

AIA Ohio

2020 Emerging Professional
Award Submission

ADAM YARACS AIA, NCARB, LEED AP



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30 May, 2020

AIA Ohio Honor Awards Jury
400 W. Wilson Bridge Road, Ste. 120
Worthington, OH 43085

RE: 2020 AIA Ohio Emerging Professional Award | Yaracs Nomination

Dear Jury Members,

I have had the pleasure of working with Adam for numerous years through AIA Cleveland leadership, witnessing his public outreach commitment through AIA, his perpetual student engagement, and his community work through practice. I absolutely recommend that Adam be recognized with the distinguished honor of the AIA Ohio Emerging Professional Award!

Instrumental in elevating the chapter’s exposure within our design community, Adam overhauled our website to effectively reach and educate our non-members on the value of the profession. Our newsletter has been revamped and streamlined while Adam led our Communications team, and our social media presence is now active and relevant. Adam greatly elevated our annual Design Awards Gala to be one of the most impactful in the country! These works have granted our chapter National recognition and aid in securing much sought-after jury chairs and keynote speakers.

As a Foundations Studio professor at Kent State College of Architecture and Environmental Design, Adam has become the crucial bridge between practice and academia that our design community desperately needed. His infectious passion for the organization has spread to student leaders, and we are now witnessing an unsurpassed Involvement with AIAS due to his steady advisor role. During Adam’s presidency, our chapter reinstated a scholarship for local architecture students, and he has spurred engagement in our design community by offering students the opportunity to be involved with our design awards program, and to submit their works for recognition.

Adam’s project work has focused on public outreach and building community through design. His portfolio includes the new community asset at Gleneagles in Twinsburg as well as community projects which focus on performing arts. These works reflect a sensitivity to materiality, context and the human scale.

Adam shined as our youngest President in 2017, breathing life into our chapter! Adam is a design professional who sets the bar high on leadership and advocacy. He is well-deserving of this honor!

Very best,

Jodi van der Wiel,
AIA, IIDA, LEED AP BD+C, WELL AP
AIA Cleveland President

June 5, 2020

AIA Ohio
400 W. Wilson Bridge Road, Ste.120, Worthington, Ohio 43085

Re: Recommendation of Adam Yaracs, AIA for the 2020 AIA Ohio Emerging Professional Award

Dear Jury Members,

I have known Adam Yaracs for fourteen years as a colleague and friend. In 2014 I was asked to serve on the AIA Cleveland Board Nominating Committee. I strongly endorsed Adam for the presidency tract based on his past accomplishments within our chapter. Other committee members were skeptical solely based upon his age (31). Adam proved them wrong. During his presidency, our chapter flourished in many areas due to his leadership skills and can-do attitude. He understands and values the importance for our profession of public outreach, service along with education / mentorship and has championed many programs supporting these themes.

Under Adam’s presidency, at his request, I accepted the board position of Kent State University College of Architecture and Environmental Design Liaison. Through that involvement, I saw the extremely positive relationship and influence he has with his students, Dean Mark Mistur, other faculty members and the administrative staff. For the last three years, he has acted as the KSU AIAS Chapter advisor. The mentorship enthusiasm he brings to that position is contagious. The programs he has envisioned and implemented have created stronger student AIAS involvement that I am sure will carry over to establishing future AIA professional members.

Unlike other past presidents, once his term was over Adam did not walk away from AIA Cleveland, but rather took on the additional role of Director of Communication. Through his hard work he elevated the Cleveland chapter’s website, weekly newsletter, and social media outreach programs. Before Adam’s involvement, these communication tools were basically nonexistent. The chapter’s social media / public outreach programs now have a solid foundation due to his efforts.

Adam has been involved with our AIA Cleveland Design Awards program for nine years. Under his guidance the program has grown and engaged the community outside of architecture. Stellar national jury chairs are selected, with event attendance ranging between 500-550. In 2019 he asked me to co-chair the program with him. In that role, it became evident to me that this event has become a gala that promotes quality local design due to his leadership. Our awards program separates AIA Cleveland from other chapters.

Through all of Adam’s endeavors – whether it be AIA involvement, work issues or his teaching, I have seen one common thread – Adam always exceeds expectations. Lastly there is one important trait that Adam possesses that should not be taken lightly – it’s just fun to work with him. The enjoyment he takes in any assignment is infectious and in turn brings out the best in others.

I believe Adam Yaracs should receive strong consideration for this prestigious award. If he is selected it is a decision you will not regret.

Sincerely,



Steven Kordalski AIA
KORDALSKI ARCHITECTS INC
AIA Ohio Gold Medal Firm

EDUCATION I
2006 Kent State | Masters of Architecture
2006 Kent State | Cert. in Urban Design
2004 Kent State | B.S. in Architecture

STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM:
2005 Spring| Florence, Italy
2002 Fall | Florence, Italy

REGISTRATIONS I
Ohio - #1516385
NCARB Certificate - #80883
LEED AP - #10052538

PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION I
2019 AIA National Young Architect Award
2018 AIA Cleveland Presidential Citation
2013 AIA Cleveland Activism Award
2011 AIA Cleveland Presidential Citation

AFFILIATIONS I
American Institute of Architects
American Institute of Architecture Students
Kent State University CAED
NCARB
United States Green Building Council

PUBLICATIONS I FEATURES I
“2019 Young Architects Award.” <https://www.aia.org/showcases/6099081-adam-yaracs-aia>, AIA National Website, February 2019.

Eakin, Eric. “Gleneagles Builds New Nest.” Properties Magazine, October 2018

DiPiero, Diane. “Creativity, patience help an architect build a career.” Cleveland Plain Dealer, 10 November 2017.

Guth, Douglas. “We build this city: cle architects adding flair to industrial footprint.” FreshWater Cleveland, 24 May 2012

DESIGN JURIES I
2020 Jury Member | (NAIOP) Commercial Real Estate Development Association Northern Ohio Chapter Awards

2019 AIA Rhode Island | Jury Member

2019 Jury Member | (NAIOP) Commercial Real Estate Development Association Northern Ohio Chapter Awards

2019 Jury Member | (CEA) Construction Employers Association Building Excellence and Craftsmanship Awards Celebration

2019 Reactor Panelist | ACE Mentor Cleveland High School Presentations

PRESENTATIONS I
2017 American Planning Association (APA) Conference - “Understanding Architecture for Review Boards”

2017 AIA Grassroots - AIA Ohio Valley Region Strategies for Chapter Communications and Design Awards

CONFERENCES I
2019 AIA National Conference - Las Vegas
2018 AIA National Conference - New York
2017 AIA Ohio Valley Conf. - Indianapolis
2017 AIA National Conference - Orlando
2017 AIA Grassroots - Washington, DC
2016 AIA Ohio Conference - Akron
2016 AIA National Conference - Philadelphia
2016 AIA Grassroots - Detroit
2007 Greenbuild - Chicago

ADAM YARACS, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP

PROJECT MANAGER I IKM Architecture
ADJUNCT FACULTY I Kent State University CAED

Adam is an experienced architect who has been active within the Northeast Ohio architecture and design community for the past 14 years. He is currently a Project Manager with IKM Architecture where he is helping to expand IKM’s regional footprint in the Northeast Ohio region and extend its professional services to new clients. In this position he has successfully managed several projects both in Pittsburgh and Cleveland for a Confidential Corporate Client. Adam is also an Adjunct Faculty member at the Kent State University College of Architecture and Environmental Design. He has shown great leadership, management and motivational skills through his responsibilities as a Project Manager, Community Leader and Teacher.

Adam has received significant recognition throughout the early stages of his career. In 2019, he was recognized as a recipient of AIA National Young Architect Award, that honors select individuals who have demonstrated exceptional leadership and made significant contributions to the architecture profession early in their careers. Previously, he has been awarded with the 2018 AIA Cleveland Presidential Citation, 2013 AIA Cleveland Service Award and a 2011 AIA Cleveland Presidential Citation. In 2017, Adam served as the AIA Cleveland President, making him the youngest President in the Chapter’s 125+ year history. Throughout his consecutive years of service with the AIA, Adam has led initiatives for improved programming, public advocacy, membership engagement, chapter marketing, and chairs annual events such as; the Cleveland Design Awards and Goodtime for Design Boat Cruise. Whether he is practicing, volunteering, or teaching, his goal is always the same; to promote the profession of architecture and quality of work in the region to the general public, and to advocate for all architects in Cleveland and throughout Northeast Ohio.

WORK EXPERIENCE:
2019 - Present | IKM Architecture
2015 - 2019 | Perspectus Architecture
2013 - 2015 | Richard Fleischman + Partners Architects
2009 - 2013 | Belson Design Architects (Previously known as EwingCole)
2005 - 2009 | EwingCole

SELECT PROJECT EXPERIENCE:
Confidential Client Lobby Renovation - Pittsburgh, PA
Department of Veterans Affairs Renovation of Operating Rooms - Cleveland, OH
*Gleneagles Golf Clubhouse – Twinsburg, OH
Cleveland Clinic E20 PACU Renovation (Main Campus) - Cleveland, OH
Cleveland Clinic EP Suite Renovation (Akron General) - Akron, OH
Wickliffe Library Renovation and Expansion – Wickliffe, OH
Brookpark Library Renovation and Expansion – Brookpark, OH
Near West Theatre – Cleveland, OH
Old Chemistry Building | SUNY Stony Brook – Stony Brook, NY
Purchase Student Center Renovation | Purchase College – Purchase, NY
*Arthur Zankel Music Center | Skidmore College – Saratoga Springs, NY
*Kirner Johnson Social Science Building | Hamilton College – Clinton, NY

*Denotes projects that have received AIA Design Awards

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:
Kent State University College of Architecture and Environmental Design

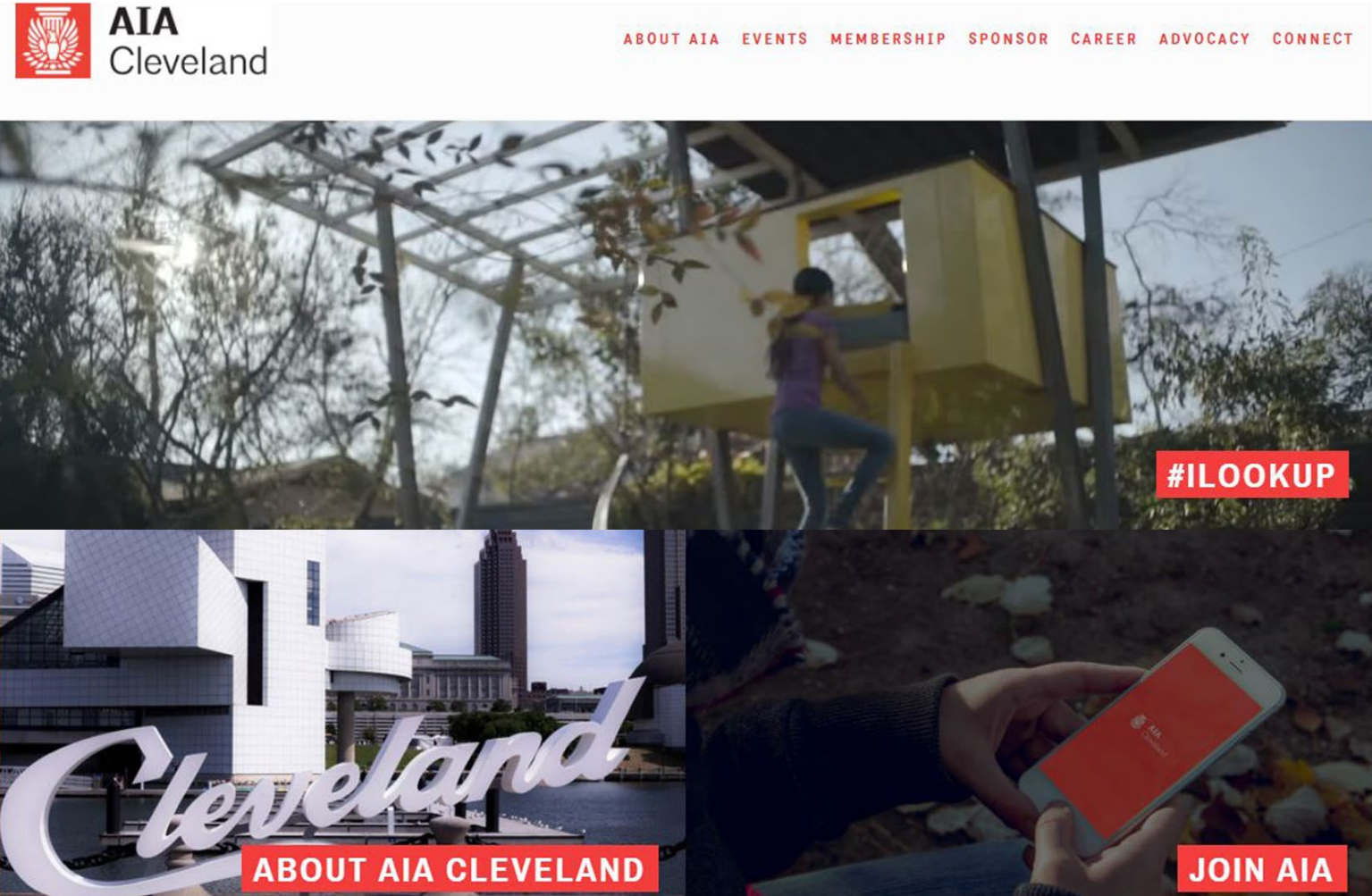
First Year Foundations Design Studio 10101
Fall 2016, Fall 2017, Fall 2018, Spring 2019, Fall 2019
First Year Foundations Design Studio 10102
Spring 2017, Spring 2018, Spring 2020
Architecture Professional Development - Portfolio Workshop 21706
Spring 2019, Fall 2019, Spring 2020
American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS) Chapter Faculty Advisor
Fall 2018, Spring 2019, Fall 2019, Spring 2020
College of Architecture and Environmental Design Scholarship Committee
Spring 2019
Second Year Design Studio Teaching Assistant
Fall 2004, Spring 2005, Fall 2005, Spring 2006

AIA CLEVELAND VOLUNTEER SERVICE:
2012 - Present | Design Awards Chair
2008 - Present | Goodtime for Design Chair
2018 - 2020 | Director of Communications
2018 | Immediate Past President
2017 | Chapter President
2013 - 2014 | Director of Development
2008 - 2012 | Director of Camaraderie
2006 - 2008 | Urban Design Committee Chair

Exhibit 01 | AIA Cleveland Chapter Communications

Adam has been influential in creating a multi-faceted chapter communications plan for AIA Cleveland, initially designed to raise awareness of architecture and design in the Northeast Ohio design community. The first initiative in this plan was to create an online presence for AIA Cleveland. Adam created a new website which includes a highly visual design that focuses on bold imagery instead of text in an effort to streamline content and to capture the attention of the general public. In tandem with the new website, he also conceived a weekly newsletter focusing on members, programming, and design related news. The newsletter consistently recognizes individual member milestones and features local members. With 2,700 subscribers, the chapter has an audience much greater than just its members.

In focused efforts to connect with a broader audience, there was a need to increase the chapter’s social media presence. Adam led the effort to create these accounts and manages them currently. The chapter posts content regularly over all platforms and has increased its amount of followers dramatically. To give the profession and chapter even more visibility, he also branded different apparel, sketchbooks, and other goods with AIA Cleveland. The success of the website and newsletter has caught the attention of other AIA Chapters around the country. In particular, AIA Seattle has had lengthy discussions with Adam on how they could implement a similar visual website structure for their own chapter. AIA Ohio and AIA Columbus have also borrowed features from the newsletter to include in their own chapter communications.



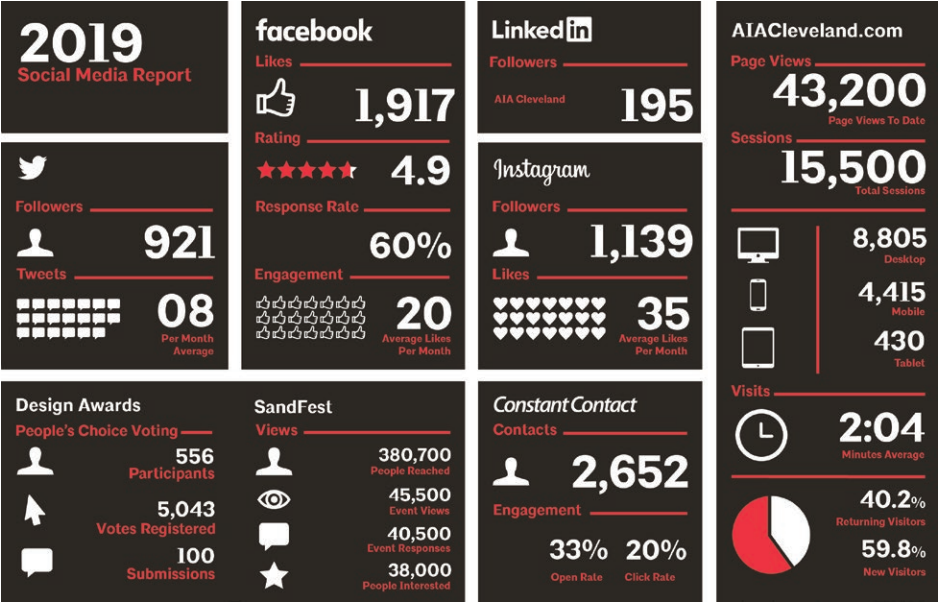
“I really like your newsletter. Easy to read and not full of text. Also, I like the poll. Keep up the good work.”

Gwen Berlekamp, CAE | The American Institute of Architects | Managing Director, Component Collaboration & Resources

“As I am looking to make some changes or create a whole new website for our chapter, I started looking around to see how other AIA chapters organized their websites to get some ideas. I really liked what I saw on the AIA Cleveland website! Chapter websites have to do quite a lot – supporting members and committees, promoting a calendar of events and programs, while also reaching out to the public at the same time. I really like the highly visual way that the AIA Cleveland website achieves all of that in a deceptively simple way, and full of engaging images. I was connected to Adam who spent a chunk of time talking me through how he created the website, which was incredibly helpful, and it was clear that he cared a lot about the communications of the chapter.”

Bray Hayden | Communications Manager | AIA Seattle + Design in Public

LEFT SIDE
Top | AIA CLE Website
RIGHT SIDE
Top Left | AIA CLE Booth at Kent State Career Fair
Left Middle | AIA CLE Office Storefront Projector
Bottom Left | AIA CLE Social Media Statistics
Right | AIA CLE Newsletter Example



JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

CALENDARGET INVOLVEDJOIN AIA

Share

Tweet

Share

Good Afternoon,
Today's e-newsletter is filled with important chapter information and scheduled programming. To begin, I would like to call your attention to our 2019 AIA Cleveland Executive Board Slate. The chapter received an overwhelming number of nominations for the open positions. The slate will be open for a vote by members at the Annual Meeting on October 25th. Also up for vote by chapter membership at the annual meeting are the revised chapter bylaws. These can be viewed by visiting the link below.

MEMBERS MATTER

Congratulations to
Mark Mistur, AIA
Kent State University CAED | Dean
for being recognized for the 2nd year in a row by Architectural Record as one of the Top 25 Most Admired Educators in Architecture, Interiors, and Landscape Architecture! [Read the article here](#)

Congratulations to
Robert P. Madison International and Sandra Madison, AIA
for being featured in American School and University Magazine! [Read the Feature Here!](#)

This Week's Featured Member
I AM AIA CLE
Pradnya Martz, AIA
Realtor, Keller Williams Greater Cleveland West
Birthplace: Kavathe, State of Maharashtra, India
Favorite Architect: Frank Lloyd Wright
Favorite Cleveland Building: Terminal Tower
Reason You Are Involved with AIA: I joined with AIA to reconnect and get inspired by the activities and work of my colleagues. Attending year-round programs, tours, and networking opportunities, and exchanging knowledge resources continue to inform my next career phase and professional growth.

Submit your member profiles, achievements, and firm milestones below.
SUBMIT YOUR INFO HERE

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

25 SEP
Lunch and Learn
Managing Moisture with Breathable Membranes
Organized by AIA Cleveland
1.0 HSW

25 SEP
2018 MAKERS SERIES |
Halper Lighting Solution +
Beacon Metal Fabricators
Organized by AIA Cleveland
1.5 HSW

03

Exhibit 02a | AIA Cleveland Design Awards Program

The annual AIA Cleveland Design Awards are the signature event of the year for the local design community. Adam has enjoyed the opportunity to serve as Design Awards Co-Chair for the past nine years. During his first years of involvement, the awards celebration garnered a modest attendance of less than 150 attendees with less than 50 overall project submissions. With Adam’s direction, goals were established to grow the awards program in all facets and to bring public awareness to the work completed by local architects. One of the main objectives was to increase the amount of project submissions. By specifically targeting, contacting and discussing the importance of participation to local firm leaders, project submissions increased to over 100 in 2019. To reinforce the intent to bring public awareness to design excellence, the production of an annual Design Awards Program “book” was completed. This new publication replaces a single page program, and promises design firms additional marketing opportunities independent if their project wins. At roughly 150 pages, this annual program book has become a yearly collectible and is shared in print at the awards, electronically on multiple websites, and is available to the public. This creative addition to the Awards Program has become so popular that other AIA Chapters including AIA Columbus, AIA Cincinnati and AIA Kentucky have reached out to discuss implementing their own version. In addition to increasing professional project submissions, Adam along with fellow committee members engaged Kent State University directly to establish a student awards program. This program has increased the level of student engagement in the professional organization and expanded the outreach footprint to academia. The student awards program now encompasses four graduate studios each year with a selection of 40 projects for consideration.

A second objective to improve the quality of the awards program was to increase attendance and bring awareness of the awards program to the general public. After creating a competitive pricing structure which includes discounted tickets for associate members and sponsored student tickets, attendance levels have soared. The 2019 AIA Cleveland Design Awards recently set a chapter attendance record with 535 attendees! Inviting award-winning jury chairs and keynote speakers has also been a strategy to raise excitement for the event. A list of our past jury chairs includes; Lawrence Scarpa, Matthew Kreilich, Marlon Blackwell, Roberto De Leon, Andrew Wells, Ralph Johnson, Andrea Steele and Enrique Norten, and Farshid Moussavi. This strategy has worked as the Cleveland Design Awards have become on of the largest Design Awards programs in the Midwest. The program has achieved its goals by raising awareness and involving the local community through extensive local media coverage and a popular online People’s Choice public vote. A combination of a great keynote and jury chair, exciting programming, afford-ability, and community involvement, has created an AIA Cleveland signature event that has other Chapters in awe. Chapters including; AIA Pittsburgh, AIA Columbus, AIA Ohio, AIA Kentucky, AIA Cincinnati, AIA Akron, and even AIA Ft. Lauderdale have inquired on how to improve their own annual design awards program based on the success of AIA Cleveland’s Design Awards program.



LEFT SIDE
Bottom | 2019 AIA CLE Design Awards Reception

RIGHT SIDE
Top | 2016 AIA CLE Design Awards Reception
Middle | 2017 AIA CLE Design Awards Venue
Bottom | 2017 AIA CLE Design Awards Reception



“For me, Adam Yaracs’ leadership is absolutely instrumental in bringing about the most vital design event in the state of Ohio - the annual Cleveland Design Awards program - that provides a forum for the citizens and architecture community of the city of Cleveland to celebrate the value and impact of design in the public realm. Our relevance as a profession is greatly enhanced by events such as this that demonstrate to everyone that good design matters.”

Marlon Blackwell, FAIA | Marlon Blackwell Architects

“Your efforts over the last half dozen years have really made this one of the best awards programs in the mid-west, and I think this really showcases the excellent work being produced in the Cleveland area by Cleveland architects.”

Bruce Sekanick, FAIA, OAA | The American Institute of Architects | Secretary

LEFT SIDE
Top | 2017 Kent State Student Design Award Winners
Bottom Left | 2017 Client Award Winner Cleveland Metroparks
Bottom Right | 2017 AIA CLE Fellows Recognition at Design Awards

RIGHT SIDE
Top Left | 2018 AIA CLE Design Awards Reception
Middle Left | 2017 AIA CLE Design Awards Welcome
Bottom Left | 2019 AIA CLE Design Awards Reception
Right Column | AIA CLE Design Awards Program Books



Exhibit 03 | Student Outreach and Mentorship

Through his roles at AIA Cleveland and Kent State University, Adam consistently motivates and mentors students as well as recent graduates. He encourages students to be active during their time in school by joining student organizations, such as AIAS, and volunteering at professional programming events. In 2018, Adam was named as the faculty advisor for the Kent State University AIAS Chapter, becoming one of a few adjunct faculty members who have taken on an advising role within the College. Relying on his own experiences with AIA Cleveland, he provides advice and guidance on how to run a successful chapter. Additionally, he worked with the AIAS student leadership team to create a chapter website to improve and expand communications with the student body.

During his tenure as AIA Cleveland Chapter President, Adam worked with fellow board member Steve Kordalski, AIA to create the AIA Cleveland Scholarship Fund and to engage the student body more. These efforts also now include annual Kent State CAED career fair representation, semester coffee and donuts with the student population, and continuous financial support to the Kent State AIAS Chapter from AIA Cleveland.



“Adam has been a tremendous positive influence as the faculty advisor to our chapter at Kent State. His efforts, particularly in encouraging student participation in AIA events, have led to a more engaged student body, both at the chapter and through the entire college.”

Ethan Moore | Kent State CAED Student and AIAS Member

LEFT SIDE
Top Left | 2017 AIA CLE Student Scholarship
Top Middle | 2019 Kent State AIAS + AIA Welcome Event
Top Right | 2018 AIA CLE - Kent State AIAS Sponsorship
Bottom Left | 2019 AIA CLE Design Awards Student Volunteers
Bottom Right | 2018 AIA CLE Design Awards Kent State AIAS Attendees

RIGHT SIDE
Top | 2018 AIA CLE + Kent State AIAS Career Fair
Bottom | 2018 Kent State AIAS Board of Directors



Exhibit 04a | Leadership in Education

For the past four years, Adam has been a First Year Foundations Design Studio Faculty member at Kent State University’s College of Architecture and Environmental Design. In his studio, he has the responsibility of fostering students’ creative thinking abilities and teaching them how to express ideas visually. In addition, he must also teach the language and vocabulary of design. To solve complex design problems in his studio, Adam encourages his students to work together through studio dialogue and peer critiques. This exercise reinforces the importance of engaging the broader design community. This challenge to build and design together is one that the students really enjoy.

The past two years, Adam has taught a new professional development course based on creating the architectural portfolio. He teaches this class both semester of the academic year. One semester is for undergraduate students focusing on creating the graduate school portfolio, and the other semester is for graduate students looking to create their professional portfolio. In two short years, this course has become a popular one with students as class registration is always full, often with a waiting list.

The unique opportunity that Adam has to work with students during their first experiences as Freshman and their last academic interactions as Graduate students is a rewarding one. He has been able to encourage younger students to be active in their profession throughout the early stages of their education. He has also been able to work with graduate students and Fourth Year students to ease the transition from an academic setting to a professional one.



“I also wanted to say thank you for a great semester! I’m not going to lie, coming into second semester I was mentally ready to give up and switch away from the CAED program but you started to sway my mind and make me realize I really love this specialty. I learned a lot from you this semester, and I hope to see you around in the CAED building in the fall.”

Jordan Haywood | Kent State University CAED Student

LEFT SIDE
Left | Kent State First Year Foundations Final Jury
Right | Kent State First Year Foundations Studio Class

RIGHT SIDE
Top | Kent State First Year Foundations - Where Do We Go From Here Project (Jeremy Ellis, Olivia Holt, Robert Rausch)
Middle Left | Kent State First Year Foundations - Kinematics Project (Madelyn Orchid)
Middle Right | Kent State First Year Foundations - 2D to 3D Relief Project (Lucas Denmeade)
Bottom | Kent State First Year Foundations - Where Do We Go From Here Project (Dylan Herrman-Holt, Jack McMichael)

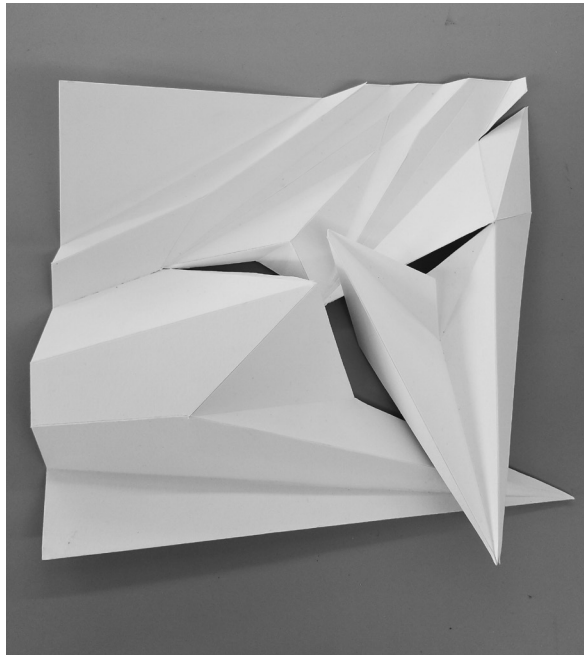
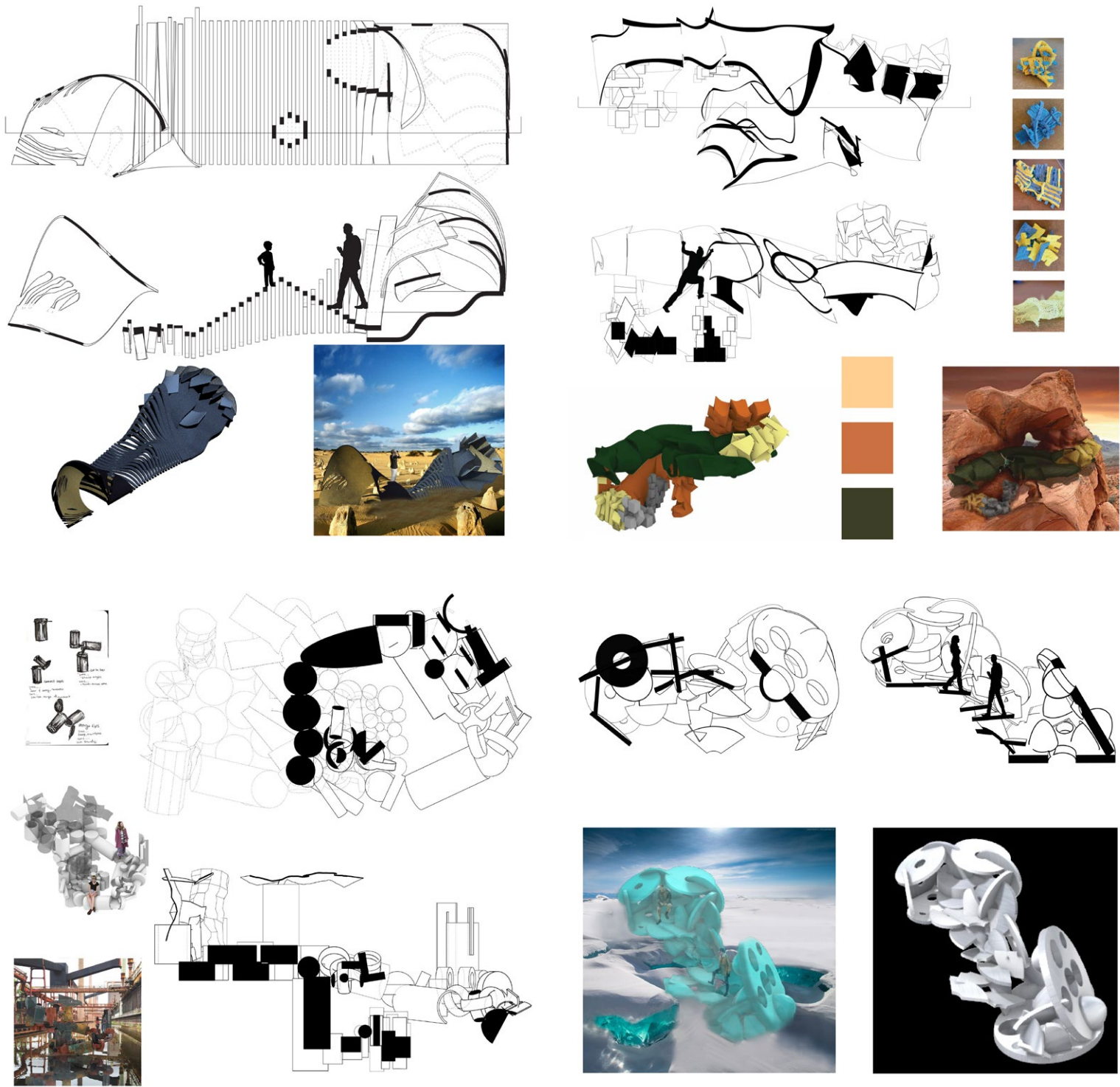


Exhibit 04b | Leadership in Education (Cont.)



“The guidance from Professor Yaracs helped to break my preconceived limitations of my own design capabilities and pushed me to reach a higher level of design process and exploration. Professor Yaracs was easy to approach and promoted an environment for collaboration and critical thinking among myself and my peers.”

Logan Ali | Kent State University CAED Student

LEFT SIDE
Top Left | Kent State CAED First Year Studio (Logan Ali)
Top Right | Kent State CAED First Year Studio (Emma Weaver)
Bottom Left | Kent State CAED First Year Studio (Rylie Schoch)
Bottom Right | Kent State CAED First Year Studio (McKenna Kocin-Montes)

RIGHT SIDE
Top Right | Kent State CAED Portfolio Work (Hallie Schuld)
Second Left | Kent State CAED Portfolio Work (Hallie Schuld)
Second Right | Kent State CAED Portfolio Work (Hallie Schuld)
Third Left | Kent State CAED Portfolio Work (Hallie Schuld)
Third Right | Kent State CAED Portfolio Work (Hallie Schuld)
Bottom Left | Kent State CAED Portfolio Work (Vincent Noce)
Bottom Right | Kent State CAED Portfolio Work (Vincent Noce)

