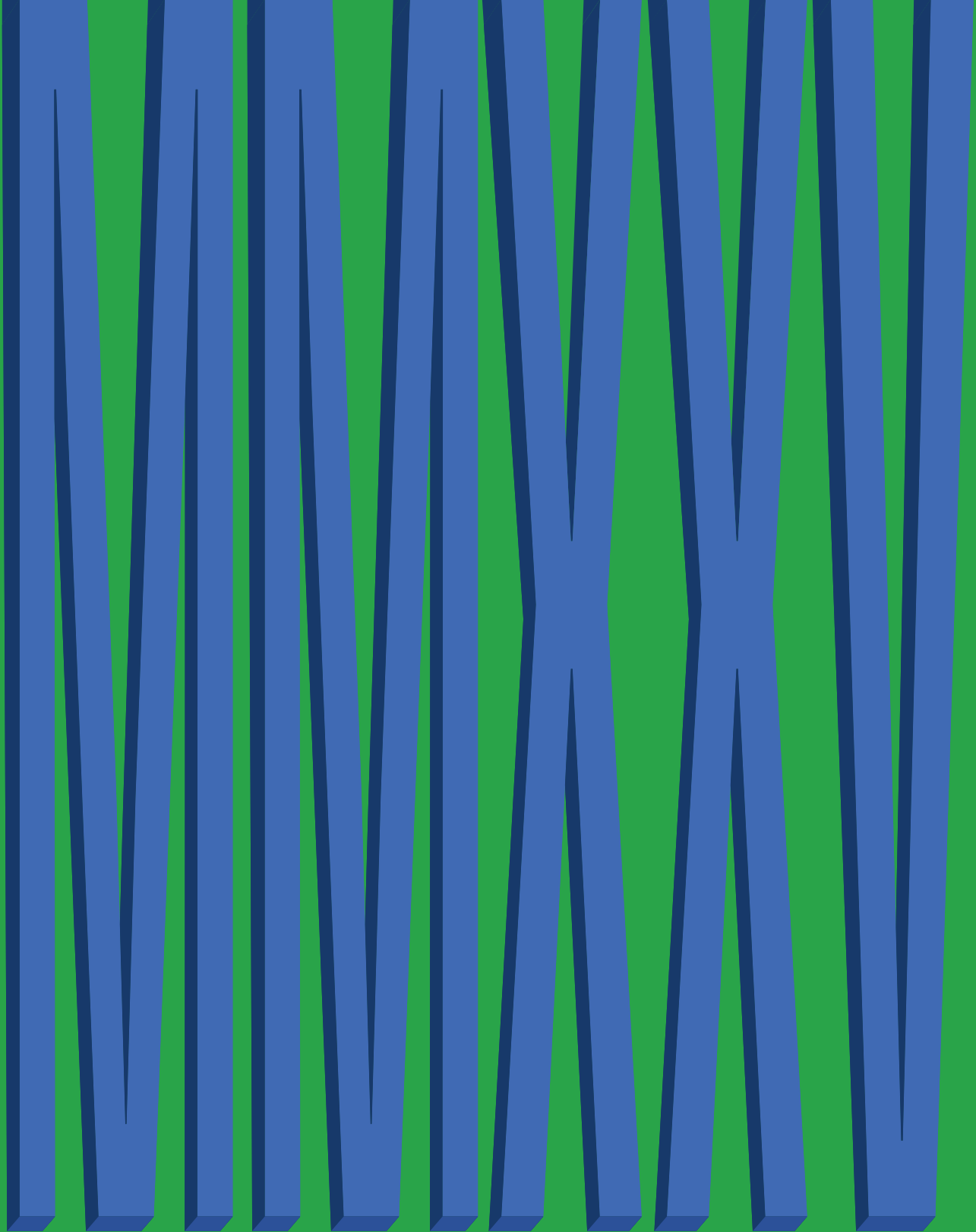




As we reflect on all that 2025 has meant for our chapter, it is time to celebrate!

AIA Kansas City's Design Excellence Awards program is our annual opportunity to honor great architecture and design in our community. We have much to celebrate within our chapter this year. We received an impressive 105 design award entries, demonstrating the steadfast creativity and excellence in the work of our member firms. Like last year, this event is further enhanced by our partnership with UMKC's Architecture Program, which has allowed us to host one of the jurors for a special lecture the evening prior to our awards celebration event. This collaboration not only enriches the Design Excellence Awards festivities but also fosters broader design discourse and community engagement within our chapter. We look forward to continuing this partnership in the future, as it continues to create valuable opportunities for growth in our design community.

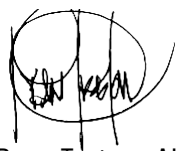
For 2025, we had the privilege of engaging a distinguished group of jurors from the Portland, Oregon area, representing expertise on projects large and small, regional and global, from both professional and academic points of view. Their diverse perspectives enriched the review process and underscored our chapter's commitment to bridging all modes of architecture and the profession. As we formally instated in 2024, we have transitioned to the Common App for Design Excellence Awards applications. This move positions our chapter on trend nationally and aligns with our regional sustainability goals, reflecting our ongoing efforts to advance environmental responsibility within our chapter. Moreover, we are dedicated to enhancing the visibility of submitted projects by expanding the content featured in our awards book, ensuring that the work of our members receives the recognition it deserves.

We're additionally thrilled to introduce the Public Recognition Award, a new accolade designed to incorporate the community's voice. The awards committee saw a unique opportunity to engage and gather insights from the public by forming a jury of leaders from across Kansas City's diverse sectors; community, art, civic engagement, and beyond. With the guidance of an architectural liaison, our jury convened to evaluate local projects nominated for this award. We look forward to sharing the results of this new recognition and continuing our collaboration across various disciplines in the years ahead.

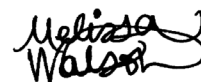
With the impressive quality of submissions and positive feedback received from our AIA Kansas City chapter, the Design Excellence Awards Committee would like to thank everyone for their support of this year's program. We would also like to extend our sincere appreciation to our committee for their time, creativity, and determination to make this annual celebration a success.



Anthony Luca, AIA
Focal Design Studio



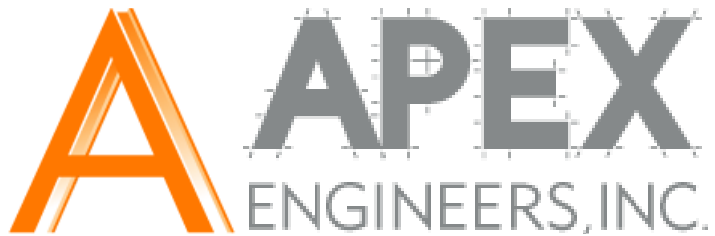
Ryan Tretow, AIA
Multistudio



Melissa Watson, AIA
Hufft

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with additional thanks to **Micaela Lopez** · Graphic Design

Design Jury

Brad Cloepfil, AIA · Allied Works



Brad Cloepfil is the founder and creative leader of Allied Works. His body of work is informed by his native Oregon landscapes, a deep sense of place, and love of craft, making, and tectonics. Brad's architecture pairs an intense focus on the specific character of each project with an understanding of the transformative possibilities of space, light, form and material. His firm has received numerous design awards, and he is a National Academy of Design Academician and a 2018 American Academy of Arts and Letters Award winner. He has lectured and taught widely throughout Europe, Asia, and North America.

Heidi Beebe, AIA · Beebe Skidmore Architects



Heidi Beebe is an architect and founder of Beebe Skidmore Architects, a two-person studio based in Portland's St. Johns neighborhood. Heidi and partner Doug Skidmore established their practice in 2007 with the intention of working on crafty, focused, design-driven projects where they can be involved in all aspects of the work from concept to realization. Beebe Skidmore is the recipient of six AIA design awards, including an AIA Northwest and Pacific Region Honor Award. Heidi grew up in Idaho and has taught throughout the U.S. currently serves on the board of Sitka Center for Art and Ecology.

Chris Brown, AIA · Observation Studio



Chris Brown is an architect working at the intersection of landscape, material, and craft. Raised in the Ozark Mountains of AR, he has practiced throughout the U.S. and Southeast Asia, later founding Observation Studio in Portland, Oregon. His work ranges across multiple typologies. The connective thread of his practice is the relationship between the careful looking and conscious building. Brown's work marries the subtle and the rustic, the narrative and the formal, all with the belief in transformative generosity. His architecture is influenced by a deep understanding of the possibilities of place, a reverence for material and craft, and an unending curiosity for community and culture.

Public Jury

Mary Esselman • Operation Breakthrough



Mary is in her 10th year as CEO and leads one of the largest early learning centers in the region. She is continuing the Founders' tradition of integrating education, social services and health with innovative programming in STEM to ensure every child has the opportunity to reach their full potential. Most recently she has spearheaded two capital expansions which include a MakerCity focused on STEM for students in K-8 and a workforce development and entrepreneurship program—The Ignition Lab—which serves 400+ urban teens in areas including 2D/3D modeling, green tech, computer tech, digital media and graphic design, automatic and engineering, mechatronics, etc.

Jessica May • Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art



Jessica May joined Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art as Executive Director in February 2024. She moved to Kansas City from Cambridge, MA, where she most recently served as the VP of Art and Exhibitions for The Trustees of Reservations, and the Artistic Director of the deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum. In her dual role, she demonstrated her dedication to engaging art and the environment, overseeing arts initiatives at the deCordova as well as across the Trustees' statewide network of over 120 scenic and historic places. She is co-author of the publication, *Second Nature: Photography in the Age of the Anthropocene* (Rizzoli).



Congratulations to all AIA Kansas City Design Excellence Award winners!



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Negativ. courtesy Las Vegas A's Ball Park





Architecture
Extra Small

Cabin at the Ozark Research Field Station

Slattery Design + Architecture

The Cabin at the Ozark Research Field Station is delicately placed on a nine-acre biological resource site located 20 miles southwest of campus in the Bohigan Conservation Ecological Area. This new cabin facilitates biological study by a live-in researcher and educational opportunities for Missouri youth.

Location: Newburg, MO
Owner: University of Missouri Science & Technology
Contractor: Bales Construction Company



Photography © Reese Vonderschmidt

Harbert Collegiate Golf Center

Multistudio

Set beside the 18th green, the Harbert Collegiate Golf Center blends performance and community. With team lounges, coaches' offices, and a panoramic deck, it fosters connection on and off the course. A flexible, year-round design welcomes recruits, alumni, and families—supporting mentorship, identity, and the evolving future of college golf.

Location: Warrensburg, MO
Owner: University of Central Missouri
Contractor: Reasbeck Construction, Inc.



Photography © Nate Sheets Photography

Petoskey Redux

Hufft

A long-admired childhood cottage on Crystal Lake is transformed into a full-time home. Inspired by the Petoskey stone, the addition is a polished contrast to the stone of the existing house. It's a quiet, personal work—where memory, material, and light come together to create something both grounded and refined.

Location: Frankfurt, MI
Owner: Private Residence
Contractor: Cooley Contracting LLC



Photography © Nate Sheets Photography

Sue Mango Memorial Garden

Dirt Works Studio, University of Kansas

The garden features five curvilinear weathering steel raised planters, ascending across the site. A central cross-laminated timber canopy shelters a rammed earth wall and timber benches. The planting design highlights native prairie species chosen for resilience, ecological value, and seasonal beauty. Together, these elements create a contemplative, nature-rich space for gathering, reflection, and connection.

Location: Lawrence, KS
Owner: Lied Center of Kansas
Contractor: Dirt Works Studio



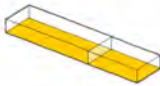
Photography © Chad Kraus

Theatre in the Park Gateway

Dake Wells Architecture

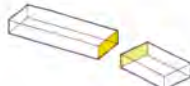
The project had an aspirational goal of celebrating accessibility, not just achieving minimum code requirements. Through bold forms composed of “re-memorable” shapes, textures, graphics and transformational lighting, the Gateway helps increase cognition and reduce anxiety for visitors of all ages and abilities as day turns to night.

Location: Shawnee, KS
Owner: Johnson County Parks & Recreation District
Contractor: Universal Construction Company



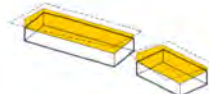
1. Elongate

A linear restroom arrangement creates a boundary edge.



2. Open

The form breaks to introduce a natural gateway and frame views.



3. Uplift and Outlift

A clerestory rises from the base and reaches out with a deep overhang.



4. Populate

Gathering plazas and niches extend in response to pedestrian flows.



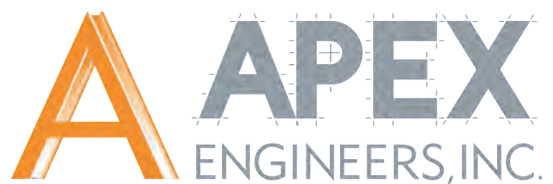
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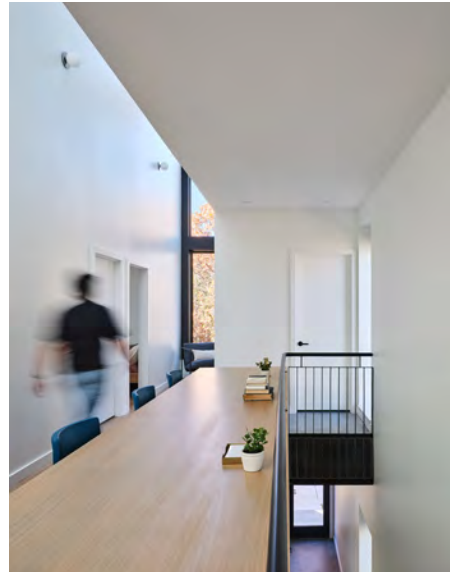
Architecture
Small

Collegiate House

Focal Design Studio

Located in a re-developing neighborhood, the Collegiate house carefully considers the vernacular of the region and creates a unique living environment for students, while respectfully fitting into the single-family fabric of the neighborhood. The architecture is simple and direct in its form, recalling vernacular barn structures of Central Kansas, with materiality informed by the burning of the prairie and the natural limestone of the Kansas Flint Hills.

Location: Manhattan, KS
Owner: Casey and Jaclyn Steiner
Contractor: MOD



Photography © Michael Robinson Photography

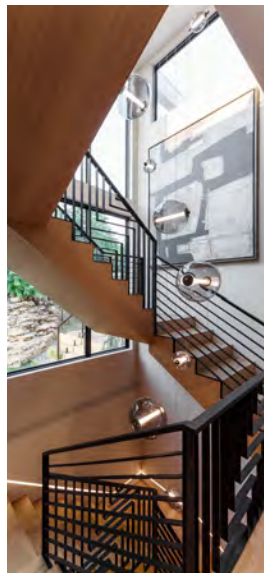
Contemporary Westside Home

NSPJ Architects

Located in the Westside neighborhood of Kansas City, the bold design of this high-end contemporary home reflects its urban setting while also being conscious of its environment, with features such as extensive natural light throughout the home and an untouched natural rock ledge that the home is built into. Expansive floor-to-ceiling windows allow light to be used creatively to direct the flow of space. The design allows for a connection between the interior and exteriors, with a private courtyard and views from the library to maximize a deep appreciation for the landscape surrounding the home.

Location: Kansas City, MO

Contractor: Hickok Homes



Photography © Matthew Anderson Photography

Homestead Residence

Forward Design | Architecture

The intent of the house was to integrate the home into the existing first-growth suburb it is located. We worked with the slope of the site to create a reverse split. This allowed the home to appear as a single story from the street.

Location: Prairie Village, KS

Contractor: Catalyst



Photography © Bob Greenspan Photography

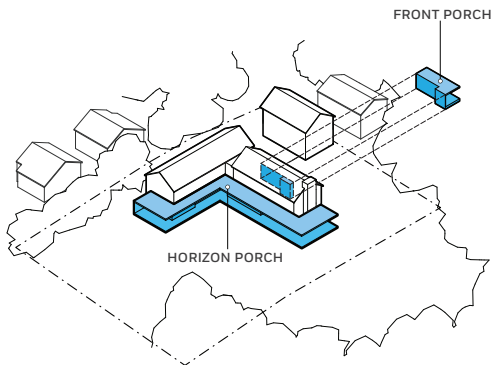
Horizon House

Hufft

Horizon House redefines the porch as the central architectural element—framing the landscape and shaping the plan. Designed for a growing family on an irregular infill lot, the home balances privacy and openness, using traditional forms, natural materials, and a clear front-to-back organization to connect interior life with the outdoors.

Location: Bentonville, AR

Contractor: Schlumberger Scherer Construction



Photography © Michael Robinson Photography

Kivett Redux

Forward Design | Architecture

This is a historic renovation to a home originally designed by Kivett & Meyers. Multiple additions over the years had modified the original structure in unfortunate ways. It was the priority of the project to bring back the clarity of the original design, while updating it to meet twenty-first-century needs.

Location: Westwood Hills, KS

Contractor: Hurst Construction



Photography © Bob Greenspan Photography

KLA Sanctuary

DRAW architecture + urban design

KLA Sanctuary blends historic charm with modern design, featuring terracotta and original brick, warm plaster walls, and exposed wood joists. This serene spa offers pools, showers, and therapy rooms in a sustainable setting. Every detail reflects craftsmanship, creating a timeless space for relaxation, rejuvenation, and holistic escape.

Location: Kansas City, MO
Owner: Matthew Matsch and Kathryn McCormick
Contractor: Cardinal Crest Commercial



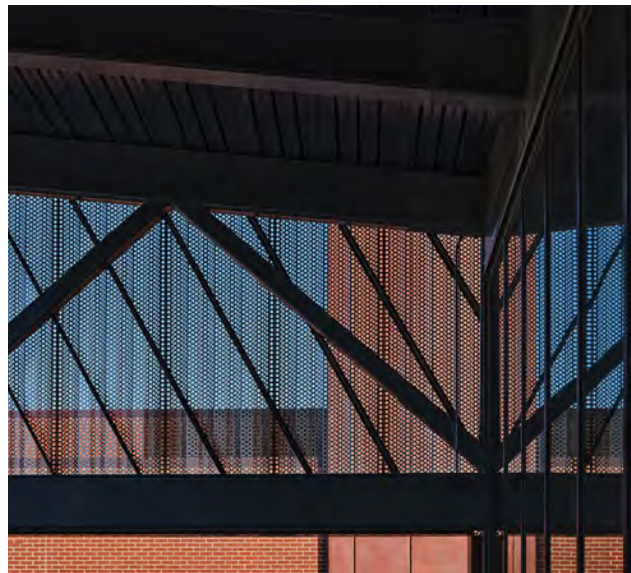
Photography © Michael Robinson Photography

Lee's Summit Robotics

Multistudio

The Lee's Summit Robotics Facility is a hands-on maker-lab that unites students, mentors, and industry partners through real-world learning. Designed to showcase tectonic expression, the building reveals its structure with purpose. Inside, students explore engineering, construction, and entrepreneurship through nationally recognized robotics and concept-to-market wood fabrication programs.

Location: Lee's Summit, MO
Owner: Lee's Summit R-7 School District
Contractor: JE Dunn Construction



Photography © Michael Robinson Photography

Modern Lake House

NSPJ Architects

This authentic, modern lake home highlights modularity and simplicity. Because of the irregular configuration of the land and the lot's orientation to the water, the layout was designed to complement the lot and work well for the family who entertains. The home is arranged along a processional that gradually widens to set up the experience of the main voluminous living areas and dramatic views of the lake beyond. An overall modern aesthetic is designed with an extreme focus on hyper efficient, green construction.

Location: Lee's Summit, MO

Contractor: Harkrader Homes



Photography © Matthew Anderson Photography

Native Ridge

herron + partners

Grounded at the wooded edge of a 25-acre site, this limestone-anchored residence reads as a deliberate horizontal gesture against the landscape. Full-height glass, natural materials, and precise details balance openness with shelter, creating an enduring architecture that elevates the site's beauty while connecting every space to light and views.

Location: Pleasant Hill, MO
Owner: Bryce and Lily Noone
Contractor: SteelTek



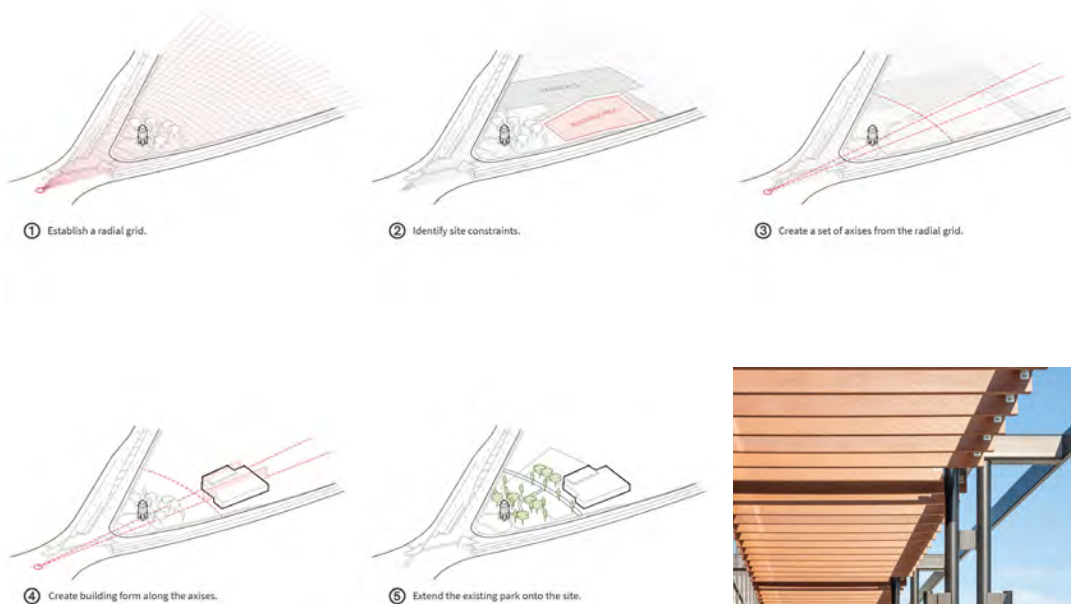
Photography © Nate Sheets Photography

Riverside Branch Library

Sapp Design Architects

The New Riverside Branch Library is a community hub connecting the City of Riverside's Welcome Plaza and Renner Brenner Park. The Library in the Park setting extends to the interior of the library where natural light, comfortable seating, and park views are abundant.

Location: Riverside, MO
Owner: Mid-Continent Public Library
Contractor: JE Dunn Construction



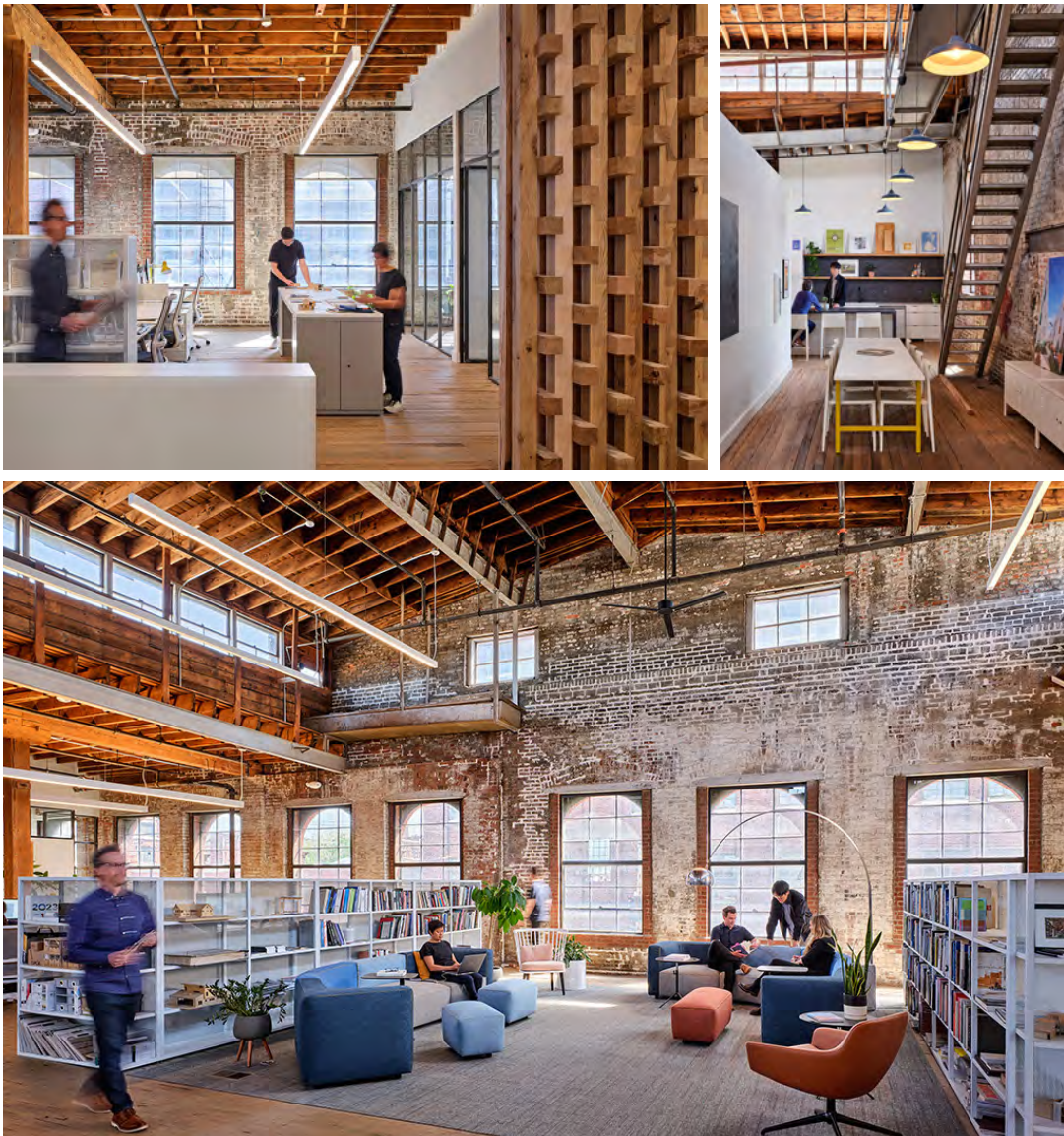
Photography © Bob Greenspan Photography

Studio 1400

DRAW architecture + urban design

Embracing adaptive reuse, this project honors the building's history while supporting sustainability. It reduces waste, lowers emissions, and values aged materials as assets. Subtle interventions enhance comfort without erasing character, creatively repurposing elements like wood joists. The design emphasizes continuity, craftsmanship, and environmental stewardship over demolition and replacement.

Location: Kansas City, MO
Owner: Dominique Davison & Robert Riccardi
Contractor: Cardinal Crest Commercial



Photography © Michael Robinson Photography

Two Birds One Stone

KEM STUDIO

Two Birds One Stone is a two-story food and beverage hub at Kansas City's riverfront, designed to blend with its natural park setting. Featuring a beer hall, cocktail bar, and rooftop deck, it activates the park year-round while preserving its serene character and engaging a wide mix of visitors.

Location: Kansas City, MO

Owner: Thrash Group

Contractor: Centric



Photography © Bob Greenspan Photography

Union Works Brewery

Hufft

Beers under Bowstrings. Union Works Brewery transforms a vacant industrial building into a civic anchor. This small project plays a big role connecting history, industry, and community. The design balances preservation and additions, using simple interventions to define function. Additive elements enhance the existing bowstring structure to bring clarity the existing masonry shell. Union Works proves that good design strengthens place—and that beer can help build a town.

Location: Humbolt, KS
Owner: Union Works Brewery
Contractor: Works Company



Photography © Mike Sinclair

Well-Traveled Home

NSPJ Architects

These world-traveling clients wanted a custom home that reflected their lifestyle and minimalist modern aesthetics. The goal was to create a design that reflected a globetrotting lifestyle, which was accomplished using unique components such as wall panels from Spain, furniture from Italy and a purpose-built entertainment wall from Germany. Architecturally, it was important to blend minimalist modern aesthetics with transitional overtones while maximizing the views from the property, capturing and harvesting the natural light.

Location: Leawood, KS
Contractor: Tim Cunningham Homes



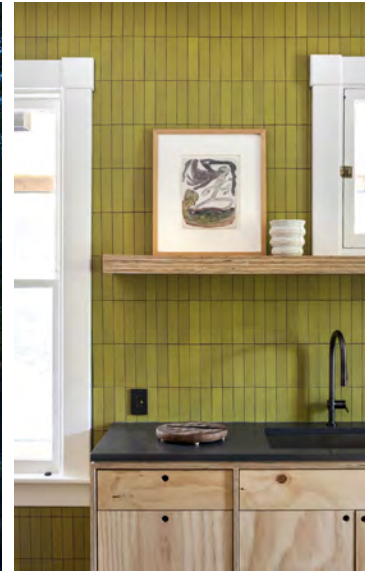
Photography © Nate Sheets Photography

White River Farm

El Dorado and Merritt Chase

Nestled in Indianapolis' Questover Circle, this estate, shaped by Jens Jensen's early 20th-century landscape and buildings by Kurt Vonnegut Sr., is being reimagined as a sanctuary for artistic creation and quiet community. For a writer and curator, the property evolves to intersect residence and creativity, blending past and future.

Location: Indianapolis, IN
Owner: Thick Time LLC
Contractor: Bly Bennett Inc.



Photography © Hadley Fruits

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Architecture
Medium

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Helix Architecture + Design

In one of the nation's last remaining Film Rows, two historic buildings were transformed into a vibrant workplace for small businesses, creatives, and start-ups. True to the spirit of Kansas City's Crossroads Arts District, curated art installations punctuate the common spaces.

Location: Kansas City, MO
Owner: Shirley Helzberg
Contractor: Rau Construction



Photography © Nate Sheets Photography

Bishop Hogan Center

SFS Architecture

The Bishop Hogan Center extends the downtown Catholic Cathedral's mission into the city, bridging sacred and civic life. Its unpretentious stone architecture, community-focused spaces, and vital outreach services invite fellowship, offer support, and symbolize compassion. Grounded in faith, it reaches out with purpose.

Location: Kansas City, MO
Owner: Diocese of Kansas City - St. Joseph
Contractor: JE Dunn Construction



Photography © Michael Robinson Photography

Blue Surf Bay

SFS Architecture

Discover Blue Surf Bay, the newest gem at the Carson Ross Recreation Complex in Blue Springs. Boasting a natatorium with innovative features and a 50,000sf outdoor water park with exciting attractions, this wave-inspired aquatic playground offers a dynamic, vibrant space that enriches the recreational landscape of Blue Springs.

Location: Blue Springs, MO
Owner: City of Blue Springs, Missouri
Contractor: McCownGordon Construction



Photography © Michael Robinson Photography

Columbus Park Townhomes

Helix Architecture + Design

Advocates for urban living envisioned providing “missing middle” housing within a historic neighborhood while thoughtfully incorporating elements found throughout the neighborhood. The design team explored more than two dozen site plan options to determine the best use of the challenging site, committing to a neighborhood-compatible density.

Location: Kansas City, MO
Owner: DAK Real Estate
Contractor: Hawthorne Projects



Photography © Nate Sheets Photography

North Oak Branch Library

Sapp Design Architects

The new North Oak Branch library is a split-level building designed to respond to and reflect the wooded site on which it is located, while providing the community focused connections, spaces, and programs critical for a thriving library.

Location: Kansas City, MO
Owner: Mid-Continent Public Library
Contractor: JE Dunn Construction



Photography © Michael Robinson Photography

Olathe Downtown Library

DLR Group and Multistudio

The Olathe Downtown Library, inspired by the town's history, aims to celebrate community and creative exploration. The lower levels of the building uses masonry and stone, serving as a classic, grounded base. The iconic central creative tower is a light, airy, glass-encased structure to become a lantern for the community.

Location: Olathe, KS
Owner: City of Olathe
Contractor: McCownGordon Construction



Photography © Michael Robinson Photography

Overland Park Fire Department Station 41

SFS Architecture

Station 41, the Overland Park Fire Department's flagship fire station, showcases commitment to community safety, responder health, and renewable energy. This 16,000-square-foot facility features strict contamination controls, inclusive living spaces, and a rooftop solar array generating 75% of its electricity, setting new standards for safety, collaboration, and sustainability.

Location: Overland Park, KS
Owner: City of Overland Park, Kansas
Contractor: McCownGordon Construction



Photography © Michael Robinson Photography

Reconciliation Services

BNIM

The renovation of Reconciliation Services' longtime home at 31st and Troost represents a whole-hearted reinvestment in this place, supporting the organization in directly confronting community disparities and providing affordable food access, safe gathering spaces, social and mental health services, and enhanced community building for 4,000+ neighbors annually.

Location: Kansas City, MO
Owner: Reconciliation Services
Contractor: Straub Construction



Photography © Mike Sinclair

Synergy Forest Hill Village

DRAW architecture + urban design

Synergy Services Transitional Housing Campus reimagines what transitional housing can be—turning an underutilized property into a restorative, trauma-informed living environment. The architecture blends adaptive reuse with new construction, preserving elements like existing skylights and sawtooth roof forms to anchor the campus in memory and place.

Location: Kansas City, MO
Owner: Synergy Services
Contractor: Paric



Photography © Aaron Dougherty

Your Community Builder.

City of Overland Park Arboretum Visitors Center
.....

2024 AIA KANSAS CITY DESIGN EXCELLENCE AWARD NOMINEES



Olathe Downtown Library
.....



Congratulations to all AIA Kansas City Design Excellence Award winners for being committed to innovation, inclusion, quality and progression. Together, we are transforming spaces that improve lives and connect communities. McCownGordon is proud of our history as Kansas City's community builder.

McCOWNGORDON
CONSTRUCTION

*City of Blue Springs Blue Surf Bay
Carson Ross Community Recreation Complex*
.....







Architecture
Large

AdventHealth Training Center

HOK

AdventHealth Training Center is a 130,000-sq.-ft. hybrid facility combining elite training, clinical care, and research. Designed for the Orlando Magic and community use, it balances transparency, privacy, and connection to nature—creating a transformative environment that supports performance, recovery, and wellness for athletes and patients alike.

Location: Orlando, FL
Owner: Orlando Magic
Contractor: Balfour Beatty



Photography © Michael Robinson Photography

Cascade Hotel

DLR Group

The Cascade Hotel, a Tribute Portfolio by Marriott, reimagines Mediterranean elegance through contemporary design at the edge of Kansas City's Country Club Plaza. Rich materiality, flowing forms, and water-inspired elements shape a serene guest experience, blending historic influences with modern expression across 177 rooms, public spaces, and a rooftop lounge.

Location: Kansas City, MO
Owner: Capital Management Inc.
Contractor: Ryan Companies



Photography © Michael Stavaridis

Dr. E.J. and Margaret O'Brien Hall

BNIM and Workshop Architects

Dr. E.J. and Margaret O'Brien Hall is the new home for business and innovation leadership on Marquette University's campus. The building serves as an engaging and welcoming convening space for students, faculty, and visitors, connecting the university with the Milwaukee business community and beyond.

Location: Milwaukee, WI
Owner: Marquette University
Contractor: J.H. Findorff & Son Inc.



Photography © Kendall McCaugherty

DLR Group

Location: San Jose, CA
Owner: San Jose Evergreen Community College District
Contractor: XL Construction



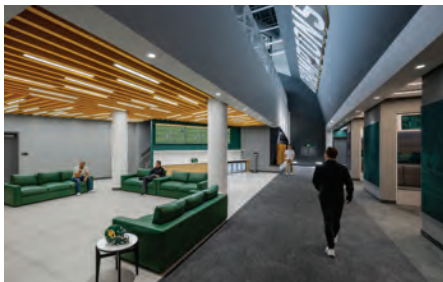
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Fudge Football Development Center

AECOM

The project, located on a confined site at the edge of Baylor's campus by the Brazos River, is designed to maximize efficiency despite barriers cause by surroundings. It connects to existing athletic facilities, incorporates a unique arrival sequence, engages the river, and provides the home for the Baylor Football program.

Location: Waco, TX
Owner: Baylor University
Contractor: JE Dunn Construction



Photography © Wade Griffith

I3R at University of Arkansas

Hufft and HGA Architects

A timber pavilion for creative discovery rooted in the Arkansas landscape. I3R is a flexible research hub where university, industry, and students converge to solve complex challenges. The timber structure, grounded in the forestry of Arkansas, fosters connection through shared labs and open circulation. Sustainable systems, regional materials, and adaptable spaces support scientific research while grounding the building in place.

Location: Fayetteville, AR
Owner: The University of Arkansas
Contractor: CDI Contractors



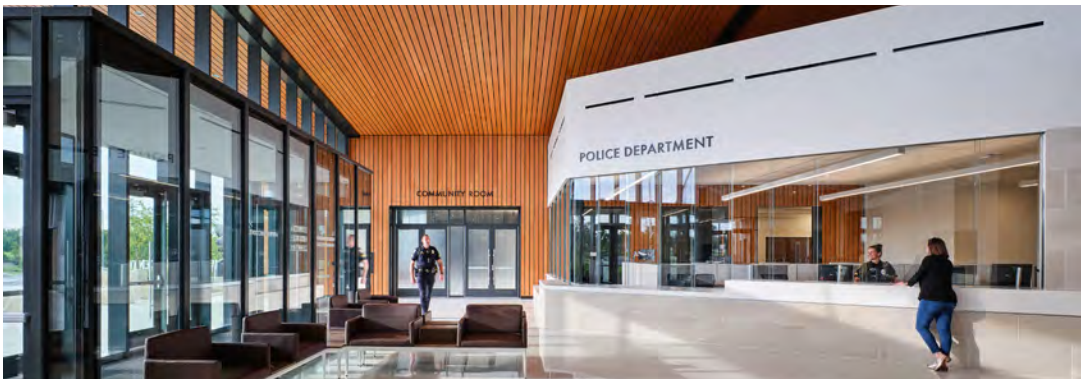
Photography © Michael Robinson Photography

Lenexa Justice Center

Finkle + Williams Architecture, Roth Sheppard Architects and TCA Architecture + Planning

The Lenexa Justice Center represents Lenexa's unwavering commitment to exceptional service, transparency, and community engagement. It is a resilient facility and a dynamic space where public safety and community trust intersect.

Location: Lenexa, KS
Owner: City of Lenexa
Contractor: JE Dunn Construction



Photography © Michael Robinson Photography

MiZa: MAKE + SEAF

DRAW architecture + urban design

To establish MiZa as Abu Dhabi's Design, Art, and Technology District, SEAF, an artist university, and MAKE, a maker space, share a pavilion entrance but are distinct, purpose-built spaces. This solution unites two buildings with a shared spirit in a central structure that is integral to the development.

Location: Abu Dhabi, UAE
Owner: MiZa Abu Dhabi
Contractor: McLaren Construction Ltd.



Photography © Building Design Partnership

Sinclair School of Nursing

International Architects Atelier

The new Sinclair School of Nursing at the University of Missouri features a future-focused design with daylighting strategies and activated spaces. It includes a glass facade for views from the student gathering area and repurposes the original basement as a sunlit courtyard, enhancing connections and functionality.

Location: Columbia, MO
Owner: The Curators of the University of Missouri
Contractor: River City Construction



Photography © Michael Grimm

The Midland Lofts

Helix Architecture + Design and RD Jones

The adaptive reuse of the historic Midland Office Building – long-regarded as an “underutilized historic jewel” – transformed it from underused office space into sought-after apartments in the urban core. Exterior details are celebrated, and its common spaces channel Hollywood glamour, drawing inspiration from the adjacent Midland Theater.

Location: Kansas City, MO
Owner: Cordish Companies
Contractor: Crossland Construction



Photography © Nate Sheets Photography

Vanderbilt University Huber Center

Populous

The Huber Center at Vanderbilt University designed by Populous is a key component of the university's master plan vision, seamlessly connecting the campus and its vibrant community while redefining a new generation of traditions integrated with dynamic athletic experiences.

Location: Nashville, TN
Owner: Vanderbilt University
Contractor: Barton Malow



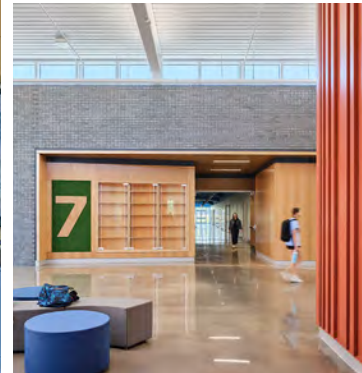
Photography © Nick McGinn

Washburn Rural North Middle School

Multistudio

Washburn Rural Middle School supports 750 students with a design focused on socio-emotional well-being and flexible, student-centered learning. Anchored by the “Forest Walk,” the school consolidates key programs into a vibrant central hub. Biophilic elements and adaptable spaces promote autonomy, connection, and exploration—reflecting the voices and needs of its students.

Location: Topeka, KS
Owner: Auburn-Washburn USD 437
Contractor: MCP Group



Photography © Michael Robinson Photography

Zhou B Art Center

BNIM

The Zhou B Art Center introduces a vibrant new art center in Kansas City's 18th and Vine Jazz District through a transformative adaptive reuse of the historic former Crispus Attucks school building, providing expansive art galleries, a restored auditorium, and 40+ studios for working artists.

Location: Kansas City, MO
Owner: Zhou B Art Center
Contractor: A.L. Huber Construction



Photography © Mike Sinclair



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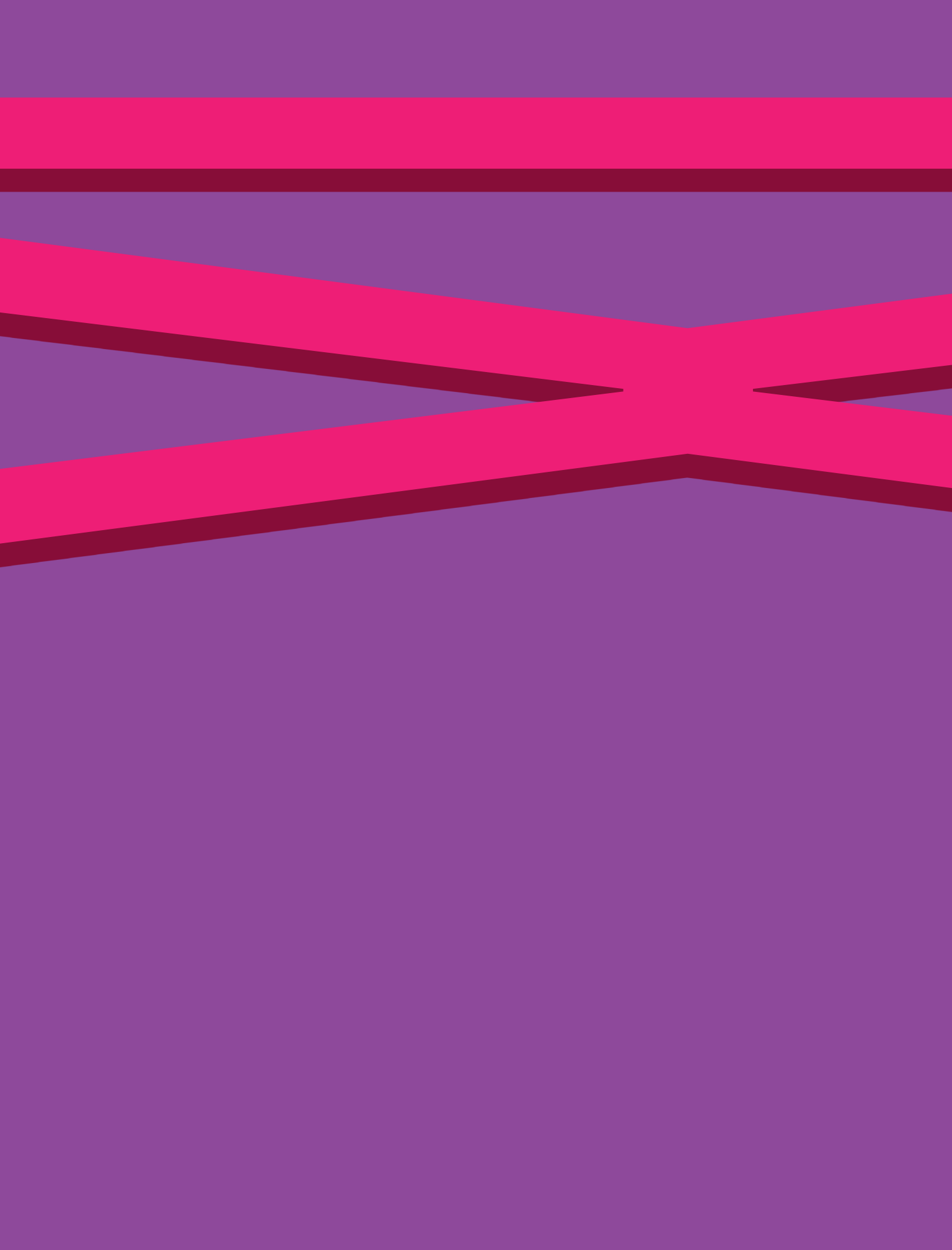
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Bakke Recreation & Wellbeing Center

HOK

The Bakke Recreation & Wellbeing Center at the University of Wisconsin is designed to address the fitness needs of its 50,000 students and promote total-body wellness. Its unique design integrates site, massing, and interior spaces, creating a distinctive collegiate recreation experience focused on overall wellbeing.

Location: Madison, WI
Owner: University of Wisconsin - Madison
Contractor: JP Cullen



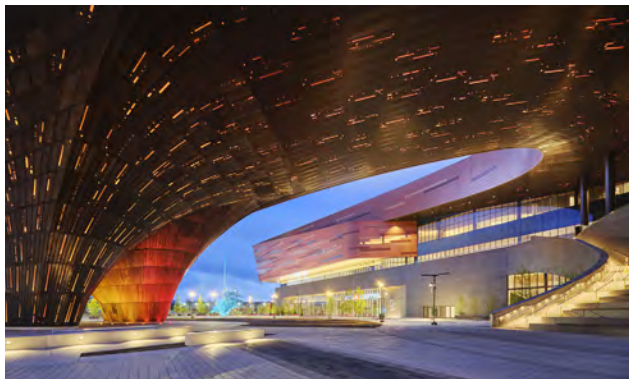
Photography © Christy Radecic

BMO Centre Expansion

Populous, Stantec, and S2 Architecture

As a large-scale expansion to Calgary's BMO Centre, this project balances practical needs with bold civic gestures. Located in Stampede Park—immediately adjacent to the revered festival's grounds—the convention center's design channels the excitement of the annual expo with a celebration of western heritage.

Location: Calgary, Canada
Owner: Calgary Municipal Land Corporation
Contractor: PCL Construction



Photography © Tom Harris

Foster Pavilion

AECOM

The Baylor University Foster Pavilion includes a 7,500 seat basketball arena and practice facility that supports daily operations for Baylor's Women's and Men's basketball programs. The prominent riverfront placement of the project positions it as a landmark destination and reinforces Baylor's presence along the Brazos River.

Location: Waco, TX
Owner: Baylor University
Contractor: Austin Commercial



Photography © Matt Kocourek

Intuit Dome

AECOM

Setting a benchmark in sustainable sports architecture, Intuit Dome is 100% carbon-free and LEED Platinum-certified. Inside, innovations like the halo scoreboard and frictionless concessions redefine the game-day experience. Beyond the court, the venue transcends sport, becoming a year-round community destination elevating every experience for fans, athletes and artists alike.

Location: Inglewood, CA
Owner: Intuit Dome
Contractor: AECOM Hunt and Turner JV



Photography © Tim Griffith

Kiewit Hall

Ballinger and Clark & Enersen

A learning and social nexus for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's College of Engineering, Kiewit Hall establishes an interdisciplinary gateway for the campus. The architectural design represents a transformative shift toward an educational model where collaboration, transparency, and inclusivity are fully integrated into the curriculum.

Location: Lincoln, NE
Owner: University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Contractor: Kiewit Corporation



Photography © James Ewing

Lee's Summit High School Addition & Renovation

Multistudio

This reimagined high school campus transforms disconnected buildings into a cohesive, future-ready environment. Anchored by Innovation Way and The Greenway, the design promotes movement, collaboration, and real-world learning. Innovation Hubs provide flexible, work-like settings where students gain marketable skills and explore career pathways through hands-on, project-based experiences.

Location: Lee's Summit, MO
Owner: Lee's Summit R-7 School District
Contractor: JE Dunn Construction



Photography © Leonid Furmanskyy

The HELM

KEM STUDIO

The Helm is a 224-unit residential riverfront development that transforms a complex, post-industrial site into resilient, connected urban living. Navigating bi-state planning and levee constraints, the design links city, river, and community while honoring the site's layered history as the Kansas City Stockyards.

Location: Kansas City, KS
Owner: Flaherty and Collins Properties
Contractor: Hausmann Construction



Photography © Bob Greenspan Photography

The Hudson

BRR Architecture

The Hudson revitalized an apartment site into a modern multi-family community near KU Medical Center. Designed to reflect the area's architectural character, the building features a thoughtful blend of masonry, metal, and glass—creating a vibrant, urban residence that supports the growing needs of students, medical professionals, and the surrounding neighborhood.

Location: Kansas City, KS
Owner: EPC Real Estate
Contractor: Brinkmann Constructors



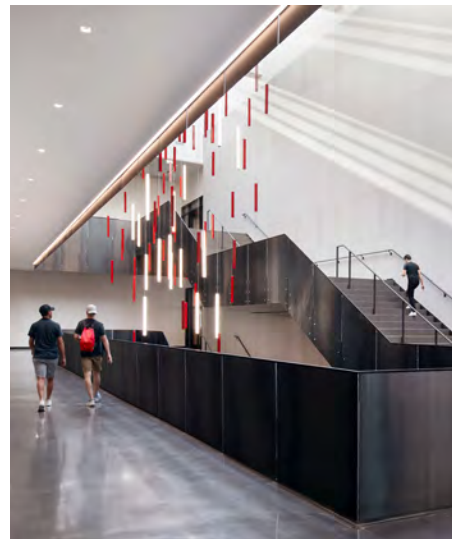
Photography © BRR Architecture

Osborne Legacy Complex

Populous and BVH

The Osborne Legacy Complex at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, designed by Populous and BVH, is a cutting-edge training facility that honors Husker tradition while advancing the future of football performance. Rooted in Nebraska's spirit, it fosters competition, leadership, and resilience—an environment where athletes dream big, compete fiercely, and lead with purpose.

Location: Lincoln, NE
Owner: University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Contractor: Hausmann Construction



Photography © Matt Kocourek



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Interior Architecture

Aberdeen Residence

Forward Design | Architecture

This project is a remodel of a sixties ranch house. The scope was for a redesign of the main floor primary living spaces. Embracing the constraint of the existing fireplace mass, the team was able to create distinct spaces within a continuous volume of space.

Location: Mission Hills, KS
Owner: Anil and Megan Lodhia
Contractor: Specht Construction



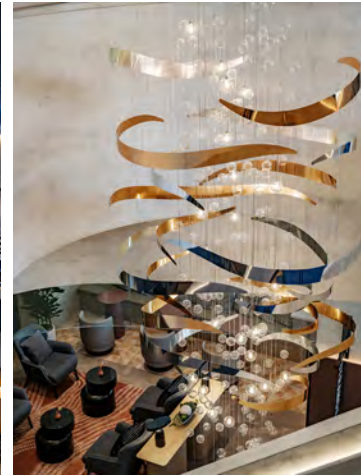
Photography © Bob Greenspan Photography

Cascade Hotel

DLR Group

The Cascade Hotel, a Tribute Portfolio by Marriott, reimagines Mediterranean elegance through contemporary design at the edge of Kansas City's Country Club Plaza. Rich materiality, flowing forms, and water-inspired elements shape a serene guest experience, blending historic influences with modern expression across 177 rooms, public spaces, and a rooftop lounge.

Location: Kansas City, MO
Owner: Capital Management Inc.
Contractor: Ryan Companies



Photography © Michael Stavaridis

Office HQ

HOK

A client has unveiled its new 270,000-sq.-ft. headquarters designed by HOK. The wellness-focused, flexible workspace features modern amenities, branded storytelling, and collaborative environments—reflecting the client's mission and setting a new standard for employee-centered workplace design in the city.

Location: Kansas City, MO
Contractor: JE Dunn Construction



Photography © Alistair Tutton Photography

Emergency Department Expansion

Pulse Design Group

This project is a multi-phase hospital addition addresses rising patient volume and modernizes the emergency department at the University of Kansas Health System's main campus. The 49,900 square-foot expansion spans four floors and includes the addition of 52 emergency treatment rooms, three trauma rooms, and multiple imaging suites.

Location: Kansas City, KS
Owner: The University of Kansas Health System
Contractor: JE Dunn Construction



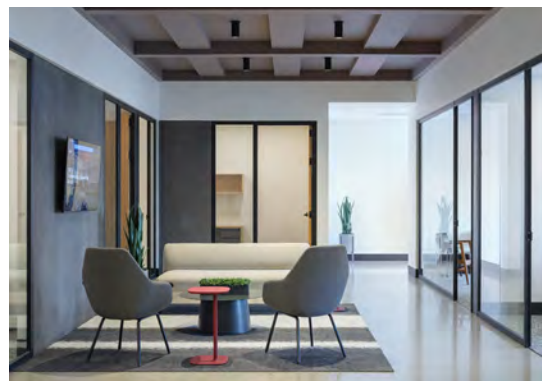
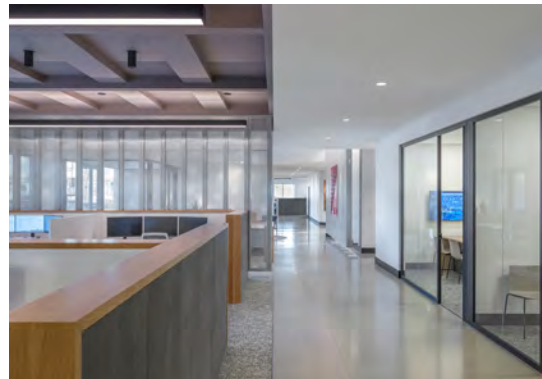
Photography © Michael Robinson Photography

Field Office

KEM STUDIO

Field Office transforms a warehouse into a bright, efficient workspace that celebrates craft and utility. With tall skylights, refined details, and a layout driven by daylight and function, the design honors the owner's building trade expertise while balancing beauty and practicality.

Location: Lenexa, KS
Owner: PCI: Performance Contracting, Inc.
Contractor: A.L. Huber Construction



Photography © Bob Greenspan Photography

Forvis Mazars, LLP Dallas

HOK

Forvis Mazars' 26,000-square-foot Dallas office sets a new standard in workplace design, blending hospitality, flexibility, and sustainability. The space supports evolving work styles and employee well-being while reflecting the firm's forward-thinking values and commitment to innovation.

Location: Dallas, TX
Owner: Forvis Mazars, LLP
Contractor: K2 Construction



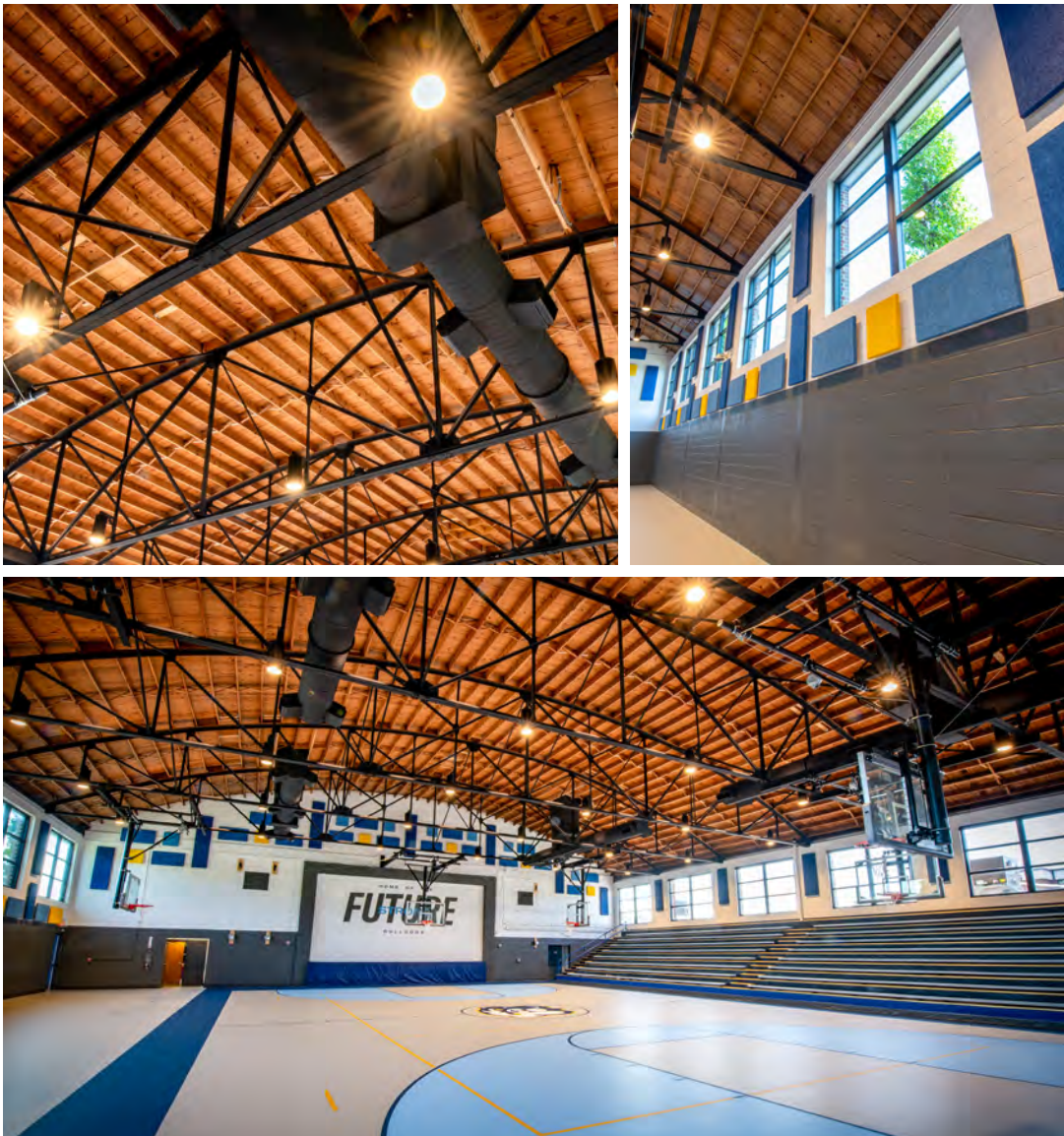
Photography © Sharp Frame Media

Gymnasium Renovation - CAIR

Alinea Architects, P.A.

Ceiling and structural diaphragm systems were removed to reveal historic bowstring trusses and wood decking, transforming this 75-year-old gym into a warm, expressive space. Lighting, flooring, acoustic, structural, and finish upgrades were carefully integrated, aligning with CAIR's mission to support individualized education through environments that reveal potential and celebrate authenticity.

Location: Grandview, MO
Owner: Grandview C-4 School District
Contractor: CAMM Construction



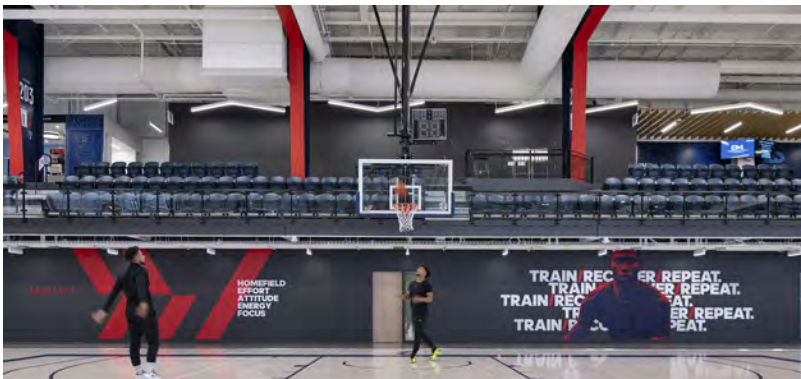
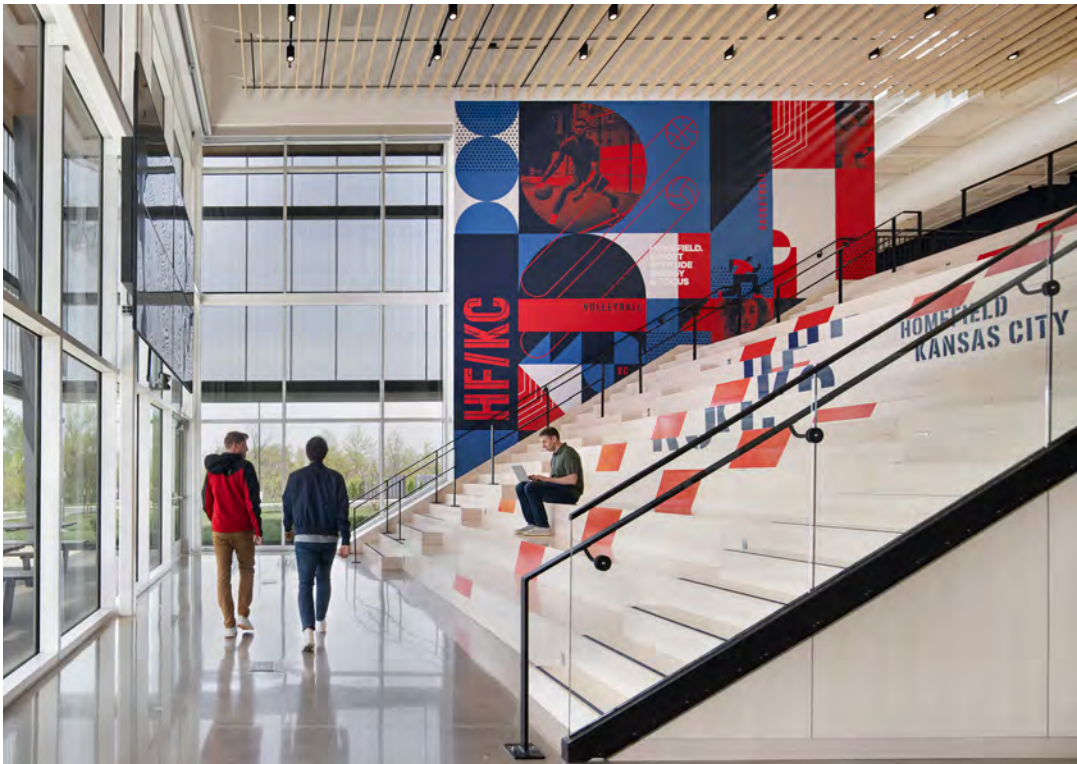
Photography © Alinea Architects, P. A.

Homefield KC

Populous

Homefield redefines youth sports by combining elite-level training with a standout spectator experience. Designed to be bold, functional, and adaptable, the Kansas City facility balances the intensity of collegiate athletics with the energy and innocence of youth sports—serving as a national prototype for a new kind of community-focused venue.

Location: Kansas City, MO
Owner: Homefield
Contractor: Turner Construction



Photography © Matt Kocourek

Intuit Dome

AECOM

Setting a benchmark in sustainable sports architecture, Intuit Dome is 100% carbon-free and LEED Platinum-certified. Inside, innovations like the halo scoreboard and frictionless concessions redefine the game-day experience. Beyond the court, the venue transcends sport, becoming a year-round community destination elevating every experience for fans, athletes and artists alike.

Location: Inglewood, CA
Owner: Intuit Dome
Contractor: AECOM Hunt and Turner JV



Photography © Tim Griffith and Benny Chan

Nashua Elementary School

Hollis + Miller Architects

With a focus on advancing literacy, upholding community values, and embracing inclusivity, this new elementary school is centered around the concept of the “hero’s journey,” positioning each student as the protagonist of their own story. Flexible grade-level neighborhoods, activated by environmental graphics, and a central media enter foster collaboration, imagination and discovery.

Location: Kansas City, MO
Owner: North Kansas City School District
Contractor: McCownGordon Construction



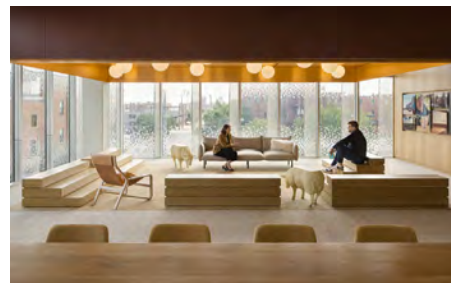
Photography © Alistair Tutton Photography

Patterson Family Foundation

Multistudio

Bringing together philanthropic, financial, and asset management teams under one roof, this family foundation headquarters provides a cohesive, regionally inspired workplace. Warm materials, agrarian references, and distinct spatial identities support diverse users while fostering connection, reflecting the foundation's mission and positioning it for continued growth and impact across the region.

Location: Kansas City, MO
Owner: Patterson Family Foundation
Contractor: Nexus5 Group



Photography © Nate Sheets Photography

Polsinelli Dallas

Hufft

Polsinelli's move to Old Parkland presents a unique design challenge: how to create a modern workspace that reflects the Polsinelli brand while honoring the site's rich historical context.

The solution lies in fusing tradition with innovation, reinterpreting classical architectural language through advanced fabrication techniques to create a space that is both timeless and forward-looking.

Location: Dallas, TX
Owner: Polsinelli
Contractor: Scott + Reid



Photography © Michael Robinson Photography

Rogers Centre

Populous

The Rogers Centre renovation by Populous reimagines Toronto's iconic stadium, transforming it into a dynamic, baseball-focused venue. With three distinct premium clubs—TD Lounge, Banner Club, and Blueprint Club—each offering unique experiences, the design celebrates both the Blue Jays' legacy and Toronto's vibrant culture, elevating the fan experience.

Location: Toronto, Canada
Owner: Toronto Blue Jays
Contractor: PCL Construction



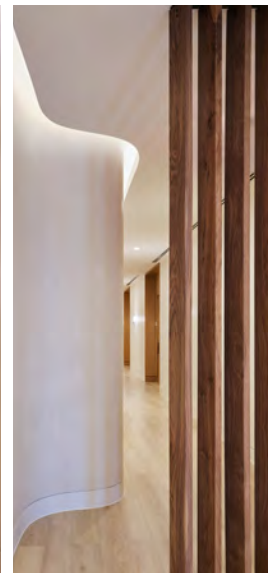
Photography © Toronto Blue Jays

Sojourn Spa KC

SixTwentyOne

Located in the Cascade Hotel on Kansas City's Country Club Plaza, Sojourn Spa KC is the city's first fully ADA-compliant spa: a serene, design-forward retreat where wellness meets accessibility. Thoughtfully crafted spaces and a calming atmosphere offer an inclusive, luxurious experience rooted in care, comfort, and connection.

Location: Kansas City, MO
Owner: Ashley McClellan
Contractor: Monarch Build



Photography © Michael Robinson Photography

Strang Chef Collective

SixTwentyOne

This KC food hall doubles as a community gathering/dining space and as the restaurant in a new hotel in Kansas City's Country Club Plaza. The design team worked diligently to source local natural materials and utilize custom detailing to tie the interior architecture back to its Country Club Plaza context.

Location: Kansas City, MO
Owner: Strang Chef Collective
Contractor: Wolf 21



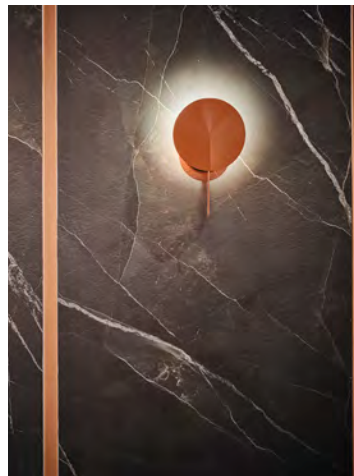
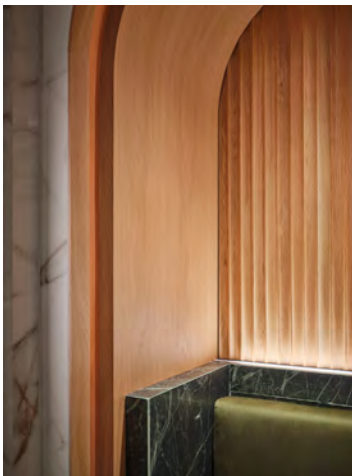
Photography © Michael Robinson Photography

TD Lounge

Populous

At Toronto's Rogers Centre, the TD Lounge by Populous exemplifies premium hospitality. Luxurious finishes, including natural stone, leather, and custom millwork, create a warm, elegant space. Navigating structural and operational challenges, the design achieves seamless sophistication, raising the standard for luxury experiences in a major league stadium.

Location: Toronto, Canada
Owner: Toronto Blue Jays
Contractor: PCL Construction



Photography © Toronto Blue Jays

University Hall

International Architects Atelier

The renovation of University Hall's third floor enhances function, aesthetics, and well-being by opening up the plan and combining elements of wood, glass, and natural light reflecting the high-quality standards of the occupants. The space features a welcoming lobby with a lounge, open office, collaboration rooms, and private offices.

Location: Columbia, MO
Owner: University of Missouri System
Contractor: Nabholz Construction



Photography © Michael Robinson Photography



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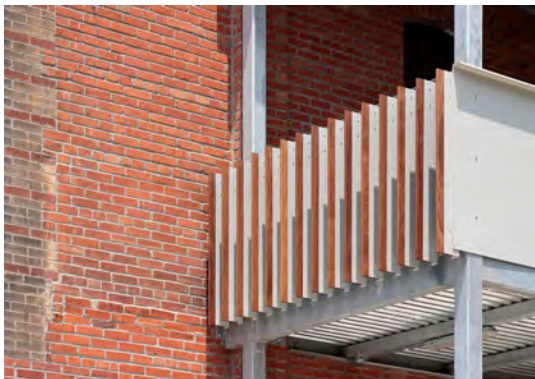
Divine Detail

517 Gillis Exterior Circulation

Hermanos Design

This renovation transforms a three-story apartment building through strategic interior reconfiguration and the addition of a historically inspired exterior stair. Crafted with custom aluminum and Cumaru wood details, the new stair enhances circulation, honors original design elements, and reflects a strong commitment to craftsmanship and contextual sensitivity.

Location: Kansas City, MO
Owner: Roediger Properties
Contractor: Hermanos Design



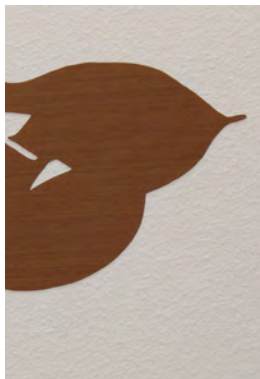
Photography © Aaron Dougherty

Deconstructed Family Tree

Generator Studio

In Dickinson Financial Corporation's 11th-floor lobby, a deconstructed family tree, fabricated by Bridgewater Studios, honors the legacy and lineage of its founding family. Portraits of founders Gary and Ann Dickinson, metal blades representing their four children, and copper dogwood leaves—Missouri's state tree—symbolize time, heritage, and their local Missouri roots.

Location: Kansas City, MO
Owner: Dickinson Financial Corporation
Contractor: Southwind



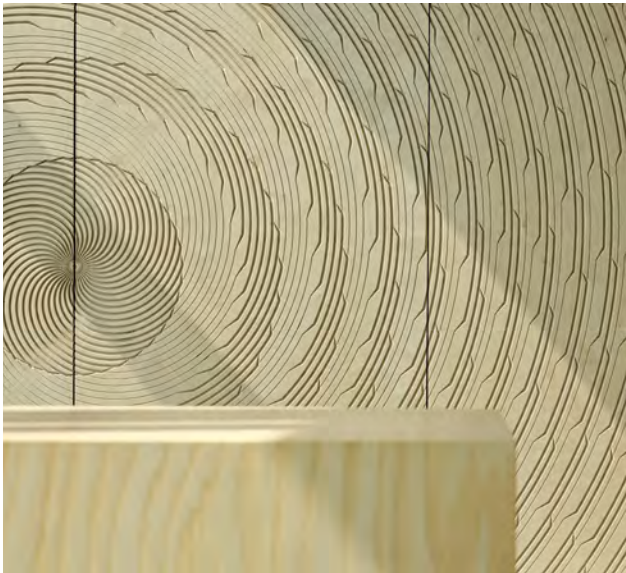
Photography © Nate Sheets Photography and Rebecca Stone

EquipmentShare Technology & Development Center

Hufft

A hybrid workplace where technology meets machinery, EquipmentShare's new TDC bridges office and WorkLab with a custom-fabricated kitchen island at its core. Brand-derived patterns, digital fabrication, and crafted details reinforce spatial clarity and identity—transforming a suburban big box into an innovative, LEED Silver-certified environment for collaboration and R&D.

Location: Columbia, MO
Owner: EquipmentShare
Contractor: The Fabrication Company



Photography © Michael Robinson Photography

Forvis Mazars, LLP Communication Stair

HOK

A striking communication stair in Indianapolis' Historic Bottleworks District blends industrial heritage with modern functionality. Exposed structure, integrated lighting, and adjacent gathering areas encourage collaboration and connection. Designed to reflect the site's past while supporting future-forward workplace needs, the stair creates a dynamic, engaging experience within a historic industrial context.

Location: Indianapolis, IN
Owner: Forvis Mazars, LLP
Contractor: Shiel Sexton Co.



Photography © Alistair Tutton Photography

InterUrban ArtHouse

El Dorado

A sculptural trellis designed, fabricated, and installed by the architect transforms a parking lot at InterUrban ArtHouse into a vibrant performance and event space. Providing shade, identity, and revenue potential, the project also served as a hands-on training opportunity for emerging designers under close professional mentorship.

Location: Overland Park, KS
Owner: InterUrban ArtHouse
Contractor: El Dorado and confidential



Photography © Mike Sinclair

Intuit Dome

AECOM

The arena's dynamic gridshell enhances indoor-outdoor connectivity, passive ventilation and a seamless guest experience. Lightweight panels clad in ETFE, PTFE, and laminated PTFE regulate sunlight, wind and rain—providing protection, glare control and fresh air circulation for informal spaces. The result: a seamless, sustainable experience shaped by thoughtful design.

Location: Inglewood, CA
Owner: Intuit Dome
Contractor: AECOM Hunt and Turner JV



Photography © Tim Griffith

Partial Hospitalization Program

Pulse Design Group

This pediatric behavioral health clinic combines inpatient-level safety with a warm, child-centered design. The renovated 9,000 SF space features anti-ligature fixtures, calming finishes, and dedicated family training areas—creating a secure, welcoming environment that supports therapeutic care, caregiver involvement, and long-term healing for children with mental health and neurodevelopmental needs.

Location: Kansas City, MO
Owner: Children's Mercy Hospital
Contractor: Kelly Construction



Photography © Randy Braley Photography

Polsinelli Dallas

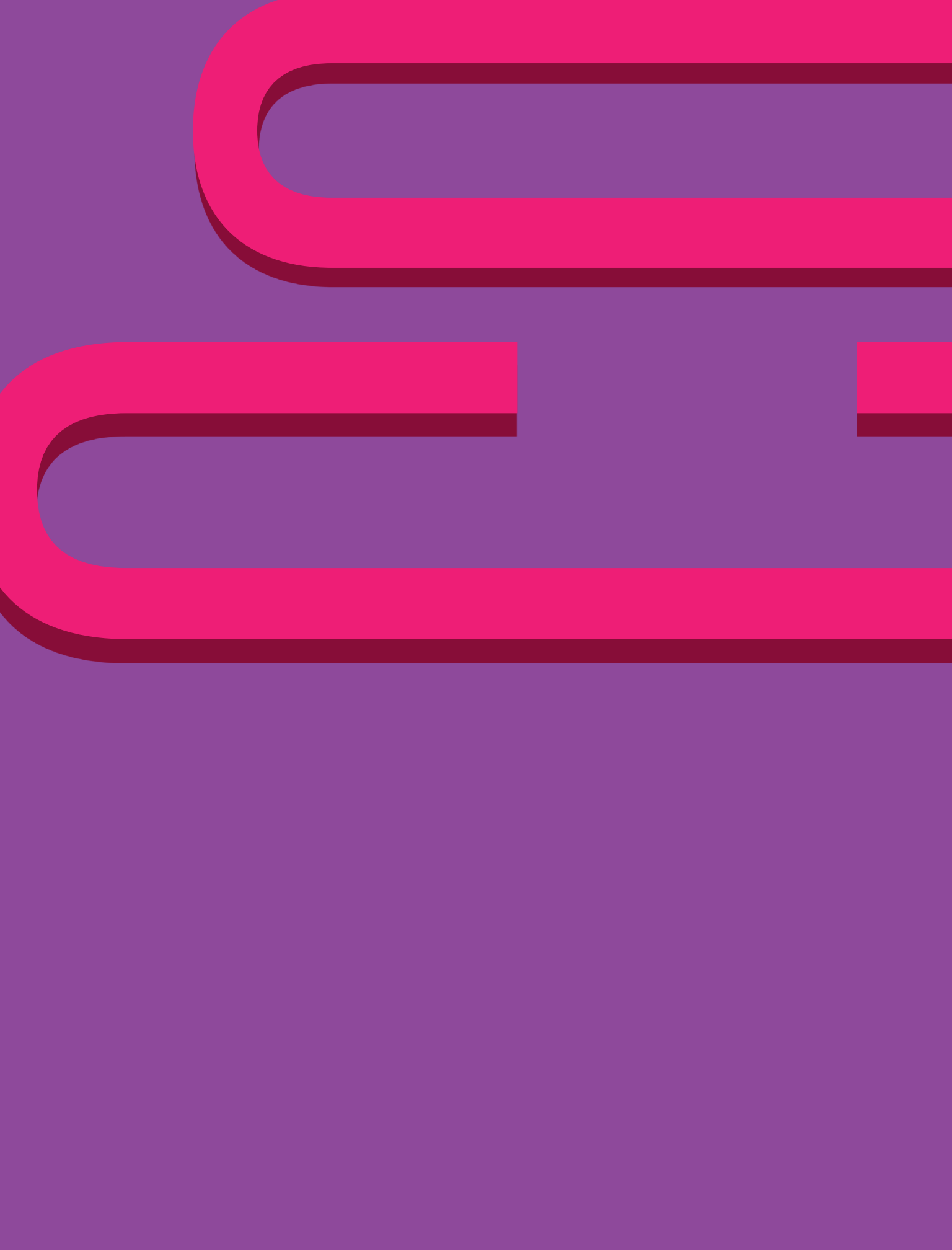
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Location: Dallas, TX
Owner: Polsinelli
Contractor: The Fabrication Company



Photography © Michael Robinson Photography





Concept

Autonomous Vehicles & The Future of Urban Planning

HOK

Autonomous vehicles are reshaping how cities are planned and designed—offering new opportunities to enhance mobility, equity, and public health. Research explores AV loops, transit connections, and reimagined public spaces as tools to create more resilient, people-first communities and a more adaptable, inclusive built environment.

Location: Kansas City, MO
Owner: HOK



Images © HOK

Barney Allis Plaza Redevelopment

HOK

Barney Allis Plaza is being reimagined as a vibrant civic hub with flexible green space, public art, event amenities, and a 600-space underground garage. The design enhances accessibility, supports year-round use, and prepares the site for future development—all while strengthening downtown Kansas City's public realm and community life.

Location: Kansas City, MO
Owner: City of Kansas City, MO
Contractor: McCownGordon Construction



Images © HOK

Bon Secours Wellness Arena + Greenville Arena District Development

Gensler

A proposed renovation and development plan aim to reintroduce the arena in a welcoming, park-like setting, integrate a new amphitheater opportunity, and create a square and great lawn reestablishing the site as a true community anchor.

Location: Greenville, SC
Owner: Greenville Arena District



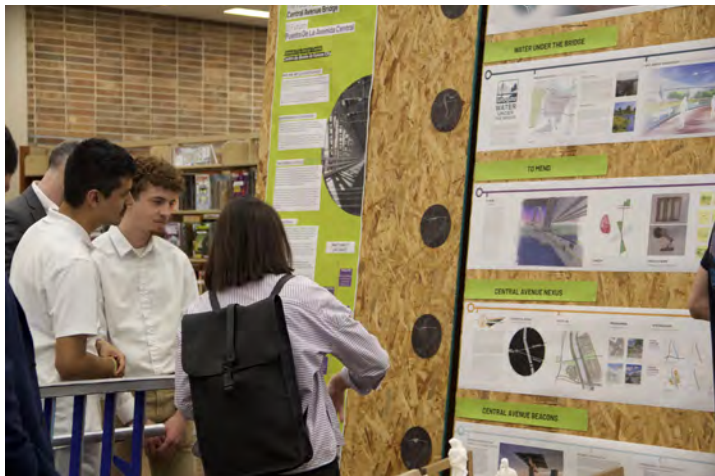
Images © Gensler

Central Avenue Bridge

Kansas City Design Center

This interdisciplinary studio engaged the community to reimagine the Central Avenue Bridge connecting Kansas and Missouri. Students developed five visionary proposals with local stakeholders, exploring how infrastructure can unify neighborhoods and systems while advancing public life, ecological health, and civic identity across Kansas City.

Location: Kansas City, KS
Owner: Unified Government of Kansas City, KS



Images © Kansas City Design Center

Colorado State University Veterinary Health and Education Complex

Clark & Enersen

Nestled at the base of the Northern Colorado foothills, this new veterinary teaching hospital and education center honors the importance of natural landforms in the region. Enhanced by its connection to place, the building inspires excellence in research, teaching, and care for animals.

Location: Fort Collins, CO
Owner: Colorado State University
Contractor: JE Dunn Construction



Images © Clark & Enersen

Columbus Park Development

DRAW architecture + urban design

Four city blocks in Kansas City's historic Columbus Park, which were vacant for decades, are revived by walkable and human-scale design. The site was within walking distance of the neighborhood's main business corridor, and developers saw a rare opportunity to heal and grow the historic neighborhood's legacy.

Location: Kansas City, MO
Owner: Edward Franklin Building Company
Contractor: Edward Franklin Building Company



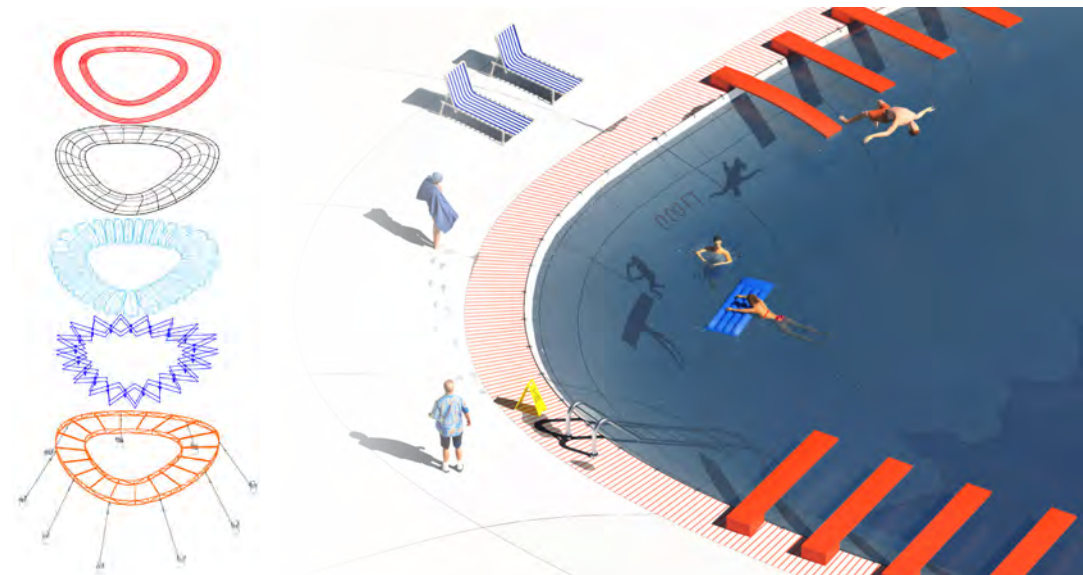
Images © DRAW architecture + urban design

Float

Populous

FLOAT reimagines Montreal's Olympic Stadium roof as a floating public space on the St. Lawrence River. Through its symbolic reuse of iconic materials, it creates a playful, contemplative environment that reconnects citizens with the river, fostering reflection, recreation, and community engagement while promoting circular architecture and sustainability.

Location: Montreal, Canada
Owner: Montreal Olympic Park



Images © Populous

Jacksonville Jaguars Stadium of the Future

HOK

The EverBank Stadium renovation sets a new standard for sustainable sports venues—preserving structure, reducing carbon, and enhancing fan comfort. With a climate-responsive design, ViewScape facade, and flexible year-round spaces, it transforms Jacksonville’s waterfront into a dynamic community hub focused on innovation and environmental stewardship.

Location: Jacksonville, FL
Owner: Jacksonville Jaguars



Images © HOK

JewelHouse

International Architects Atelier

Originally constructed in 1910, this building has seen numerous transformations over its lifetime. The exterior will be restored to its historic appearance, while the interior will be a canvas for stained glass, metal, and mosaic artworks, creating a contemplative sanctuary centering on the untold stories of womanhood.

Location: Kansas City, MO
Owner: Kansas City Museum Foundation & Kansas City Parks and Recreation



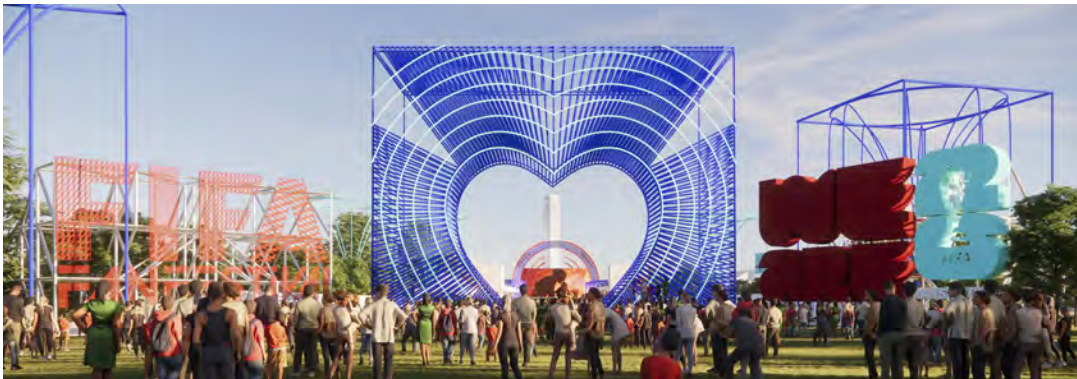
Images © International Architects Atelier and Moore

Kansas City FIFA World Cup Fan Fest

Populous

The 2026 Kansas City FIFA Fan Fest is a temporary venue designed to host World Cup fans at the heart of the city. Blending architectural precision with event strategy, the project creates an immersive, flexible experience built sustainably to delight for five weeks, then disappear without a trace.

Location: Kansas City, MO
Owner: N/A



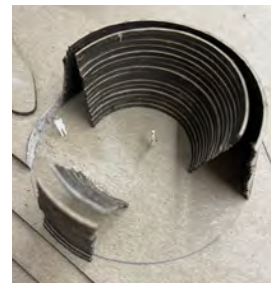
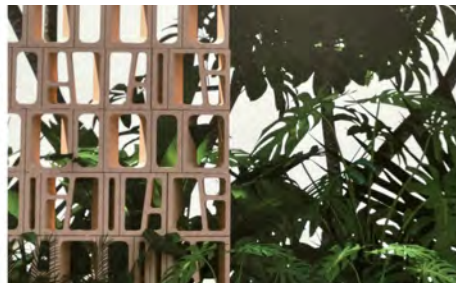
Images © Populous

Learning from Yucatan

Estudio Macias Peredo, El Dorado, and Kansas State University

This submission is a yearlong academic experience organized by Mexican and American architect-teachers, focused on the possibilities of working as an interloper in a place full of rich ancient cultural traditions.

Location: Merida and Tulum, Mexico
Owner: Confidential and Candela Mexico



Images © Estudio Macias Peredo, El Dorado and Kansas State University

Missouri State Museum

International Architects Atelier

The Missouri State Museum, housed within the historic State Capitol, is being renovated with curvilinear platforms inspired by the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers. These pathways and platforms echo Missouri's limestone formations and provide a contrast to the Capitol's symmetry, resulting in a revitalized and distinct identity for the museum.

Location: Jefferson City, MO
Owner: State of Missouri | Department of Natural Resources & Office of Administration



Images © International Architects Atelier and Moare

New Health Center

HFG Architecture

This 121,465 sq. ft. health center, designed to achieve LEED Gold certification, serves as a culturally rooted, state-of-the-art healthcare center for the Navajo Nation in Pueblo Pintado. Inspired by traditional hogan structures and aligned with spiritual beliefs, it houses 35 departments while promoting wellness, preserving language, and supporting long-term community growth.

Location: Pueblo Pintado, NM
Owner: Indian Health Service



Images © HFG Architecture

South Central Mental Health Hospital

Pulse Design Group

This ground-up, two-story mental health hospital expands access to behavioral health services through a design focused on dignity, safety, and healing. The facility includes single-occupant and ADA-compliant rooms, therapy spaces, clinical exam rooms, a pharmacy, wellness suites, dining areas, gyms, multipurpose spaces, staff offices, and interior courtyards.

Location: Sedgwick County, KS
Owner: Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services
Contractor: Key Construction



Images © Pulse Design Group

The Head

SixTwentyOne

The Head is a vibrant community hub in North Little Rock's Argenta district, overlooking the Clinton Presidential Library and Arkansas River. Featuring a food hall, speakeasy, and local retail, it celebrates regional culture and entrepreneurship—serving as both a trailhead and a gateway to the city's spirit of creativity and renewal.

Location: North Little Rock, AR
Owner: Confidential



Images © SixTwentyOne

The Lofts 12

BRR Architecture

The Lofts 12 conceptual design reimagines a two-story building as a vibrant five-story mixed-use development that blends historic charm with modern materials. With bronze panels, expansive glazing, and stepped-back residential units, the design supports retail, office, residential, and event spaces—balancing contrast and cohesion in a future-forward, community-focused hub.

Location: N/A

Owner: N/A



Images © BRR Architecture

University of California Davis Veterinary Medical Education Campus

Clark & Enersen and WRNS Studio

This visionary plan transforms a veterinary campus into a sustainable, inclusive environment that unites education, care, research, and community. Anchored by a greenway and shaped by broad input, it fosters well-being, innovation, and design excellence – positioning the campus as a leader in veterinary education for generations to come.

Location: Davis, CA
Owner: University of California Davis



Images © Clark & Enersen and WRNS Studio

Wichita Biomedical Campus

Helix Architecture + Design and CO Architects

The University of Kansas Medical Center, Wichita State University, and WSU Tech are creating the region's most innovative interdisciplinary health education center in downtown Wichita. The Wichita Biomedical Campus is a catalyst for the redevelopment of downtown and medical education and innovation in the broader region.

Location: Wichita, KS
Owner: Wichita State University, University of Kansas Medical Center, WSU Tech
Contractor: JE Dunn Construction and Hutton



Images © Helix Architecture + Design and CO Architects

The Best of 2025

