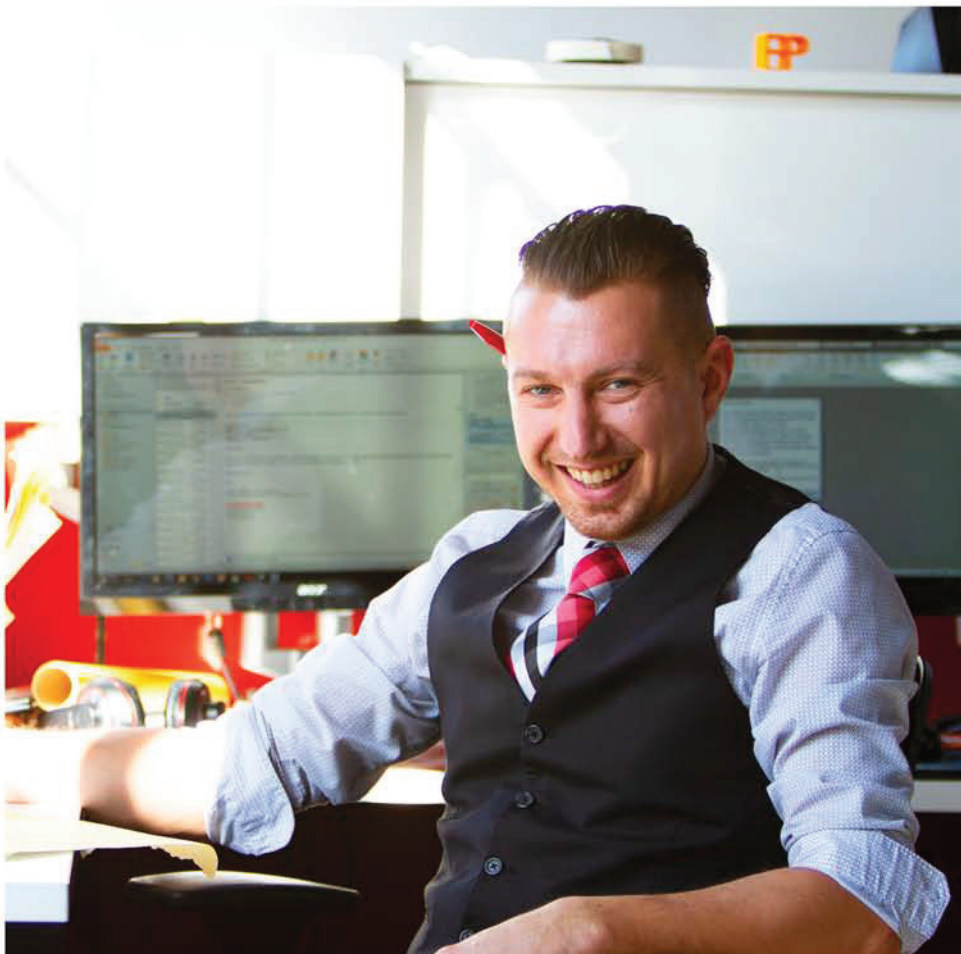


# AIA Ohio

## 2021 Emerging Professional Award Eric F. Pros, AIA, MBA



01 Nomination Letter

02 Letter of Support

03 Service:

04 Design:

05 Leadership in Education:

06 Service:

07 Design:

08 Leadership in Education:

Ruth Gless, FAIA - AIA Columbus

Jillian Tipton - AIA Akron

Leadership

Advocate for the Arts

Commitment to Knowledge

Public Outreach

Dedication to Design Excellence

Thought Leadership

## Nomination Letter

RUTH GLESS, FAIA  
architect+artist

11 June 2021

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

Dear Awards Jury,

I am honored to nominate Eric Pros, AIA for the AIA Ohio Emerging Professional Award. I have known Eric for a number of years through AIA Ohio and found him to have more energy and ideas than most any three people I know.

Recently, I've gotten to know Eric more personally. Last fall, he invited me to join him on a special program with AIA Cleveland called "Coffee with the Fellows." Despite the quarantine, we spoke on multiple occasions about our shared passion for teaching and sharing knowledge, as well as our mutual love of painting and drawing. I loved our "coffee" conversation. I'm looking forward to a day when we can sketch together. (Next time beer for him and chardonnay for me!)

Eric is instrumental in the leadership of his local AIA Chapter, AIA Akron, yet finds the time to be involved at the State Level, participating in numerous special task forces. In 2020 as Chair for the AIA Ohio Safe Schools Charrette, he invited school administrators from across the state to participate in a collaboration with Ohio Architects to explore solutions for a safe environment for students during the pandemic. This is just one effort for which he deserves this award. Others to consider:

**Leadership** – Eric is a leader of AIA Akron, and in AIA Ohio. He has served on his Chapter's Board since 2015, as President in 2017 and 2021, and on any number of AIA Ohio task forces. Three AIA Ohio Presidents have honored him with President's Awards for his efforts serving at the state level in 2017, 2019, and 2020.

**Advocacy for the arts in his community** – For example, Eric assembled a team of Northeastern Ohio artists to compete for an international design competition for Lakewood OH. His team, selected ahead of 28 others are in the schematic design phase of their proposal which will pay tribute to the various Natural and Man-Made features that make Northeast Ohio a Unique landscape.

**Commitment to knowledge** – Eric's personal motto "always learning / always teaching" exemplifies his commitment to learning and sharing knowledge. Eric, an adjunct instructor at Kent State University for approximately 7 years, teaches First Year Design Studio, and computer applications courses. And he is a ubiquitous juror for design reviews at Kent State and Florida Atlantic University.

**Service, Public Outreach** – In his free time, Eric gives back to his community and inspires future generations of architects through public outreach efforts such as CanStruction, Kent Creativity Festival, and Career Days.

**Design Excellence** – Professionally, Eric is Director of Design for DS Architecture. As such he champions a collaborative studio culture in which the design process receives the attention that it deserves. Since he assumed this role, he and his firm have been recognized with a variety design awards for his photography and for architectural design.

Finally, Cleveland Crain's recently recognized Eric as a 40 under forty recipient; The Cleveland Professional Twenty-Thirty Club recognized him as a **Northeast Ohio Top 25 Under 35 "Movers and Shakers"**; and AIA Akron named him an **Emerging Talent Award 2019**.

What more can I say? Select Eric Pros for a 2021 AIA Ohio Emerging Professional Award; you could not find a better recipient.

Best,

Ruth M. Gless, FAIA



# Letter of Support

June 11, 2021

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

Dear Awards Jury,

On behalf of AIA Akron, I am pleased to offer a letter in support of Eric Pros' nomination for the 2021 AIA Ohio Emerging Professional Award.

As the current president of AIA Akron and long-time member of the AIA Akron Board of Directors, Eric has demonstrated time and time again his willingness to lead, a passion for design excellence, and a commitment to inspire. This commitment is multifaceted and includes a commitment to the greater organization of AIA, educating our future leaders, and dedication to service, which is the best work of life.

In addition to the leadership Eric provides to his local AIA Chapter, Eric is also involved with AIA Ohio, participating in numerous special task forces and volunteering his time and expertise when needed. Eric's passion for design excellence is a quality of his that many members of the AIA Akron component find inspiring. Recently, Eric assembled a team of Northeast Ohio artists to successfully compete for an international design competition for the City of Lakewood, Ohio. Eric and his team were selected ahead of 28 total applications and are currently in the Schematic Design phase of their proposal which will pay tribute to the various Natural and Man-Made features that Make Northeast Ohio a Unique landscape. This is only one example of Eric's dedication to the field of architecture and his willingness to advocate for the arts.

Eric's commitment to inspire is apparent through is frequent engagement as a presenter on topics of leadership and design at a variety of conferences including AIA Toledo, AIA Fort Lauderdale, PSMJ, Thrive, Firehouse Station Design Conference, and local Rotary Clubs in Northeast Ohio. Eric has also leveraged his leadership skills and passion for inspiring future leaders as an adjunct instructor at Kent State University, teaching First Year Design Studio as well participating frequently as a juror for design reviews at Kent State and Florida Atlantic University.

In his free time, Eric gives back to his community and inspires future generations of architects and leaders by engaging in various public outreach efforts including CanStruction, Kent Creativity Festival and Career Days. Eric has also served on the board of the Kent Junior Chamber of Commerce and served as the lead chairman for their popular *Grill for Good* fundraiser. This fundraiser invites the home chefs from the community of Kent to participate in a cook-off to raise funds for Coleman Professional Services. While Eric was responsible for this event, the Kent Junior Chamber of Commerce raised over \$15,000.00 each year to help deliver mental health, substance use, residential and rehabilitation services to those in need within their nine-county footprint.

Eric's dedication to design excellence is best views through in his professional capacity, serving as the Director of Design for DS Architecture. Shortly after becoming a licensed architect, Eric developed this position as Director of Design for himself within DS Architecture to ensure the design process is always given the attention that it deserves. Under Eric's leadership, DS Architecture has been recognized with a variety design awards for his photography and architectural designs.

And last but not least, Eric was recently recognized by Cleveland Crain's as a 40 under forty recipient, Eric has also been recognized as **Northeast Ohio Top 25 Under 35 "Movers and Shakers"** by The Cleveland Professional Twenty-Thirty Club and by AIA Akron as **Emerging Talent Award 2019**.

On behalf of AIA Akron, I hope you will take into account the various ways Eric has chosen to lead other in the profession, and you consider Eric Pros as a recipient for the 2021 AIA Ohio Emerging Professional Award.

Sincerely,



Jillian R. Tipton  
Executive Director, AIA Akron



## Eric F. Pros, AIA, MBA Director of Design | AIA Akron President

### Education

Shooting Reconstruction Certificate -	West Virginia University	10   2012
Shooting Reconstruction Certificate	Northwestern University	06   2012
Masters of Business Administration	Graduate School of Management	08   2011
Masters of Architecture	Kent State University CAED	05   2011
Bachelor of Science in Architecture:	Magna Cum Laude CAED	05   2009
Associate of Arts -	Lorain County Community College	05   2006

### Teaching Experience

Adjunct Instructor -	Kent State University CAED	01   2012 - 05   2018
Graduate Assistant -	Architectural History / Environmental Technology	09   2009 - 05   2010

### Professional Experience

President -	American Institute of Architects (AIA) Akron	01   2021 - Present
Demonstrative Evidence Specialist -	Gary A. Rini & Associates	07   2010 - Present
Director of Design -	DS Architecture	01   2016 - Present
President -	American Institute of Architects (AIA) Akron	01   2017 - 01   2018
Project Architect -	DS Architecture, LLC	06   2015 - 01   2016
Project Designer -	David Sommers and Associates, LLC	08   2011 - 06   2015
Property Maintenance Inspector -	North Olmsted Bldg Dept	05   2011 - 08   2011
Architectural Digital Visualization -	Mark Rienhold Architect	12   2014 - 05   2015
Architectural Modeler -	Perspectus Architecture	04   2010 - 10   2010
Architectural Intern -	Davidson Smith Certo Architects, Inc.	06   2008 - 09   2008
Architectural Intern -	Richard Sly Architects	03   2002 - 09   2003

### Licenses / Registration

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)-	Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department	07   2017
Architectural Registration -	NCARB State of Ohio	
Citizens Police Academy Graduate -	City of Kent, Ohio	06   2015
AutoDesk Revit: Imaginit Technologies Training -	Architecture Fundamentals BIM Management Template and Family Creation Collaboration Tools	07   2014

### Leadership

Judge -	Cleveland Restoration Society, Celebration of Preservation	04   2021
Judge -	Law Enforcement, Design Awards [LEDA]	09   2020
Judge -	Firehouse Magazine, Station Design Awards	09   2020
Judge -	AIA Ohio Student Design Awards	08   2020
Judge -	National Association of Women In Construction (NAWIC)	
Chairperson -	AIA Ohio Safe Schools Design Charrette	03   2020
Treasurer and Board Member -	AIA Ohio Foundation	01   2017 - Present
Taskforce Member -	AIA Ohio Lien Rights Task Force	01   2017 - Present
Chairperson -	AIA Akron Design Awards	01   2016 - Present
President and Board Member -	Akron Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA)	01   2015 - Present
Treasurer and Board Member -	Kent Junior Chamber of Commerce	01   2012 - 12   2018
Board Member -	Kent State University CAED Scholarship Committee	01   2011 - 01   2018

### Awards & Recognition

Architectural Photography Competition -Honorable Mention: "Lands and Grooves"	AIA Cleveland Design Awards	11   2020
Architectural Photography Competition - Runner Up: "Rive Gauche Ruin"	AIA Cleveland Design Awards	11   2019
Architectural Photography Competition - Grand Prize: "Final Production"	AIA Cleveland Design Awards	11   2020
Presidential Citation AIA OhioAIA Ohio Safe Schools Charrette-	Mary Glowacki, AIA	09   2020
Crains 2020 Forty under 40	Crains Cleveland Business	09   2020
Architectural Photography Competition - 3rd Place: "H-4"	AIA Cleveland Design Awards	11   2019
Heritage Ohio Best Commercial Rehabilitation -	Small CommunityLN Gross Building	10   2019
Emerging Talent Award 2019	AIA Akron	09   2019
Presidential Citation AIA OhioPayment Assurance -	John Kelleher, AIA	09   2019
Smart Business Cleveland: Commercial Development Award	Kent Police Station: Kent, Ohio	05   2019
Smart Business Cleveland: Commercial Development Award	LN Gross Co Building: Kent, Ohio	05   2019
Northeast Ohio Top 25 Under 35 "Movers and Shakers"	The Cleveland Professional Twenty-Thirty Club	2019
IMMY Award Kent Chamber of Commerce	LN Gross Co Building: Kent, Ohio	12   2018
Interior Renovation of the Year, NAIOP	LN Gross Co Building: Kent, Ohio	06   2018
Excellence in Design, Cleveland Restoration Society	LN Gross Co Building: Kent, Ohio	05   2018
Published on the cover of Properties Magazine	Kent Police Station: Kent, Ohio	05   2018
Honor Award, AIA Akron	Phoenix Block Building: Ravenna, Ohio	11   2017
Presidential Citation AIA OhioExcellence in Leadership -	Robert Maschke, FAIA	10   2017
Best Public-Private Partnership Award, Heritage Ohio	Phoenix Block Building: Ravenna, Ohio	10   2016
IMMY Award Kent Chamber of Commerce	Fresco Mexican Grill & Salsa Bar	11   2014
Kent Junior Chamber of Commerce:	Jaycee of the year	12   2013
Kent Junior Chamber (Jaycee) of the Month:	Grill for Good Chairperson	07   2013
Kent Junior Chamber (Jaycee) of the Month:	Kent Oktoberfest Chairperson	11   2013



## Service: Exhibit 01: Leadership

### AIA Ohio: Safe Schools Charrette

Eric has served as an AIA Akron Board Member since 2015, and is currently serving as chapter President. Beyond Eric's involvement with his local component he seeks out opportunities to lead at the State level. Eric recently volunteered to serve as the Chairperson for the AIA Ohio Safe Schools Charrette which allowed members from around the state to share their concepts with school administrators and facilities managers in Ohio's public schools. Eric also served as a member of the AIA Ohio Lien Rights Taskforce

AIA Ohio Foundation: Treasurer and Board Member Received 2020 AIA Ohio pre: Received 2019 AIA Ohio presidential Citation from John Kelleher, AIA for involvement Received 2017 AIA Ohio presidential citation from Robert Maschke, FAIA for "Excellence in Leadership"



*In the middle of the COVID-19 Pandemic, it became evident that spaces were going to drastically change for almost every public space in the world. As this continued to be a topic of discussion at AIA Ohio meetings, Eric began collaborating with his colleagues to create a design charrette to get other voices involved. Eric created a platform for designers all over Ohio to collaborate and share their ideas about what they think a post COVID world will look like. Throughout the program, designers met with school administrators, developed concepts, and collaborated with each other. Participants then formed smaller teams for further concept development and to work through ideas, and finally presented their ideas to each other for feedback and discussion. Eric's creativity and passion for human connection created an outlet for designers to work together and form solutions for their communities during a time of isolation.*

### AIA Ohio: Lien Rights Task Force



A post from Eric's social media campaign advocating for the AIA Ohio Lien Rights task force

### AIA Ohio Foundation: Treasurer & Board Member

Eric currently serves as a board member of the AIA Ohio Foundation where he helps to strategically encourage students and disadvantaged young professionals around the state. Eric serves as the committee chair for Advocacy in the AIA Akron chapter. He leads his chapter in a variety of initiatives that impact architects and the public at large on the local, state, and national level. Eric has joined the AIA Ohio Lien Rights Task Force as the representative from the Akron Chapter. He is working with other AIA representatives from around the state of Ohio to research and compose legislature to be introduced as a State Bill to afford lien rights to architects. Eric also serves as the chairperson for the AIA Akron Design Awards, using this platform to engage current design students and spread awareness of the inspiring design being done throughout Northeast Ohio via social media and other communication platforms. Eric's advocacy efforts include his involvement with an underutilized stretch of highway on the edge of Downtown Akron, which is currently slated for demolition. This large expanse of urban real estate has been proposed to become an urban park network. Understanding the gravity of this proposal, Eric joined a local initiative to bring awareness to a design problem in Akron's downtown, and used his position to hold a design charrette for community members and professionals to discuss how to redevelop the Inner Belt.



## Design: Exhibit 02: Advocate for the Arts

### Public Art Installations:



(Left) Painting storm drains to raise awareness about the dangers of storm water run off

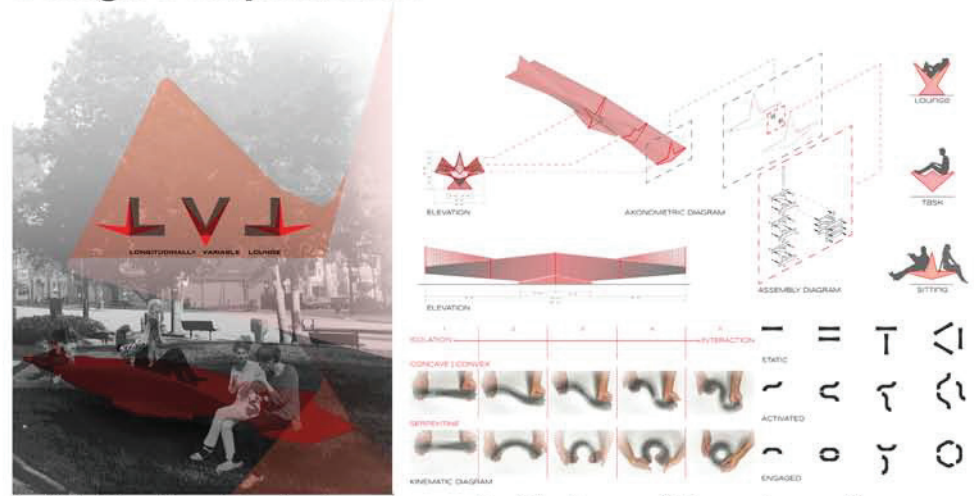
(Right) Eric installing the bike racks he designed that celebrate landmarks throughout Kent.

(Below) Photos of a completed mural inside a stairwell at the Stocker Center for the Arts.

From an early age, Eric has had a passion for the creative processes of making. Eric began his academic career in the studio arts with an emphasis in Drawing, Photography and Print Making. Eric continues to seek out opportunities to engage and inspire the public through art. Eric has been completing commissions since 2006 when he won a competition to complete a mural at Lorain County Community College. Since that time Eric has won a variety of competitions, and has been commissioned to complete a variety of art installations from bicycle racks to temporary street art installations.



### Design Competitions:



(Left) Painting storm drains to raise awareness about the dangers of storm water run off

(Right) Eric installing the bike racks he designed that celebrate landmarks throughout Kent.

(Below) Photos of a completed mural inside a stairwell at the Stocker Center for the Arts.

The Longitudinally Variable Lounge [LVL] was conceived in response to the propagation of static non-ergonomic seating choices available in public spaces. These conditions limit opportunities for spontaneous social interaction. The LVL will transform the way we live and interact with our environment by providing adaptable seating that promotes shared interaction in the public realm. The LVL provides a solution for adaptable public furniture and capitalizes on the inherently human characteristics of curiosity, desire for social connection and attraction to beauty to motivate latent social interactions.





# Leadership in Education: *Exhibit 03: Commitment to Knowledge*

## Teaching & Inspiring:



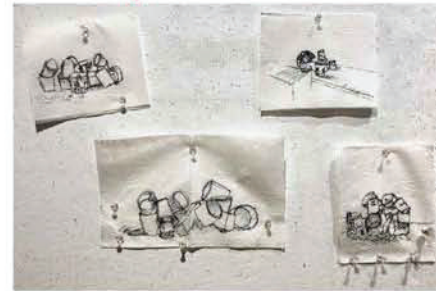
(Above Left) Eric's students receiving final critique comments from fellow AIA Members, and Fellows  
(Above Right) Eric participating in a Student Design Review presentation  
(Below Left) Eric demonstrating drafting techniques as a Design Studio instructor  
(Below Right) Eric leading a student design charrette with Kent State University

Eric served as an adjunct instructor at the College of Architecture and Environmental Design in tandem with his full time position practicing architecture. He recognized this as a chance inspire students who will become the future of the profession, and will be the change-makers and innovators of the next generation of designers in a world that desperately needs confident free thinking minds. His approach to instructing is to cultivate a collaborative spirit and a cooperative attitude amongst his students which he has witnessed as they move forward into their professional careers.



## Mentoring & Encouraging:

### Fourth Annual AIA Akron Napkin Sketch



October 13th  
7:00 PM  
#AIAAkronNapkinSketch



(Above Left) Eric leads an annual Napkin Sketch competition to connect students and professionals  
(Above Right) Eric routinely participates in Career Days to inspire students to consider architecture  
(Below) Eric not only engages emerging professionals as a representative of his practice, but also AIA Akron. Eric strives to develop strategic partnerships with sister chapters to deliver meaningful programming and experiences for students.





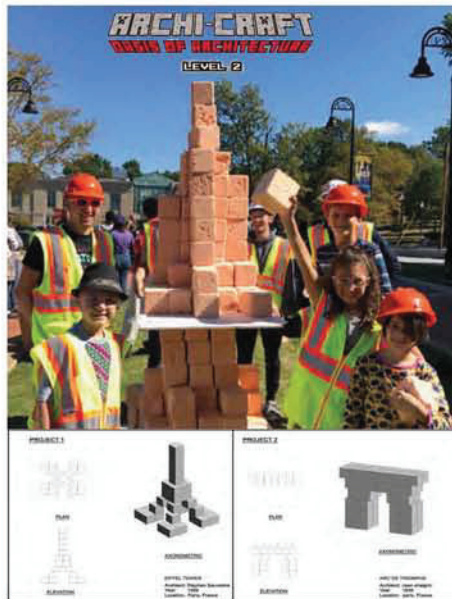
## Service: Exhibit 04: Public Outreach

### Youth Engagement



(Above Left) Eric volunteering at the Kent Creativity Festival where “everyone is an artist”  
(Above Right) Artists of all ages and abilities were given simple prompts to breakdown barriers  
(Below) “Archi-Craft”, another Kent Creativity Festival project in action that educates youth on landmark pieces of architecture through the lens the popular videogame of Minecraft

Eric became interested in the profession at a young age due to his love of drawing, and watching his father who was a Brick Mason assemble buildings with his bare hands. Eric strives to inspire the youth to pursue their passions for creativity and making through his involvement in the Kent Creativity Festival.



### Community Involvement



Eric leads a fundraising event called 'Grill for Good' since its inception 12 years ago. Local foodies prepare their favorite grilled food to guests who pay a small fee to sample the food. Proceeds benefit local charities. Eric was instrumental in growing the event to eventually include 25 vendors and to raise over \$10,000 yearly for local charities. Eric inspired other young professionals to serve along side him in leadership roles to build the event. Eric has been able to solicit several donations of services to lower operation costs so that more of the money made can go directly into the donation. Eric is always the first person to arrive to organize set up and he is consistently the last person to leave, as he oversees clean up. During the event Eric often dresses up for a self-proclaimed theme, adding to the festivities. While managing the event he is able to have a blast, finds time to cook and orchestrates all of the food judging and award presentations.





## Design: Exhibit 05: Dedication to Design Excellence

### Projects that have recieved Design Recognition:

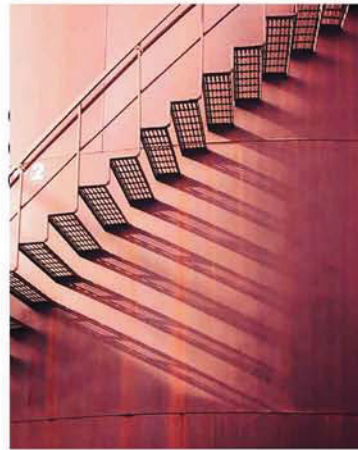
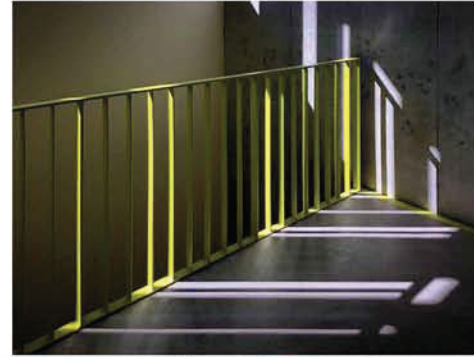


(Above) LN Gross Building, Kent Ohio - AIA Akron Honor Award  
(Below Left) The Phoenix Block Building - AIA Akron Honor Award  
(Below Right) Kent Police Station, Kent Ohio - Smart Business Cleveland

Eric's contagious enthusiasm for the architectural design process is the fuel that ignites the creative culture at DS Architecture. His natural talent, and committed work ethic have presented him with extraordinary opportunities throughout his career as an architect. As the Director of Design at DS Architecture, Eric follows his personal ideology that *"Nothing is ever 'done'... it's only resolved"* and continuously pushes the boundaries of design in practice. Eric personifies creative energy and sparks inspiration as he leads his team of collaborators. Projects that Eric has led have recieved recognition at both local and regional scales. Through nearly a decade of practice, Eric has developed a particular fondness for Historic Tax Credit projects as well as Public Safety Facilities. Although completely different typologies he enjoys the unique challenges and opportunities of both.

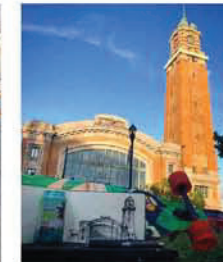


### Photography Awards:



"Final Production" AIA Cleveland Architectural Photography Competition – Grand Prize:  
"Rive Gauche Ruin" AIA Cleveland Architectural Photography Competition – Runner Up:  
"H-4" AIA Cleveland Architectural Photography Competition – 3rd Place  
"Lands and Grooves" AIA Cleveland Architectural Photography Competition –Honorable Mention:

Eric's passion for the built environment extends to his hobbyist photography. Though mostly for fun and self-gratification, Eric's past-time has been recongnized upon multiple occasions. Eric sees his photography as a photographic scrap book of the places and spaces he has explored. In addition to his photography Eric maintains an ethic of keeping a sketch book to learn from his travel experiences.





# Leadership in Education: *Exhibit 06: Thought leadership*

## Design Awards Juries



(Above) Eric serving as a judge for the national Station Design Awards program  
(Below) Eric has the privilege to serve as a jury member for a variety of design awards programs. Ranging from unbuilt student work, to large national public projects, Eric enjoys the opportunity to give of his time and talent to share supportive critical feedback. He sees it as an opportunity not only to inspire others with his ideas, but also a chance to learn.

As a life-long learner of Eric's mantras is *"Always learning and always teaching"*  
The son of a highschool biology, Eric has had the benefit of always positioning himself in a posture of learning. The same attitude of mutual respect and appreciation is what Eric brings to the table when offering critical feedback. He always strives to see the good in people and their work, and aims to recognize opportunities for improvement, and the chance to share knowledge with others.

## Speaking Opportunities:



(Above) Eric has had the opportunity to speak to a variety of audiences on a local, regional, national, and international scale. Ranging from national business leadership conferences, to local business owners, Eric enjoys every opportunity he finds to share his experiences and inspire others.

