designers, engineers, and building operators) or a synthesis of interviews conducted with these groups. The session will highlight: - How systems and measures were intended to perform versus actual results - Construction and commissioning challenges that influenced outcomes - Operational realities affecting energy use, maintainability, and occupant comfort - Lessons learned from building operators and facilities staff - Cases where energy efficiency goals conflicted with usability or comfort By connecting perspectives across the project lifecycle (from design through operations) this session emphasizes the importance of feedback loops in improving future building performance. Attendees will leave with practical strategies to better align design intent with operational success.

By attending this workshop participants will be able to: Identify common gaps found between modeled building performance estimates and actual building performances post-construction to explain how they impact energy use and occupant comfort. Evaluate how factors such as construction, commissioning, and operational decisions influence building system effectiveness and long-term performance. Analyze anecdotal lessons learned from operators and project teams to gain insight on how we can better improve design decisions and system selection in future projects. Understand ways to incorporate post-occupancy feedback into design workflows, improving health, safety, welfare, and building usability outcomes.

Presented by: Tarunkumar Vinod Jotwani, Wildan (1 HSW LU, 1 GBCI)

Workshops



Session 4: Friday, September 25, 2:15 p.m.-3:15 p.m.

20.

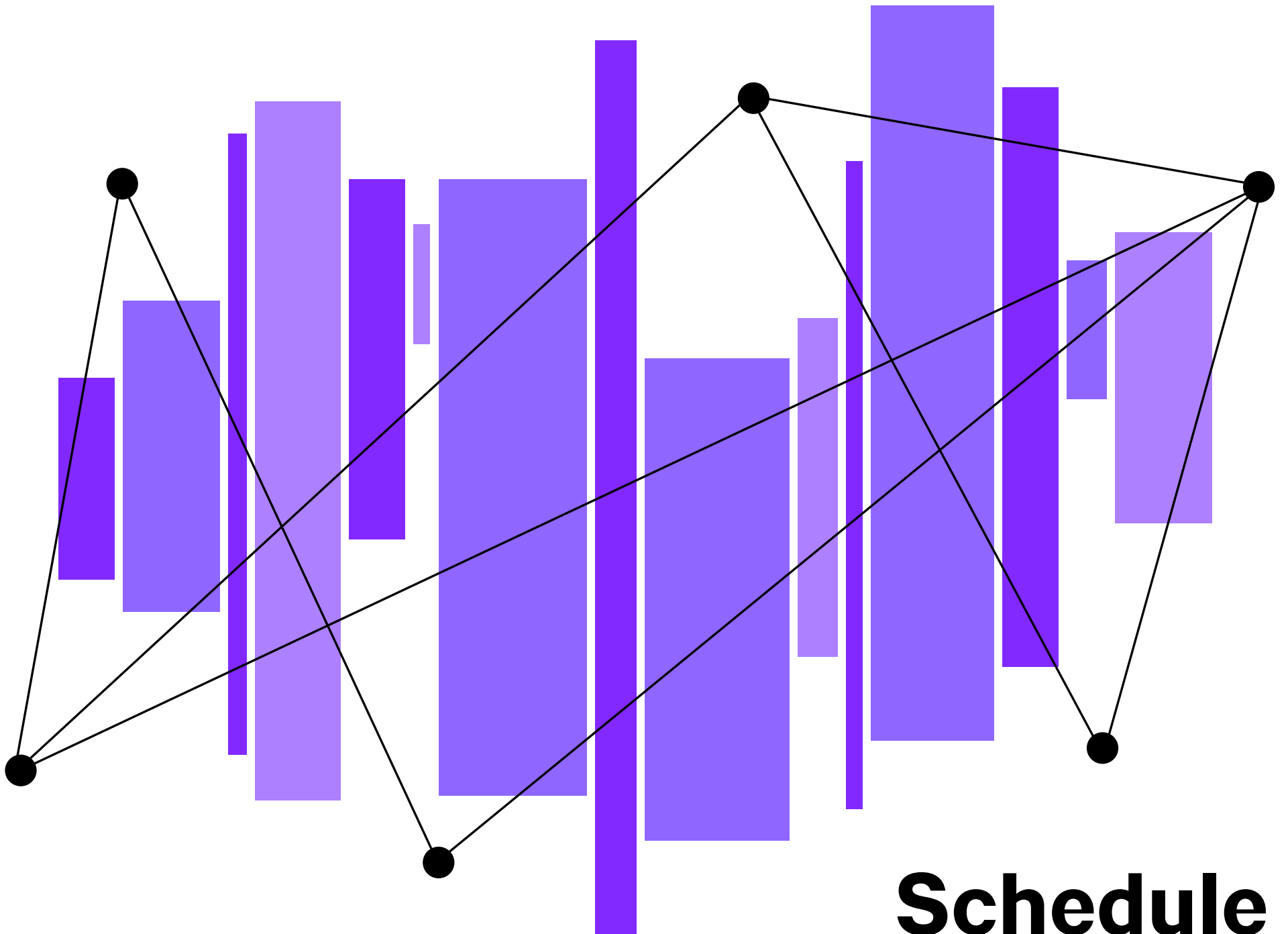
Impact of Increased Ventilation Rates in Classrooms on Energy Usage and System Functionality in a Iowa

Technology, Sustainability, & Innovation Track

The COVID-19 pandemic brought building ventilation into the focus of public health. Low ventilation rates increased the rate of respiratory infection. Ventilation in ASHRAE climate zone 5A directly impacts energy use due to the extremely cold winters and warm-humid summers. This presentation assesses the spatial, energy, and HVAC needs of ventilation upgrades for five major school types in an Iowa school district. The schools were selected based on time and type of construction, location and orientation of classrooms, and type of HVAC system.

By attending this workshop participants will be able to: Highlight relationship between improving classroom ventilation rates and energy consumption in the midwestern climate (Des Moines Iowa as a case study location). Highlight the impacts of increased ventilation rates in school classrooms on Overall energy use & CO2 emissions Fan motor power use Duct sections / pressure drops and air velocity. Assess best practices for school HVAC retrofits Include multiple possible 'side effects', such as noise, seating arrangements, views and glare / orientation. Develop an understanding that impacts are HVAC system dependent

Presented by: Ulrike Passe, AIA, Iowa State University (1 HSW LU, 1 GBCI)



Schedule

Schedule

Wednesday, Sept 23

12-8 p Exhibit Hall Set-up

Thursday, Sept 24

7:30 a Registration Opens

Exhibits Open, Breakfast

8:00 Welcome

8:15 Keynote Speaker:
Thamarit Suchart, AIA

9:30 Exhibit Hall Open,
Refreshments

10:45 Workshop Session 1

1. Connecting Expertise to Recovery: The Role of Architects and Building Professionals in Disaster Response, Reconstruction, and Resiliency Planning.
2. How to Utilize AI Features Within MBI's Source1 Digital Plan Room
3. The Death of Disposable: Why Architecture Didn't Stop at the Walls
4. Design for All - Above and Beyond ADA Standards
5. The Human-Nature Connection: Harnessing Natural Design to Elevate Resilience

11:45 Lunch for Attendees,
Exhibitors, Speakers &
Sponsors

Excellence in Energy
Efficient Design Awards

1:15 p Workshop Session 2

6. Reichardt Community Recreation Center Case Study: Navigating Social, Environmental, and Economic Impacts During Planning & Design
7. Connected by Design: Multidisciplinary Women Leaders Shaping the Future of the Built Environment
8. Lofty Goals: Goldfinch Lofts Takes Affordable Housing to New Heights
9. Design That Pays Off: Supporting Green Building Strategies for Schools & Local Governments
10. Steel Deconstruction and Reuse: The Architect's Role in a Circular Future

2:15 Exhibits Open, Refreshments

3:45 Keynote Speaker:
Mimi Hoang, FAIA

5:00 Cocktail Party on
Mezzanine & Exhibit Hall

6:00 Door Prize Drawing in
Exhibit Hall

7:00 Awards Celebration:
World Food Prize

Friday, Sept 25

7:30 a Registration Opens

Feed Your Future: Emerging
Professionals Breakfast

Exhibits Open, Breakfast

8:00 Welcome

8:15 Masonry Institute
Architectural Design Awards

8:30 Keynote Speaker:
Angela Ward Hyatt, FAIA

9:45 Exhibits Open, Refreshments

10:45 Door Prize Drawing

11:15 Workshop Session 3

11. Speak up: Case Studies in Architecture as a conversation between generations.
12. NCARB & You: AXP, ARE, & the Path to Licensure
13. Hear Me Out: Design Beyond ADA with DeafSpace
14. Six things the State Building Code Bureau wished you knew before project submittal
15. From Model to Reality: The Tools Closing the Gap Between Design Intent and Construction

12:15 p Lunch for Attendees &
Speakers

1:00 AIA Iowa Business Meeting &
Legislative Forum

2:00 Break

2:15 Workshop Session 4

16. Time & Talents: Volunteer voices from Iowa's Design Community
17. Applied Research Panel - Integrating Academia into Everyday Practice
18. Connections Through Construction: Embracing Context-Responsive Design
19. Closing the Loop: Bridging Design Intent and Real-World Building Performance
20. Impact of Increased Ventilation Rates in Classrooms

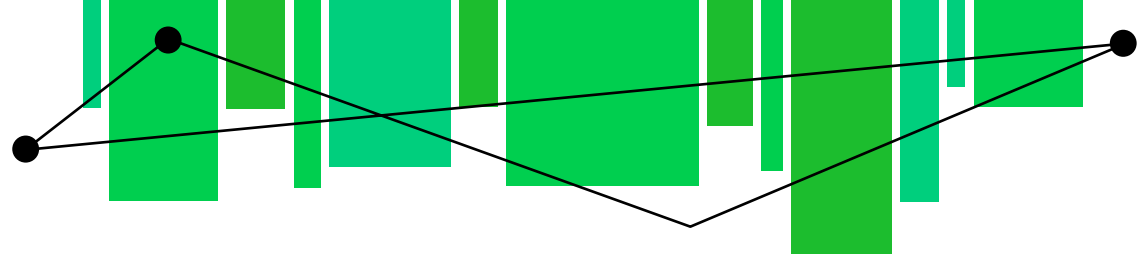
3:15 Break/Refreshments

3:30 Keynote Speaker:
Jeffrey Huber, FAIA

Pricing

	Full Experience		Build Your Experience	
	Best Value! Includes keynotes, lunches and workshops.		Includes keynotes and lunches, workshops \$25 each.	
Attendee Type	Full Experience EARLY BIRD BY AUG 10	Full Experience*	Build Your Experience EARLY BIRD BY AUG 10	Build Your Experience*
AIA Member AIA, PROF. AFFILIATE, HON. AIA	\$270	\$345	\$210	\$285
Assoc. AIA Member INT'L. ASSOC. AIA	\$230	\$265	\$170	\$205
AXP Enrolled Assoc. AIA Member Pella AXP discount code only available to those enrolled in the Architectural Experience Program	\$170	\$185	\$110	\$125
Emeritus Member	\$0 Includes keynote speakers. Lunches may be purchased for \$38 each and workshops for \$25 each during registration.			
Full-Time ISU Architecture Student or Faculty	\$0 Includes keynote speakers and workshops. Lunches may be purchased for \$38 each during registration.			
Nonmember	\$330	\$405	\$275	\$350

* A late registration fee may apply once online registration closes. A 4% fee will be deducted from all refunded amounts. No refunds will be granted after the early registration deadline August 10.



Find more convention information and register online at aiaiowaevents.org

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Questions?
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AIA
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Education



Continuing Education

All keynotes and workshops are approved for AIA LUs. To receive these credits, include your AIA number. Certain convention keynotes and workshops are approved for USBGC GBCI credits. To receive these credits, include your USGBC number. Both Interior Designer CEUs and Engineer PDHs can be earned through self-reporting via Certificates of Completion. All attendees may receive a Certificate of Completion upon request to info@aiaiowa.org after September 25, 2026.

AIA Iowa is an AIA CES Approved Provider (#A023) with the American Institute of Architects Continuing Education System. Participants in the 2026 AIA Iowa Convention will receive one learning unit (1 LU or LU/HSW) for each hour of programming and upon completion reported to AIA CES. The number of learning units or credit hours available for each workshop and keynote session is listed with each description.



Pella AXP Sponsorship

Pella recognizes the importance of the future of the architectural profession and our emerging professionals by graciously funding the Pella AXP Sponsorship at the 2026 AIA Iowa Convention. This program celebrates AIA Iowa Associate members (those enrolled in the Architectural Experience Program (AXP) by providing funding for them to attend the convention at a reduced rate. AIA Iowa Associate members may sign up for this program by entering a discount code during convention registration that will be emailed to those eligible for the discount.