



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

June 16, 2024

Dear AIA Ohio Board of Directors,

I am writing to nominate MKC Architects for the prestigious AIA Ohio Gold Medal Firm Award. I have had the privilege of witnessing firsthand the exemplary contributions and significant accomplishments of MKC Architects, led by their team of talented architects and designers.

MKC Architects, founded in 1924, stands as one of Ohio's longest continuously practicing firms, and their commitment to innovation, design excellence, and community impact has been unwavering throughout their impressive nine-decade-long history. This lineage of leadership continues today.

Under the leadership of their current generation of principals, MKC Architects has continued to evolve, embracing technology and young staffing. This fusion has resulted in a truly lean and innovative delivery system that enables them to effectively serve a diverse client base and mentor future leaders in the architectural field. Their team of forward-thinking architects and designers possesses a deep-rooted understanding of the unique qualities of each project, pushing beyond the obvious to arrive at previously unimaginable solutions. The design work the firm produces is entrenched in a dialogue of architectural history.

The success of their approach is particularly evident in their higher education projects, which alleviate the burden of debt for graduating students by providing affordable, yet impactful, buildings. This commitment to creating spaces that support the success and financial well-being of students showcases their dedication to both design excellence and societal impact. Their extensive body of work showcases their ability to create easily maintained, durable, and contextually appropriate designs that positively impact the lives of the people who interact with their buildings.

In addition to their outstanding architectural achievements, MKC Architects has also been an active contributor to their community and the profession. They have a long-standing history of community service and have generously supported various programs, events, and activities of AIA and the profession. Their commitment to mentorship, diversity, and individual growth within their firm culture is commendable and further exemplifies their leadership and dedication to the profession. This tradition dates back to Charles Marr, the firm's founder, who believed architects practice in a collective community.

MKC Architects is a deserving candidate for the AIA Ohio Gold Medal Firm Award. *The firm's legacy transcends eras.* Their transformative approach to the design of architecture, their emphasis on firm culture and contributions, their integrated 'practice-based research model, and continual innovation - with a particular emphasis on sustainability - makes them an outstanding firm that epitomizes the qualities recognized by this prestigious award.

Graciously submitted,

Hannah Ewvaraye, AIA
AIA Columbus President
2024

AIA Columbus
50 W. Town St.
Ste. 110
Columbus, OH 43215

T (614) 580 4432

www.aiacolumbus.org

MKC Architects redefines modes of practice engagement, harnesses the methodology of research as a tool, and expands the impact of design through service across Ohio and the country.



Throughout the firm's one hundred year history, MKC Architects embodies dedicated commitment to the profession. The firm has thrived throughout many eras, with unique challenges, and subsequent adaptation, decade over decade. The constant thread over the course of these one hundred years, however, has been MKC Architect's stewardship of community - bringing cutting edge modern design to rural and urban communities across Ohio and the United States. MKC Architects creates spaces where people can come together, interact, and share ideas - leading to more a productive, creative, and engaged public. While the firm's legacy spans one hundred years, we will specifically highlight how the firm has continued to advance communities over the last ten. MKC Architects has always, and will continue, to create an architecture of spaces for people.

We believe, to be a Gold-Medal winning architectural practice, the firm should not simply excel at one aspect of professional practice, but all four categories. As such, our submission includes a focus on the following:

Design: An MKC Ethos

Innovation: Towards a Greener Future

Firm Culture: Professional and Community Impact

Research: Practice Integration

Mentoring Future Leaders

A primary aspect of MKC's legacy is mentoring young designers. Annually MKC brings on 1-2 high-school students from local high schools' STEM programs. These students show initial promise in the architecture and engineering profession, and are considering it for their collegiate studies. Moreover, MKC annually hires graduating students into full-time positions, as well as summer interns from architecture schools nationally. It is through these initiatives that young designers get first hand exposure with not only how to be a young architect, but how to give back to the community through small business initiatives.

MKC ARCHITECTS IS AN AWARD-WINNING DESIGN FIRM WITH NATIONWIDE IMPACT

125+ K-12 DISTRICTS NATIONWIDE

50+ TOWNSHIPS & MUNICIPALITIES

50+ UNIVERSITIES & COLLEGES

20+ PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICTS

75+ HEALTHCARE / WELLNESS CENTERS



1924 - 1934

BRINGING MODERNISM TO OHIO

Charles Marr founded the practice with small civic work in rural northeast Ohio.



1934 - 1944

BROADENING IMPACT

Firm expands and begins work on religious & ecclesiastical architecture.



1944 - 1954

POST-WAR EXPANSION

Large-scale, post-war projects that contribute to economic boom.



1954 - 1964

BABY-BOOM SCHOOLS

Firm expands to Mansfield and begins work on education spaces.



1964 - 1974

TECHNOLOGY REVOLUTION

Using new tools in production and construction to enrich projects.



1974 - 1984

SUSTAINABLE PROJECTS

Radical new approaches to sustainability in response to climate and oil crisis.



1984 - 1994

GIVING BACK

Civic projects with community focus & Charles Marr Scholarship awarded.



1994 - 2004

BURGEONING FOCUS

Firm provides leading edge education facilities across the state.



2004 - 2014

DESIGN LEADERSHIP

Award winning public projects, including restorations, renovations, & re-use.



1924-2024

The history of MKC Architects dates to 1924 when Charles J. Marr arrived in Ohio and began to practice architecture in New Philadelphia. Charlie was creative, energetic and with an attitude that there was nothing he couldn't do. Prior to starting his own practice, Charlie graduated from Sorbonne in Paris and received his Master's in Architecture from Columbia University. In 1915 Marr had joined the prestigious firm of McKim, Mead & White where his name soon appeared on projects such as the Racquet & Tennis Club and Columbia Trust Company Downtown Building in New York, NY. Founder Charles Marr was instrumental in the elevation of the practice of architecture. In 1932 he wrote the basis of the legislation which would require registration, and eventually licensing, for Ohio's architects. In 1938 Marr laid the foundation for **The Architects Society of Ohio**, which subsequently became the **AIA Ohio**. In

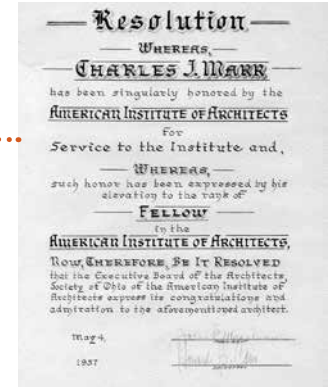
1924 Marr founded the Office of Charles J. Marr, and continued to practice under this name until 1953 when he welcomed partners James Knapp and James Crawfis. The firm then became Marr, Knapp & Crawfis, with 'architects-engineers-planners' added to the name in 1973. In 1997 upon retirement of the last of the firm's original namesakes, the firm officially became MKC Associates, Inc. The professional firm of FJM, Inc. (Firestone, Jaros, Mullin) was acquired by MKC in 2005 when MKC expanded to Columbus. In a return to our roots – the practice of architecture - the firm officially became known as MKC Architects in 2016, and went through a comprehensive rebranding and shift in projects and process shortly after in 2017 under the leadership of current President Matthew Teismann. Teismann represents the fifth generation of continuous ownership of the firm, and he is the 10th President of MKC Architects and its storied history.



LEGACY & LINEAGE

COMPANY PROGRESSION

- 1924 Charles Marr opens office in New Philadelphia, Ohio
- 1927 New Philadelphia Post Office built
- 1928 John Knisely Municipal Center built
- 1929 BPOE Elks Lodge built
- 1934 Charles Marr wrote the basis of legislation which would eventually require architectural licensing
- 1938 Marr unifies independent architecture organizations, laying the foundation for AIA Ohio **AIA**
- 1941 First United Church of Christ built
- 1943 St. Johns Church of Christ built
- 1947 New Philadelphia School built
- 1947 New Lincoln Heights Elementary School built
- 1947 Woodville Elementary built
- 1947 Tuscarawas North Grade School built
- 1951 St. Peters Lutheran Church built
- 1952 Joel Pomerene Hospital built
- 1953 Marr gains partners Knapp and Crawfis
- 1956 Historic Union hospital addition [first of four]
- 1957 MKC Founder Charles Marr awarded Fellow [FAIA] **AIA**
- 1958 Firm expands to Mansfield with new office
- 1960 Madison High School built
- 1962 Bob Anthony Residence built
- 1966 Shelby High School built
- 1968 Ohio Savings and Trust built
- 1972 First National Bank of Dennison built
- 1974 Mohican Park Lodge built
- 1976 Expanded its in-house services to include engineering and planning - renamed Marr, Knapp, and Crawfis Architects
- 1978 Rittenhouse Memorial Project built
- 1982 Charles Marr received Gold Medal from Architect's Society of Ohio
- 1982 United Way Agency Building built
- 1983 Martins Ferry Hospital built
- 1985 Charles J. Marr Scholarship Award first distributed
- 1988 Marr, Knapp & Crawfis renamed MKC Associates
- 1990 City of New Philadelphia Recycling Building built
- 1994 North Central State College Health Science wins AIA Architecture Award **AIA**
- 1999 MKC's Norbert Peiker Columbus Chapter President **AIA**
- 2001 MKC opens third office in Columbus, Ohio
- 2001 MKC President Norbert Peiker awarded AIA Public Service Award **AIA**
- 2002 MKC President Norbert Peiker awarded Fellow [FAIA] **AIA**
- 2004 John Knisely renovation awarded 'Best Public Improvement Project' by Downtown Ohio & Heritage Ohio
- 2011 AIA Columbus Honor Award winner for the Delaware County Orange Branch Library **AIA**



- 2015 Willard K-12 School built
- 2015 MKC Associates renamed MKC Architects, Inc
- 2015 Tiffin Center for Science & Technology
- 2016 LTU student residence hall built
- 2016 MKC Principal Matthew Teismann Chairs the Committee on Design AIA Columbus **AIA**
- 2017 AIA Merit Award for Madonna Welcome Center **AIA**
- 2017 MKC research published in Fabrications Architecture Journal
- 2018 MKC Principal Matthew Teismann presents at Society of Architecture Historians Annual Conference [SAH]
- 2018 MKC President John Meegan Columbus Chapter President, creates ArchWay mentoring Program **AIA**
- 2018 MKC research published in Joehlo Architecture Journal
- 2018 Former MKC President Norbert Peiker serves as Director Emeritus on the AIA Foundation Board **AIA**
- 2019 Belmont Abbey Student Housing Phase I built
- 2019 MKC Presents at 'Displacement & Domesticity' conference at KUY Lueven in Brussels, Belgium
- 2020 MKC Participates in Parking Day 2020 - Published on front page of Columbus Dispatch
- 2020 Madonna University Welcome Center built
- 2020 MKC President Matthew Teismann elected to serve on AIA Columbus Board **AIA**
- 2020 MKC research published in 'Displacement & Domesticity since 1945: Refugees, Migrants and Expats Making Homes'
- 2021 MKC Relocates office to Downtown Columbus
- 2021 MKC President Matthew Teismann wins AIA Ohio Emerging Professional Award **AIA**
- 2021 STU Residence Hall & Student Center wins First Place Award for Build Florida Awards AGC
- 2022 Tiffin University Center for Science & Technology built
- 2022 MKC initiates Sandusky City Schools Mentorship Program [CFAD]
- 2022 Schmidt Residence wins NAHB Home of the Year
- 2022 Matthew Teismann awarded Charles J. Marr Citation **AIA**
- 2023 MKC presents three presentations at AIA Ohio Convention
- 2023 BrightPath wins AIA Columbus Merit Award **AIA**
- 2023 Carbon City wins Top 10 Honorable Mention [Impact Skyrise]
- 2023 Schmidt Residence wins SRQ Magazine Home of the Year
- 2023 MKC presents at Vernacular Architecture Forum Annual Meeting [VAF]
- 2024 MKC President Matthew Teismann wins AIA Young Architect Award **AIA**
- 2024 MKC presents at Design Columbus
- 2024 attends NeoCon conference as part of Centennial Celebration



Featured Project
MKC Architects Event
AIA Achievement



Meet Matthew.

Matthew's practice-based research strategy redefines engagement for architects through innovation, culture, design, and research - expanding the impact of architects at home, across the country, and abroad.

Matthew Teismann President | CFO

Education

MDes | 2015
Harvard University GSD

B. Arch | 2007
Kansas State University

Registrations

AIA
NCARB: 358413
NCARB Cert: 93653

Florida
Ohio
North Carolina
Indiana
Michigan
Pennsylvania

PROJECTS

Tiffin University [est. 2025]
Center for Innovation & Learning
Tiffin, Ohio
Architect of Record

St. Mary German Village [est. 2024]
Renovation + Addition
Columbus, Ohio
Architect of Record / Principal in Charge

Thomas More University [est. 2024]
Center for Academics
Crestview Hills, Kentucky
Architect of Record

St Thomas University [2022]
Welcome Center
Miami, Florida
Architect of Record / Principal in Charge
AGC Build Florida Award [2023]

Tiffin University [2022]
Center for Science and Technology
Tiffin, Ohio
Architect of Record / Principal in Charge

Rosemont College [2020]
Mayfield Hall Renovation
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Architect of Record / Principal in Charge

St. Mary of the Woods College [2021]
Le Bois Residence Hall and Dining Center
Terre Haute, Indiana
Architect of Record / Principal in Charge

Madonna University [2020]
Welcome Center
Detroit, Michigan
Architect of Record / Principal in Charge
AIA Columbus, Merit Award [2018]

Belmont Abbey College [2021]
Residence Hall Phase I
Charlotte, North Carolina
Architect of Record / Principal in Charge

BrightPath Schools [2020]
Active Learning Center
Westerville, Ohio
Architect of Record / Principal in Charge

Terra State Community College [2020]
Landings at Terra Village
Fremont, Ohio
Architect of Record / Principal in Charge

Urbavore Farm* [2016]
BadSeed House
Kansas City, Missouri
Principal in Charge
AIA Columbus, Merit Award [2019]

Dendrite* [2014]
LAND-Studio Sculpture Competition
Cleveland, Ohio
Winning Project

Urban Green-House Project* [2012]
D3 Natural Systems Competition
New York, New York
Lead Designer
Top Selected Project Award

About

Matthew Teismann is a registered architect with over 15 years of practice experience whose research focuses on history and philosophy of design. Teismann attended Kansas State University and Harvard University Graduate School of Design, and has previously taught design studios and history and theory at Ohio State University, Kent State University (KSU), University of Technology Sydney (UTS), and Rhode Island School of Design (RISD). He has published on topics such as the space of globalism, geopolitical spatial encounters, and counterculture architecture.

Prior to joining MKC Architects he co-founded LIONarchitecture, an architecture firm that explores and underscores architecture's existential role with humanity. Teismann joined MKC in 2016 as Director of Design and has since become Principal and Director of Architecture, serving as Principal-in-charge on numerous projects of varying scale and type, including K-12 / higher education / institutional / housing.

Publications

'An Ideological City: Koolhaas' Exodus in the Second Ecumene,' *Joelho 08* [2018]

'An Emerging International: The Imperial Gaze of the Monster Globe in 1851' *Fabrications 27:1* [2017]

'The Inverted View: Of Crystals, Mirrors, & Globes,' *Radical Space in Between Disciplines Conference Proceedings* [2015]

'The Impossible Friendship' *PLOT Revista_30*

'Futureless,' *KTISMA: University of Oregon Department of Architecture Journal*, 1.1 [2012]

'Imagination's Shadow: perception, conception, and (un)known in architecture' *Lantern Journal* [2012]

'Anti-Haptic Experience: Critical Analysis of the Role of the Sense of Touch,' *Oz Architecture Journal_vol 30* [2008]

Leadership Positions

Kansas State University Dean's Advisory Council	2024-Present
Genoa Township Zoning Commission	2024-Present
AIA Columbus President-Elect	2024
Treasurer	2023
Board of Directors	2018-Present
Co-Chair Committee on Design	2016-2018
University of Technology Sydney Design, Architecture, and Building Faculty Board Member	2015-2016
Academic Administration Committee	2015-2016
Harvard University Open Letters, Distribution Manager	2014-2015
<i>Student Publication Harvard University Graduate School of Design</i>	
Lantern Journal Co-Founder / Editor	2011-2014
LIONarchitecture, LLC Co-Founder	2011-2016

Affiliations

AIA American Institute of Architects Member	2015-Present
Vernacular Architecture Forum Member	2022-Present
Society of Architectural Historian Member	2018-Present
Lantern Journal Co-founder and Design Editor	2012-2015

Honors and Awards

AIA AIA Young Architect Award	2024
AIA AIA Ohio Foundation Charles Marr Citation	2023
AIA AIA Emerging Professionals Award	2022
Harvard Kennedy School Indonesia Program: Research Grant Award	2014
AIA AIA Monsters of Design: Best Unbuilt Project	2012
Product Runway Award: Best in Show	2011
AIA AIA Henry Adams Certificate of Excellence	2007
AIA / AAF Scholastic Award in the Field of Architecture	2005

Presentations

Vernacular Architecture Forum Annual Meeting	Plymouth, Mass	2023
'Architecture Without Origins'	Brussels, Belgium	2019
EAHN Annual Conference: Displacement & Domesticity since 1945	St. Paul, Minnesota	2018
'Living With the Absurd'		
Society of Architecture Historians [SAH] Annual Conference 2018		
'The Inverted Sphere: Birth of the Georama'		
Le Corbusier: What Moves Us? Conference Aarhus School of Architecture	Aarhus, Denmark	2015
'Closed Hands: Disembodiment in Le Corbusier's Postwar Paintings'		
AIA Radical Space In Between Disciplines Conference Scen Centre for Scene Design, Architecture and Technology, University of Novi Sad	Novi Sad, Serbia	2015
'The Inverted View: Of Crystals, Mirrors, & Globes'		
AIAS Special Lecture, Kansas State University APDesign	Manhattan, Kansas	2014
'Non-Operational Architecture: Meta-Phenomenology and the (Un)known'		
Harvard University Kennedy School of Government	Cambridge, Mass.	2014
'Redesigning Cities: Well-being, Identity and History'		
[in]Arch Conference: Interiority and Interior Architecture, Universitas Indonesia	Jakarta, Indonesia	2014
'Inner Territories: Capacious Geometries in Space'		

Exhibitions

Terra Vista Studios	Cleveland, Ohio	2013
'Human Landscapes'		
Gallery MC	New York, New York	2012
'D3 Natural Systems'		
University of California Berkeley	Berkeley, California	2011
'Radix'		
Centre for Creative Practices	Dublin, Ireland	2010
'I Am a Pagan'		

Teaching

Subject Coordinator / Lecturer	Sydney Australia	2015-2016
<i>University of Technology Sydney</i>		
Adjunct Professor		
<i>The Ohio State University</i>		
		2017
<i>Rhode Island School of Design</i>		
		2014
<i>Kent State University</i>		
		2012

MATTHEW HAS REPOSITIONED THE FIRM,
FUSING EXPERIENCED STAFF WITH AN
INSURGENCE OF YOUNG DESIGNERS TO FORM
AN INNOVATIVE DELIVERY SYSTEM - MENTORING
THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS.

* Prior to joining MKC Architects

DESIGN

AN MKC ETHOS

MKC's approach to achieving architectural design in daily practice is an 'all of the above' strategy. Initiatives are meant to build a design-forward studio culture; these include project charrettes, informal team pinups, and studio-wide design dialogues. The latter encompasses a wide range of topics, not only MKC's own work, but contemporary and historical architecture of excellence, reviews of our recent studio design output, comparison to peer firms, and more. We are also engaged in design in the community at large, with ongoing MKC representation with numerous AIA Columbus Committees, as well as other local and national organizations. MKC embodies the power of design, encouraging and promoting a robust and vibrant design community in our home city of Columbus and beyond.

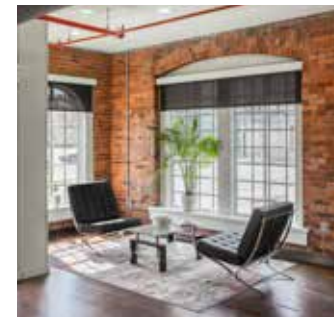
“ We design spaces that encourage systemic social change, which occurs when we are faced with fresh perspectives from others, to integrate those perspectives into our own.



THOMAS MORE UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR ACADEMICS

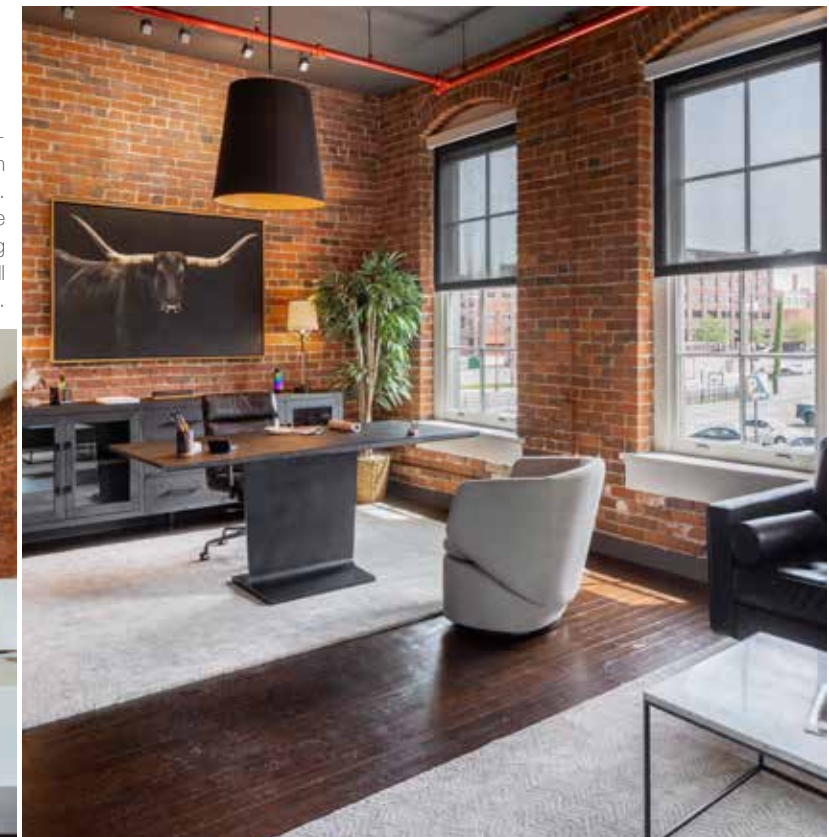
Location: Crestview Hills, Kentucky
Completion Date: 2024
Project Size: 36,000 s.f.

In late 2022 construction started on a new multi-functional academic center for Thomas More University in Kentucky. The bi-axial plan organization, when altered, creates additional opportunity for interstitial and overlapping spaces. The fluid connection and circulation of three distinct programs allows them to act as individuals while also existing as a uniform program and network. This is accomplished through a circulatory system which is programmed space percolating throughout a four story atrium space.



Location: Columbus, Ohio
Completion Date: 2021
Project Size: 7,500 s.f.

Originally built in 1922, this 100-year-old building was designed as an adaptive-reuse, live-work office. Using contemporary and unique elements tastefully, the building to feature open spaces while still maintaining its original characteristics.



Design at MKC Architects is reinforced by our values that date back to Greek thinking: *diálogos* // *poiesis* // *alêtheia*. *Diálogos* is manifesting reason through conversation // *poiesis* is the activity in making // *alêtheia* is revealing truth. We achieve these goals through direct interaction with clients, which affords an altogether new approach derivative of the interaction itself.

DESIGN [CONT.]

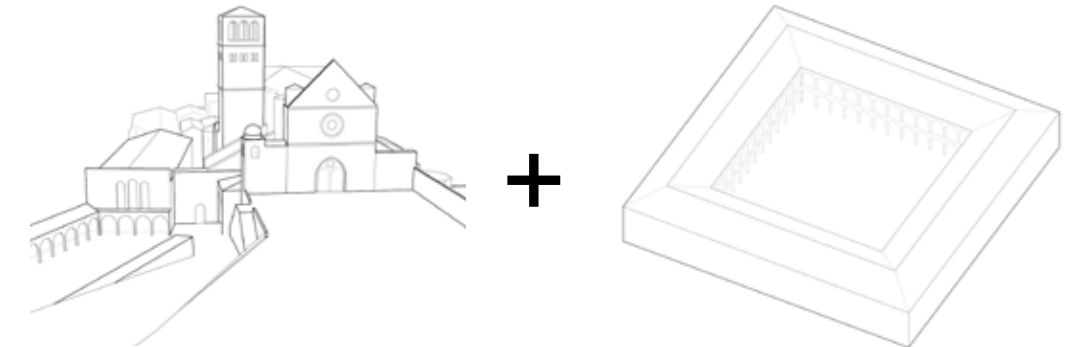
At MKC, design excellence is central to who we are and what we do. We believe that great design enhances lives and our community, and gives joy and meaning to our culture and civilization. We believe design is a multifaceted endeavor, touching most if not all aspects of our studio's practice. Our approach to design engages and deploys the many tools and modes at our disposal as architects - the visual, the beautiful, the experiential, the spatial. We believe underlying each great design is a thoughtful conceptual framework - sometimes a 'big idea', sometimes a compelling diagram, or sometimes, as appropriate, just a graphic or visual intervention. We seek to use all the tools at our disposal, where appropriate, but also being strategic about how and where to deploy these. We go beyond the mere image, rigorously interrogating the tectonic, through materials research, careful study of architectural details, selection of finishes, colors and textures; we analyze the spatial through understanding of plan, section and volume; and we critically examine the sequencing and understand of the project through its experience in time and space. We look to history, the urban or other context, and how we connect to the noble and professional discipline of architecture.

MKC utilizes a true 'studio' approach to the design process, one in which the firm principals do not act as lead designers, but rather studio leaders. Borrowing from the academic model, primary design work is driven by the staff, and firm principals act similar to a studio professor. Moreover, MKC is not partitioned off into design staff, production staff, and construction staff, but rather each employee participates in all aspects of the design process - from conceptual development and programming to construction administration and project closeout.

Through our design charrette process, designers pin-up every day or two, and present to other staff or principals based on project type and experience. This process utilizes the benefits of academic development and professional practice, without the limitation of either. In other words, having a design lead on the project matches the academic model and provides project uniformity and development path, without the 'too many cooks' in the kitchen affect. With pin-ups, however, designers are provided feedback that examines and progresses the design with 'two minds are greater than one' affect, borrowing strengths from the professional practice model of collaborative design. The result is a firm that gathers knowledge both passively and actively, and develops design that is cohesive yet rich in its depth.

EMBEDDED WITHIN HISTORY

MKC Architects believes that cultural tradition can rightly be claimed as vital in both the philosophy and practice of architecture. Although MKC is committed to creating modern buildings that reflect our contemporary culture, the firm engages with and affirms the history and tradition of architecture in our design work. At the Madonna University Welcome Center, for example, MKC Architects reinterpreted traditional cloister typologies from the Basilica of San Francesco d'Assisi [from which the Madonna University can trace its roots]. Typically, a cloister is a simple, arcaded rectangular form connected to a cathedral, but at the Madonna Welcome project we pulled apart the cloister into arcade-fronted bars, which were then manipulated and deployed as both unitary and fragmentary forms and spaces. Each programmatic bar element is then pivoted on the edge of another to create an "opened" center. This atypical cloister was then capped with a light weight double skin polycarbonate, creating an interior space that is filled with light.



Basilica of San Francesco d'Assisi

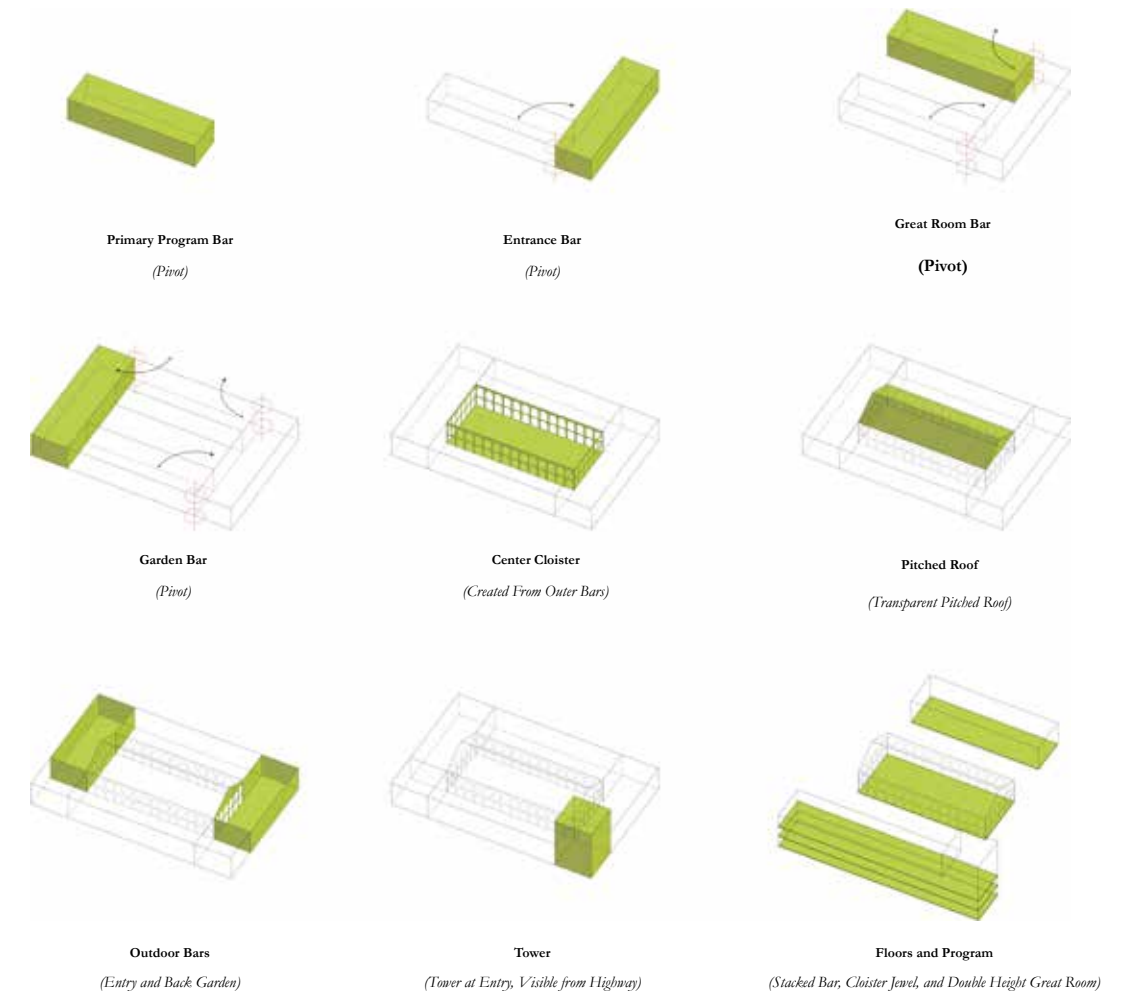
(Origin of the Felician Order)

Traditional Cloister

(Point of Congregation and Open Interior Sightlines)

DESIGN CHARRETTES

A project charrette, managed by the project design lead, is one of the many tools and processes we use to develop excellence in our designs. Each project goes through an iterative process, drawing in both internal and outside perspectives to develop a wide range of insights and analyses. This brings some of the critical and analytical strengths of the academic architectural process into our business practice. The charrette is intensive and performed in real-time, leading to a focused and targeted analysis that yields a high density of communal collaboration through feedback and ideation in a short period of time.



SCHMIDT RESIDENCE

BRADENTON, FLORIDA

Location

Bradenton, Florida

Completion Date

2022

Project Size

5,500 s.f.

Project Scope

Site Development
Single Family Residence
Guest Suite
Wine Cellar

Features & Benefits

Reflection Pool
Covered Outdoor Space

References

Jim Schmidt
419.564.0403

Awards

SRQ Magazine Home of the
Year Award [2023]

National Association of Home
Builders [NAHB] Home of the
Year [2022]

41st Aurora Building Awards
Best on the Boards Custom
Home [2021]



MULTIPLE SPATIAL EXPERIENCES
THROUGH THOUGHTFUL DESIGN

Located just outside of Sarasota, the house sits on an inlet into the Gulf of Mexico. Designed as “two houses”, the building separates social spaces from private spaces, divided by a linear circulation axis from entry to back. A mixture of verticality combined with expansive open space, the house is a holistic interpretation of a historic typology.

One of the main challenges of the project was the narrow lot. The resultant design was a house that was long and narrow in order to utilize the land efficiently. While the living wing includes the kitchen, living room, and dining room - the sleeping wing includes the bedrooms, bathrooms, media room, office space, and vertical circulation.

Dividing the spaces up into two wings allowed for tall, vaulted ceilings in the living spaces while creating unique sleeping quarters. The idea of the design was for the front of the property to transition seamlessly into the rear. This was accomplished using a walking path that goes through the house at from front to rear - which also serves to divide the spaces into two wings.

At the center of the corridor is featured the celebrated stair. Almost as if outside, the stair penetrated with light, casting shadows that percolate along the coral stone walls.



“MKC Architects brought about design concepts and a project I could never have imagined without their insight”

Jim Schmidt, Owner

TIFFIN UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Location
Tiffin, Ohio

Completion Date
2022

Project Size
16,500 s.f.

Project Cost
\$7.5 Million

Project Scope
Masterplanning
Academic Building

Features & Benefits

- Classrooms
- Laboratories
- Exercise Science Lab
- Extended Learning
- Communal / Study Areas
- Faculty Offices

References

Dr. Lillian Schumacher
800.968.6446



The atrium has a regular repeating rhythm of brick structural members and transparent glass, which also repeats itself on the roof to allow light deeper within the addition. Moreover, a clerestory is introduced into the space to further help shape light entering the building and prevent overheating. We call this atrium 'The Fold', as each brick arch member is slightly altered in form to create a void that slowly folds its way through the space. Tiffin University's Center for Technology and Science adds both formal and informal spaces for students - such as lounge and study areas where students will be able to socialize and connect, or retreat and focus. The addition also gives staff new offices

and state of the art spaces to teach and shape young minds. Adjacent to and connected with The Fold, a mezzanine student loft was introduced, which allows for peer-to-peer and project-based learning spaces. This space is both visible from and into The Fold, further activating both spaces to display various student work and activities.

New laboratories are located on the ground floor to connect to the preexisting labs and are also accompanied with offices for faculty and staff. The second level continues the symmetrical layout and has four new classrooms for the University as well as more offices and storage. The new addition also connects differing floor levels [+2'-10"] between the two existing buildings.



Tiffin University's Center for Science and Technology connects the Hertz Technology Center and the Science Laboratories into one cohesive space for students and faculty. The combination of these buildings are supported by the addition of faculty spaces, classrooms, and a new focal point for the campus, bringing together exterior space and existing campus buildings. The connector serves two purposes - firstly, it provides a central access point for the Center from existing buildings on campus. Second, it houses additional classroom and faculty office space. The location allows entrance for both pedestrians from Miami Street and parking in the rear. The Center for Science and Technology enhances the site by completing the building front and providing new exterior space.

As a connector between two existing buildings, the new addition has a façade that is open and transparent to counterbalance the adjacent opaque façades. The atrium space, however, faces the primary frontage of Miami St and therefore has brick elements to integrate within the larger campus context.



INNOVATION TOWARDS A GREENER FUTURE

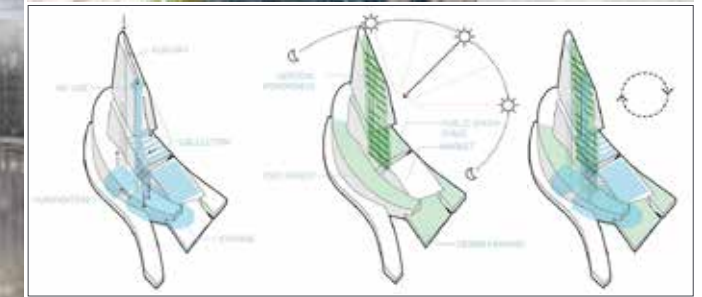
MKC Architects is at the forefront of innovative design in multiple facets: rethinking of the creative design process, façade innovations, new approaches to materiality, formal explorations, and unique approaches to green design and LEED certification. Our recent focus since 2021 [Nile River Museum / Carbon City] focuses on how emerging carbon capture technologies can be integrated within architecture. Beyond traditional sustainable approaches, carbon capture is a unique and new technology that can be both part of a building's system, and contribute to its formal characteristics. Our approach demonstrates strategies architects can employ throughout the design process to embed CCUS into various building types. Choosing to view carbon reduction as a necessary design challenge, architects can radically change the way humans live in cities and interact with architecture for the better.



Sustainability is not a destination, it is about the discovery of new ideas for the future of the planet.



DELAWARE COUNTY LIBRARY [2011]



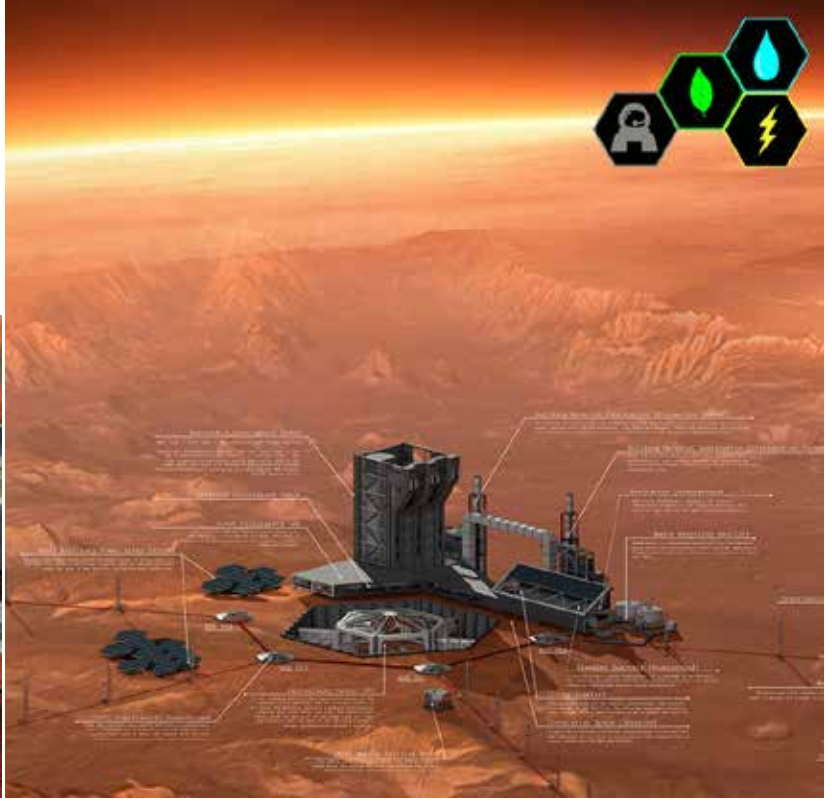
ACCESS TOWER
Location: Columbus, Ohio
Completion Date: Shortlisted Competition Entry [Impact Skyrise 2022]
Project Size: 225,000 s.f.

The Access Tower provides new multi-nodal transport options for the city of Columbus, while providing both market-rate and low-income housing solutions for 800 residents [designated as low-income subsidized by participating in the maintenance of on-site farms and gardens].



M.A.R.S. 2085
Location: Valles Marineris
Completion Date: 2085
Project Size: 200,000 s.f.

M.A.R.S. 2085 inherently produces its own means of existence. Power, Water, and Agricultural systems are interconnected - M.A.R.S. 2085, by its very nature, is self-producing [not merely self-sustaining].



We incorporate sustainability issues throughout our design process, with a particular emphasis on the pre-design discovery process. Considered early enough, sustainable design practices can be holistically integrated within the design of the building, rather than merely added on as part of a checklist. We have developed a three-tiered system which responds to clients' desires and needs for a sustainable building. These strategies range from the simple (such as intelligent building siting) to the more complex (such as integration of full building systems).

INNOVATION [CONT.]

MKC believes that an innovative and proactive approach to environment-positive design is critical for the health and vibrancy of our firm, our client's projects, and the community at large.

To address this, MKC views sustainability + design as a lens through which we assess all our projects, operations, and firm-wide strategy. For example, our approach to building design critically examines baseline assumptions and then devises innovative approaches to every facet and challenge that comprise sustainability + design. And while our projects are diverse in size and location, we are focused on cities and developing urbanistic and sustainable principles beyond the scale of the single building.

As we evaluate our professional responsibility to the larger community, we are committed to stewardship of the environment by fostering an active sustainability agenda throughout the MKC organization. As members of the U. S. Green Building Council (USGBC) with numerous LEED Accredited Professionals on staff, sustainability + design is an inseparable part of what we do every day. Of particular focus of ours, is the integration of Carbon Capture systems within architecture.

As the scale of architecture increases, there is increased potential for Carbon Capture systems to be integrated with architecture, which can translate projects from merely Carbon Neutral to Carbon Negative. Beyond appearance, primary building elements are optimized for their specific function - from Direct-Air Capture [DAC] systems to Water-Assisted Capture [WAC]. Water-Assisted-Capture happens using vacuum pumps that suck water into WAC Rotating Units, in which carbon is spun out from the water using an activator, and then transferred to a carbon battery located in the same location. A carbon battery converts carbon between gaseous and liquid forms using high pressure hot storage - depending upon energy needs. Moreover, stored heat from the carbon liquefier is applied to the liquid carbon via heat exchangers and an intermediate heat transfer fluid. This produces a high-pressure carbon gas that is then used to drive the turbine and create electricity. The clean [carbon-less] water is used to irrigate plants and vegetables.

MKC Architects is currently partnering with university researchers in the development of the next generation of carbon-capture systems, and will be releasing a white paper titled 'On the Integration of Carbon Capture Systems in Architecture' in Summer 2025.

CARBON CITY: AN URBAN MACHINE

Location: Seoul, Korea
Award: Impact Skyrise
Competition Top 10
Honorable Mention

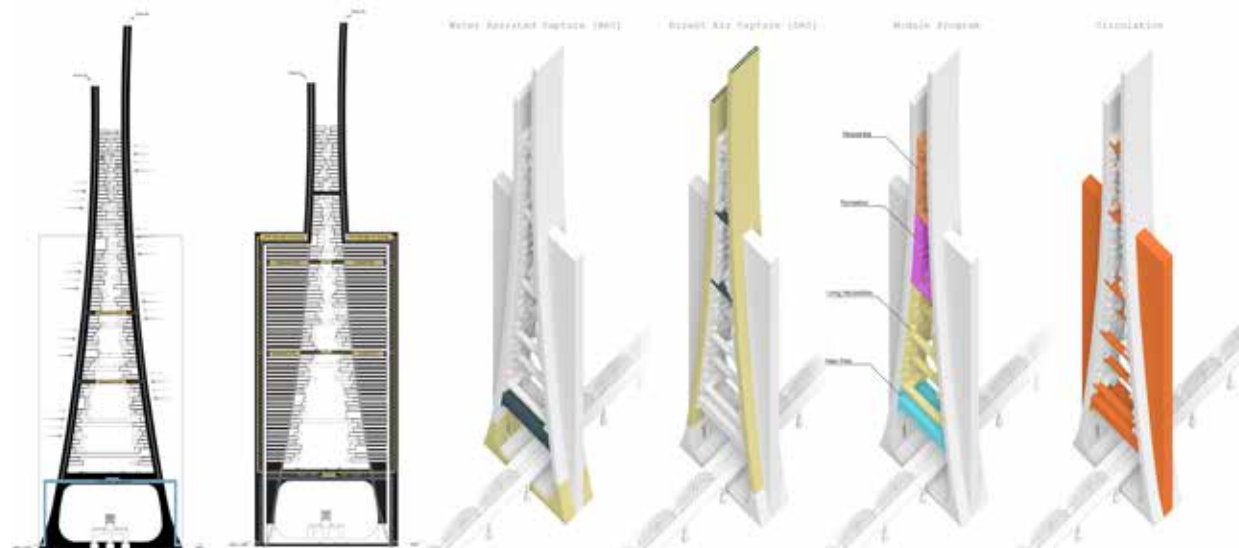
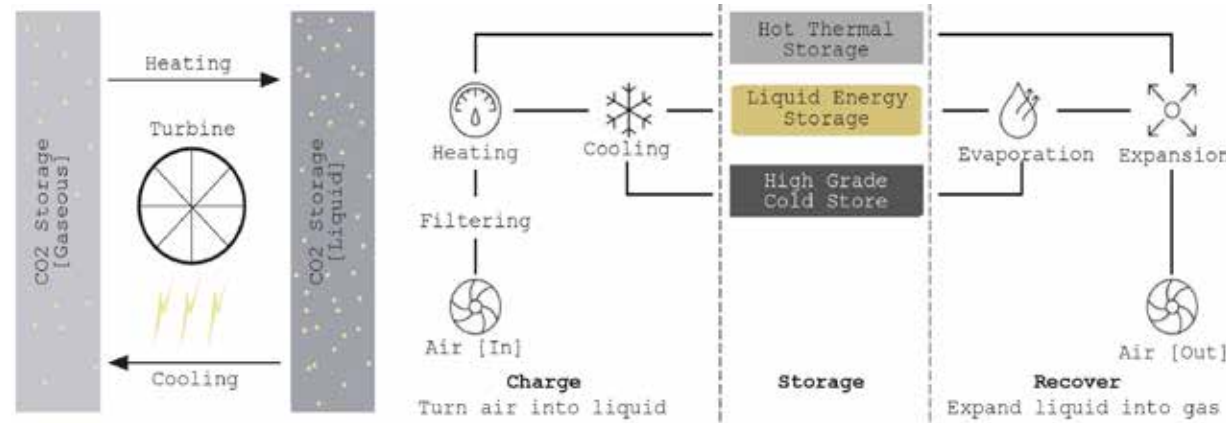
CARBON CITY is a multi-use super-structure skyrise located on the Dongjak Bridge in Seoul. The project's goal is to intake, store, and distribute Carbon as a means of improving the air and water quality in and around Seoul. A vertical city, the project features nine types of decentralized programs - each interchangeably connected to the 'carboncrete' skyscraper. Both monolithic and robust, the form pays homage to its adjacent sisters: YTN & Lotte Tower. The site was chosen on the Han river as it supplies fresh drinking water for Seoul. The prevailing winds direct airborne CO2 toward the project site from four local hot zones. Carbon City won a Top-10 Honorable Mention award in the 2022 Impact: Skyrise competition.



NILE RIVER MUSEUM

Location: Aswan, Egypt

This project for a 'Nile River Museum' draws inspiration directly from the Nile's past as a transportation artery and literal life line for the Egyptian People. The form resembles the gently drifting ships that line the banks of the river. Visitors movement is directed by an undulating LED light canopy - as the visitor moves deeper into the museum, they go back in time - discovering that the development of Egypt and the ancient civilizations it was derived from were only possible because of the Nile itself. The journey ends submerged in the great river that made this history possible, which doubles as a Water-Assisted Carbon [WAS] Capture system.



DELAWARE COUNTY LIBRARY ORANGE BRANCH

Location
Delaware, Ohio

Completion Date
2011

Project Size
33,600 s.f.

Project Cost
\$8.5 Million

Project Scope
Library Branch

Features & Benefits

- Community Rooms
- Book Depository
- Computer Lab
- Educational Spaces
- Reading Rooms
- Cafe
- Rainwater Collection
- Chilled Beam HVAC

References

Sara Arango
740.549.2665

Awards

AIA Columbus Honor Award
[2011]



The Orange Branch Library has become an important gathering place within the community - a landmark building in the growing township. The inspiration for the material palette and building forms were derived from the local farms and landscape features found in the region such as the limestone bluffs along the Olentangy River at High Banks Metro Park and the vernacular, agricultural barn forms of the area and rolling terrain. Hand selected FSC certified Douglas Fir wood timbers, local Ohio blue vein limestone shaped by hand by masons on site, cedar wood siding, and metal standing seam roofs also come from this local heritage.

The site features unique rainwater bio-retention gardens, bio-swales, and preservation of on-site wetlands. Gardens located on the north side of the building provide unique settings for artwork, seating areas, and also a large lawn and gathering area for outdoor events. The unique rainwater collection and retention system celebrates the functional need to remove storm water. Sustainability, while promoted throughout the building, is never more apparent than through the chilled beam HVAC system. This extremely low energy, low noise and low maintenance system and was the first of its kind in Central Ohio - leading to a 20% reduction of energy costs and carbon emissions for the building.

The "flying" butterfly roof form above the central circulation spine gives the design a certain dramatic, iconic imagery that is needed for such an important cultural institution within a community. The library spaces are organized around this linear east-west circulation spine that terminates in a dramatic 26' double sided stone fireplace and quiet study area to the east. This spine is filled with indirect natural light from an expansive north facing clerestory. Three projecting stone and glass bays frame views of the north landscaping for patrons and provide a space to relax and enjoy the natural elements.

Dominant use of heavy timber framing and warm wood tones provides the building with warmth as well as exciting and dramatic interior volumes. The plan and structure allows the library to have ultimate flexibility for future functions by containing no interior bearing walls and highly efficient structural column bays. Unique spaces include a large glass enclosed quiet study room with a fireplace, community meeting room, café, a large children's area, dedicated story time room, a teen space separated with a glass garage door, self service area for hold pickup and checkout, drive-up and book drop service windows, and outreach services including a bookmobile garage.



MADONNA UNIVERSITY WELCOME CENTER



2,000+
Visitors Annually

\$15,000
Annual Cost Savings

36 // 450ft
Geothermal Bores // Depth

133 // 187,000
Metric Tons of CO2 // kWh Saved Annually

Location
Detroit, Michigan

Completion Date
2020

Project Size
35,000 s.f.

Project Cost
\$11.5 Million

Project Scope
Masterplanning
Welcome Center
Exhibition Hall

Features & Benefits

- Decentralized Geo-thermal
- Kalwall Skylight
- Exhibition Museum
- Archives
- Great Hall
- Art Gallery
- Cafe
- Office Suites

References

Ian Day
734.432.5316

Awards

AIA Columbus Merit Award
Unbuilt Project [2017]

The Welcome Center is dual-client project between Madonna University and the Felician Sister's of North America. Its aim is to enrich an expanding university through the provision of community spaces equitable for all students, visitors, and staff alike. A primary social challenge for the project was to incorporate the collective history of nine different provinces across the United States into a single location to memorialize and preserve the history of the dwindling Felician Sisterhood.

The main floor serves as a host for the Felician Heritage Exhibit in the center, surrounded by a cloister arcade on all sides. Myriad spaces throughout both floors allow for informal interaction for peer-to-peer interaction and social well-being. The upper floor is designed for students - hosting administrative offices such as the Bursar, Registrar, and Development offices. The lowest floor features archival storage, with a support corridor and prep room connecting the remainder of the spaces.

From the onset, the project would embody the five tenets of the Felician Order - most notably Environmental Stewardship. As such, the building features an envelope made of earth-friendly Spanish Slate, on-site water retention, hyper-efficient glazing, and is heated / cooled by a decentralized geothermal heat pump distribution system. The atrium is enclosed above by an open-span Kalwall skylight [120' x 72'], which diffuses natural sunlight throughout both floors without increasing heat gain.

The impact of the building has been felt since before the building was constructed. In 2017, it won an AIA Columbus Merit Award for 'Unbuilt Project.' The building serves as a pilgrimage location for visitors from across the country. A 4,000sf rotating exhibit space is open 363 days of the year. Moreover, a 6,500sf archive is integrated into the building, which provides a vessel to forever preserve the history of the Felician Sisters, and serves as a reminder to students of the core values beholden to them.



“ We were intrigued by the center atrium space and how the installation would appear from beneath and as you move along the balcony edge looking down.

Carrie Strickland, FAIA Head Juror | 2017 AIA Columbus Design Awards

RESEARCH PRACTICE INTEGRATION

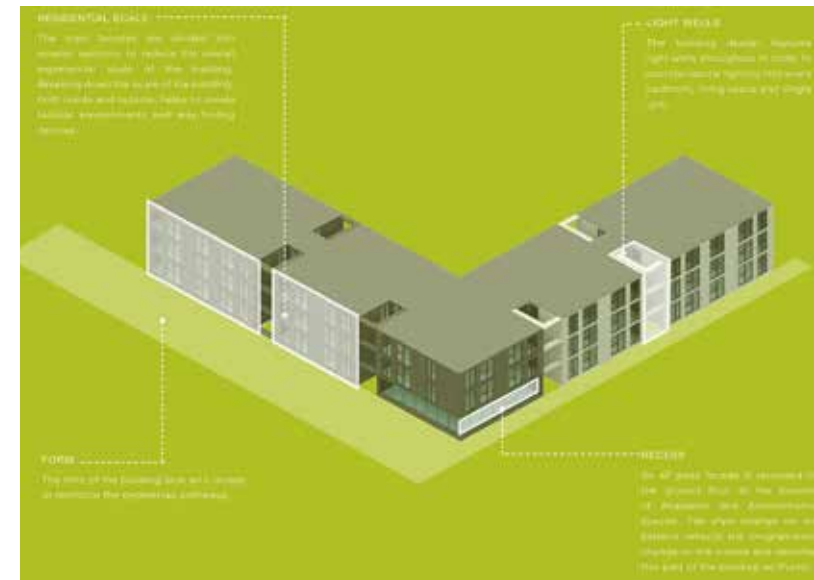
The relationship between architecture and humans forms the core of our research. We use 'practice' as 'research' to study this relationship architecturally. Often delegated to anthropologists and archaeologists, our work emphasizes architecture as a human design-system. It is our position, however, that permanence, which literally translates as 'remaining through,' can rightly be claimed as crucial to both the philosophy and practice of architecture. Architecture deserves a detailed study not only as an object, but also as a component participant of an exceedingly expanded place through time. Architecture, along with the humans who cohabit it, form a larger environment distinct from mere world. Buildings are the object, the stone, brick, mortar: architecture is the place of experience within the larger context of the environment. This is practice-based research.

“

We set about the task to create a new housing prototype - one that can serve as a baseline for modern apartment-style typology.



RIO GRANDE RESIDENCE HALL CONCEPT [2023]



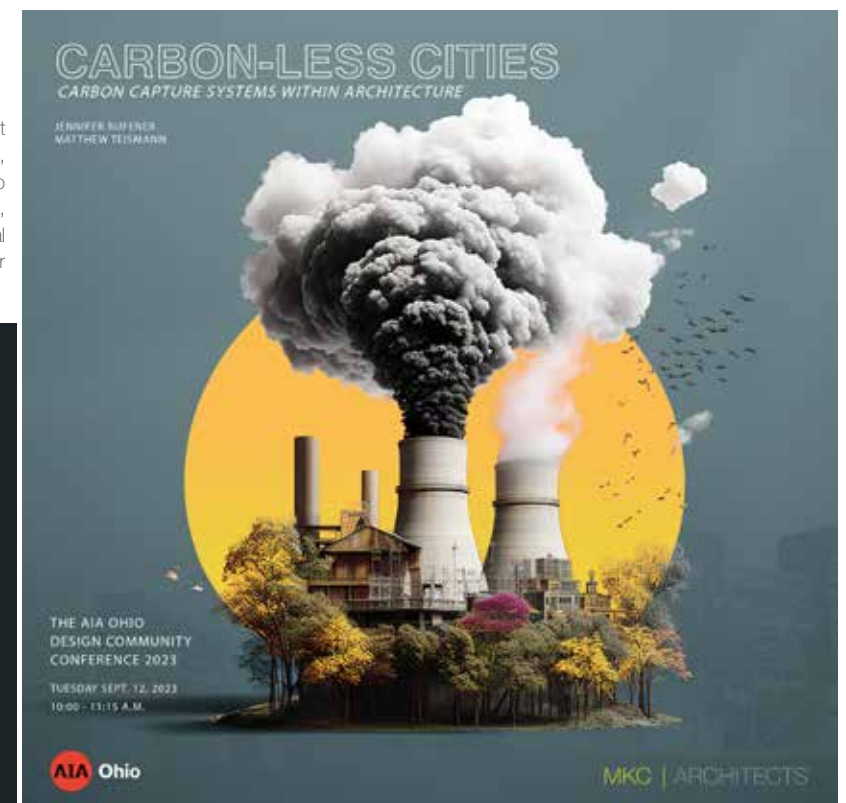
PROTO-TYPICAL HOUSING
Location: TBD
Completion Date: Prototype
Project Size: 45,000 s.f.

The building is intended to serve a multitude of residents, on two different wings, organized using geometrical cubes of oscillating colors. From each angle the building appears different - with the play of color interweaving with foreground and background. Utilizing perfect geometry, the building consists of four residential neighborhoods that extend from a common central core, which features several public spaces on the ground floor, and support spaces for the residents above.



AIA OHIO CONVENTION 2023
Location: Columbus, Ohio
Completion Date: 2023

MKC developed three different presentations for the AIA conference, including new research into sustainability, affordable housing, and the acoustics of architectural form. Small Size/Big Scale was later presented at Design Columbus 2024.



MKC Architects emphasizes a new approach to the process of architecture: practice-based research. By this strategy, MKC means learning by doing. We believe that architectural practice, discursive research, and service to the profession are intertwined through the act of learning through making. Rather than a research-based practice, MKC has inverted the paradigm using **practice-based research**.

RESEARCH [CONT.]

The relationship between architecture and humans forms the core of the firm's research. We use 'practice' as 'research' to study this relationship architecturally. Often delegated to anthropologists and archaeologists, MKC's research emphasizes architecture as a human design-system. We posit that permanence, which literally translates as 'remaining through,' can rightly be claimed as crucial to both the philosophy and practice of architecture. Architecture deserves a detailed study not only as an object, but also as a component participant of an exceedingly diverse place through time.

MKC pushes the boundary of what is possible for a small business: the firm is currently developing new housing proto-typologies to address social inequality through affordable housing in the United States, we are analyzing

the impact architectural form can play on the acoustics of space, and we are delving deep into the relationship between the rapid disappearance of vernacular architecture and a feeling of detachment from our environment.

MKC Architects has a 'Research & Theory' group that develops new research and incorporates it into our work. Using our internal research process, which induces the rapid development of one new research topic weekly, MKC has instantiated over fifty different abstracts and white papers that we disseminate to conferences and publications. As such, MKC has been published in international journals multiple times over the past five years, and the firm has also presented research at five international conferences since 2018.



LIVING WITHIN THE ABSURD

Location: Brussels, Belgium
Conference: EAHN Displacement & Domesticity
Publication: Refugees, Migrants and Expats Making Homes, Working Paper Series, Leuven: KU Leuven, (Brussels: 2020) pp. 267-274

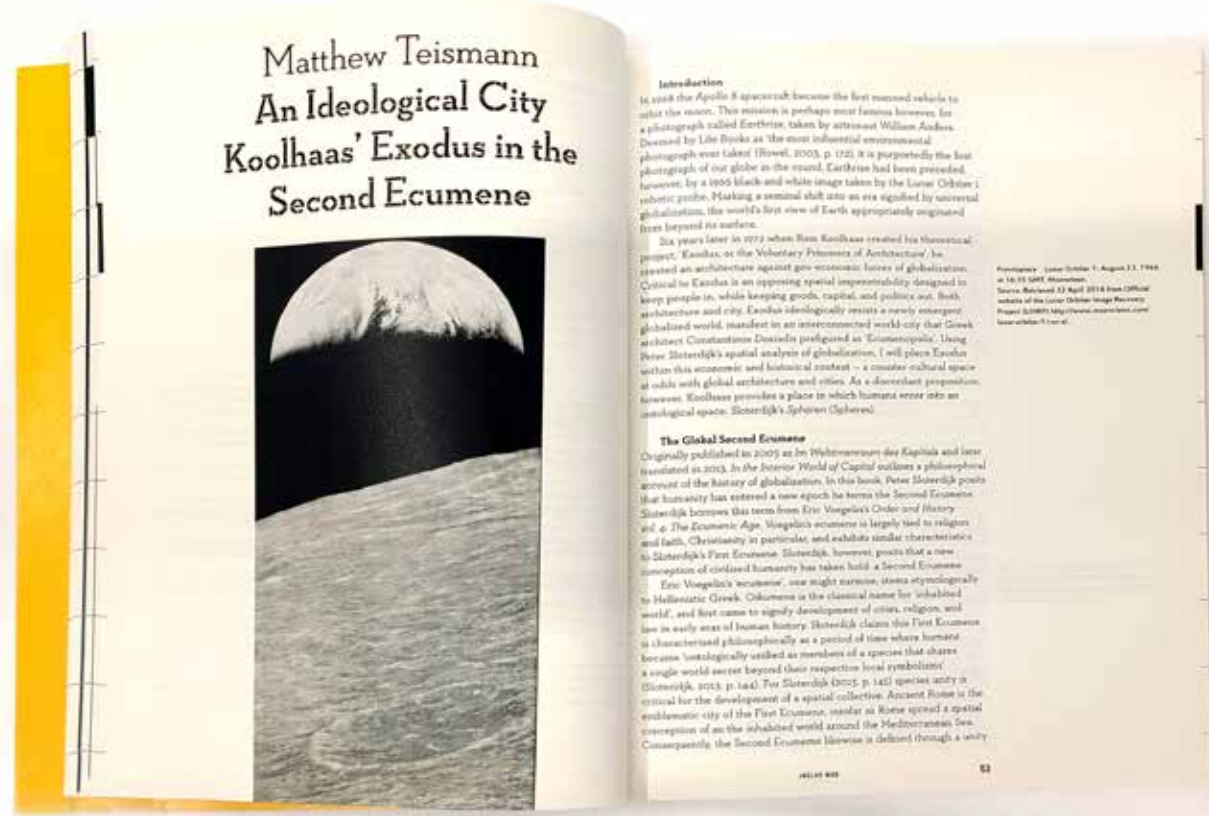
The goal of the European Architectural History Network's sixth thematic conference was to illuminate and critically reflect on the conceptual role and socio-material expressions of domesticity employed in response to displacement in contemporary history. Rachel Ghindea and Matthew Teismann of MKC Architects developed speculative, theoretical research into Albert Camus's depiction of architecture in his novels. MKC prompted new ways, especially from within the architectural discipline and community, to conceive of alternative epistemological and heuristic frameworks for integrating interdisciplinary knowledge. The conference was attended by over 100 architectural designers, historians, and theorists from six continents. MKC's research was selected for publication disseminated internationally with other selective work from the conference.



ARCHITECTURE WITHOUT ORIGINS

Location: Plymouth, Massachusetts

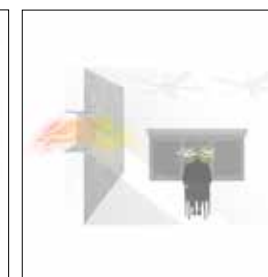
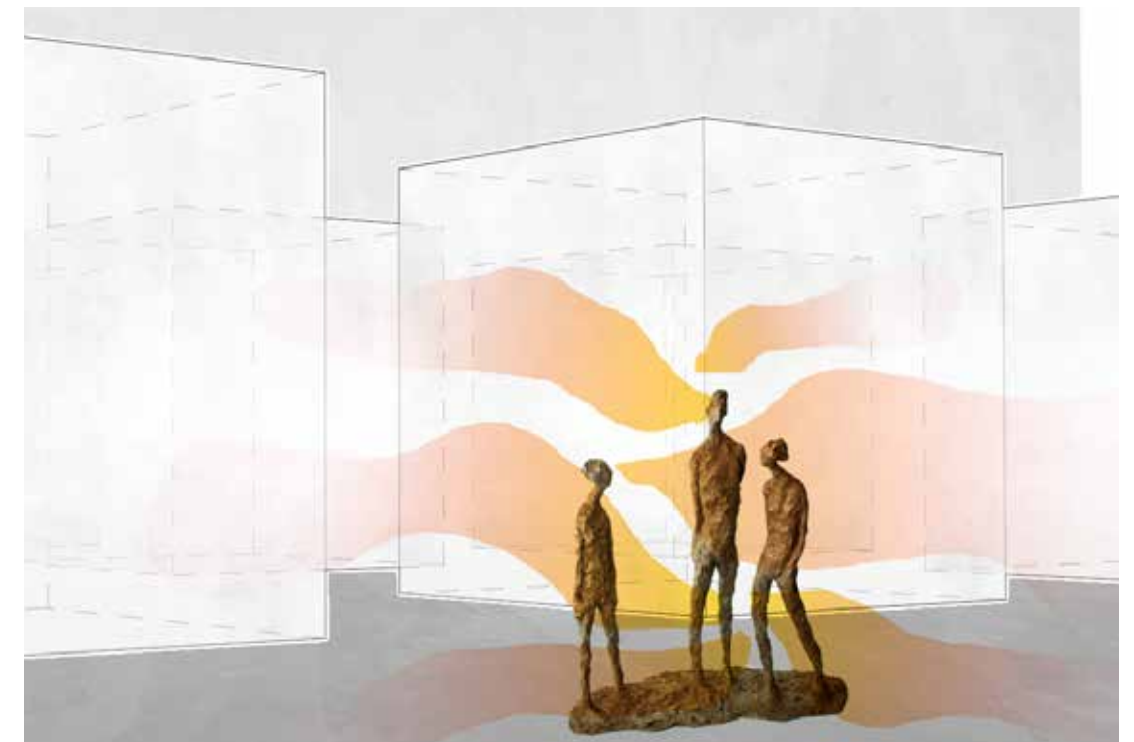
In May 2023 MKC at the Vernacular Architecture Forum Annual Meeting in Plymouth Massachusetts. MKC's research, titled 'Architecture Without Origins,' enables architecture to address a broader discourse of what is gained or lost in the detractor of vernacular ways of life in lieu of modernization. The Vernacular Architecture Forum is the premier organization in North America studying ordinary buildings and landscapes. It was established in 1979 to promote appreciation and scholarship of vernacular structures. VAF is an interdisciplinary organization composed of scholars from many fields, including history, architectural history, geography, anthropology, sociology, landscape history, historic preservation, and material culture studies.



'An Ideological City: Koolhaas' Exodus in the Second Ecumene,' Joelho 08 [2018]



MKC Architects emphasizes a new approach to the process of architecture - inverting the paradigm: this is practice-based research.



4
Cities Visited
5,200
Miles Traveled
4,800
Words Published

2,000+
Readers & Downloads



HARMONISCAPES

ACOUSTIC-KINETIC ARCHITECTURE

Location
Columbus, OH

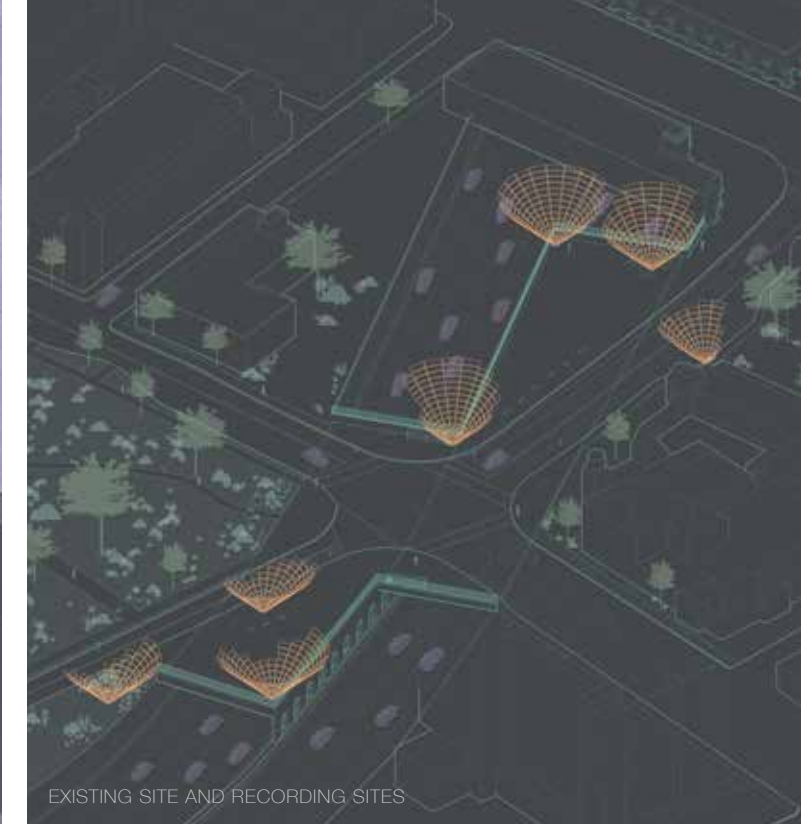
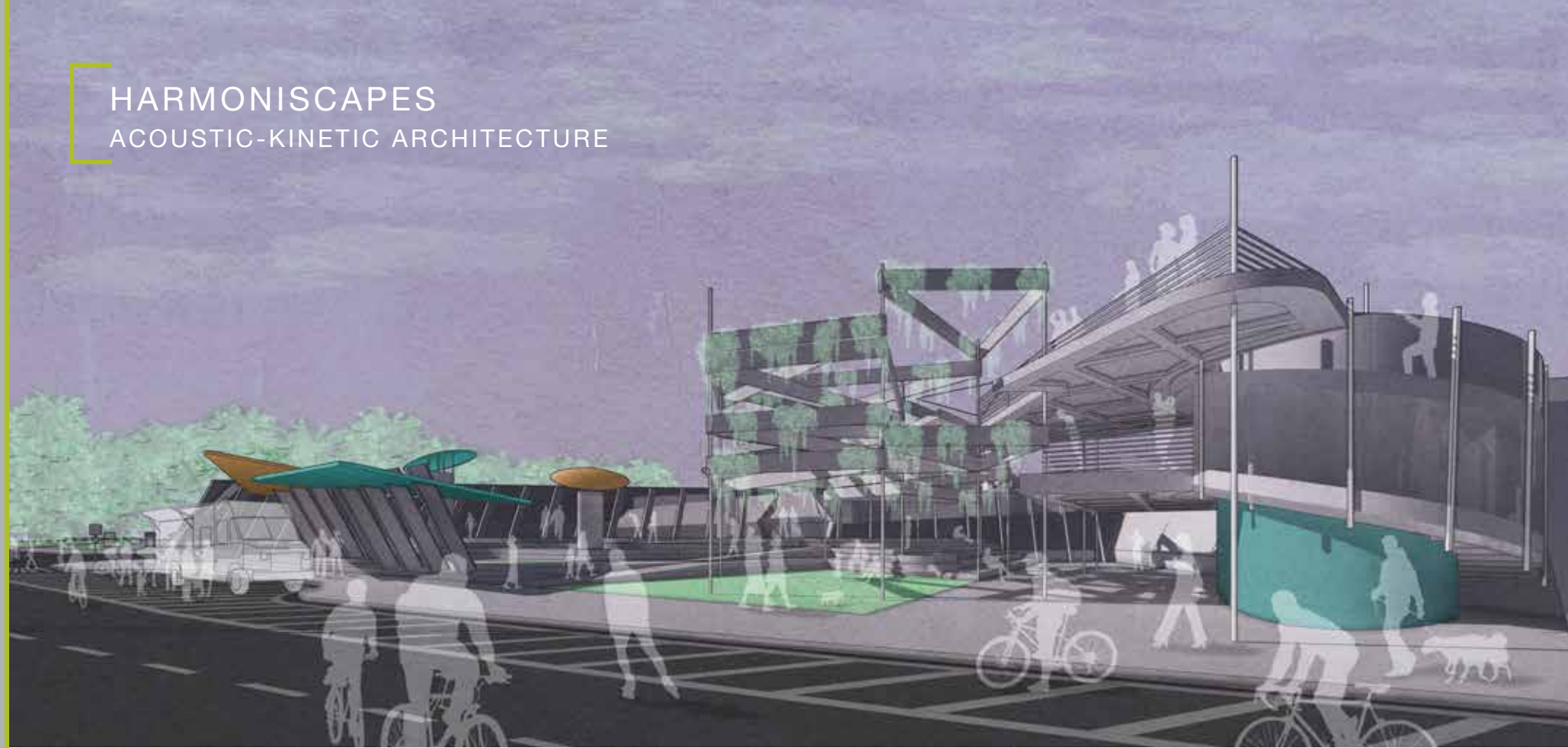
Completion Date
2023

Project Size
15,000 s.f.

Project Goal
Infill under-designed urban spaces with architecture which not only responds to but harnesses its existing soundscape to create a more pleasant environment

Features & Benefits
Acoustic-kinetic Design
Green Space Connection
Shading Structures
Food Truck Inlets
Amphitheater Spaces
Accessible Ramps

Distinctions
AIA Ohio Design Community
Conference Lecture 2023



EXISTING SITE AND RECORDING SITES

DEFINING ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF FORM GENERATION TO EFFECT SPACES

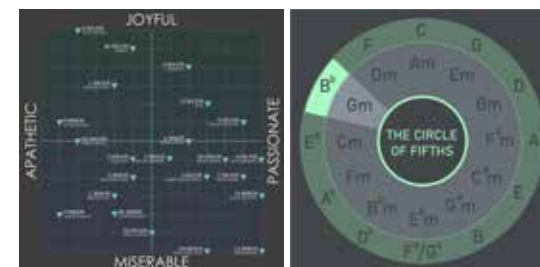
Harmoniscapes combines everyday sound found in public spaces with what we playfully call *acoustic-kinetic architecture*. The careful study of a soundscape allows designers to address underused spaces in our urban environment, with the goal of making them more comfortable and pleasant to experience.

Too often, sound is an afterthought in design, typically understood as energy needing to be dissipated. Bernhard Leitner questions, in the 16th edition of *Pamphlet Architecture: Architecture as a Translation of Music*, what if we began to think of sound, as “no longer exclusively the instrument of musical expression; designed with precision, [it can become] a building material in the creation of space.” In other words, what if we treated sound as raw building material?

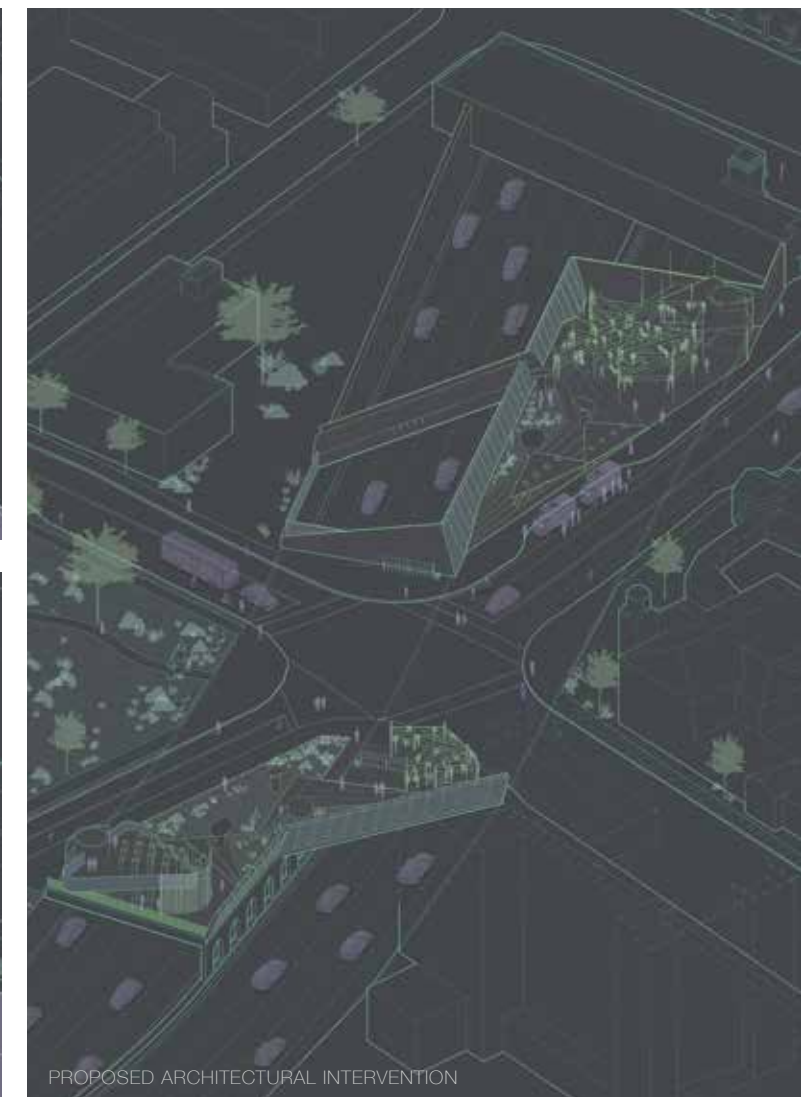
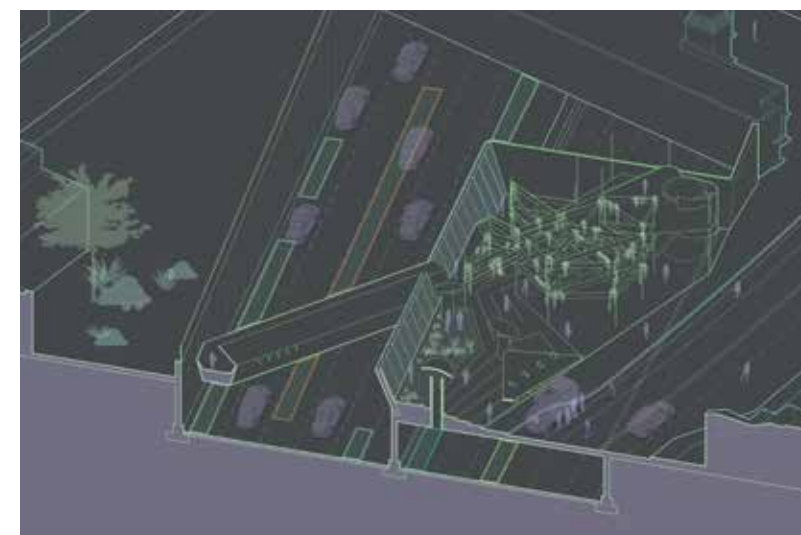
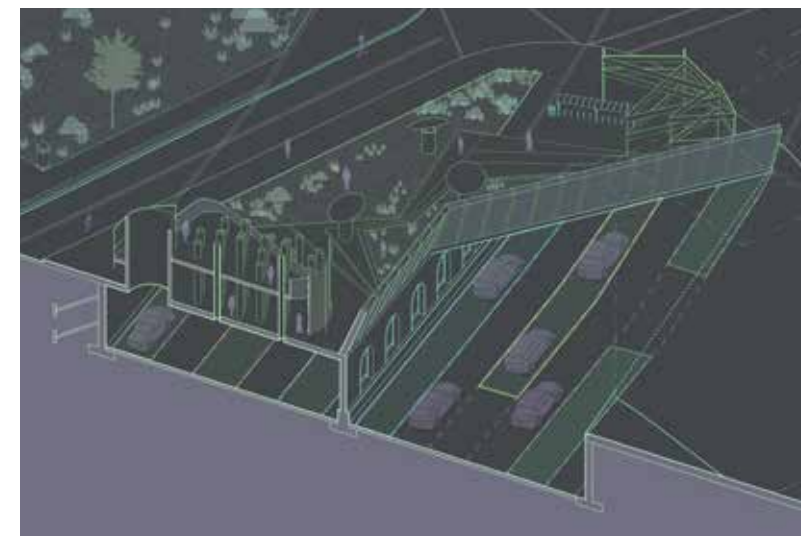
Public acoustics have gone through monumental changes over the past century, with each passing decade or so, new instruments are added to the urban orchestra. Harmoniscapes seeks to develop an approach to understanding the vast complexity of an urban soundscape; not necessarily as a summation of the audio-environment, but by organizing the audio found at the case study site

into distinct, individual sounds. If we understand the urban soundscape as a layering of audible events, both tonal and percussive, we can map the acoustic environment of a given urban space and analyze how we might use design to funnel the existing sounds into layers that form a more cohesive composition.

This site in Columbus, OH is inundated with sound from the interstate below, but is also a connection between a park, a commerce and restaurant center, and downtown. After recording data at the site, a root note is identified to determine which notes can be added in order to create a “pleasing chord” within the site. Architectural elements can now be designed which work to produce these other notes and thus generate this pleasing chord.



Re-invigorating under-utilized public spaces by designing architecture which builds upon the existent urban orchestra



PROPOSED ARCHITECTURAL INTERVENTION

FIRM CULTURE

PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

MKC continues to expand the firm's influence working diligently to develop and demonstrate models that drive positive design. International research, thoughtful consideration of design theory, and innovative engagement all inform a future-forward firm culture that attracts emerging talent to the firm. Through Wednesday Wisdoms, Extravaganza Presentations, and Design Charrettes, the firm continues to serve as a model workplace. MKC fuses experienced staff with an insurgence of young designers to form an innovative delivery system, while also providing mentoring to the next generation of leaders. When the firm's leadership within the profession, dedication to mentorship, and peer support are considered, MKC Architects provides an example of how architecture firms can be instruments for impactful change.

“ We design spaces that encourage systemic social change, which occurs when we are faced with fresh perspectives from others, to integrate those perspectives into our own.

ST. THOMAS UNIVERSITY STUDENT CENTER [2022]



BRIGHTPATH ACTIVE LEARNING
Location: Westerville, Ohio
Completion Date: 2020
Project Size: 7,500 s.f.
Awards: AIA Columbus 2023 Merit Award

A school-enrichment program facility, the design features light-filled interiors with high ceilings. Exterior space is used for outdoor extension-classrooms and play areas. The building placement and orientation is intended to maximize outdoor play area without sacrificing view lines, parking, or entry access. Designed with a variety of uses, the play areas feature natural landscapes intertwined with learning spaces and gathering areas. To keep cost down, a primary design driver of BrightPath is efficiency through modularity.



PROTOFLAT AFFORDABLE HOUSING
Location: Columbus, Ohio

The challenge was to develop an affordable 2-bedroom home with a monthly payment of only \$346 [30% of minimum-wage income] fresh, sophisticated, and contemporary design without social housing stigma.



MKC Architects directly works in impactful market sectors that provided equitable opportunities for all. 50% of the firm's work is within Higher Education, with a particular emphasis on smaller universities and colleges that provide opportunities for students from all backgrounds. In addition to our higher education projects, MKC also works with smaller and alternative education models, such as private Catholic schools, or nature-based programming such as BrightPath Active Learning Center, which won an AIA Columbus Merit Award in 2023. With broad program and tight budgets, MKC provides multiple project types that contribute to communities through an integration of youthful imagination and a reinvented pragmatic form.

FIRM CULTURE [CONT.]

MKC Architects is committed to not only being a part of our larger community but contributing to and enhancing the lives and culture of our fellow citizens, stakeholders and city-dwellers. We seek out clients and projects that share our goals and values, and often go above and beyond in our efforts to contribute and help build a better world.

MKC Architects aims to practice what we preach within our own operations, seeking out exceptional architects and designers from the ranks of those who often have been excluded from the practice of architecture. Our staff makeup is 20% minority, and more than 2/3rds women [higher than the profession as a whole], and these individuals are represented in our leadership and ownership as well as our staff. And we aim to build a culture where these diverse perspectives are not only represented but encouraged, respected and given opportunities for growth and development.

The firm is proud to seek out clients that other firms might not find worthwhile; for example, MKC has worked with many disadvantaged and economically challenged universities and colleges, including historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) like the historic Central State University in Wilberforce, Ohio. MKC believes finding

innovative ways to bring economical design excellence and problem-solving to institutions that may feel excluded from the benefits of great design. College facilities are important for student development in a number of ways. They provide students with the space they need to learn, grow, and connect with others. College facilities can also provide students with opportunities to explore their interests and develop their skills. Architecture can also be used to inspire and motivate people - creating a sense of community and belonging for students. When students inhabit well-designed buildings and structures, they can begin to imagine what the world could be like. This can motivate them to become leaders who will make a positive impact on the world.

Often contributing volunteer or pro bono labor, MKC Architects seeks out community-minded events and initiatives - like the "PARK(ing) Day" event. Our staff serves on professional and civic organizations, often volunteering our time to, for example, putting up holiday decorations for housing under the Community Housing Network, the largest and longest standing provider of permanent supportive housing in Ohio.

AIA Support

MKC supports all employees with a free annual AIA Membership

Licensure Support

MKC reimburses all employees for each passed ARE / NCIDQ exams

AIA Conventions

MKC sent all employees to the AIA Ohio Convention 2023

MKC sent two employees to the AIA National Convention 2024

NeoCon

MKC sent two employees to NeoCon 2019

MKC sent five employees to NeoCon 2022

MKC sent all employees to NeoCon 2024

AIA Leadership

MKC has had two AIA Columbus Presidents / Elect in last five years

MKC has multiple employees serving on AIA Columbus Committees

MKC has two employees currently serving on the Center for Architecture and Design Board

MKC has one employee who serves as the AIA Ohio Design Awards Chair 2024-2026

MKC has four employees participating in ArchWay 2024

MKC had two employees initiate the Sandusky City Schools Mentorship Program [CFAD]



NEOCON [2024]

“ The setup was a creative way to show companies there is an option between a traditional office and asking employees to work from home.

Patrick Cooley, Columbus Dispatch

PARKING DAY: URBAN INTERVENTION

Location: Columbus, Ohio

PARK(ing) Day is a yearly, national event showcasing design ideas for transforming on-street parking spaces into more productive uses. Parking day re-imagines the possibilities of urban landscapes and encourages passers-by to rethink parking in general. MKC Architect's 2020 PARK(ing) day installation illustrates different potentials for socially distant working environments. The project went beyond concept - constructed, utilized, and tested - the act of making tangible spaces provided opportunity for evaluation of flexible environments with specific seating arrangements in order to provide opportunity for a user-defined experience. It created a social dialogue based on four categories of working: refresh, collaborate, create, focus. Meanwhile, the 2019 intervention was designed to provide reading space outside of Prologue Bookshop in the Short North.



1
Less Parking Space

~3,000
Passers By

2,500ft
Recycled Nylon

140,000 // 300,000+
Print Distribution // Website Unique Visitors



Companies demonstrate outdoor office spaces in Downtown parking spots

Patrick Cooley The Columbus Dispatch
USA TODAY NETWORK

Three Columbus companies spent Friday showing central Ohio what the future of work might look like. The occasion was "PARK(ing) Day," an annual international event first observed by landscape architects in San Francisco and intended to showcase alternative uses for on-street parking spaces.

MKC Architects partnered with office supplier Continental Office and the startup office -- which leases portable offices and queuing spaces -- to create an outdoor work area in front of several parking meters outside the MKC office on Chestnut Street.

"It's about reallocating public space and not just taking it all up with parking spots," said Katie Shipman, an MKC designer.

The event took on special importance this year by showcasing an open-air office, she said.

Last year, MKC set up an outdoor reading space in front of Prologue books in the Short North, Shipman said.

In 2020, however, it was especially important to demonstrate that offices can be moved outside, with enough space for employees to distance themselves, said Allison Rubadue, an MKC project designer.

Doctors largely agree that outdoor spaces are safer than indoor spaces during the coronavirus pandemic.

The companies paid for three spaces for the day, using them as an open-air lounge and office, complete with desks, sofas and wireless internet. An open canopy with a colorful wire frame separated the space from the street and

MKC designer Allison Rubadue jokes with fellow designer Taylor Luth.

See OFFICES, Page A14

ST. THOMAS UNIVERSITY STUDENT CENTER AND RESIDENCE HALL



PEER-TO-PEER STUDENT DEVELOPMENT
AT A SMALL CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY

Location

Miami, Florida

Completion Date

2022

Project Size

105,000 s.f.
308-Beds

Project Cost

\$26.0 Million

Project Scope

Masterplanning
Student Center
Residence Hall

Features & Benefits

77 Living Units
Communal / Study Areas
Dining Center
Inside/Outside Bar
Performance Stage
Yoga Studio
Rooftop Terraces
Green Roofs

References

Robyn Hoffman
740.405.4353

Awards

2023 AGC Build Florida
Award [Higher Education]

The Student Center & Residence Hall sets a fresh and innovative standard for on-campus living. While large buildings with repetitive programs often end up feeling overwhelming, oppressive, or looming, this multi-building complex exhibits its most active spaces to its front face, defining a compelling 'street wall' along a wide, landscaped student path.

Housing 308 undergraduate and graduate students, the four-story L-shaped building contains double-occupancy units in a 'hybrid-style', in which rooms are grouped around a shared kitchen and bath - creating an intimate four-person suite. Each floor features a variety of study spaces, communal lounge areas, and laundry amenities. These spaces encourage peer-to-peer interaction with the purpose of developing fruitful relationships that will extend beyond college.

The project establishes a new hub of activity for all students at the heart of a burgeoning campus. The client faced a critical need for entertainment and dining options outside of what is offered elsewhere by the university. A new dining center, grab and go café space, and

a performance stage are highlights of this mixed use program. The outer wings of the project are graced with elevated roof decks with green roofs of native plants and grasses, and the roof decks are connected to an indoor/outdoor bar. This project adds to the university's after hours programming by establishing a dynamic catalyst for the growth of campus culture.

The project takes full advantage of Florida's abundant sunshine. Glass expanses are framed along the building's primary facades and corners, aligning with campus circulation paths. The residence hall features sun-protection features, which shield the rooms from direct light and heat gain, while maximizing diffuse light and views of the landscaped outdoors.

St. Thomas is a university with rich cultural and international diversity committed to the academic and professional success of its students. With over 75% of their students either Latino or African American, the design of the Residence Hall and Student Center enhances this diversity and provides equitable educational spaces for all students to thrive.

Providing a stimulating and supportive environment, architecture and college facilities can help all students reach their full potential.



ST MARY SCHOOL
COLUMBUS, OHIO



COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAM WITH
ENRICHING SPACES FOR ALL

Location
Columbus, Ohio

Completion Date
2024

Project Size
41,000 s.f.

Project Scope
Masterplanning
Addition
Renovation

Features & Benefits

- Skylights
- Heritage Hall
- The Hub
- Art Room
- STEM Lab
- Extended Learning Areas
- Coffee Bar
- LULA Elevator
- Wayfinding

References

Kevin Lee
614.264.8660

This project is an addition and full renovation of the existing St Mary Elementary School located in German Village of Columbus. The design for 350 elementary-age students provides updated facilities for the elementary school, as well as the entire St. Mary K-8 campus of 500 students, and includes renovated and new classrooms, a new kitchen/food service and dining area, offices, sensory room, elevator, extended learning areas, full HVAC/MEP improvements, among other improvements. The students' dining hall, "Heritage Hall," doubles as a Parish Hall and Community Center for local/community events. Extended learning areas around the classrooms and in the media center encourage students and teachers to use resources outside the classroom for a more diversified educational experience. These include group-meet [mid-size groups], gather & display [labs & presentation], and huddle spaces [peer-to-peer], which allow for more concentrated discussion. Responding to the constrained and historic site, the addition expands the existing elementary into the rear parking lot, with the front yard remaining relatively open to maintain its historical elevation and provide a space for

children to play. Areas such as the dining hall, kitchen, servery, and stage platform on the front lawn are available for community events during or outside of school hours. A single main entrance at the front of the school acts as a secure separation for events such as these.



"What we have here in German Village is literally a concrete example of transformative change in the city of Columbus and in the wider community,"

Bishop Mandes, published by The Catholic Times

Norbert A. Peiker, FAIA ◦◦◦ Architect ◦ Building Plans Examiner
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AIA Ohio Awards Committee

17 S. High Street
Columbus, OH 43215

RE: **2018 Columbus AIA Ohio Gold Medal Firm Award**

Dear Committee Members,

I am pleased to nominate MKC Architects for the 2023 Ohio AIA Gold Medal Firm.

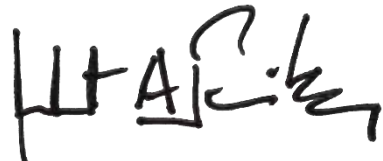
MKC Architects is a firm with a rich history of serving Ohio's communities, not only through dedication to public service by their principals and staff, but also through the spaces they have created that have helped to shape the character of these communities. For decades MKC has strived to deliver the highest standards in the practice of architecture to often unnoticed places – smaller and rural communities throughout Ohio. Places where success is measured not in the moment, but by the betterment of the daily lives of generations of people. Places where the “project” is more than a building – it is a triumph for the entire community. It is in these communities that the budget and necessity demand that the built environment meet the highest standards of function. Here the design challenge is to capture the essence of the community.

MKC has worked side by side with the citizens of Ohio small communities to transform their public vision into reality for nine decades through a wide variety of facilities – where people learn, play, heal, worship, or work, MKC has touched lives. When newly created or rejuvenated public spaces help to erase local divisions and nurture the seeds of community pride, the profession of architecture has served the community's society well.

Perhaps one of the firm's most important legacies came from MKC founder Charles J. Marr, FAIA. Mr. Marr was devoted to elevating the profession of architecture. Marr worked tirelessly to pass the legislation requiring registration and eventual licensing for Ohio's architects. Marr presented the resolution to unify independent architectural organizations which laid the foundation for the Architects Society of Ohio and the AIA Ohio. In recognition of Marr's early efforts, the AIA Ohio Foundation Charles J. Marr Award was established to recognize individuals whose commitment to the profession is exemplary.

MKC Architects is a firm that celebrates longevity, experience and a steadfast commitment to develop solutions that are unique, appropriate, and responsive to each client. It is without hesitation that I would recommend them for the 2023 AIA Ohio Gold Medal Firm Award.

Respectfully,



Norbert A. Peiker, FAIA



155 Miami Street, Tiffin, Ohio 44883
800.968.6446 • tiffin.edu

Dr. Lillian B. Schumacher
President

October 6, 2022

Mr. Matthew Teismann
President
MKC Architects
161 N. 4th Street
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Matthew:

It is my pleasure to write this letter of recommendation for you and for MKC Architects as Tiffin University has had an established partnership with your organization for many years.

Nearly four years ago, Tiffin University began an ambitious endeavor to continue our commitment to our students and their academic success. Realizing the need for a dedicated space on campus to further enhance programs in the fields of science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics, we partnered with MKC Architects to design TU's new Center for Science & Technology. This new, state-of-the-art building provides versatile and advanced classrooms and labs that provide the tools necessary for the highest quality of academic instruction and research for our students. Further, this new Center also positions the University to achieve increased enrollment and the ability to expand our academic program offerings.

I am grateful for you and your team of professionals who worked with us throughout the project to ensure Tiffin University met its objectives for the new Center as well as meeting the timeline for completion of the project. In particular, your dedication and adaptability to the successful completion of this project was always first and foremost throughout the process. Thank you for being an exceptional partner with Tiffin University, and we look forward to working with MKC Architects on future projects.

For all of this and more, I will continue to recommend MKC Architects to all of my colleagues, friends, and anyone with a new project.

Sincerely,



Dr. Lillian B. Schumacher
President



Kevin J. Lee
Owner Representative for the Catholic Diocese of Columbus
197 E. Gay Street
Columbus, OH 43215



December 26, 2022

Mr. Matthew Teismann
President
MKC Architects
161 North 4th Street
Columbus, OH 43215

It is my pleasure to write this letter of recommendation for you and the MKC Architecture Team. The Diocese of Columbus has been elated with the design and construction support services you have provided for all St. Mary Campus Projects. As you know, the St. Mary Catholic German Village School is detached from the governance of the other Diocese Catholic Schools and reports directly to Earl Fernandez, Bishop of the Diocese of Columbus, in order to develop a new educational model. The model is aimed at transforming educational programs, governance, school economic factors, and instructional facilities and will serve as a template for change to the other schools. With significant private funds made available, the St. Mary School is soon to be expanded and fully renovated to achieve the facility goals for the model.

This facility's transformation opportunity called for the selection of an architect which demonstrated an ability to break from the traditional Catholic school facility design model found throughout the Diocese. In the search for our partner conducted two years ago, your MKC Architecture team was our selection based on capabilities and talents which were far superior to all others considered. Objectively, what follows is a list of what MKC Architects has brought to our design:

DESIGN QUALITY & TALENT - MKC's understands and demonstrates creative design of educational institutions. This is what MKC's principles promised and have delivered to St Mary - period, without question! MKC's educational design talent extends to all members of the MKC Teams. We have witnessed that all of the professionals we have interfaced with at MKC have either direct experience in educational facility design or direct transferable experience. Also, in today's era where acquisition of new talent has been a challenge to companies, I've observed the addition of great team members and growth of a culture that displays a great 'vibe'


DESIGN CREATIVITY - Though handicapped with space and renovation challenges, MKC's design of the St. Mary School has been transformational in comparison to the existing traditional Catholic Diocese facilities. Our design incorporates innovative approaches which deepen the use of common and community spaces throughout the facility. Our Team and Steering Committee Members see the essence of the new facility model embodied in our school addition and renovation design.

REGULATORY APPROVALS & COMMUNICATIONS - As the St. Mary School and other parish facilities are located in one of the most regulated historical districts of Columbus, we've been challenged to maintain a high standard for our architecture given the historical integrity standards required for approval. MKC has represented the designs in each facet of our regulatory approval process and has been a core partner with all communications conducted with the City of Columbus and our local community partners.

DESIGN ADVOCATE - Cost has been a critical challenge to our projects. MKC has been in each step of the process to help us find opportunities for cost reductions without compromise of the project's transformative core educational design attributes. When areas of their designs have been challenged, they've always been open minded to revisit and provide change as needed.

COMPLEXITY - The many projects (School Addition & Renovation, Rectory Transformation, Nationwide Children's Health Center Addition, and Campus Master Planning) MKC is guiding at the St. Mary Campus have been complex and fast moving. Beyond the schematic design stage of each project, MKC's ability to successfully oversee the development of design and construction specifications with its partners has been an incredible feat.

To close, you and your MKC team have been the ultimate design partner for all of our challenging projects. Your team is always present with us and guiding the processes to overcome the many issues we've faced along the way. We are so very thankful for the work you are providing for the many St. Mary Campus Projects we are implementing. If I may offer any other information on behalf of your team, please contact me by email or call 614-264-8660.

Sincerely,

Kevin J. Lee

April 10, 2023,

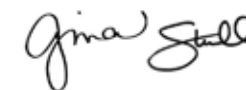
This is a letter of recommendation for the work of MKC Architects. I have been working with them for nearly two years on the St. Mary School German Village project. Our school was built in the 1950s and was in serious need of repair and expansion. We have a very limited footprint on which to expand. MKC Architects has met our every need with impeccable design and unique solutions to fit our needs, timeline and budget.

The team of Matthew Teismann, Jennifer Rufener and Rachel Foster have been integral for me in communicating and understanding the needs of 21st century learning center to meet the demands of students from a broad range of backgrounds. They have tirelessly developed, enhanced and elaborated on designs to meet the demands of my leadership team and our many stakeholders.

The MKC team is so cordial and fun to work with. They can sense what I like before I say a word and always have alternatives researched and ready to apply to the project. Matthew, Jennifer and Rachel have conducted lots of research and presentations for historic commissions to see that what we envision for our school can become a reality. They have gone above and beyond to meet with all members of our community to see that our project is a success. Their leadership with the construction team has been so important for me as the client. I have many jobs and have complete trust in the MKC team's ability to make decisions benefit our school, budget and timeline above all else.

Matthew and his team have been very respectful of my time through all aspects of this project. They come to meetings prepared and practiced. The new St. Mary School in German Village will be a spectacular example of their work. I am excited to see all of their planning and expertise come together to make our school community the best place for the children of Columbus, Ohio.

Respectfully Submitted,



Gina R. Stull

Principal St. Mary School and Preschool German Village