Dan Hart inaugurated as AIA 2022 President

The American Institute of Architects (AIA) inaugurated Dan Hart, FAIA, as its 98th president.

“I’m spectacularly optimistic,” said Hart. “As I consider this moment in AIA’s deep history and the complexity that all of us together represent, I see beauty on the other side. I believe we are at a pivotal moment. As we move from aspiration to agency on our core dual strategies of addressing climate and justice through the built environment … we stand together and are prepared to take action.”

Hart has held a number of AIA leadership positions. He was the moderator of the AIA Strategic Council in 2016 and served on the AIA National Board of Directors. While on the board, he chaired the AIA Board Knowledge Committee and AIA Public Outreach Committee as well as co-chaired the AIA COVID-19 Business Task Force. He also served as president of the Texas Society of Architects in 2011.

After more than three decades as a practicing architect and engineer, Hart is a principal and executive vice president of architecture at Parkhill—a 450-person architecture and engineering firm headquartered in Texas—and serves on the firm’s board of directors. He has experience designing religious and educational buildings and has master-planned a variety of campuses.

Continuing reading >

Lakisha Woods selected AIA Executive Vice President/Chief Executive Officer

The AIA Board of Directors has selected Lakisha Ann Woods, CAE, as the next AIA Executive Vice President/Chief Executive Officer effective Jan. 31, 2022.

“It is an honor to welcome Lakisha to the AIA,” said AIA 2021 President Peter Exley, FAIA. “Her breadth of experience in the building industry combined with her leadership in making the built environment more sustainable, equitable, and safer for Americans makes her a natural fit for advancing AIA’s strategic priorities. I look forward to seeing her further empower architects to improve society and transform the built environment as well as inspire the next generation.”

Woods has held several significant leadership roles in the design and construction industry. She currently serves as the President & Chief Executive Officer of the National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS), which convenes experts from the building industry, design, government, and regulation to identify and develop solutions to critical issues impacting the built environment, including climate action, natural disasters, and inequity. While at NIBS, Woods expanded the organization’s programs and markets while also growing its relationships with its members, clients, partners, and public agencies, including the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, Federal Emergency Management Agency, and United States Army Corps of Engineers. Additionally, she led initiatives to address discrimination and improve equity in the building industry. Prior to NIBS, Woods served as the Senior Vice President & Chief Marketing Officer with the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB). While at NAHB, Woods led a team of 27 staff, oversaw a $54 million budget and was responsible for marketing and revenue-generating programs, sponsorships, partnerships with national firms and marketing the International Builders Show.
AIA report shows design firms have room to grow in technology adoption to improve profitability and impact

A new report from the American Institute of Architects (AIA) is providing insights on how architecture firms view technology adoption and how firm culture impacts technology management. The report, *Technology, Culture, & the Future of the Architectural Firm*, not only looks at how and why technology influences firm revenue but identifies key drivers of and barriers to adoption. Findings from the report show how small, medium, and large firms manage IT maintenance. Additional key findings include:

- Over half of firms are focused on growing profitability of projects by delivering them more efficiently, however, managing specifications is a particular pain point.
- Business development and marketing technologies remain underutilized in an industry focused on relationships and organic growth.
- Fewer than one in five architecture firms have customer relationship management (CRM) or enterprise resource planning (ERP) systems, making it difficult to enable sales and business development (BD) efforts and orchestrate digital marketing.
- Architects at firms with strong capabilities for managing specification and project changes, and those with real-time insights into projects, are significantly more confident about their future success.

*Technology, Culture, & the Future of the Architectural Firm* was commissioned by the AIA Manufacturers Council, a group of companies dedicated to closing the knowledge gap between architects and the building products industry.

The report is available on [AIA’s website](https://www.aia.org).

Advocacy

Decarbonization and the AIA 2030 Commitment: The AIA HQ Approach

By Brad Jacobson, FAIA, LEED AP, DBIA

Fifteen years ago, *Architecture 2030* put forward a clear and ambitious goal for the architecture profession through the 2030 Challenge: Make all buildings carbon-neutral by 2030. AIA’s adoption of this challenge through the formation of the *2030 Commitment*, and subsequent adoption by firms large and small, has signaled to the world the intent of this profession to take a leadership role in the global transformation needed to right the ship and keep temperature change below 1.5°C, thereby stemming the worst effects of climate change.
AIA's goals are to create a model for an energy efficient, adaptable, post-COVID, 21st century workplace and gathering space that focuses on an equitable, sustainable and resilient environment.

The AIA HQ Renewal is the latest step in matching action with intent. The renewal project will operationalize AIA's Climate Action Plan with a project that meets the 2030 Commitment target five years ahead of schedule. It will demonstrate a scalable, affordable, and replicable approach to decarbonization in existing buildings.

My firm, EHDD, is currently designing the AIA National Headquarters renovation project in Washington, D.C. I am the project Director of Sustainability. In my firm’s experience, a focus on electrification with onsite and offsite renewables allows for much simpler mechanical systems at a significantly lower cost than lowering a project's EUI by 80% onsite. This approach recognizes that buildings are an integrated part of the larger energy systems and are interconnected with their broader communities. The AIA HQ Renewal is exhibit A.

Our approach is to push energy efficiency to its cost-effective limit, electrify everything in the building, and then serve the building through a mix of onsite and offsite renewable energy. This effectively brings operational carbon to zero. The embodied (or upfront) carbon associated with building construction and renovation emerges as the thorniest challenge. The big move for the HQ renewal is giving the existing headquarters building new life and avoiding new emissions associated with structure and other building systems.

To further drive down embodied greenhouse gas emissions at every step, key new building elements—from windows to carpet—will be studied via life-cycle assessment to identify the best value options and reduce upfront carbon by an additional 10% to 20%. The remaining embodied emissions will be offset through an innovative local project, such as a renewable energy installation or heat pump retrofit for a public or community-based organization that will enhance the health and economics of the local community while directly paying down the AIA HQ carbon debt to achieve true carbon neutrality.

Continue reading >

AIA 2030 Commitment by the numbers
See the numbers, take a step forward

The drumbeat of news about effects related to a changing climate—and the resulting loss of life and property—refuses to stop. The 2018 IPCC report clearly communicates the urgency to take substantial steps towards reducing our energy consumption and combating climate change—for our well-being and that of our environment.
With 40% of U.S. energy consumed by buildings, architects play a key role in making significant reductions in CO₂ emissions. The AIA 2030 Commitment program offers architects a way to publicly show their dedication and track progress toward a carbon-neutral future. Since 2009, participants in the Commitment have reported the performance of their firm portfolios over each calendar year. The data, collected via the 2030 Design Data Exchange (DDx), includes building type, area, baseline energy performance, and predicted energy performance.

Firms who have joined the 2030 Commitment are already putting in the work. In 2020, the 2030 Commitment participants reported energy savings equivalent to carbon emissions that would be sequestered by more than 42.3 million acres of forest in one year.

Learn more about the impact 2030 Commitment firms are making in the 2020 By the Numbers report, now available for download.

**Programs and Events**

**AIAU 2021’s Top 10 courses!**

Here are the indispensable courses architecture professionals turned to in 2021 to master new skills & earn HSWs!

We’ve collected AIAU’s best-of-the-best for our annual top 10 list. That’s 10 indispensable courses led by industry-leading architects and firms. Try a course. Get a jump on the trends, technologies, and inspiration you can use right now!

1. **The Struggle for Economic, Environmental, & Social Justice** (1.00 LU/HSW)
2. **Accessible Architecture: Designing for Success, Part 2** (1.25 LU/HSW)
3. **Blind Spots: Multisensory Placemaking for the Blind and Visually Impaired** (1.75 LU/HSW)
4. **The Iconic House: Lessons Learned on Detailing for Durability** (1.00 LU/HSW)
5. **Restoration of Iconic State Capitols** (1.5 LU/HSW)
6. **Win More Work: Communicate Your Value** (1.5 LU)
7. **3D Printing Concrete Forms: The Future is Now** (1.00 LU/HSW)
8. **All Together Now: Applying Biomimicry to Your Practice** (1.00 LU/HSW)
9. **AIA 2030 Signatories: Secrets to success for larger firms** (1.50 LU/HSW)
10. **Achieving Zero Energy Building Design** (8.0 LU/HSW)

Learn more >

**AIA Historic Resources Committee (HRC)**

2022 Taliesin Colloquium registration is open!
Join HRC at the 2022 Taliesin Colloquium this February

This Colloquium will take a deep dive into the global issues that preservationists face today and the Standards and Guidelines that have been the backbone of our practice. Through presentations, panel discussions and breakout sessions we will look at U.S. public policies and preservation standards through the lens of a holistic view sustainability including social, cultural, environmental, economic, and equity. There will be discussions evaluating whether current standards provide an adequate framework for climate action, a path to economic viability of all communities, and a flexibility to tell all stories or the need for a bolder approach.

February 11-12, 2022
Taliesin West, 12621 N. Frank Lloyd Wright Blvd., Scottsdale, Arizona
More information & to Register >

Scholarships

New ARE scholarship for aspiring Black architects

The LFRT ARE Scholarship will cover the cost of the ARE, provide $500 in study materials, a one-year subscription to AIA’s exam prep resource, ArchiPrep, one year of dues to AIA or the National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA), and one year of the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards’ (NCARB) record fees. In order to be eligible, applicants must be Associate AIA or a member of NOMA, hold an NCARB Record, and must be eligible for the ARE. A brief essay is required to apply and letters of recommendation are optional. More than 30 awards are available.

Continue reading >

Applications are still open for 2022 tuition and ARE scholarships!

Five scholarship applications are open for architecture students and emerging professionals. Check your eligibility and apply by Jan. 14, 2022!

Continue reading >

Career Opportunities
Join AIA

Designing a better world together

AIA is a community, and much more. More than 94,000 strong, we are the largest, most influential network of architecture professionals. Our members share your passion for architecture and your desire to change the world through the power of design.

AIA is here to support your career, enhance your practice, and advance the architecture profession. As a member, you’re connected to exclusive resources along with opportunities to drive real, transformative change. Together, we’re tackling this generation's most urgent issues, from climate action to inequities in the built environment.

There is strength in numbers, and AIA is better with you. Join us and let's work together to design a zero-carbon, equitable, resilient, just, and healthier world for everyone.

Join now >

Member Info

Member Benefit - Advocacy

The American Institute of Architects (AIA) is the voice of architecture to legislators at the federal, state, and local level.

Here you can engage your legislators and use AIA tools and resources to develop skills as an advocate to build power for architects.

Explore AIA Advocacy >
Member Survey - Share your insights on AIA resiliency research

AIA is committed to better understanding how our members think about design. Share your perspective through a confidential, 10-minute survey.

Take the survey >

2022 Candidates for Elective Office

AIA members interested in declaring candidacy for AIA National Board of Directors. The deadline for declaring candidacy is Feb. 14, 2022.

Learn more >

News from our Members

Becker Morgan Group Expands Environmental Expertise

Staff Member Earns LEED AP Certification

Becker Morgan Group’s architectural designer, Megan M. E. Kelly, recently earned her LEED AP Building Design + Construction certification. The LEED AP BD+C designation distinguishes those with advanced knowledge in green building design with a specialty in design and new construction of green buildings. Kelly joins 12 other Becker Morgan Group staff members with the designation. The designation requires a series of tests and hands-on project experience. Megan has gained valuable green building design practices on a number of recent projects with the firm including Showell Elementary School and Wor-Wic Community College’s Patricia and Allen Gurrieri Applied Technology Center.

Brad A. Hastings, AIA, LEED AP noted the firm’s commitment to green building design “we believe good design should always align with what is beneficial for its occupants, the environment, and the community. Having over 12% of our staff LEED AP certified is a testament to our commitment to designing a better and greener tomorrow. We are proud of Megan for taking this important step in her career and we are excited to bring another expert to each of our projects.”

Becker Morgan Group Staff on the Forefront of Educational Design

Associate Joins Leadership with the Association for Learning Environments

Becker Morgan Group’s Associate, Emily McMullen, AIA, was elected as an at-large board member of the Chesapeake Bay/Delaware Valley Chapter of the Association for Learning Environments (A4LE). The A4LE is committed to enhancing the
educational experience, and leading innovation at the intersection of learning and place. Members include educators, facility planners, and architects. As an architect, Emily is passionate about shaping the future of educational facilities and is excited for her role on the A4LE board, "I am honored to be a part of the A4LE Chesapeake Bay/Delaware Valley Board so I can collaborate with designers and educators from the chapter area and beyond on best practices for teaching and learning and how they become the foundation for the schools we design.”

This position will allow Emily and Becker Morgan Group to help shape the educational built environment and be at the forefront of emerging trends. Brad Hastings, AIA, LEED AP, leader of the firm’s education studio, comments “Becker Morgan Group is proud of Emily’s commitment to the industry and the firm’s education clients, and her involvement is a testament to the level of expertise we work to provide our clients. We are proud and work diligently to be leaders in educational design.”

**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. The full-service design firm delivers award-winning work in education, healthcare, public safety, hospitality, commercial, government, residential, and land development. Learn more at www.beckermorgan.com.

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**Bernardon Announces Partnership with Core States Group, a Leading National Provider of Architecture, Engineering, Construction, and Signage Services**

Bernardon, one of the top ten largest architecture, interior design, and landscape architecture firms in the Philadelphia region, is excited to announce that the firm has joined the Core States Group of Companies. The partnership became effective on Monday, November 15, 2021.

Core States Group is a professional service firm providing in-house architecture, engineering (civil, structural, MEP), program management, construction management, energy, signage and branded environments, and technology services. With 17 offices across North America, Core States Group designs, builds, and manages national and regional programs for private corporations throughout a variety of markets including restaurant, retail, financial, fueling, and energy. Bernardon’s design experience, combined with Core States Group’s fully integrated practices and nationwide capabilities, will expand the service offerings and geographic reach of this new multi-disciplinary partnership.

“We are thrilled to be part of such a diverse organization with the ability to now reach coast to coast,” said Neil Liebman, AIA, President of Bernardon and successor to Kerry Haber, AIA, who continues as part of the firm’s leadership team. “This new relationship will create an end-to-end partner for our clients, allowing us to work together on all aspects of their project.”

“As Core States Group continues to grow and position itself to better serve clients, the addition of the Bernardon team will diversify our client portfolio,” stated David Dugan, President of Core States Group. “Our integrated model and ability to serve clients nationwide are major differentiators, and our partnership with Bernardon will strengthen that.”

**About Bernardon:** Established in 1973, Bernardon brings comprehensive design services to a mix of clients in the civic/cultural, corporate, healthcare, higher education, hospitality, industrial/warehousing, multifamily/mixed use, retail, senior living, and single-family markets. The 86-person firm operates offices in Philadelphia and West Chester, Pennsylvania, and Wilmington, Delaware. For more information visit www.bernardon.com.

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**Meet French White Oak!**

TimberTech® AZEK Landmark™ collection gains a new color! At a time when others are removing colors from their pallets and causing design issues, the team from TimberTech® is launching a third color in
Inspired by the in-demand look of reclaimed wood, the new Landmark Collection will bring refined charm to any deck. The texture is complemented by a unique crosscut for rough-hewn, old world charm. Each color in this collection features a cascading color range of sophisticated highlights and lowlights that span the length of the board for dramatic board-to-board color variation. Plus, all colors boast a modern matte finish and a color-matched bottom for a finished look.

Just like in nature, the light and dark nuances result in no two boards ever looking alike. With the Landmark Collection, it’s easy to create a one-of-a-kind deck every time.

AZEK Building Products manufactures home building materials under two divisions: TimberTech® and AZEK® Exteriors. TimberTech offers a premium portfolio of capped polymer and capped composite decking – as well as railing, porch, lighting and paver products – while AZEK Exteriors manufactures distinctly unique trim and moulding.

For questions regarding this new color or anything TimberTech, please contact Sharon Moore, Area Manager for The AZEK Company, (302) 233-5358, Sharon.Moore@AZEKCO.com

Wilmington Neighborhood Revitalization

VanDemark & Lynch has teamed with Architectural Alliance and the Pennrose Group to revitalize the Riverside neighborhood in northeast Wilmington. When completed, Riverside will contain more than 500 new affordable and market rate apartments and dozens of home ownership units. The new housing will include a variety of sizes and styles that will look more like modern townhomes than the barracks-style apartments that currently occupy the site.
Included in the twelve-block Riverside neighborhood will be a brand-new Kingswood Community Center, athletic fields, a central town green, and a building for affordable senior housing. With tree-lined streets, bicycle paths, a renovated charter school, and the potential for new commercial and office space along Governor Printz Boulevard, Riverside will once again be an attractive place to raise a family.

Construction of the first 74-unit phase is already underway. Phases two and three should begin shortly.

For over 70 years, VanDemark & Lynch, Inc. has helped clients bring thousands of projects to life through engineering, planning, and surveying services of the highest quality. Contact us for your next project by calling (302) 764-7635 or by visiting us online.

Visit and Get to Know our Partners

Learn more about partnering with AIA Delaware and connecting with our members.

News from our Allied Members

Community Involvement: Food Bank of Delaware
Giving back to our neighbors and the communities where we live and work is
Wohlsen Construction Company’s Delaware Valley team recently donated 163 lbs. of food to the Food Bank of Delaware where they also spent some time volunteering. Their volunteers filled and delivered 50+ carts of food to recipients’ cars in the distribution facility, packaged 799 boxes of food to be dispersed for the upcoming holiday season, and assisted with set-up for a fundraising event. The experience was humbling, heartwarming and extremely engaging for all of Wohlsen’s team members.

WoodWorks | Wood Products Council

2021 Resource Round-Up & More

Technical Education for Successful Wood Design

At WoodWorks, our core objective is to help developers and AEC teams realize successful wood projects. In addition to education and free project support, we develop technical content that fills gaps in available information, clarifies wood design related issues, and offers insights into the design and construction of existing wood buildings. Below is a round-up of resources we’ve published this year, with quick links for download if you don’t already have them.

2021 Resource Round-Up

Architects and Engineers

- Developed in partnership with Think Wood, the Mass Timber Design Manual is a free collection of up-to-date resources on topics that range from mass timber products to design best practices.


- The Index of Mass Timber Connections highlights the spectrum of available structural and architectural mass timber connections. Its companion paper, Index of Mass Timber Connections: Optimal Connection Considerations, focuses on optimal structural connections while balancing other considerations like aesthetics, constructability, and fire-rating requirements.
Behind the Scenes on a Unique Project

- The *Catalyst Case Study* highlights the Catalyst Building in Spokane, WA. The cross-laminated timber (CLT) building is the first of its kind in Washington State and a leading example of sustainable office design.

Design Trends: Tall Wood and Mixed-Use

- *Taking the Guesswork out of Mixed-Use Building Analysis* is our latest release. The paper simplifies code analysis and provides logical, code-compliant steps for key elements of design—such as determining allowable building size, fire separation needs, detailing requirements, and the application of special provisions.

- These updated solution papers examine three topics that are key to the design of tall timber buildings:
  - *Concealed Spaces in Mass Timber and Heavy Timber Structures*
  - *Demonstrating Fire-Resistance Ratings for Mass Timber Elements in Tall Wood Structures*
  - *Shaft Wall Requirements in Tall Mass Timber Buildings*

Find an expert in your region, or contact us with questions on these resources, topics you’d like to see us cover in the future, or anything related to using mass timber or light wood-frame construction on your next project. We’re here to help.

Thank you to our Allied Members & Supporters

- *Arch Resources LLC*
- *Baker, Ingram & Associates*
- *Blake & Vaughan Engineering*
- *County Group Companies*
- *DED, LLC*
- *Delaware Brick Company*
- *DiSabatino Construction Company*
- *Electronic Home Solutions (EHS)*
Allied Membership signifies you share a common goal to build a better world for all people and is designed to enhance and strengthen relationships among design and building industry professionals.