

Member Project Highlight



Photo: Halkin Mason Photography

**2022 Design Awards Program Recipient, Award
Pilot Point Renovation**

Lewes, Delaware

Pilot Point is the renovation of an existing two-story town home in a neighborhood on the shore of the Delaware Bay in Lewes, Delaware. The HOA prohibited any changes to the exterior other than the replacement of the existing windows and enclosing the existing decks on the bay side of the structure.

Our client, a bachelor with grandchildren, wanted to transform the existing spaces into a mindfulness retreat, inspired by the architecture of Japan, where he could escape the hustle and bustle of his primary residence in Manhattan and think about his writing. Most of the time, our client would be the only person in the home, but he also needed the flexibility to occasionally host his family.

The re-imagined, open, flexible spaces are now washed with daylight, creating a perfect spot to practice mindfulness and find the mental space to write.

Design Architect: SEA Studio

Owner: Confidential

Chapter Design Awards Program

New Leaders Elected to AIA Board of Directors

Three new leaders have been elected to the American Institute of Architects' (AIA) Board of Directors. AIA delegates elected Evelyn Lee, FAIA, NOMA as the 2024 First Vice President/2025 President-elect; Heather Philip-O'Neal, AIA as the 2024–2025 Treasurer; and Latoya N. Kamdang, AIA, as the 2024-2026 At-large Director. View full announcement on [AIA's website](#).

Evelyn Lee, FAIA, NOMA, elected 2024 First Vice President/2025 President-elect

Lee served as AIA Treasurer in 2020-2021. She was AIA California's vice president of Communications & Public Affairs from 2011-2012. She is the only Fellow who has received both the National Associates Award and Young Architects Award and the only member to have served as the chair of the National Associates Committee and Young Architects Forum. Lee is the Global Head of Workspace Strategy and Innovation at Slack in San Francisco.



Heather Philip-O'Neal, AIA, elected 2024-2025 Treasurer

In 2023, Philip-O'Neal served as a member of AIA's Small Firm Exchange Board and the Finance & Audit Committee. She has been a member of AIA NY's Advocacy Committee since 2020. Philip-O'Neal is the principal and owner of HPP International LLC in New York City.



Latoya N. Kamdang, AIA, elected 2024-2026 At-large Director

Kamdang joined AIA in 2019 and is eager to focus efforts on environmental sustainability, social sustainability, and nurturing and mentoring emerging professionals. Kamdang is the Director of Operations at Ennead Architects in New York City.



Visit AIA's website to learn more about [AIA leadership](#).

Advocacy

Joint Statement on the Supreme Court's Decision Regarding Race-Conscious Admissions

The American Institute of Architects (AIA) and other allied organizations recognize that even with affirmative action, the number of minorities enrolled in our nation's colleges and universities is disproportionate to our demographics. By removing these protections, we are concerned that the impact of underrepresentation may worsen outcomes for everyone.

Equity, diversity, inclusion, and belonging represent our combined core values. We will continue

to advocate for inclusive collegiate admissions because its educational benefits are integral to moving the architecture profession forward. Diverse student perspectives and lived experiences will not only enrich the next generation of architects and design professionals, but also shape our world through the built environment they will design. We are committed to the protection of the health, safety, and welfare of the public, which includes ensuring that our future workforce reflects the population it serves.

Join us in supporting students with programs, legislation and solutions that will address inequity in society and our educational institutions. Please visit [AIA](#), [AIAS](#), [ACSA](#), and [NOMA](#) for more information on how you can help students.

The American Institute of Architects (AIA)
The American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS)
Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA)
National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA)

Career



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AIA Career Center

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AIA is the largest, most influential network of architecture professionals—a 96,000+ member community who shares your passion for design, a desire to change the world, and a commitment to the highest standards of practice.

When you join AIA, you're joining our community—and so much more.

Membership connects you around key practice areas so you can share knowledge, partner on solutions, and learn from experts and creative thinkers.

It connects you to your local architecture community through your chapter, which hosts events, conferences, awards programs, and volunteer opportunities.

And it comes with unparalleled support AIA offers for your career, your practice, and the architecture profession, plus free [AIAU courses](#) and [free practice guides](#) and reports to help you design for equity and climate action.

It's this kind of support and community that matters. Join AIA, and let's design a better world, together.

[Join AIA today](#)

Member News

Becker Morgan Group Staff Excel Careers Through Licensures

Becker Morgan Group proudly announces that staff members Trevor Smith, PE, and Kelsey Segraves, AIA, have earned their professional engineering and architecture licenses. Trevor and Kelsey have met the requirements set out by the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying and the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards, including education, experience, and rigorous professional exams.



ARCHITECTURE
ENGINEERING

Trevor Smith, PE, graduated from the University of Delaware, earning his Bachelor of Civil Engineering. He joined the firm as a civil designer in 2019 and has been an integral member of the firm's civil engineering department in the Newark, DE office.

Kelsey Segraves, AIA, graduated from Marywood University, earning her Bachelor of Architecture. She joined the firm as an architectural designer in the Salisbury, MD office in 2018. Kelsey has been a valuable member of the firm and has supported various project types, giving her a diverse and rich skill set.

Further, Civil Designer Andrew Sabine, EIT, recently passed the Fundamentals of Engineering exam. This allows him to pursue licensure by taking the Principles and Practice of Engineering exam. Andrew is a 2020 graduate of the University of Delaware with his Bachelor of Civil Engineering.

Becker Morgan Group applauds these individuals for taking the next step in their professional careers and enhancing the firm's professional service offerings to clients and community partners.

About Becker Morgan Group

Established in 1983, Becker Morgan Group is a leader in architecture, engineering, surveying, land planning, and interior design in the Mid-Atlantic and Southeast regions of the United States. Learn more at www.beckermorgan.com.

Programs and Events

High Performance Construction Training in July Playing a major role in green workforce development



Are you and your construction company ready to deliver the higher performing and energy efficient buildings that will be required by the new energy code? To help you meet the challenge, Energize Delaware, New Ecology, Inc., and Green Building United have joined together to host a three-day, in-person, Phius Certified Builder (CPHB) training July 19 to the 21st. CPHB-trained and certified builders are recognized in the marketplace as understanding how the application of passive building techniques such as airtight envelopes, high-performance window installation, third-party quality assurance, and attentive site management result in highly efficient, healthy, and resilient buildings.



"Passive House buildings are durable, comfortable, and highly energy efficient but they don't happen without education and planning. Training like this one plays a critical role in developing the workforce we need. New Ecology, Inc. is grateful for the leadership and support provided by our partners," said Norm Horn, Construction Project Manager, New Ecology.

The session will focus on skills that can be applied directly to the projects that you are working on, planning for, and dreaming of including: Applied building science fundamentals and materials; High-performance building enclosure systems with an emphasis on field inspection; Climate-specific construction detailing; Air barriers and passive building retrofitting.

Registration for the July 19-21, 2023, CPHB training is open until June 30th and space is limited so registering early is important. Classes will run from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day in Newark, DE.

Passing the certification exam earns the trainee the Phius Certified Builder credential joining over 3,000 trained professionals in the US. Phius, a 501(c)(3), sets the standard for high performance passive buildings with the aim of building a zero-carbon environment through building science, supporting building professionals and designers, and certifying the majority of all passive house projects in North America.

Energize Delaware will reimburse a portion of the tuition for those who earn their certification: In State: 75% of the cost of the course for Delaware residents; Out of State: 50% of the cost of the course to employees of companies licensed in Delaware. The cost of the course is \$1,550 which includes all materials, test registration, and breakfast and lunch all three days.

For details and to register visit [Energize Delaware.org/passive-buildings](https://energize-delaware.org/passive-buildings). If you have any questions email: info@empowergrantDE.org

Women's Leadership Summit

Women in architecture, design, and the allied building industries are one of the most influential segments in the profession. Yet when looking at leadership roles in these industries, we still ask: Where are they?

Women's Leadership Summit, founded by AIA, is a premier event that brings together the industry's largest network of diverse women in architecture, design, and the allied building industries. It exists to support and empower women on their leadership journeys and break down the barriers that get in their way.

Focused on networking, leadership training, business development, gender equity, and personal empowerment, WLS helps women manifest the careers they want while making a difference in the world.

Join us in Boston September 12–14, 2023, to:

- Connect with a diverse community that wants to support you.
- Share pathbreaking ideas to tackle challenges, uncover potential, and lead change.
- Celebrate women leaders at every career stage, empowering everyone to change the future.

It's all powered by the AIA community—the largest, most influential network of architecture professionals and allies creating a better world through architecture, relationships, collaboration, opportunities, and belonging.

[Register for WLS 2023 >](#)



September 12 – 14, 2023
8:00 am -5:00 pm

Boston

[Register for WLS 2023 >](#)

Your ticket includes three days of high-impact programming, networking, a welcome reception, and select meals.

Upgrade your experience by adding workshops, wellness activities, dine arounds, and the opportunity to earn up to 4 HSWs | 45 AIA LUs.

Our Partners





Partner News

This Exterior Contractor Earns Tears of Joy

An unexpected homeowner reaction to a siding remodel project with AZEK trim.

You've probably had homeowners say thanks in all sorts of ways, like a handshake or, lately, an elbow bump. "We had the entire back wall installed the first day," explains Kelly Wysienski, owner of South Carolina-based East Coast Exteriors, discussing a recent residential residing project.



IMAGES ABOVE: HOUSE BEFORE (left) / DETAILS BEFORE & AFTER (right)

"The owner returned from work, took one look, walked over to me and gave me the biggest hug with tears of happiness in her eyes *'It's so beautiful,*" Wysienski says. Fiber-cement siding highlighted with AZEK trim replaced the 28-year-old, over-caulked, over-repaired, and over-painted hardboard panels. "There was rot around the windows where water penetrated the Masonite," Wysienski says. "Repeated caulking and painting didn't help. The owners were tired of the hassles and expense."

Wysienski credits the trim for recasting the exterior with a clean, seamless look. A big contributor to the wow factor is the absence of caulk, nail penetrations, and touchups, thanks to the **J-Channel Series from AZEK**, a comprehensive system of cellular PVC trim profiles that eliminates many of the downsides of traditional trim.

No Caulk. No Nails. No Problem.

Wysienski is no fan of caulk or nails. With caulk, the homeowner faces deterioration and discoloration over time. With nails, unsightly penetrations, and ongoing touch-up expense. For contractors like East Coast Exteriors, time is the other factor. "My team puts up a 20-foot length of AZEK corner trim in 10 to 15 minutes. Compare that to the 30 to 45 minutes we used to take. It's not often you work with a product both the owner and the crew loves," she says, also noting other reasons to minimize caulk:

1. **Continuous expense.** "You have to re-caulk every two years or so because of caulk expansion and contraction. It cracks and peels."
2. **Joint headaches.** "Pre-finished fiber cement siding with fiber cement trim requires a welded joint." Applying a welded joint is a skilled craft that less experienced applicators can struggle with. "Even the best effort isn't good enough," she says.
3. **Higher labor cost.** Caulk is usually applied by specialized subcontractors. No caulk eliminates a significant installation step, saving time and money.
4. **It's ugly!** "When you eliminate caulk, you eliminate a lot of siding ugliness."

And one more: There's a far better solution available. "Every single trim piece was AZEK J-Channel trim," she reports. The product, as the name suggests, has the J-channel built-in which provides a pocket for fiber-cement siding to slide into providing a neat, caulk-free finish. When installing with premium vinyl siding, this all-in-one design eliminates the need to apply a separate J-channel pocket which eliminates extra labor and another seam. What's more, cellular PVC is impervious to moisture, mold, and rot, and painting isn't required, another time-saver.

IMAGES BELOW: AFTER



Winning Edge

Wysienski has heard all the PVC trim arguments, notably expense. "I always ask, 'Do you spend 15 percent more now or twice as much in five years for replacement trim?'" she says. No trim product is perfect. But after 20-plus years in the business, Wysienski has seen more than her share of alternatives for trimming vinyl, fiber cement, and wood composite siding. About two years ago she made the switch to the **J-Channel Series from AZEK**, unheard of then in that market. Today? "It's everywhere," she reports. "All it takes is a few thanks you's like the one I received."

To learn more about trim and moulding products for your next project, visit [AZEK Exteriors](#) or contact me:

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Exciting News from V&L! Steinle Construction Engineers the Structural Division of VanDemark & Lynch, was honored to receive a Governor's Conservation Award 2023.



Steinle Construction Engineers the Structural Division of VanDemark & Lynch designed a tiered retaining wall replacement for a timber wall that has failed due to age and moisture damage. The design utilized an innovative hybrid Gravity / Mechanical Stabilized Earth (MSE) construction that enabled the wall to be built at the bottom of a steep embankment. The wall facings were selected to incorporate the Rockland Mills style aesthetics of the site and community.



VanDemark & Lynch, Inc. has helped clients for over 70 years, bring thousands of projects to life through engineering, planning, and surveying services of the highest quality. Contact us to talk about your next project by calling (302) 764-7635 or by visiting us at <http://vdleng.com/>.

Roofs from the Heart: Building Strong Communities One Roof at a Time



In a world where many struggle to meet their basic needs, the simple act of having a solid roof over one's head can make an enormous difference.

Recognizing the dire situation faced by lower-income households unable to afford roof replacements, **Roofs from the Heart**, a remarkable non-profit organization, was developed to offer a helping hand and keep families in their communities.

Roofs from the Heart is driven by a profound sense of compassion and the belief that everyone deserves a safe and secure place to call home. Through an innovative approach, the organization generously donates roofing systems to those who are financially unable to meet the costs themselves. By doing so, they ensure that families can maintain their homes and remain an integral part of their local communities.



The impact of Roofs from the Heart reaches far beyond the physical structure. A new roof provides much-needed protection from the elements, alleviates health and safety concerns, and restores peace of mind to struggling households. Additionally, by preventing displacement and preserving community ties, the organization fosters a sense of stability and belonging, which is vital for individuals and families facing financial hardship.

In 2022, they partnered with Energize Delaware to create the Empowerment Grant – which allows for not only a new roof, but also gives homes additional energy-efficient upgrades. Through partnerships with local contractors, businesses, and community organizations, they are able to maximize their reach and impact.

With each roof they provide, Roofs from the

Heart not only offers a practical solution but also rekindles hope and dignity for those in need. By keeping families in their communities, they contribute to the social fabric that binds us all together, creating a brighter future for everyone.

In a world where compassion and solidarity can sometimes feel in short supply, Roofs from the Heart shines as a beacon of hope, reminding us of the power of kindness and the extraordinary difference it can make in the lives of others.

Roofs from the Heart Charity is an important part of what we do at G. Fedale. We have developed this charity as our way to give back to the community in a meaningful manner. We are one of the top roofing contracting companies in the country and offer our expertise at no cost to a deserving family in our community because we are passionate about being a good community citizen. For further information, please contact Glenn Fedale Sr. at glenn.sr@roofsfromtheheart.org or 302-287-0239.



Employee Spotlight John Mettee, PLS

50 years of Surveying Mastery! 🎉 We are thrilled to honor our esteemed colleague, John Mettee, for his remarkable half-century contribution to the surveying industry. His expertise, precision, and unwavering commitment have played an instrumental role in shaping the landscape around us. Thank you, John, for your invaluable dedication and passion. Here's to an outstanding career and years of success at Karins and Associates!



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Zweig Group Recognizes Verdantas For Two Prestigious Awards

Verdantas, a leading environmental and engineering consulting firm, is thrilled to announce its inclusion in both the 2023 Best Firm To Work For and Hot Firm 2023 lists as compiled by Zweig Group, a premier research, publishing, and consulting firm specializing in the AEC industry.

[Read full news release](#)



The Zweig Group Best Firms To Work For list to celebrate companies that prioritize employee

satisfaction, professional development, and an exceptional workplace culture. Verdantas' inclusion in this ranking highlights its dedication to promoting a supportive and engaging workplace environment.

Zweig Group's Hot Firm List acts as a benchmark within the industry, highlighting the growth and performance of firms across North America. Both designations add to Verdantas' awards showcase. The company climbed even higher on ENR's Top 500 Design Firms, reaching #149 in the most recent rankings released earlier this year.

Andra Kidd, Verdantas Chief Growth and Strategy Officer adds, " We have captured the market's attention and accelerated our strategic growth trajectory while simultaneously cultivating a people-centered culture of open communication and collaboration. The result is being recognized by these unique industry distinctions."

Gerry Salontai, Verdantas CEO says, "Our relentless curiosity, creativity, and dedication to excellence have propelled us to these important milestones. These awards are a testament to the passion and brilliance of our entire Verdantas team, whose unwavering commitment has fueled our rapid growth and driven our success."

"The Hot Firm award underscores our commitment to financial excellence and our ability to effectively manage resources in a fast-paced, innovative environment," said Pat Sheridan, Chief Financial Officer at Verdantas. "We have successfully implemented financial strategies that fuel our growth and position us for long-term success."

[Read the full news releases now.](#)

Wohlsen Receives Governor's Safety Award from Delaware Contractors Association



Wohlsen Construction's Delaware team members Mark Grunza and Amanda Barba recently accepted the Governor's Safety Award presented by the Delaware Contractors Association.



This is awarded annually to companies that maintain an incident rate at or below the industry average and an EMR of 1.0 or less.

Shout out to all Wohlsen team members for diligently ensuring that our job sites exceed industry-standard safety protocols to maintain a safe work environment and ensure the highest quality work.

We are honored to be recognized for our exemplary safety results in the workplace.

Wohlsen Construction provides construction management, general contracting, and design/build services to clients throughout the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast regions. As a leading merit shop firm, Wohlsen provides construction services in the senior living, education, healthcare, manufacturing, and commercial markets and maintains full-service offices in Wilmington, DE; Lancaster, Harrisburg, Berwyn, PA; Baltimore, MD; Parsippany, NJ; Hamden, CT; and Vienna, VA.

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Delaware Brick Company	Tighe & Cottrell, P.A.
DiSabatino Construction Company	Union Wholesale Company (UWC)
Electronic Home Solutions (EHS)	Verdantas
Welcome New Member G. Fedale Roofing & Siding	Wohlsen Construction Company
Become a Partner or Allied Member	

Resources

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Real projects start with
the industry standard

Learn how **The Guest
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