

This cover section is produced by the AIA Archives to show information from the online submission form. It is not part of the pdf submission upload.

2026 AIA Fellowship

Candidate Kevin Kudo-King
Organization Olson Kundig
Location Seattle, Washington
Chapter AIA Washington Council; AIA Seattle

Category of Nomination

Object 1 (Design, Urban Design, Preservation) > Design

Summary Statement

Kevin Kudo-King integrates elements of the site, culture, and local building traditions to create contextual architecture that is restorative and transformative to its users.

Education

University of Arizona, 1989-1995, Bachelor of Architecture

Licensed in:

Arizona
California
Connecticut
Hawaii
Idaho
Illinois
Kansas
Maine
Michigan
Minnesota
Montana
New Mexico
New York
North Carolina
Oregon
Pennsylvania
South Carolina
Texas
Utah
Virginia
Washington
Wisconsin
Wyoming

Employment

Olson Kundig, 1996–Present



AIA FELLOWSHIP 2026

Kevin Kudo-King AIA, LEED AP

Object One: Design

RE: AIA Fellowship Nomination (Object One: Design)—Kevin M. Kudo-King, AIA

To the Jury Chair:

It is with great pride and deep respect that I sponsor Kevin Kudo-King, AIA, for elevation to the AIA College of Fellows (Object One: Design).

I have had the privilege of working alongside Kevin for 29 years, and I still remember interviewing him in 1996 when he first applied for an internship at Olson Kundig. I was immediately struck by his attention to detail and craft, and we spent an extended time reviewing the study models he had built in school—each one revealing a deep sensitivity to material and form. From that moment, it was clear he was a designer of uncommon dedication and talent.

Today, as a principal and owner of the firm, Kevin continues to impress with his leadership, collaborative spirit, and ability to consistently deliver architecture that is not only beautiful, but profoundly thoughtful and responsive to place.

Sensitive to the natural world and always guided by context, Kevin's buildings embody the restorative and transformative capabilities of architecture. The Leach Botanical Garden is a testament to his talent and sensitivity. The simple, open-air pavilion unfolds quietly into the landscape and serves a clear purpose: to connect people with nature and provide shelter—that most essential human need. As architects, we're always thinking about shelter but not always about nature—Kevin has found a unique way to keep both at the forefront of his practice, and this approach is a constant in his design thinking across every project type and scale.

Another of Kevin's admirable qualities is that he is relentless—he doesn't seem to tire, and every day I witness his total commitment to the profession. In addition to leading the firm, he is fully immersed in designing projects, down to the details, and engaged throughout construction. For Kevin, "architect" and "builder" are deeply intertwined—to realize one's full potential as an architect, he believes there must be a practical understanding of how to build. Design and construction are not divorced in his process. As a principal and owner, Kevin represents the next generation of leadership at Olson Kundig, helping shape a collaborative practice that continues to evolve while staying rooted in craft, context, and community.

Kevin's impact also extends beyond the studio. He has served on ten design juries and regularly shares his design voice through lectures and presentations at AIA conferences, universities, and cultural institutions across the country. Whether speaking at the AIA National Convention or leading discussions at regional chapters and design forums, Kevin brings clarity, humility, and insight to every conversation. His commitment to mentorship and knowledge-sharing reflect a deep belief in the collective advancement of the profession.

I have seen firsthand how Kevin's integration of site, culture, and local building traditions has influenced the profession and inspired new approaches to contextual design. He has demonstrated how architecture can connect users to the unique beauty of a place, awaken all the senses, and guide people to be fully present in the moment. Kevin is someone I respect as a colleague, as a peer, and as an architect, and I am proud to support his nomination to the AIA College of Fellows.

Best regards,



Tom Kundig FAIA, RIBA
Principal / Owner & Founder
tom@olsonkundig.com

SEATTLE
159 S Jackson St
Suite 600
Seattle, WA 98104

NEW YORK
CHICAGO

206 624 5670
olsonkundig.com

Summary of Achievements

Kevin Kudo-King integrates elements of the site, culture, and local building traditions to create contextual architecture that is restorative and transformative to its users.

For almost thirty years, Kevin Kudo-King, AIA, LEED AP, has built a practice of design excellence grounded in the belief that impactful architecture emerges through collaboration, active listening, and deliberate placemaking. His work builds on the Pacific Northwest's craft-based tradition, introducing its principles into diverse global contexts by reinterpreting local materials, cultural traditions, and construction methods to create projects rooted in place.

By engaging the site, culture, and local craft, he has created contextual architecture across a diverse portfolio of botanical gardens, wellness resorts, and private residences worldwide. This craft-driven, culturally sensitive approach ensures that each project reflects its context while contributing to a broader national and international design dialogue. His work reveals how design can transform people's relationships with place, engage communities, and restore collective and individual well-being. Kevin's purpose-driven approach models architecture that is both functional and poetic at every level, influencing how the profession engages with local traditions, collective memory, and environmental stewardship.

Collaboration

As a principal and owner of Olson Kundig, Kevin has shaped a collaborative design culture that extends beyond the design team. He believes in the essential dialogue between architects, builders, clients, and communities, involving these stakeholders early and often throughout design, documentation, and construction, as well as community meetings and hands-on site visits. By making this exchange central to his practice, the design process becomes iterative and inclusive of diverse perspectives. This approach results in an architectural response that reflects collective expertise and enriches the user experience.

Tacoma Art Museum (Washington), the winning canopy design reimagines the museum's entry sequence, while the gallery expansion transforms an opaque fine art building into a welcoming and transparent community landmark that engages context.

Bellevue Botanical Garden (Washington) demonstrates how collaboration can unify fragmented gardens into a cultural hub anchored by a visitor center. Clear circulation immerses visitors in the garden, balancing distinctive identities with a shared sense of place.

Leschi Inventor's House (Washington) reflects how close collaboration with a client can redefine the home typology. Designed for a thermodynamic engineer, the hybrid laboratory-home adapts over time to meet evolving needs.

Site

Central to Kevin's approach is a deep understanding of a site's possibilities and inherent determinants. He believes architecture is most transformative when it responds directly to the land, climate, and layered histories. By observing and responding to these conditions, Kevin ensures that each building emerges from the site rather than imposing upon it.

His projects integrate measurable performance strategies that are tested and calibrated for the most effective site-specific response. These strategies capitalize on environmental opportunities such as site restoration, reduced operational energy, and enhanced user comfort, highlighting how contextual design can achieve both experiential richness and measurable performance.

Leach Botanical Garden (Oregon), winner of the AIA National Small Project Award and World Architecture News Gold Award, transforms an educational garden into a restorative community space, with a pavilion, immersive tree walk, and sustainable materials underscoring inclusivity and connection to nature.

Woodway Residence (Washington), winner of the AIA Northwest and Pacific Region Design Awards, exemplifies environmental sensitivity by restoring the meadow and using floating planes to bridge forest and meadow. The design balances communal gathering with private retreats, reflecting the family's cultural values and enduring respect for place.

Simply Shenandoah (Virginia) reveals how a wellness retreat can restore both nature and individual well-being. Guided by the Framework for Design Excellence, the design prioritizes forest regeneration, car-free access, and locally sourced materials, placing environmental stewardship at the center of the guest experience.

Culture and Craft

Kevin's work is rooted in both the physical and non-physical dimensions of place. In addition to responding to the site, his designs elevate cultural memory and local craft, carrying the Pacific Northwest's ethos of craft and materiality into a global context. By partnering with local craftspeople and builders on materiality and construction methods, his architecture expresses culture through a powerful and tactile experience. This synthesis of tradition and memory with contemporary design creates layered architecture that immerses users in a place and deepens connections to it.

Costa Rica Treehouse (Costa Rica), winner of the AIA National Small Project and Housing Awards, reveals how carbon-positive design can be regenerative. Built with local materials, passive strategies, and close collaboration with local builders, the project is rooted in cultural identity while modeling universal practices for sustainable living.

Innis Arden Forest House (Washington) reimagines a midcentury home as a retreat, applying Pacific Northwest craft traditions to layer the existing architecture with new interventions. By extending the building's lifespan, it shows how a renovation can be both sustainable and feel fresh.

Professional and Public Impact

Kevin's influence spans academia, professional practice, and public dialogue, showing how collaboration, cultural sensitivity, and environmental stewardship can shape the future of the profession. He connects theory with practice through longstanding partnerships with the American Institute of Architects (AIA), universities, and community organizations. As a featured speaker at AIA national and regional events, such as "When Change Means Going International" at the AIA National Convention, "Driven by Context: Site, Craft, and Collaboration" at AIA Kansas, and "Design Talks" at AIA Austin, Kevin has become a leading voice for contextual and globally engaged design.

Other talks, including "Outdoor Allure" at San Francisco Design Week, "Please Do Not Touch the Architecture" at the University of Illinois, "Fall into Art" at the Seattle Art Museum, and "Immersive Design: The Intersection of Site, Craft, and Collaboration" at the CAPLA School at the University of Arizona, highlight his commitment to expanding architecture as a participatory, sensory, and cultural practice. Beyond conferences, his frequent appearances on design-focused podcasts, such as *Design:ED*, *Another Architecture Podcast*, and *From the Ground Up* make his ideas widely accessible, influencing architects, clients, students, and the public.



Kevin Kudo-King AIA, LEED AP

PRINCIPAL / OWNER

Education

University of Arizona, 1989-1995, Bachelor of Architecture

Professional Experience

Olson Kundig, 1996-Present
1996 Intern
1997-2004 Architectural Staff
2004-2010 Associate
2010-2015 Principal
2015-Present Principal / Owner

Registrations

2003
Washington · No. 8472

2019
Hawaii · No. AR-18625

2020
California · No. C-38685
New Mexico · No. 6112
Oregon · No. ARI-13037
Connecticut · No. ARI.14658
Maine · No. ARC5020
Utah · No. 11893303-0301
Arizona · No. 72079
North Carolina · No. 15311
Idaho · No. AR-986896
Kansas · No. 7480

2021
Wyoming · No. C-3484

2022
Minnesota · No. 59994
South Carolina · No. 11062
Michigan · No. 1301072012
Montana · No. ARC-ARC-LIC-24399
Texas · No. 30528
Virginia · No. 0401019967

2023
Wisconsin · No. 13896-5
New York · No. 045581

2024
Pennsylvania · No. RA410607
Illinois · No. 001.026765

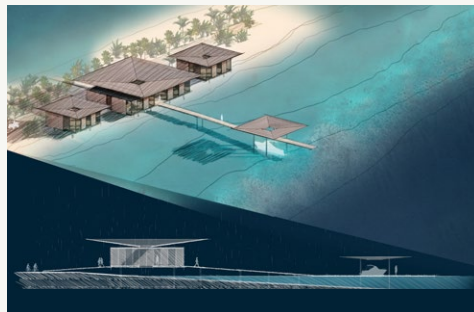


Board Service & Membership

Artist Trust, Vice President
US Artists
Van Alen International Council

Significant Work

2025



Raffles Estera East Cape Resort & Residences

Los Cabos, Mexico

Project Role: Co-Design Principal

The resort is shaped by the convergence of four distinct ecologies—sea, mountain, desert, and estuary. **Kevin draws on his experience with arid landscapes to craft a minimal architecture that is embedded in the site. His close collaboration with local craftspeople and builders express Mexico's cultural richness through refined, local materials.** These choices root the resort in its context while enhancing durability and material efficiency. The landscape extends this strategy by using native plantings that conserve water, reduce maintenance, and transform the site seasonally, reinforcing the architecture's dialogue with its surroundings.

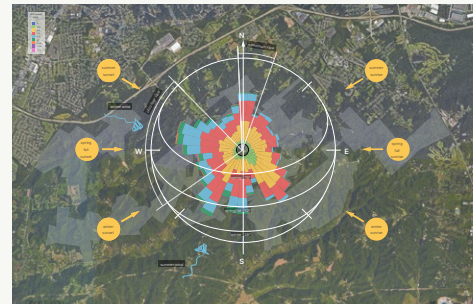
Project Status: In Progress, Schematic Design

Rosewood Maldives

Project Role: Design Principal

The resort frames the natural phenomena of the Maldives and deepens visitors' connection to place. **Kevin is leading the masterplan and designing the arrival building, restaurant, and guest rooms. Responding to the tropical climate, the design emphasizes strong proportions to connect with the horizon, deep overhangs for shading, and cross-ventilation to cool interiors and protect against monsoons. He is collaborating with local builders to incorporate regional building traditions, from carved stone structures to naturally weathering tropical woods.**

Project Status: In Progress, Under Construction



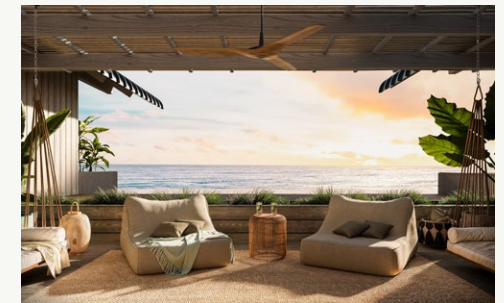
Jefferson Memorial Forest

Project Role: Design Principal

A 7,000-acre nature sanctuary and veteran memorial, the forest is an ecological resource that functions as both a national and regional community hub. **Kevin is designing the architecture and collaborating with MKSK, Biohabitats, and others on a masterplan to restore the impacted landscape, expand environmental education, and model long-term resilience.**

Through environmental research, workshops, stakeholder meetings, and focus groups, Kevin is addressing challenges of connectivity, programming, and ecological health. His design strategy strengthens spatial, functional, and operational performance, while ongoing conversations with public and tourism leaders shapes opportunities for economic growth and a stronger community identity.

Project Status: In Progress, Concept Design



Six Senses Grand Bahama

Project Role: Co-Design Principal

The branded residences, including 10 beachfront and 18 canal-front homes, respond to the island's fragile coast by elevating structures above the dunes. **Kevin's design lifts the structures and orients them toward the view to promote cross-ventilation and create a spatial journey through the landscape and to the ocean horizon. Curved roofs are in dialogue with the waves and dunes, while wood cladding and other sustainable materials weather naturally, reducing maintenance and blending with the landscape.** Interior spaces extend outward to shaded terraces, dissolving boundaries between architecture and nature.

Project Status: In Progress, Design Development

Significant Work

2025

Exhibit 3.7



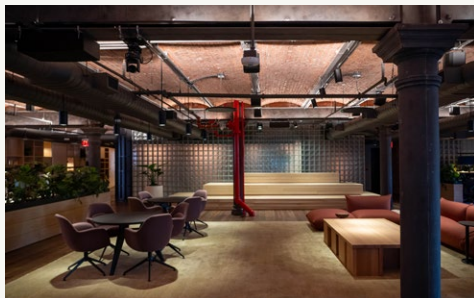
Simply Shenandoah

Shenandoah Valley, Virginia, USA

Project Role: Design Principal (spa, guest accommodations, back-of-house facilities and fitness center buildings)

See Exhibit 3.7

Project Status: In Progress, Construction starts November 2025



Quadrature

New York, New York, USA

Project Role: Design Principal

A technology office located in the historic Puck building in New York City. **Kevin's approach removed later additions that concealed the building's original materiality and introduced clear insertions that float away from the existing architecture while complementing it.** The office's circulation balances shared meeting and amenity spaces with well-equipped workstations, unified by a central glass block luminary.

Project Status: Complete

2024

Exhibit 3.6



Innis Arden Forest House

Seattle, Washington, USA

Project Role: Design Principal

See Exhibit 3.6

Project Status: Complete

2023



The Houses at 8899 Beverly

West Hollywood, California, USA

Project Role: Co-Design Principal

This collection of townhomes mediates between a transformed residential tower and the surrounding Los Angeles neighborhood, bridging shifts in scale and character. **Kevin emphasized human scale and materiality, with each residence using a distinct combination of materials to express individuality while remaining connected to the neighborhood context. Layered landscaping enhances privacy for residents and enriches the pedestrian experience.**

Project Status: Complete

Significant Work

2021



Costa Rica Retreat

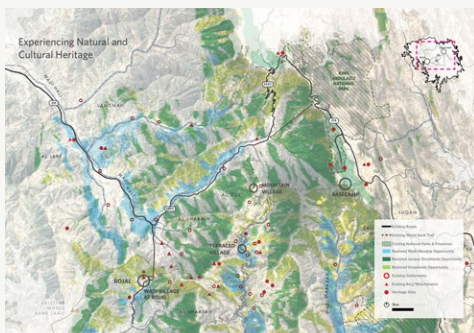
Nicoya Peninsula, Costa Rica

Project Role: Design Principal

Set on a 2.5-acre site along Costa Rica's Nicoya Peninsula, this surf retreat extends the beachfront jungle into the built environment. **Kevin carefully sited the architecture to weave between existing trees, preserving canopy cover and designing decks and roofs around them. Elevated structures minimize impact to the site while a system of dry riverbeds captures and manages heavy stormwater. He collaborated with craftspeople to reinterpret the regional vernacular in a contemporary way.**

Project Status: Complete

2020



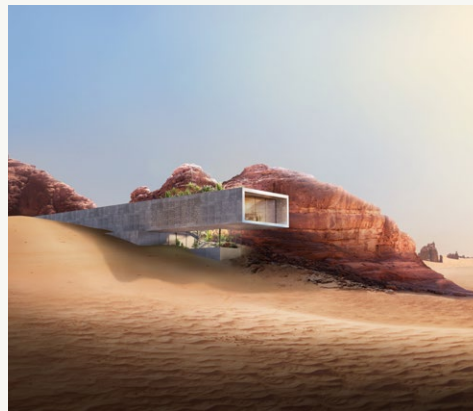
Soudah Masterplan

Al Soudah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Project Role: Design Principal

Located among the highest peaks of Saudi Arabia's Asir Region, the Soudah masterplan uses simple architectural forms and natural materiality to reveal the land's colorful nuances. **Kevin led the architectural design, focusing on improving the historic villages, introducing new destinations, and creating points of connection between existing and new structures.**

Project Status: Complete



Sharaan Desert Resort Competition

Al-Ula, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Project Role: Co-Design Principal

Set within Saudi Arabia's Sharaan Nature Reserve, the resort is carved into desert cliffs to frame and protect a central sand-filled void. **Kevin's design embeds architecture within and across the rock formations, creating layered vantage points that immerse visitors in the canyon's scale. Rather than replicating the desert's tones and textures, Kevin created a deliberate contrast that heightens awareness of both built and natural forms.** Building massing leverages the stone's thermal mass for passive cooling, shading, and natural ventilation, reducing reliance on mechanical systems.

Project Status: Complete



Leach Botanical Garden

Portland, Oregon, USA

Project Role: Design Principal

See Exhibit 3.1

Project Status: Complete

Significant Work

2019

Exhibit 3.2



Woodway Residence
Woodway, Washington, USA

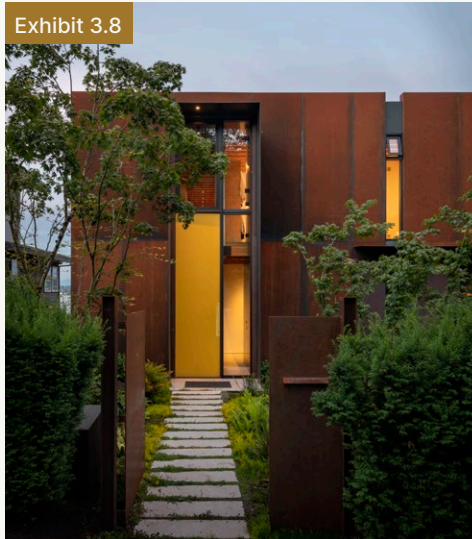
Project Role: Design Principal

See Exhibit 3.2

Project Status: Complete

2018

Exhibit 3.8

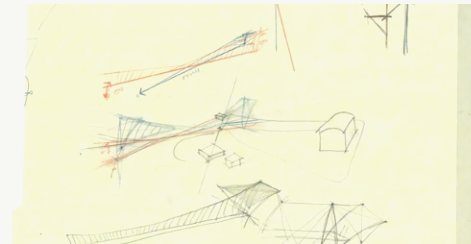
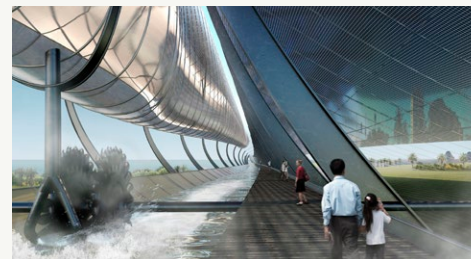


Leschi Inventor's House
Seattle, Washington, USA

Project Role: Design Principal

See Exhibit 3.8

Project Status: Complete



Night & Day: St. Kilda Hydro-Solar Generator Competition
Melbourne, Australia

Project Role: Design Principal

Land Art Generator Initiative, 2nd Place

This large-scale energy generator proposes a new model for renewable storage in coastal cities. **Kevin designed this inhabitable, kinetic hydro-solar system to produce clean electricity while addressing renewable storage challenges. During the day, solar energy pumps water into the hydro battery storage vessel, and at night, water is released through a turbine, turning kinetic energy into electricity.** Functioning as a bridge and public art, it makes the mechanics of renewable energy visible and experiential.

Project Status: Complete

2017

Exhibit 3.5



Costa Rica Treehouse
Santa Teresa, Costa Rica

Project Role: Principal

See Exhibit 3.5

Project Status: Complete

Significant Work

2016



Villa Lucca

Tai Po Town, Hong Kong

Project Role: Design Principal

This hilltop residential community in Hong Kong addresses housing density through a mix of fourteen five-story apartment blocks, forty single-family townhomes, and shared amenities. **Kevin's design balances compact living with direct access to nature. Cantilevered roof planes and trellises temper the subtropical climate, while movable screens and sliding panels allow residents to calibrate daylight, privacy, and function with precision.**

Expansive glazing and outdoor terraces blur the threshold between indoors and outdoors, while shaded interiors and cross-ventilation minimize reliance on mechanical systems. Across both flats and houses, flexible living environments respond to the rhythms of the climate and landscape.

Project Status: Complete



Taiwan Villas

Taipei, Taiwan

Project Role: Co-Design Principal

Set in the tree-covered mountains of Taipei's New Town district, this development features homes designed by five architects. **Kevin designed three homes, each conceived as a peaceful retreat that balances privacy with views of the city and mountain landscape. The varied topography, comprising a mixture of flat and sloped sites, led Kevin to respond with diverse architectural expressions, including tall interior volumes to enhance the sense of scale.**

Organized over four levels, the homes move from service spaces at the base, to family living, formal entertaining, and finally private retreats above. Large windows and infinity-edge pools blur the boundary between architecture and terrain, while terraces enable cross-ventilation and extend living spaces into nature.

Project Status: Complete

2015



JW Marriott Los Cabos Beach Resort & Spa

San Jose del Cabo, Mexico

Project Role: Principal

This Mexico resort blends architecture and art with the desert landscape and Pacific Ocean. Architectural rhythm and proportion mediate the scale of the 561,000-square-foot property. The arrival hall frames the horizon, establishing an immediate ocean connection, while a network of intuitive pathways guides guests through a sequence of discovery.

Kevin led the design of the open-air lobby, spa, and guest rooms, working closely with local builders to craft structures from local concrete and sand-colored stucco, embedding the resort within its desert context. Local soil aggregates and native planting further reinforce the sense of place.

Project Status: Complete

2014



An Urban Residence

Mumbai, India

Project Role: Principal

Set in a historic district of Mumbai, the home reinterprets traditional Indian architecture—jalousie windows to stone screens and cladding—through contemporary craft. **Kevin designed the home's circulation to enhance cross-ventilation and developed the light well to bring daylight into the interior. He also collaborated with craftspeople to ensure the façade reflects the neighborhood's vernacular.**

Project Status: Unbuilt

Significant Work

2014



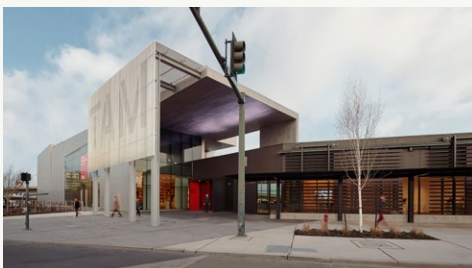
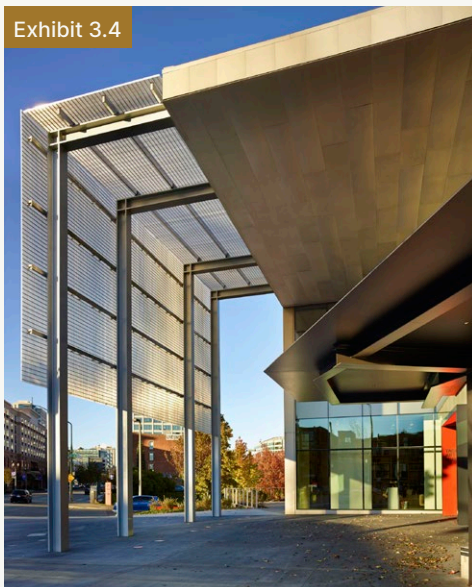
Bellevue Botanical Garden

Bellevue, Washington, USA

Project Role: Co-Design Principal

See Exhibit 3.3

Project Status: Complete



Tacoma Art Museum Haub Galleries Expansion

Tacoma, Washington, USA

Project Role: Principal

See Exhibit 3.4

Project Status: Complete

2011



Tacoma Art Museum Plaza Design Competition

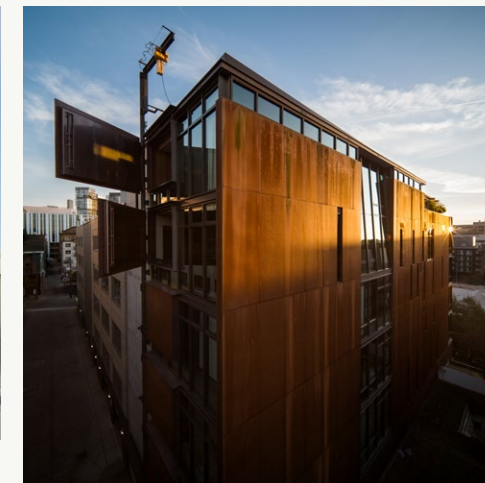
Tacoma, Washington, USA

Project Role: Design Principal

See Exhibit 3.4

Project Status: Complete

2010



Art Stable

Seattle, Washington, USA

Project Role: Project Manager (Construction Documents and CCA)

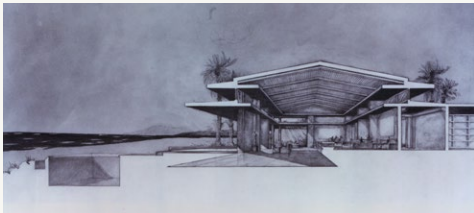
This urban infill project in a rapidly developing Seattle neighborhood reimagines the site of a former horse stable as a seven-story mixed-use building with flexible live/work units. Both street and alley elevations are activated, with the alley-facing façade featuring an 80-foot, 5-inch-tall hinge, a davit crane, and five steel-clad, hand-cranked doors that span nearly a third of the building. Referencing the area's warehousing tradition, the system allows oversized objects to be moved directly into the building.

Kevin worked with the City of Seattle to secure approval for the hinge, then collaborated with the client, developers, and fabricators to refine its unusual design and ensure it met the diverse needs of future tenants. Interior spaces were designed with long-term flexibility to accommodate changing uses and evolving patterns of urban life.

Project Status: Complete

Significant Work

2003



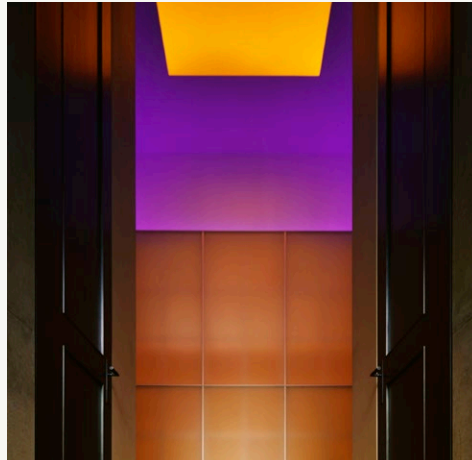
Ocean House
Big Island, Hawaii, USA

Project Role: Project Manager

Set on a lava promontory overlooking the Pacific, this Hawaii residence draws inspiration from traditional Balinese temples while embracing contemporary tropical design. **Kevin's approach employed time-honored strategies, such as broad roof overhangs to shield interiors from direct sun and sliding window walls to open the home to prevailing breezes, reducing the need for mechanical cooling. Shutters, screens, and operable doors provide layers of environmental control, allowing residents to fine-tune temperature, light, and privacy.**

Project Status: Complete

1999



House of Light
Bellevue, Washington, USA

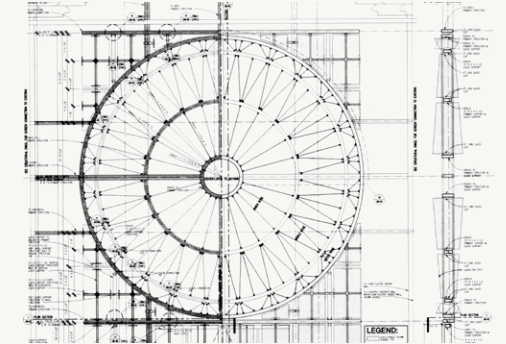
Project Role: Project Manager

A Washington home conceived as a dialogue between landscape, light, and art. The architecture is integrated within the site through a vegetated roof of buffalo grass and trellises of hanging vines. At its core, a two-story, top-lit gallery forms the home's spine, with major artworks installed both here and in adjoining rooms.

Kevin led the architecture team, emphasizing permeability through indoor-outdoor connections framed by glazing and a slatted metal canopy that filters sunlight to protect the art. He also served as the lead architect for James Turrell's site-specific Skyspace installation at the east end of the gallery.

Project Status: Complete

1997/2018



St. Mark's Cathedral Expansion & Renovation
Seattle, Washington, USA

*Project Role: Co-Design Principal (Phase 2);
Architectural Staff (Phase 1)*

Located in Seattle's Capitol Hill neighborhood, the church has undergone a series of remodels to establish a more permanent and welcoming identity. **In the 1997 remodel, Kevin applied his steel fabrication skills to lead the detailing of the kinetic glass altar screen (reredos), collaborating with glass artist Ed Carpenter and steel fabricators to ensure its technical precision. In the 2018 remodel, he facilitated conversations with the congregation and church leaders to guide the design of the entry terrace and a new elevator, making St. Mark's fully accessible to all.**

Project Status: Complete



Desert House
Rancho Mirage, California, USA

Project Role: Project Architect

Perched on a ridge above an arroyo near Palm Springs, this home revives the freshness of 1950s modernism. **Kevin's site analysis guided a passive design strategy, using solidity and mass—traditional desert construction concepts—to mitigate summer heat and harsh light. He placed windows under large eaves or in deeply recessed openings to limit summer sun while allowing winter light into the interior. Native plantings create a seamless transition between the site and desert landscape.**

Project Status: Complete

Awards, Honors, and Recognition

Art Stable

- AIA** AIA National Honor Awards for Architecture, Honor Award, 2013
- Architizer A+ Popular Choice Awards, Finalist, Residential Mid Rise (5-15 floors), 2013
- European Centre and Chicago Athenaeum International Architecture Awards, International Architecture Award, 2012
- AIA** AIA National Housing Awards, Housing Award, 2011
- AIA** AIA Northwest and Pacific Region Honor Awards, Honor Award, 2011
- AIA** AIA Seattle Honor Awards, Honor Award, 2011
- Residential Architect Design Awards, Project of the Year, 2011

Art Stable Hinge

- AIA** AIA Seattle Honor Award, Citation, 2010

Bilgola Beach House

- World Interiors News Awards, Gold Medal, One-Off Homes—Large & Small Category, 2022
- Master Builders Association of NSW Excellence in Housing Awards, Winner (Contract Houses, \$9 Million - \$10 Million), 2022

Costa Rica Treehouse [Exhibit 3.5](#)

- AIA** AIA National Small Project Award, 2023
- AIA** AIA National Housing Award, 2022
- AIA** AIA Northwest & Pacific Region Design Awards, Citation Award, 2021
- Wallpaper** Design Awards, Best New Private House Shortlist, 2020

JW Marriott Los Cabos Beach Resort & Spa

- Glocal Magazine's* Noldi Schreck Awards, Winner, Hotel Gran Turismo, 2017

“This project is inclusive for all people and has forged a strong relationship with the ecosystem. It provides the benefits of well-being to any visitor.”

—AIA Small Project Jury Comment, *Leach Botanical Garden*

Leach Botanical Garden [Exhibit 3.1](#)

- AIA** AIA National Small Project Award, 2024
- AIA** AIA Seattle Honor Awards, Award of Merit, 2024
- World Architecture News Awards, Gold Leisure, 2024
- WASLA Professional Awards, Award of Excellence, 2023

St. Mark's Cathedral Expansion

- AIA** AIA Northwest and Pacific Region Honor Awards, Merit Award, 2000
- AIA** AIA Seattle Honor Awards, AIA Seattle Commendation Award, 1998

Tacoma Art Museum Haub Galleries [Exhibit 3.4](#)

- AIA** AIA Washington Civic Design Awards, Merit Award, 2015

Olson Kundig

- Architectural Digest's* AD100 list, AD100, 1991, 1997, 2007, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025
- Architizer A+ Awards, Best Large Firm, Olson Kundig, 2023, 2025
- Ocean Home Magazine*, Top 50 Coastal Architects, 2016, 2017, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024
- AN Interior*, Top 50 Architects & Designers, 2018, 2020, 2022, 2023
- Architect's Newspaper* Best of Practice Awards,

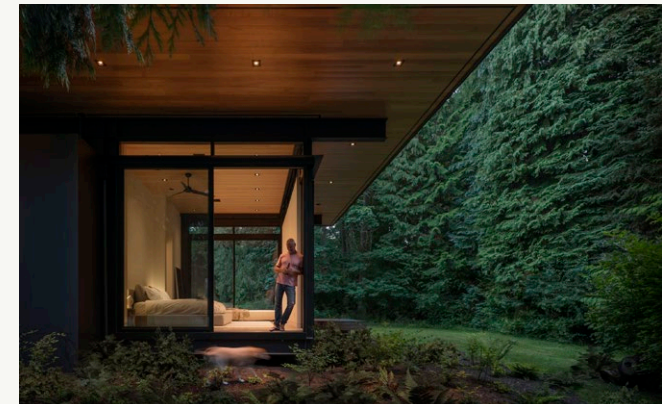
- Honorable Mention, XL West Firm, 2022, 2023
- Mountain Living Magazine*, Top Architects and Designers List, 2021, 2022, 2023
- BUILD Magazine* Design & Build Awards, Leaders in Landscape Design, Washington, 2020
- Fast Company*, Top Ten Most Innovative Companies in Architecture, 2009, 2010, 2019, 2020
- SMPS Seattle Reign Awards, Best Website, 2020
- ARCHITECT Magazine*, Architect 50 List, 2019
- Architectural Record* Top 300 Firms, 2016, 2017
- Architectural Magazine* Architect 50 List, Top 50 in Design (Ranked 24), 2014
- AIA** AIA Architecture Firm Awards, AIA Architecture Firm Award, 2009
- Seattle Homes and Lifestyles Magazine* Seattle 100, 2006

Villa Lucca

- Hong Kong Institute of Architects, HKIA Merit Award of Hong Kong - Residential Building, 2023

Woodway Residence [Exhibit 3.2](#)

- AIA** AIA Northwest & Pacific Region Design Awards, Merit Award, 2021



Publications



Featuring Work By

Publications highlighting work by Kevin

LESCHI INVENTOR'S HOUSE

An Experiment of Living - Leschi Inventor's House by Olson Kundig

The Local Project

April 2023

Sunday Video: The Inventor's Dream House

The Urbanist

May 2023

Inside An Inventor's Dream House with An Experimental Living Space

The Local Project

April 2023

BELLEVUE BOTANICAL GARDEN VISITOR CENTER

Changes Go Way Beyond the Seasonal at the Bellevue Botanical Garden

Crosscut

June 2014

Architectural Drawings: 8 Brilliant Botanical Gardens in Section

Graduate Chic

April 2020

Improvement Plans Underway at Botanical Gardens

Lawn & Landscape

February 2011

Bellevue Botanical Garden Opens New Visitor Center Designed by OKA

Seattle Daily Journal of Commerce

June 2014

"The new center's design merges civic functions with residential scale. The goal was to create intimate, inspirational spaces for exploration and reflection, and blur the boundaries between architecture and nature."

Popular Bellevue Botanical Garden Is at Its Spring Best - and Ready to Grow

The Seattle Times

April 2011

New Attractions Bring More Wow for the Bellevue Botanical Garden

The Seattle Times

June 2013

Garden's Welcome Renewal

The Seattle Times

June 2014

Olson Kundig Architects and Paul Kirk to Make Major Improvements to Bellevue Botanical Garden

World Architecture News

February 2011

"The design of the new Visitor Center defers to nature, blurring the boundaries between architecture and the gardens while creating spaces that allow the institution to meet its varied goals."

LEACH BOTANICAL GARDEN

Leach Botanical Garden: Respecting the Past, Reimagining the Future

Pacific Horticulture

October 2016

"High-efficiency contemporary structures designed by Olson Kundig will feature a variety of sustainable strategies like vegetated roofs and systems for harvesting rainwater and reusing greywater...specifying locally sourced and sustainably harvested timber."

Putting a Garden on the Map

Landscape Architecture Magazine

June 2019

"An exciting vision has emerged from nine months of planning and outreach, and the final plan, approved in November 2015, is an ambitious vision that will guide development for the next 10 to 20 years."

Planting Seeds for the Future

Woodburn Independent
July 2019

"It is exciting after all of the collaboration, hard work, visioning, and hurdles to see implementation of Phase 1 development for the Upper Garden. Perfectly aligned with the new development happening in Southeast Portland, Leach Garden is an exciting opportunity to celebrate the new, reconnect with the past, and provide momentum for the future."

In Portland, a New Landscape at the Leach Botanical Garden

Architects & Artisans
January 2023

"The metal grate walkway and stainless-steel handrails complement these natural surroundings; the handrails will patina and rust over time, further integrating the tree walk with its context."

Botanical Garden Aims to Become Ecological, Cultural Attraction in Portland

The Construction Specifier Online
February 2023

"The Master plan captures ecological and cultural values that will be an asset to Southeast Portland. It will educate visitors while serving as a regional attraction for Portland residents—not to mention the benefits to local tourism."

An Elevated Tree Walk Is Just One Draw Of This Portland Garden

Luxe Interiors + Design Online
July 2023



COSTA RICA TREEHOUSE

This Costa Rican Treehouse Is Built Entirely out of Locally Sourced Teak Wood

A Green Living
May 2019

"Built entirely of locally sourced and sustainable teak wood, the retreat engages with the jungle at each of its three levels: the ground floor opens to the forest floor, the middle level is nestled within the trees, and the top level rises above the tree canopy."

An Olson Kundig Tree House Peeks Over the Treetops in Costa Rica

Dwell
June 2019

"Instead of treating the remote location as an obstacle, Olson Kundig saw the property as an 'ideal opportunity to source local materials and be inventive with solving design challenges.'"

Olson Kundig designs Costa Rica Treehouse to Tread Lightly on the Earth

Seriously Architecture
May 2019

Tree Love
Wallpaper*
May 2019

"Hecht had selected the teak posts four years earlier in a plantation 20 miles away. Olson Kundig chose the best four as central posts and the rest were milled for the other posts in the structure. Meanwhile, the largest beams are of cenizaro wood, a local tree bigger than teak."

Tropical Modernism: Costa Rica's New Elevated Treehouses

ArchDaily
January 2020

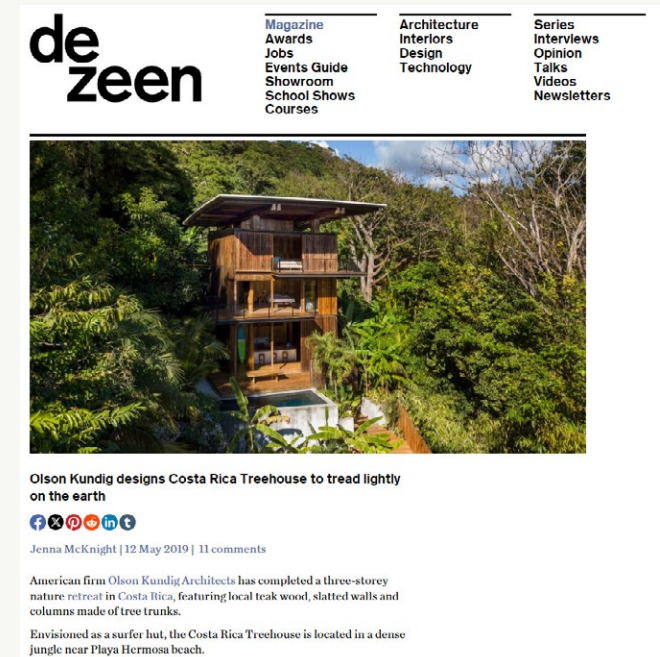
World's Greatest Places Include Revitalized Riverfronts, Affordable Artistic Incubators and Superlative City-States

ArchDaily
September 2021

This Costa Rican Treehouse Is the Stuff of (Sustainable) Dreams

Field Mag
March 2022

"Constructed almost entirely of teak wood sourced from a farm 20 miles away, the architects also relied on wood from the native Samanea saman, or 'rain tree,' for the larger support beams."

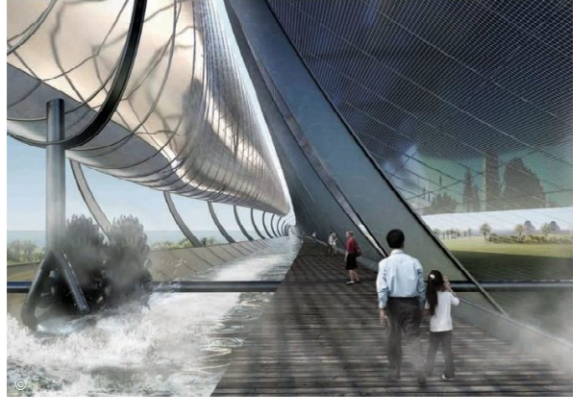


ArchDaily > Architecture News > Olson Kundig's Hydro-Solar Generator Proposal Could Power 200 Melbourne Homes

Olson Kundig's Hydro-Solar Generator Proposal Could Power 200 Melbourne Homes

[f](#) [t](#) [in](#) [e](#) [p](#)

[Save](#)



Written by Niall Patrick Walsh

Published on October 12, 2018

Seattle based Olson Kundig has released details of their second place winner from the 2018 Land Art Generator competition, set in Melbourne, Australia. The "Night & Day" scheme combines solar energy with a hydro battery, generating enough power for 200 Australian homes, 24 hours per day.

The St Kilda-situated infrastructure proposal doubles as an artwork and pedestrian bridge, with a flagship 5,400-square-meter solar sail suspended above the St Kilda Triangle in Port Phillip city. After sunset, further electricity is generated through two turbines capturing the kinetic movement of water released through them.

JW MARRIOTT LOS CABOS BEACH RESORT & SPA

Natural Integration

Architectural Digest Mexico

July 2015

Inspirations Drawn From Local Culture To Design Brand's Newest Resort Property

Luxury Hospitality Daily

July 2015

NIGHT & DAY: ST. KILDA HYDRO-SOLAR GENERATOR

Public Art = Clean Energy

Outdoor Design Source

December 2018

Olson Kundig's Hydro-Solar Generator Proposal Could Power 200 Melbourne Homes

ArchDaily

October 2018

TACOMA ART MUSEUM HAUB GALLERIES

Tacoma Art Museum Will Open Sustainable New Galleries by Olson Kundig in Nov.

BLOUIN ARTINFO

May 2014

New Face on the Block

The Seattle Times

November 2014

Tacoma Art Museum's Haub Family Galleries by Olson Kundig Architects

ARCHITECT

February 2015

Olson Kundig's Tacoma Art Museum Project

Architectural Digest

February 2015

Olson Kundig's Tacoma Art Museum wing has movable screens that 'roll like railroad box cars'

Dezeen

July 2015

"The expansion creates a prominent new entry through the addition of a 30-foot-high canopy and better street presence by opening up the new galleries to the street through large windows. The new wing builds upon Tacoma's rich history, while invigorating its urban connectedness."

New Olson Kundig-Designed Wing Opens at Tacoma Art Museum

Dwell

February 2015

Olson Kundig's Tacoma Art Museum Wing Has Movable Screens That "Roll Like Railroad Box Cars"

Décor 10

July 2015

Olson Kundig merges western history and modern art

The Architect's Newspaper

March 2015

The St Kilda-situated infrastructure proposal doubles as an artwork and pedestrian bridge, with a flagship 5,400-square-meter solar sail suspended above the St Kilda Triangle in Port Phillip city. After sunset, further electricity is generated through two turbines capturing the kinetic movement of water released through them.

7 of the most future forward solar designs on earth

Land Art Generator Initiative

September 2018

Land Art Generator Initiative Shortlist Shows How Renewable Energy Can Also Be Beautiful And Artful

World Architecture Community

August 2018

OCEAN HOUSE

Monumental home on the Hawaiian scenery

Casa Vogue

July 2015

The Spirit of Hawai'i

The Kahala Magazine Vol.9 No.1

2014

Immersed in the Island

Architectural Digest

April 2007

"Inspired by traditional Balinese palaces and temples, this house sits on a beautiful promontory of exposed lava on the island of Hawaii. Tropical design concepts and time-honored building practices were used to fit the house naturally into its setting."

HOUSE OF LIGHT

Architecture: Guiding Light

Veranda

September 2015

The Art House

Town & Country

Summer 2015

DESERT HOUSE

Modernism in the Desert

Home Design & Life Style (hDL)
December 2004

“Natural materials—concrete, stone, stucco, and wood—blend with the earth tones of the surroundings. Broad overhangs provide shade yet allow the winter sun to warm the house, and the mass of the construction moderates the extremes of temperature.”

ST. MARK'S CATHEDRAL EXPANSION AND RENOVATION

Inspiring Architecture: Local Creative Pros on the Northwest Places That Make Them Swoon

425 Magazine online
August 2023

“Since 1997, Olson Kundig has worked with St. Mark's Cathedral to expand, remodel and preserve their church located in Seattle's Capitol Hill neighborhood...The most recent improvements, particularly to the exterior, bring the cathedral to completion, lending a sense of visual unity and cohesion that embodies St. Mark's mission of community service and accessibility.”

THE HOUSES AT 8899 BEVERLY

Craft & Materiality: Luxury Townhouses Redefining West Hollywood Living

memesita
April 2025

“These eight distinct contemporary homes are woven into the fabric of their vibrant West Hollywood neighborhood at the base of the Hollywood Hills. While each one has its own identity—just as the eclectic neighboring houses do—collectively, they are about craft and material expression.”

Olson Kundig's Love Letter To Modern Los Angeles Living

Forbes Online
December 2020

BILGOLA BEACH HOUSE

Immersive and Respectful – Bilgola Beach House by Olson Kundig

The Local Project
October 2021

“Inserted as a series of volumes that embrace the surrounding context, Bilgola Beach House respectfully navigates the lush natural landscape. Olson Kundig applies an attuned and detailed approach to propose a uniquely immersive residential experience.”

Featuring

Interviews with and articles written by Kevin

Kevin Kudo-King - Olson Kundig

Design:ED (podcast)
March 2019

What Would a Farmer Do?

From the Ground Up (podcast)
January 2024

Design Manifestos: Kevin Kudo-King of Olson Kundig

Modelo Blog
September 2016

Radical Thinking

FX Magazine
January 2022

Imagination is the Most Powerful Tool: Kevin Kudo-King '95 B Arch

The Studio / University of Arizona CAPLA
November 2022

If Only

FX Magazine
January 2023

The Allure of Forest Living

Sotheby's Realty
October 2024

How Designers Would Use the New Cooling Ultra-White Paint in Home Design

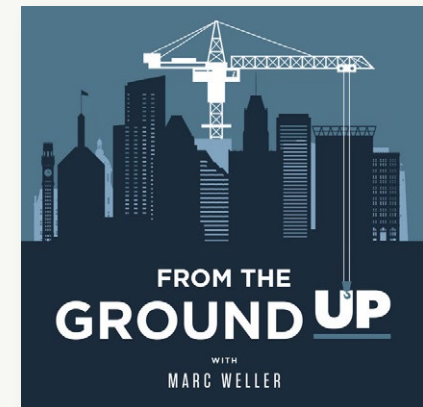
House Beautiful Online
May 2021

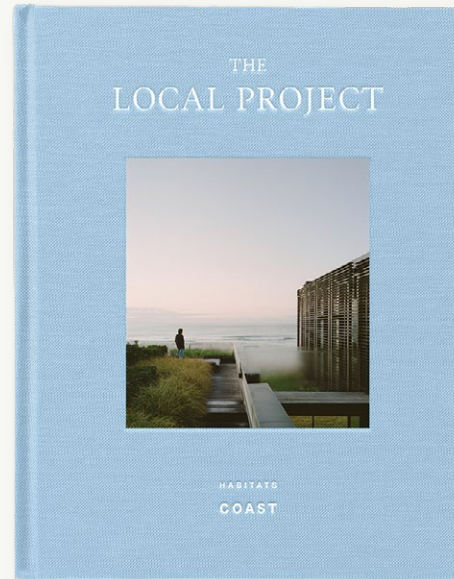
Olson Kundig Tops Best Firm List

Seattle Daily Journal of Commerce
February 2024

The Finalists for the Venice Architecture Biennale Have Been Announced, and Other News – SURFACE

Surface Online
February 2025





Books

Books featuring work by Kevin

Habitats: Coast
Bilgola Beach House
The Local Project
2024

Hidden Architecture
Costa Rica Treehouse
Lanoo Publishers
2022

Tree Houses: Escape to the Canopy
Costa Rica Treehouse
Images Publishing
2021

Living in Nature
Costa Rica Treehouse
Phaidon
2021

Undergraduate Research in Architecture
Night & Day: St. Kilda Hydro-Solar Generator
Routledge
2021

Out of the Woods
Costa Rica Treehouse
Gestalten
2020

Energy Overlays: Land Art Generator Initiative
Night & Day: St. Kilda Hydro-Solar Generator
Hirmer
2018

Modern Tropical: Houses in the Sun
Ocean House
Rizzoli
2018

Modern American Housing
Art Stable
Princeton Architectural Press
2013

Inspired: Churches of Seattle
St. Mark's Cathedral Expansion and Renovation
Documentary Media
2013

The World's Best Beach Houses
Ocean House
Images Publishing Group
2012

21st Century Beach Houses
Ocean House
Images Publishing
2010

Lectures, Teaching, and Juries



AIA & Industry Presentations

AIA Kansas Conference, "Driven by Context: Site, Craft, and Collaboration," 2025

Design Talks: Kevin Kudo-King at Comedor, Lecturer, 2022

San Francisco Design Week / *Luxe Interiors + Design*, "Outdoor Allure," Panelist, 2021

Interior Design Residential Roundtable, Speaker, 2021

Metropolis Think Tank, 2019

LUXE Interiors + Design PNW, "Architects Panel Discussion," Panelist, 2017

IDSA (Industrial Designers Society of America) Design Dialogue Conference, "From Cities to Door Pulls: A Design Process for all Scales (Part 2)," Lecturer, 2015

Van Alen International Council Meeting, Lecturer & Symposium Participant, 2015

Cameron McCallister Design Colloquium, "To Grow or Not to Grow?" Lecturer, 2015

AIA National Convention, "When Change Means Going International," Lecturer, 2014

Universities & Education

University of Arizona, College of Architecture, Planning and Landscape Architecture, Lecturer and Guest Critic, 2025

AIA Potomac Valley / University of Maryland, School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, Lecturer and Guest Critic, 2018

University of Illinois, School of Architecture, Lecturer and Guest Critic, 2018

University of Cincinnati, College of Design, Architecture, Art, and Planning, Lecturer and Guest Critic, 2016

Public & Civic

NEWH (The Network of Executive Women in Hospitality), "Northwest NEWH Urban Hike," Speaker, 2016

Portland Garden Club, Lecturer, 2016

Portland Racquet Club, Lecturer, 2016

St. Mark's Cathedral Living Stones Capital Campaign, "Saint Mark's Episcopal Cathedral," Speaker, 2016

The Authentic Garden Book Launch, "Defining Trends in Landscape Architecture," Moderator, 2015

Arts & Culture

US Artists, Chicago, 2018 Assembly

Gage Academy, Drawing Jam, Panelist, 2017

Seattle Art Museum Fall Fundraiser, "Fall into Art," Speaker, 2017

Western Museum Association, "A New Face Forward: Presenting Museum Expansions, Shifting Identities, and Changing Missions to the Public," Lecturer, 2015

Western Washington University, Lecturer, 2014

Whatcom Museum, Lecturer, 2013

Juries

AIA North Carolina Design Awards, 2025

AIA Long Beach / South Bay Design Awards, 2021

Dwell Housing Awards, 2021

AIA Austin Design Awards, 2019

AIA Potomac Valley Design Awards, 2018

AIA Redwood Empire Design Awards, 2016

Architect Magazine Residential Architect Design Awards, 2016

AIA Winston-Salem Design Awards, 2015

WAN Awards, Concrete in Architecture, 2014

AIA Florida / Caribbean Design Awards, 2010

"Kevin Kudo-King brought exceptional insight and leadership to the 2025 AIA North Carolina Residential Design Awards as our Jury Chair. His perspective from the Pacific Northwest enriched our deliberations, offering fresh eyes on how North Carolina's residential architecture engages with place and community. Kevin's thoughtful approach to evaluating each project—looking beyond aesthetics to consider how architecture can be both restorative and transformative to its users—elevated our conversations and helped us recognize truly outstanding work."

—Gaurav Gupte, AIA, LEED AP
AIA NC 2025 Design Awards Committee Chair

Exhibits List



3.1
Leach Botanical Garden
Portland, Oregon, USA
PROJECT ROLE: DESIGN PRINCIPAL



3.2
Woodway Residence
Woodway, Washington, USA
PROJECT ROLE: DESIGN PRINCIPAL



3.3
**Bellevue Botanical Garden
Visitor Center**
Bellevue, Washington, USA
PROJECT ROLE: CO-DESIGN PRINCIPAL



3.4
**Tacoma Art Museum:
Plaza Design Competition
& Haub Galleries Expansion**
Tacoma, Washington, USA
PROJECT ROLE: DESIGN PRINCIPAL (PHASE 1),
PRINCIPAL (PHASE 2)



3.5
Costa Rica Treehouse
Santa Teresa, Costa Rica
PROJECT ROLE: PRINCIPAL



3.6
Innis Arden Forest House
Seattle, Washington, USA
PROJECT ROLE: DESIGN PRINCIPAL



3.7
Simply Shenandoah
Shenandoah Valley, Virginia, USA
PROJECT ROLE: DESIGN PRINCIPAL



3.8
Leschi Inventor's House
Seattle, Washington, USA
PROJECT ROLE: DESIGN PRINCIPAL



Leach Botanical Garden Portland, Oregon, USA

AIA AIA National Small Project Award Winner

AIA AIA Seattle Honor Awards, Award of Merit Winner

Project Role: Design Principal

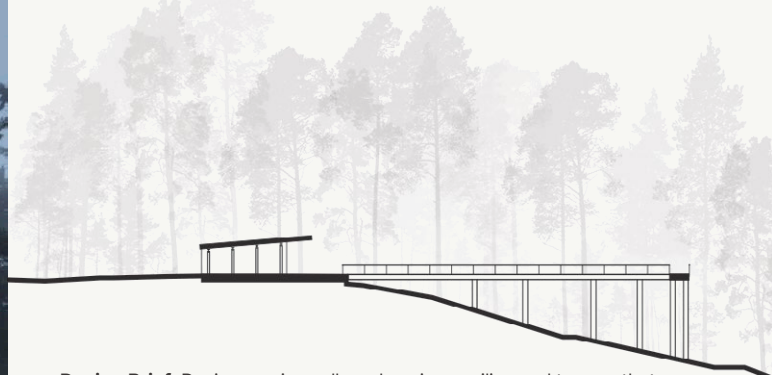
Design Architect/Architect of Record: Olson Kundig; **Landscape and Master Planning:** Land Morphology; **Completion Date:** 2020; **Awards:** AIA National Small Project Award, 2024; AIA Seattle Honor Awards, Award of Merit, 2024; World Architecture News Awards, Gold Leisure, 2024; WASLA Professional Awards, Award of Excellence, 2023; **Publications:** ARCHITECT, Architects & Artisans, Architectural Record, Architectural Record Online, Architizer, Dezeen, Domus Online, Fast Company, Landscape Architecture Magazine, Luxe Interiors + Design Online, Luxe Interiors + Design Pacific Northwest, Oregon Daily Journal of Commerce, Portland Tribune, Seattle Daily Journal of Commerce

“The restraint demonstrated by the design team balances its understanding of the garden’s intent and the architectural elements in a beautiful way.”

—AIA Small Project Jury Comment



Following its 2020 expansion, Leach Botanical Garden welcomed 40,000 visitors in the first year. Attendance has since doubled to ~80,000 annually.



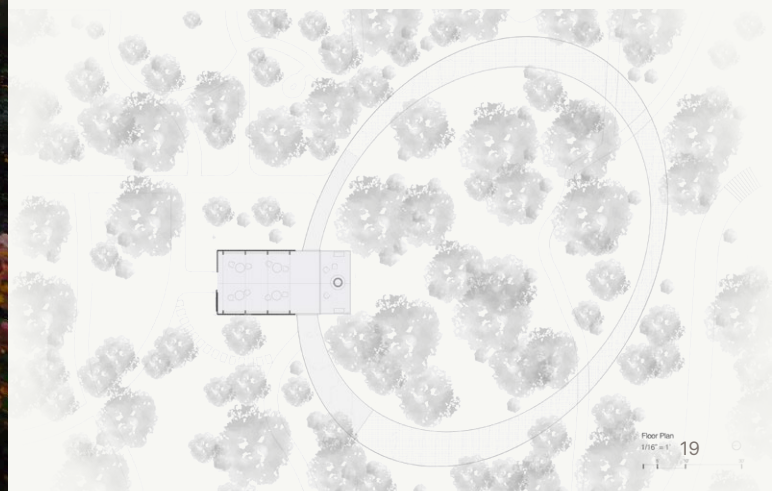
Design Brief: Design a universally welcoming pavilion and terrace that expands the capacity for a multicultural, underserved community and honor founders and botanists John and Lilla Leach.

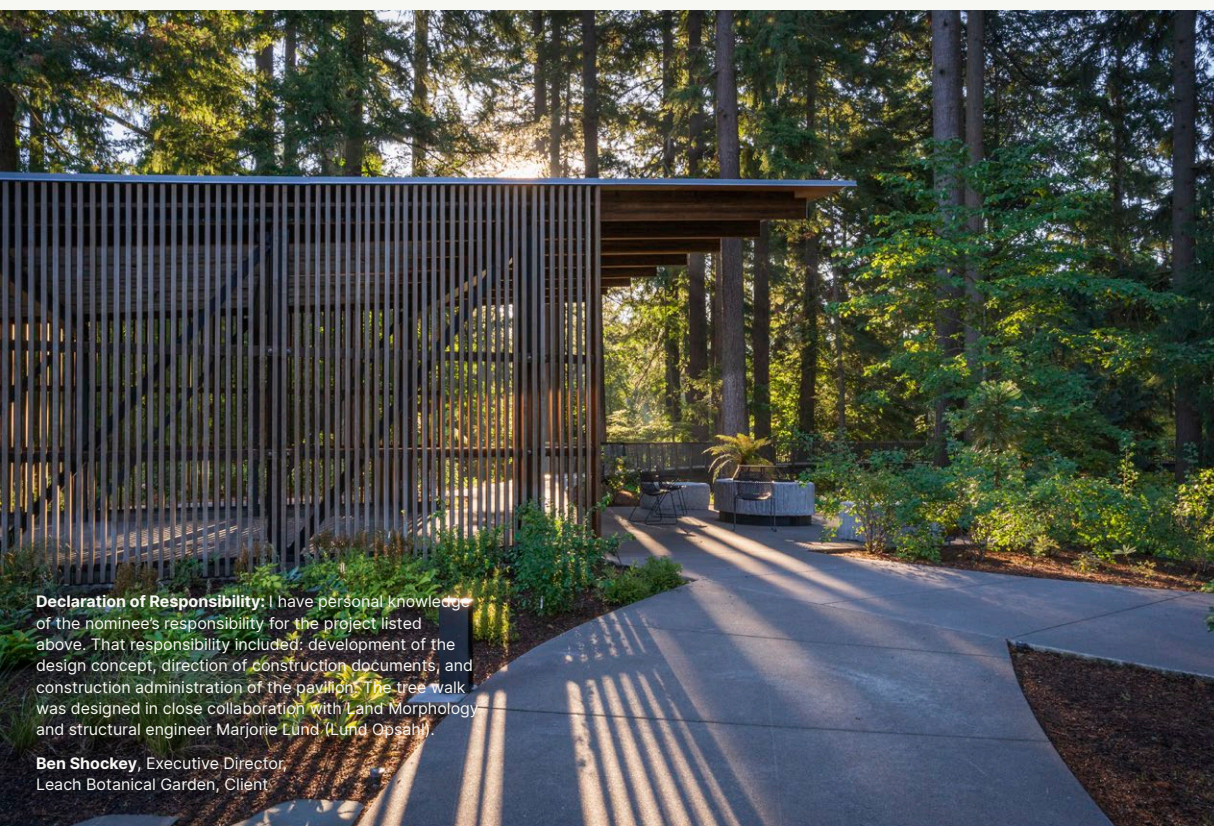
Response: Kevin led the design of the pavilion, terrace, and tree walk for Portland's Leach Botanical Garden. The design goals were to make the botanical gardens accessible, to leverage the restorative experience of nature, and to create a public amenity that deepens engagement with nature.

Kevin's design introduced simple, site-sensitive structures that defer to the forest. The arbor and fireside terrace form a threshold at the beginning and end of the elevated tree walk, heightening awareness of the relationship with nature. Designed in collaboration with Land Morphology and structural engineer Marjorie Lund, the 34-foot-high tree walk offers new vantage points across the gardens and historic forest.

Durable, low-maintenance materials—sustainable Kebony wood, glulam beams, and steel—were chosen for their longevity and ability to weather. The unconditioned pavilion, inspired by lath green houses, provides a simple shelter that extends to a stone terrace and firepit for year-round use. The metal grate walkway and stainless-steel railings of the tree walk enhance transparency and allow light, air, and views to filter through, creating the experience of floating in the tree canopies.

Impact: The design interventions transform the garden into an accessible and contemplative asset for the community to gather, connect with nature, and feel restored. The minimal structure provides shelter and delight, while the selection of durable, sustainable materials and passive design strategies ensures longevity and reduces its environmental impact.





Declaration of Responsibility: I have personal knowledge of the nominee's responsibility for the project listed above. That responsibility included: development of the design concept, direction of construction documents, and construction administration of the pavilion. The tree walk was designed in close collaboration with Land Morphology and structural engineer Marjorie Lund (Lund Opsahl).

Ben Shockley, Executive Director,
Leach Botanical Garden, Client





Woodway Residence

Woodway, Washington, USA

AIA AIA Northwest & Pacific Region Design Award Winner

Project Role: Design Principal

Design Firm / Architecture Firm of Record: Olson Kundig; **Completion Date:** 2019;

Awards: AIA Northwest & Pacific Region Design Awards, Merit Award, 2021;

Publications: *Centurion Magazine*

“The house is both a marker of the seasons and a living monument to the cycles of nature.”

—Jen Renzi, *Centurion Magazine*



Design Brief: The client desired a home that would reinforce daily connections to the surrounding forest and meadow.

Response: Kevin led the design that grounds everyday life in nature by emphasizing seamless indoor-outdoor transitions. The multigenerational home weaves communal gathering areas with spaces for retreat, encouraging connection both within the family and with the landscape.

Built partly within the existing footprint of a fragmented, structurally compromised home that turned away from the site, Kevin's design restored cohesion through a series of planes and volumes that anchor the house at an ecotone, the threshold between forest and meadow.

A circulation spine links the communal main pavilion with the private southern volume. The main pavilion's glazing opens to expansive decks that appear to float above the restored meadow, with deep overhangs providing year-round use. The southern volume continues this vernacular connection, while its bedrooms and a central den underscore the balance between collective life and private retreat.

Impact: The design demonstrates how architects bridge built and natural environments to foster an enduring relationship with nature.



Declaration of Responsibility: I have personal knowledge of the nominee's responsibility for the project listed above. That responsibility included: development of the design concept, direction of construction documents, and construction administration.

Leanne and Brad Inman, Clients





Bellevue Botanical Garden Visitor Center

Bellevue, Washington, USA

Project Role: Co-Design Principal

Design Firm / Architecture Firm of Record: Olson Kundig; **Completion Date:** 2014; **Publications:** AECcave, ArchDaily, Archello, Architects + Artisans, Architizer, Bellevue Reporter, Crosscut, Mooooo, Seattle Daily Journal of Commerce, The Seattle Times, The Seattle Times: Pacific NW Magazine

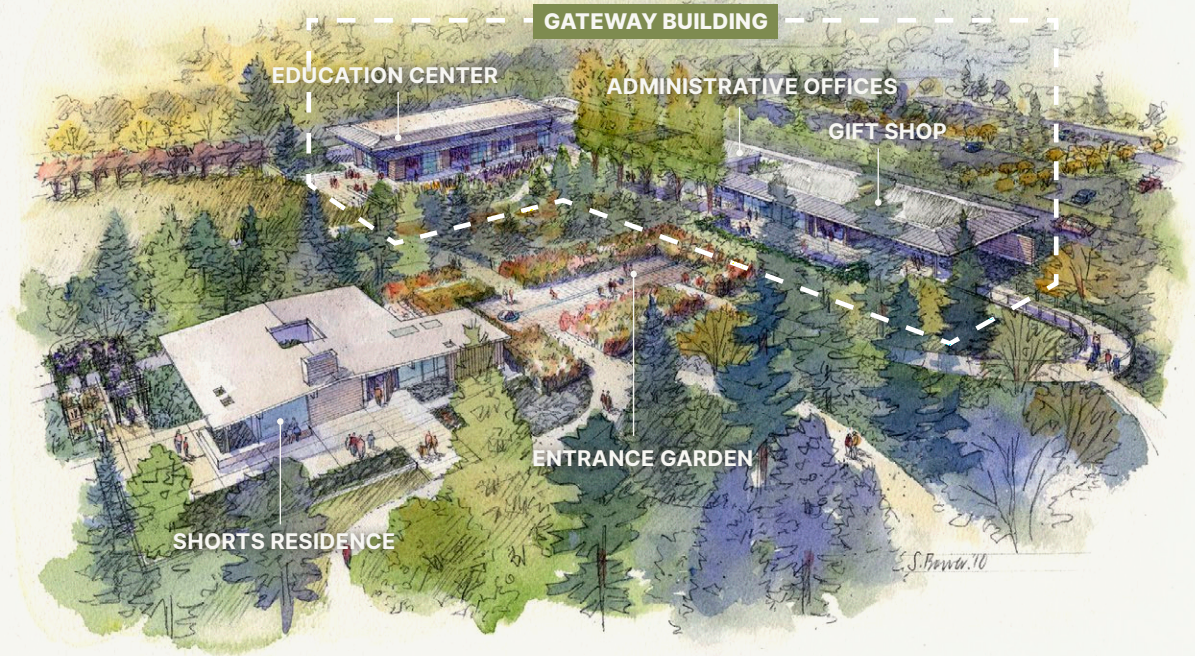
Design Brief: The Bellevue Botanical Garden needed a clear portal to the garden, unification of dispersed exhibits, improved circulation, and an enhanced venue to accommodate increased visitation.

Response: Originally a private home designed by Paul Kirk, the Shorts Residence was donated to the City of Bellevue and gradually evolved into a public garden with many high-quality gardens that were fragmented. Kevin collaborated with Jim Olson, FAIA, on the masterplan and a new visitor center to create a cohesive, accessible experience.

Kevin led and facilitated extensive conversations with the community to develop a design that honors the site's residential history while expanding its current public role. The L-shaped, LEED Gold-certified visitor center establishes a clear point of arrival and organizes circulation into intuitive and connected routes. Two large roofs mediate between the domestic scale of the Shorts Residence and the public scale of the new facilities, which include flexible indoor-outdoor spaces for education classes, tours, and events of varying size.

The Shorts' Residence was restored to become a public residence and repurposed as a community library and gathering space. By integrating the home into the visitor journey, Kevin created a clear architectural framework that connects past and present.

Impact: The garden operates as a cohesive public space that is welcoming, educational, and deeply rooted in its original context. The project illustrates how thoughtful design balances historic preservation with current needs.



Before the 2014 masterplan, Bellevue Botanical Garden averaged 300,000 annual visitors. Since completion, the garden and visitor center now attract over 400,000 each year.



“The new visitor center has been a dream of the city and Bellevue Botanical Garden Society since the City Council set aside 17-acres as a botanical garden in 1989. The nationally-recognized Gardens now encompass 53 acres within Wilburton Park, and this beautiful building culminates many years of planning and hard work.”

—Patrick Foran, Parks & Community Services Director



Declaration of Responsibility: I have personal knowledge of the nominee's responsibility for the exhibit listed above. That responsibility included the co-development of the design concept, site design & urban design, social, sustainability and resiliency considerations, detailing, architectural space, direction of construction documents, and construction administration.

Jim Olson, Principal/Founder, Olson Kundig, Co-Design Principal

Tacoma Art Museum

Tacoma, Washington, USA

AIA AIA Washington Council Civic Design Award Winner

Design Firm / Architecture Firm of Record: Olson Kundig; **Completion Date:** 2011, 2014;

Awards: AIA Washington Civic Design Awards, Merit Award, 2015;

Publications: *Architects + Artisans, The Architect's Newspaper, Architectural Digest, AZURE, Curbed National, Dezeen, Dwell, Frame, VacationIdea*



Phase 1: Plaza Design Competition

Project Role: Design Principal

Design Brief: The museum needed a welcoming, contextually relevant entrance and expansion to better engage potential visitors and Tacoma's urban fabric.

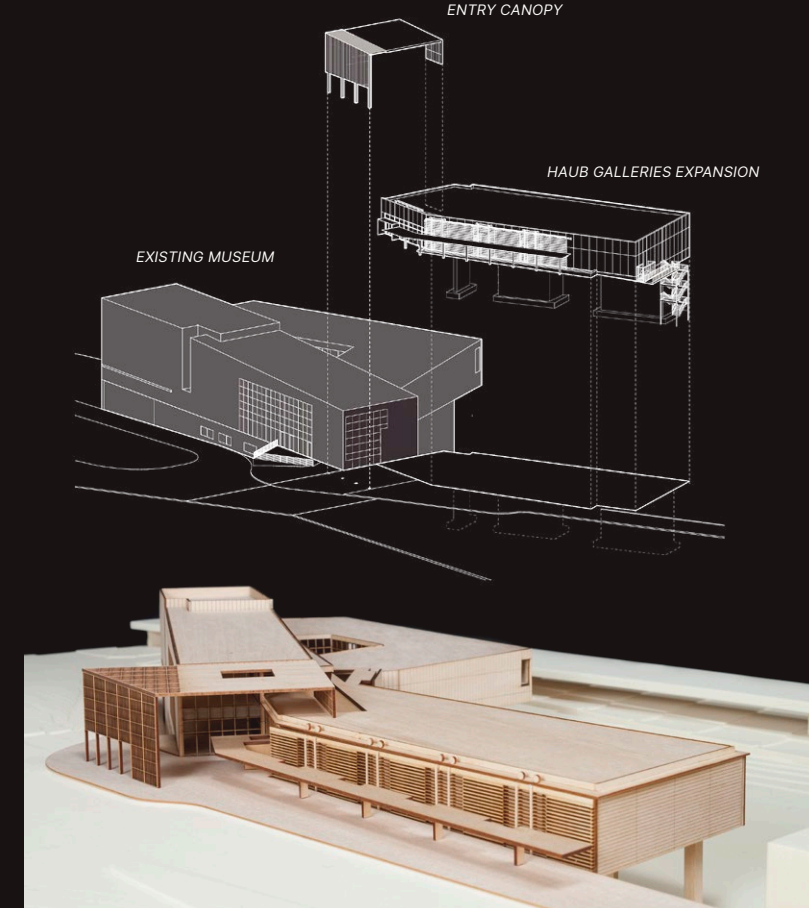
Design Competition Response: Kevin's involvement with the Tacoma Art Museum began with a design competition to activate its entry and plaza, which later evolved to include the Haub Gallery addition. As design lead for the competition, he developed the winning design that reconnected the museum to Tacoma's historic arts district.

The original dark glass façade made the museum appear closed to the public, and its uninviting plaza further isolated it from the city. Kevin introduced a 30-foot-high steel and aluminum canopy that serves as a community beacon—activating the plaza, sheltering a new outdoor gathering space, and establishing a universally accessible museum entry.

Before the 2011 and 2014 interventions, the Tacoma Art Museum's visitor goal was 75,000. **After reopening in 2014 with the new canopy and Haub Gallery, attendance rose to 94,602.**

Declaration of Responsibility: I have personal knowledge of the nominee's responsibility for the project listed above. That responsibility included: development of the design concept for winning competition; co-development of design concept for addition, direction of construction documents, and construction administration.

Stephanie Stebich, Former Director, Tacoma Art Museum, Client

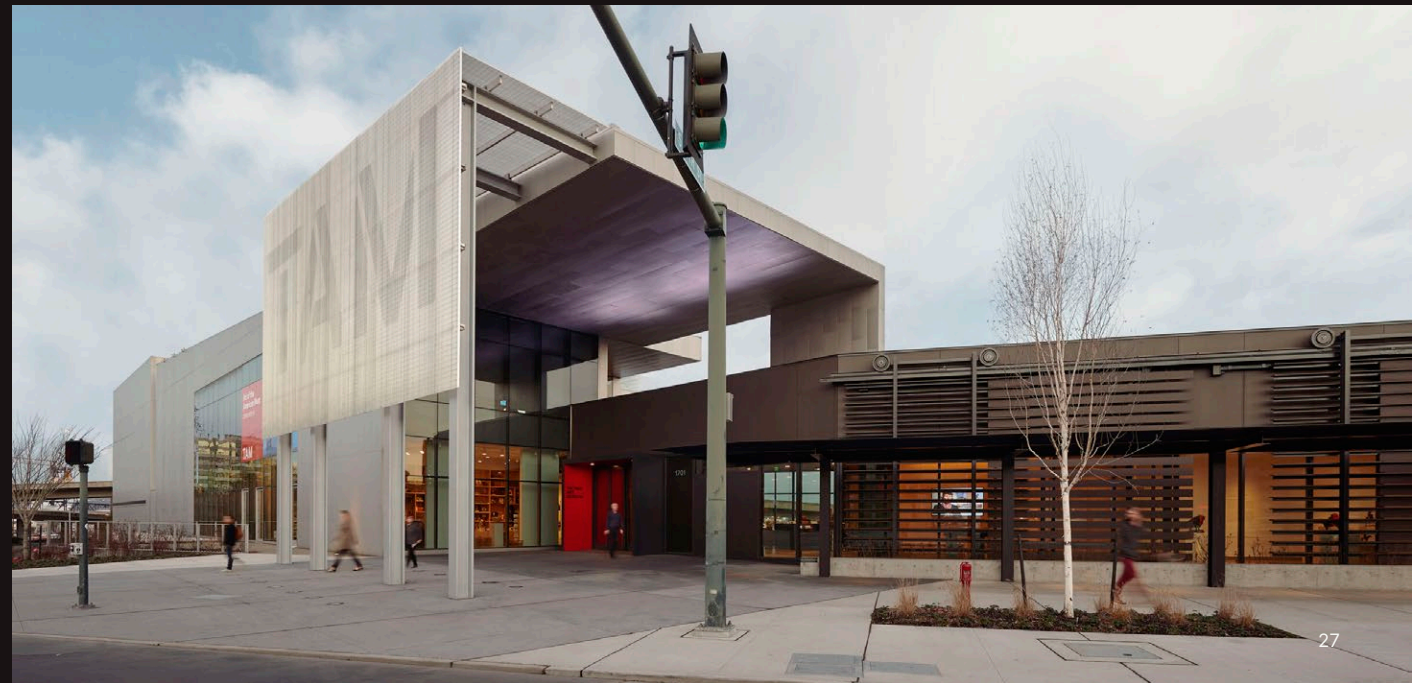


Phase 2: Haub Galleries Expansion

Project Role: Principal

Haub Galleries Expansion Response: The 16,000-square-foot gallery expansion houses the Haub Western Art collection and extends transparency across the façade. In addition to collaborating with Tom Kundig FAIA, RIBA, and Kirsten Ring Murray, FAIA, on a contextually dynamic addition, Kevin also collaborated with craftspeople to develop kinetic screens that animate the façade, control natural light, and reference Tacoma's railroad history. The canopy visually connects new and existing galleries, while the façade makes art available at the street level.

Impact: The project transforms an introverted building that ignores its context into an open, public space that provides the museum with a visible connection to the historic neighborhood. This demonstrates how design activates urban space, connects with local history, and expands community access to art and culture.



“The verticality, and experience of being in the forest canopy along with the monkeys, birds, and squirrels, makes this home an act of experiential learning, giving perspective to things that were only viewable from below.”

—Grey & Nicoya Hecht, Clients

Costa Rica Treehouse

Santa Teresa, Costa Rica

AIA AIA National Small Project Award Winner

AIA AIA National Housing Award Winner

AIA AIA Northwest and Pacific Region Design Award Winner

Project Role: Principal

Design Firm / Architecture Firm of Record: Olson Kundig; **Completion Date:** 2017;
Awards: AIA Small Project Award, 2023; AIA Housing Award, 2022; AIA Northwest and Pacific Region Design Awards, Citation Award, 2022; Wallpaper* Design Awards, Best New Private House Finalist, 2019; **Publications:** AD Magazine (France), AD Mexico y Latinoamerica, AECCafe, Another Architecture Podcast, ArchDaily, Archlovers, Bustler, Conde Nast Traveler, Dezeen, Field Mag, Hospitality Interiors, Interni China, Living in Nature, Seattle Daily Journal of Commerce, The American Institute of Architects, The Architect's Newspaper, Residential Design



Above: 1. Hand planing the wood – 2. Milling the wood – 3. Installing posts harvested from nearby ranch – 4. Joinery detail



Design Brief: Create an open-air, passive home in the jungle with a light carbon footprint. The client's primary goal was for the house to provide minimal shelter and maximize the family's immersion in nature.

Response: Kevin worked closely with Tom Kundig FAIA, RIBA, on this sustainable jungle retreat. In addition to design contributions, Kevin's significant impact on the project was a direct result of the extensive time he spent on-site working with local craftspeople to refine construction details in real-time, deepening the home's connection to place and culture.

Kevin also collaborated with local builders to source regional materials and implement climate-responsive strategies tailored to the site. Teak lumber—an invasive species removed from a former plantation—was repurposed for beams and porous wood screens that allow the family to control daylight, ventilation, and privacy. The largely unconditioned structure minimizes environmental impact through a 3.5-kW photovoltaic array, deep overhangs, constant cross-ventilation, and rainwater harvesting, reducing mechanical reliance while heightening sensory engagement with the climate.

The home's three levels each engage the jungle in distinct ways: the ground floor opens to the forest floor, the middle level nestles among tree trunks, and the top level rises above the canopy with views toward Playa Hermosa Beach.

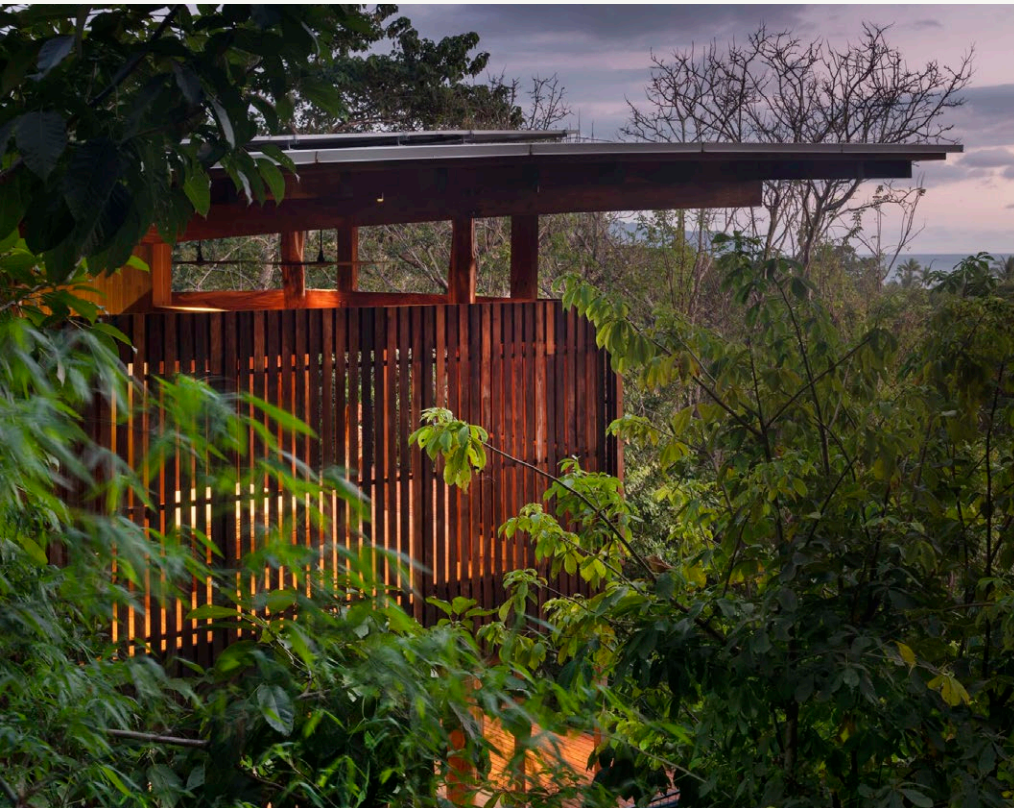
Impact: The project demonstrates how architects harmonize local craft, ecological stewardship, and sustainability. This collaborative approach results in a carbon-positive design that lives lightly within the landscape while deepening daily connection to place.

Taking inspiration from the surrounding jungle, the layers of the Treehouse are similar to those of a forest and perform specific functions such as providing shelter, capturing breezes, and collecting water.

CANOPY

UNDERSTORY

FOREST FLOOR



Declaration of Responsibility: I have personal knowledge of the nominee's responsibility for the exhibit listed above. That responsibility included the co-development of the design concept, site design & urban design, sustainability and resiliency considerations, detailing, direction of construction documents, and construction administration.

Tom Kundig, Principal / Owner & Founder,
Design Principal



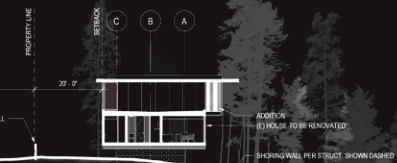
Innis Arden Forest House

Seattle, Washington, USA

Project Role: Design Principal

Design Firm / Architecture Firm of Record: Olson Kundig; Completion Date: 2024





Design Brief: A modern family needed an expansion and renovation of a midcentury home, maintaining and enhancing the existing connection to nature.

Response: Originally designed by architect Stephen Dam in 1952, a major design challenge was the home situated on the edge of a steeply sloping site. Kevin transformed the home into a testing ground for how design can foster wellness, adaptability, and connection to place.

The design restored the slope's native forest and introduced a Japanese-inspired entry garden that mediates between cultivated and wild landscapes. Working largely within the existing envelope, Kevin integrated new wood and glass additions into the post-and-beam structure, removing earlier alterations to reestablish a visual and spatial connection to the forest.

Kevin unified the existing structure with contemporary interventions through materiality, detailing, and tectonic clarity. Collaborating with Pacific Northwest craftspeople, and drawing on its inspiration from Japanese architecture, he strategically placed operable windows, screens, and skylights to allow the family to control daylight, cross ventilation, and their direct connection to nature. Natural materials were chosen for their ability to elegantly weather over time, and coated with pine tar to ensure the home will recede into the restored forest.

Impact: By reinforcing a connection to nature, the architecture creates moments of discovery that restore both the site and the family's well-being. The project illustrates how an architect can be an advocate for revitalizing an existing structure while reducing embodied carbon.





Declaration of Responsibility: I have personal knowledge of the nominee's responsibility for the project listed above. That responsibility included: development of the design concept, direction of construction documents, and construction administration.

Motomi Kudo-King, Senior Associate, Olson Kundig, Client

Simply Shenandoah

Shenandoah Valley, Virginia, USA

Project Role: Design Principal

*For the spa, forest pavilion, guest accommodations,
back-of-house facilities and fitness center buildings*

Design Firm / Architecture Firm of Record: Olson Kundig;

Completion Date: In-Progress, estimated 2026



“Simply Shenandoah reimagines the traditional resort and spa experience. The mission is to provide transformational experiences that blend wellness with nature and promotes individual and professional expansion by activating human and environmental connections.”

—Mike Marburg, Founder



Declaration of Responsibility: I have personal knowledge of the nominee's responsibility for the exhibit listed above. That responsibility included the development of the design concept, sustainability and resiliency considerations for the spa, forest pavilion, guest accommodations, back-of-house facilities and fitness center buildings.

Shane Coen, RLA, FASLA, Landscape Architect and Project Collaborator

Design Brief: The client's vision was to develop an immersive wellness retreat in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley using sustainable design practices. The guest experience centers on the restoration of both the forest and the individual.

Response: This car-free resort places ecological restoration and sustainability at the core of the guest experience. Kevin led the design of the spa, aquatic center, accommodations, fitness center, and back-of-house facilities, working in collaboration with Marlon Blackwell Architects, Coen+Partners, and local consultants.

His design restores the site's ecology through controlled burns, soil regeneration, and a solar microgrid that will power the resort with 100% renewable energy. Buildings are oriented to the existing forest and topography, creating synergy between architecture, landscape, and movement through a network of walking trails and outdoor spaces that support wellness activities. The result is an immersive experience that connects guests to place and promotes holistic healing.

Material strategies deepen this connection. Collaborating with local craftspeople, and inspired by the Pacific Northwest's emphasis on craft, Kevin reinterpreted the region's vernacular of stone, metal, and glass, grounding the architecture in its local context.

Impact: In an effort to restore both the site and individual guests, the design creates an experience rooted in connection, discovery, and renewal. The resort redefines wellness hospitality by embedding architecture within the ecological and cultural fabric of the Shenandoah Valley.





Leschi Inventor's House

Seattle, Washington, USA

Project Role: Design Principal

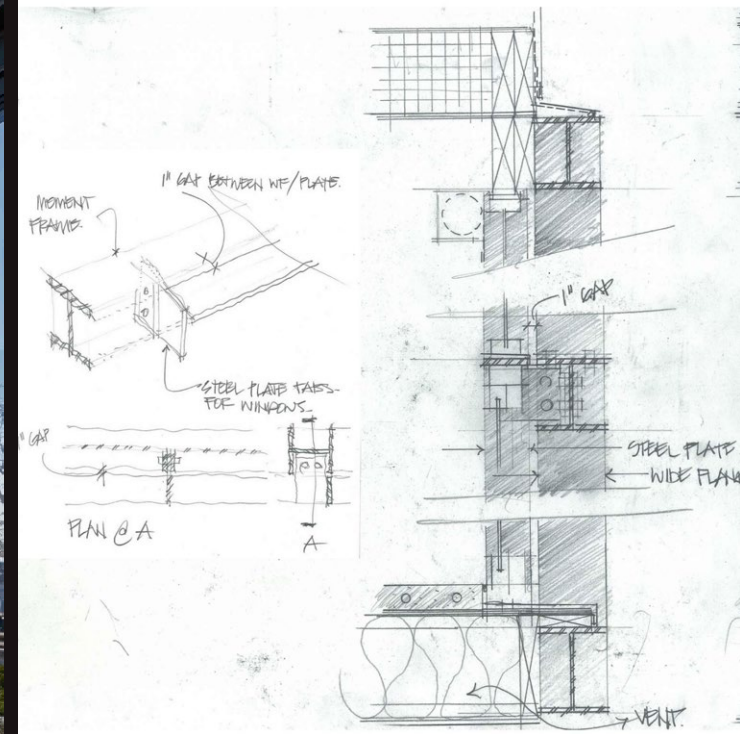
Design Firm / Architecture Firm of Record: Olson Kundig; **Completion Date:** 2018;

Publications: *Architectural Digest Online, Architectural Digest India Online, Dwell+ Online, The Local Project, The Urbanist*

"Seen as an assembly of pieces, Leschi Inventor's House is a display of finessed architecture that responds to the needs of the home's location."

—The Local Project





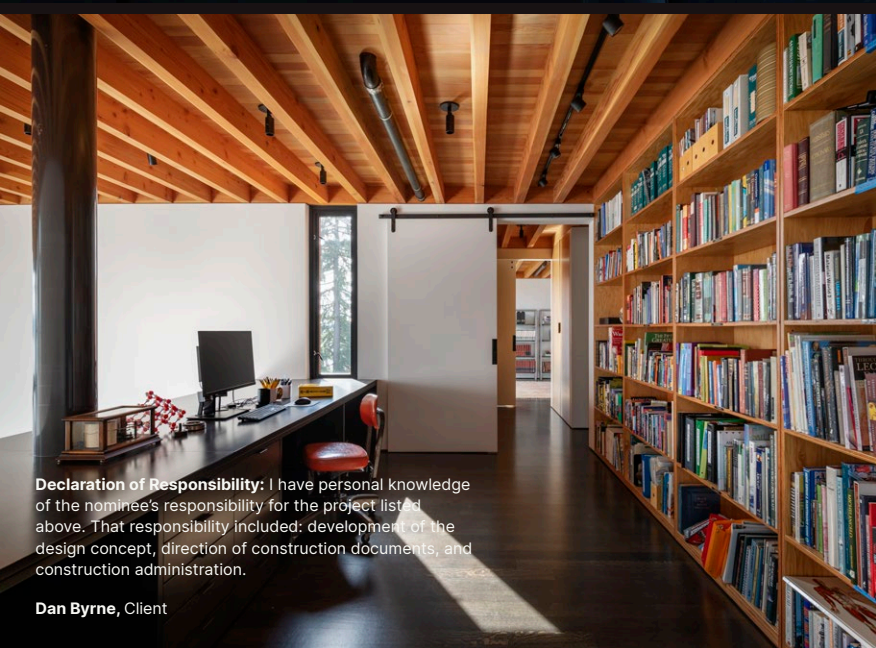
Design Brief: A thermodynamic engineer and inventor needed a house that would function as both a laboratory and home.

Response: Located in a historic Seattle neighborhood, the home embodies adaptability, experimentation, longevity, and evolving with the client's changing needs. Kevin led the design, selecting durable, low-maintenance materials that balance beauty and resilience to create a container for ongoing experimentation.

The interior's concrete, steel, and wood materials establish the home as a functional laboratory, where the kitchen's lab-grade countertops and integrated Bunsen burner coexist with domestic life. Kevin collaborated with the client to design an automated, operable window system that releases heat and enhances cross ventilation. He also exposed the building systems to allow the client to continually tinker and refine them, framing the home as an open-ended experiment rather than a finished object.

The landscape strategy integrates native plants and grasses that bloom and reseed with little to no intervention. The rainwater collection feature is expressed as a rectilinear planter-machine with its inner workings exposed, turning infrastructure into a visible and educational design element.

Impact: The project challenges traditional definitions of home, merging it with a working laboratory to foster innovation. The design reinforces the value of questioning norms and typologies while practicing architecture.



Declaration of Responsibility: I have personal knowledge of the nominee's responsibility for the project listed above. That responsibility included: development of the design concept, direction of construction documents, and construction administration.

Dan Byrne, Client





Reference Letters

Collaborators & Peers

Marlon Blackwell FAIA

Principal

Marlon Blackwell Architects

FAYETTEVILLE, ARKANSAS

Elaine Molinar AIA

Partner, Managing Director

Snøhetta

NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Shane Coen RLA, FASLA

Founder, CEO

Coen Partners

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

John Grable FAIA

Founder

John Grable Architects

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

Wendell Burnette FAIA

Principal

Wendell Burnette Architects

PHOENIX, ARIZONA

Client

Stephanie Stebich

The Margaret & Terry Stent Director
Smithsonian American Art Museum

Former Executive Director
Tacoma Art Museum

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Colleague

Jim Olson FAIA

Principal / Founder

Olson Kundig

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON