2026 AIA Fellowship

Candidate	Sven Shockey
Organization	SmithgGroup
Location	Washington, District of Columbia
Chapter	AIA Washington DC

Category of Nomination

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

Summary Statement

Sven Shockey redefines institutional identity through design that harmonizes building performance with human experience. His workplaces, campuses, and civic landmarks integrate advanced technologies with tectonic artistry, yielding climate responsive environments elevated by enduring architectural excellence.

Education

Virginia Tech, 1990-1996, Master of Architecture
University of Rochester, 1985-1989, Bachelor of Arts in Cognitive Science

Licensed in:

Washington, District of Columbia

Employment

2007-Present, SmithGroup
1998-2007, KCF-SHG/SmithGroup
1994-1998, BSI Design Build

Greg Mella, FAIA 644 Acker Street, NE Washington, DC 20002

October 8, 2025

Mr. Sanford E. Garner, FAIA
Chair, 2026 Jury of Fellows
American Institute of Architects

Re: Fellowship Nomination of Sven Shockey, AIA

Dear Mr. Garner and Selection Committee,

I am honored to nominate Sven Shockey, AIA, for elevation to the College of Fellows in the American Institute of Architects (AIA). Having collaborated with Sven for more than 25 years, I can attest to his exceptional contributions to architecture and his commitment to the AIA's values and mission.

As SmithGroup's former National Director of Sustainability, I worked with Sven on several groundbreaking sustainable designs, including the DC Water Headquarters and the Virginia Tech Innovation Campus. Sven's ability to integrate technological advancement and innovation enhances our profession's dialogue with allied professionals and promotes sustainable design. This translates into Sven's ability to synthesize performance and human experience, using building optimization considerations as design inspiration. He leverages technology, including parametric design and simulation, as vital tools in the early concept design process. Over the course of his career, his work has transformed cities and campuses, celebrating projects' unique qualities that bring pride to owners, users, and the community.

Sven's energy and creativity are crucial to integrating innovative design with urban planning, human factors, educational strategies, and engineering analysis. He shares his enthusiasm through distinguished service to the Washington National Cathedral Buildings and Grounds Committee, as a Trustee of the Federal City Council, and through presentations and conferences including with AIA National and local chapters, and the National Building Museum.

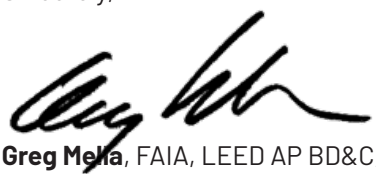
At SmithGroup, Sven has risen to National Design Director and served on the Board of Directors. He leads their firm-wide design culture through process, critique, education, and integration, successfully advancing design quality. He advocates for the digital revolution, exploring new design approaches through computational simulation and research, all with artistic sensibility and dedication to each project's mission.

Sven's impact is evident through 60+ design awards from local and national AIA citations, the American Planning Association, IIDA, USGBC, and the DC Mayor's Award for Historic Preservation as well as in publications such as Architect, Architectural Record, and Metropolis. These awards and publications reflect his broad-based approach to design excellence and consistent high achievement.

Sven is highly regarded by colleagues, peers, and clients as a key member of the design community. Elevation to the College of Fellows is a fitting testament to his accomplishments, intellectual contributions, and creative achievements, bringing an optimistic and energetic view of the future to our profession.

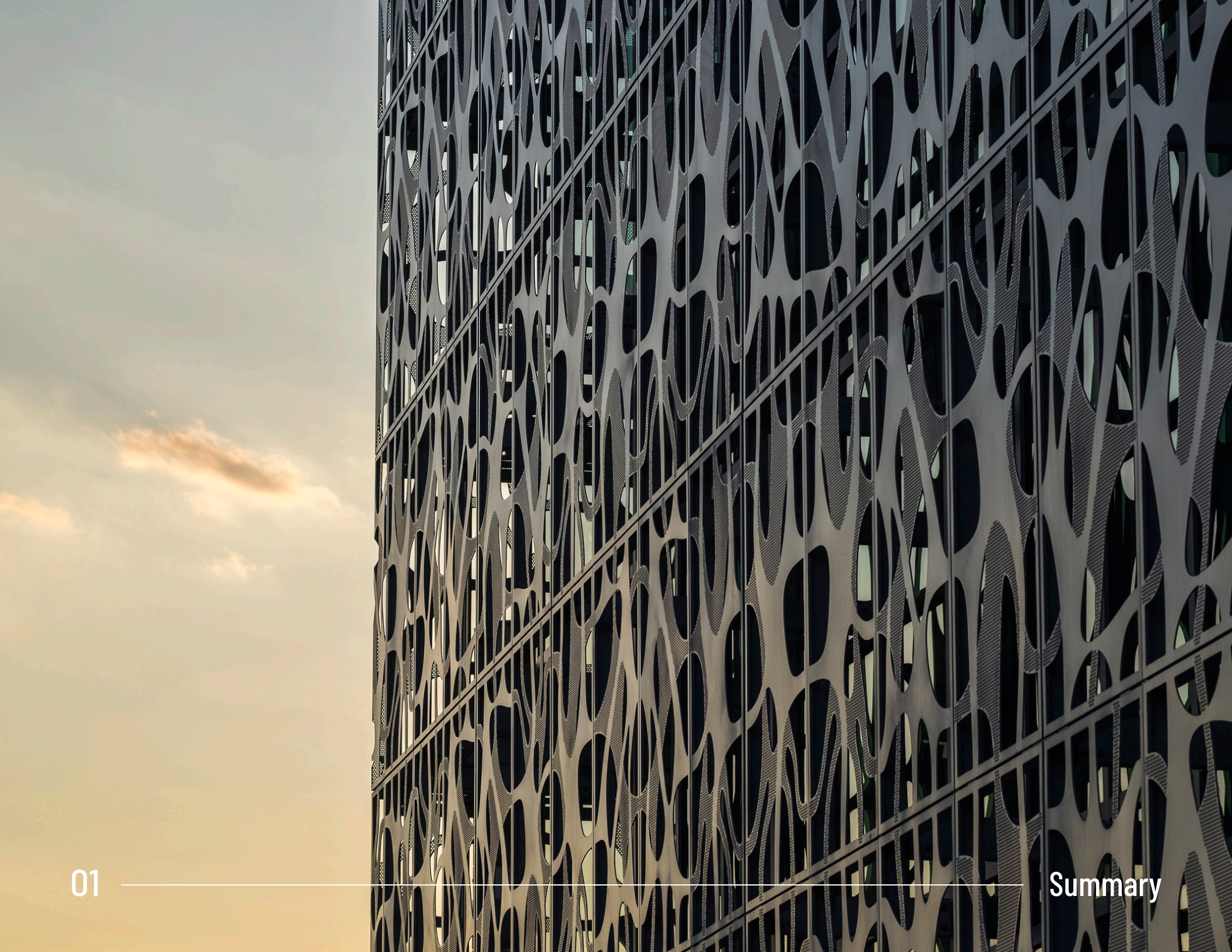
Thank you for considering this nomination. I am confident that Sven Shockey will continue to advance the profession of architecture and uphold the values of the AIA as a Fellow.

Sincerely,



Greg Mella, FAIA, LEED AP BD&C, LFA
Vice President, Retired Corporate Director of Sustainability SmithGroup

202.375.3395, greg.mella.aia@gmail.com



01 Summary

Sven Shockey redefines institutional identity through design that harmonizes building performance with human experience. His workplaces, campuses, and civic landmarks integrate advanced technologies with tectonic artistry, yielding climate responsive environments elevated by enduring architectural excellence.

TRANSFORMATIVE DESIGN ACROSS SCALES AND SECTORS

With more than 25 years of practice, Sven Shockey has shaped a design ethos that synthesizes environmental performance, expressive form, and the poetic use of light and shadow. His work across civic, academic, science, and workplace sectors reflects a deep responsiveness to each site, unlocking hidden potential through architecture that amplifies identity, discovery, and place.

Sven's process is rooted in inquiry and precision. **He employs advanced computational tools, environmental modeling, and material experimentation to create architecture that is both climate-responsive and experientially rich.** Each project resists stylistic repetition, instead emerging from the specific forces of context, program, and climate, revealing new relationships and enriching user experience.

His designs include transformative work for the Washington National Cathedral, University of Pennsylvania, Virginia Tech, and the Princeton Plasma Physics Lab. **These projects have redefined institutional identity, elevated user experience, and advanced a synthesis of performance, craft, and context**—demonstrating how architecture can both inspire and endure.

Sven's work has earned more than 60 design awards, including two National AIA Awards, 26 regional and local AIA honors, the *Metropolis* Planet Positive Award, and *Fast Company's* Innovation by Design Award. His projects have been featured in *Architect*, *Architectural Record, Metropolis*, and cited in the AIA Guides to Washington, DC, and Philadelphia.

FUSING INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY WITH DESIGN

Sven's practice is marked by continuous innovation, often drawing from allied disciplines to expand the performance and expressive range of architecture.

For the Virginia Tech Innovation Campus, he led his team in developing a novel computational process maximizing photovoltaic energy generation by the building facade. The resulting LEED Platinum building incorporates the largest known facade-based photovoltaic installation in North America setting the stage for industry adoption. Its sculptural form, which generates enough electricity to power 40 homes, has become a landmark for Virginia Tech and the region.

At the Washington National Cathedral, he designed an elegant new visitor gateway project that artfully conceals 450 cars and 18 buses below one of the largest intensive green roofs in the region. Visitor circulation is celebrated with a grand stair focused on Cathedral views and jewel-like structural glass elevator enclosures designed in collaboration with Italian computational and fabrication experts. **The transformative project led to a doubling of annual Cathedral visitorship.**

For DC Water's LEED Platinum Headquarters, Sven designed a computationally optimized glass facade, invoking the concept of fluidity that contributes to an energy reduction of 48%. **The stunning building was described by *Metropolis* as "an office that rivals a museum."** It won a National AIA Innovation Award and was featured in promotional materials for the AIA 2024 Conference on Architecture held in Washington, DC.

INFLUENCING THE PROFESSION AND THE COMMUNITY

Sven is a nationally recognized design leader. He has spoken at dozens of national and regional conferences including the AIA, ASLA, ULI, and IALD; published with the Facade Tectonics Institute and AEI; and has lectured and been a guest critic at Virginia Tech, Howard University, Catholic University, and the University of South Florida.

As one of five Architectural Design Directors at SmithGroup, Sven leads interdisciplinary teams with a vision of climate sensitive, idea-driven architecture. He founded SmithGroup's first computational design task force 15 years ago with a handful of staff; it has since grown into a 30-person group driving millions of square feet of climate sensitive, LEED Platinum, and nationally awarded projects—a model since replicated by other firms.

As a Design Director, he has promoted a culture of continuous critique and advocating for **every project's adoption of the AIA's Framework for Design Excellence**. That commitment to advancing firmwide capabilities and dialog in support of design excellence has helped elevate SmithGroup's national profile, earning 12 National AIA awards in the past five years, among the highest total of any firm.

Sven has served on AIA juries such as AIA Miami and AIA New England, and international juries including the prestigious Chungju National Museum of Korea and a corporate HQ in Lagos, Nigeria. **His work and applied research-driven design leadership collectively shape the evolving potential of architecture to be climate responsive, while elevating human experience.**

02 Accomplishments

Professional Experience

2016 – Present SmithGroup, Washington, DC
Design Director

2007 – Present SmithGroup, Washington, DC
Design Principal

1998 – 2007 KCF-SHG/SmithGroup, Washington, DC

1994 – 1998 BSI Design/Build, Roanoke, Virginia

Education

1996 Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University,
Master of Architecture

1989 University of Rochester,
Bachelor of Arts in Cognitive Science,
Cum Laude, Honors

Registrations

2003 – Present Registered Architect, District of Columbia

Affiliations

2003 – Present American Institute of Architects (AIA)

2005 – Present United States Green Building Council (USGBC),
LEED Accredited Professional BD+C

2012 – Present Member Lambda Alpha International: The Honorary
Society for the Advancement of Land Economics

2015 – Present SmithGroup Board of Directors

2014 – Present Federal City Council, Washington, DC, Trustee

2005 – 2012 Washington National Cathedral Buildings & Grounds
Committee Member

Jefferson National Laboratory High Performance Data Facility

Newport News, VA | 2027 (in Design)

SIZE 60,000 gsf, LEED Gold (pending)
ROLE **Design Principal**

The Department of Energy's Jefferson Lab Data Facility is a hybrid facility housing one of the world's first exascale supercomputers. **Sven's design foregrounds data centers' substantial water use by expressing the collection of water with an oversized sculptural scupper leading to a campus rain garden**. The water is collected by a cistern and used by mechanical systems to cool the building.

Framework for Design Excellence: All Electric, Photovoltaics, Raingarden/ Bioswale, Office Daylighting/Passive Shading, Biophilic Design, Geothermal

Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory

Princeton, NJ | 2026 (in construction)

SIZE 68,000 gsf, LEED Platinum (pending)
ROLE **Design Principal**

The Princeton Plasma Physics Lab Innovation Center is a transformative gateway to the nation's leading fusion research campus. **Sven's dynamic design departs from campus orthogonality to express energy and change**. The building features advanced labs, immersive visualization spaces, and collaborative zones to support cutting-edge science—embodying sustainability, innovation, and the future of clean energy.

Framework for Design Excellence: Optimized Passive Shading, Rooftop Photovoltaics, Raingarden/Bioswale, Geothermal, Daylighting

Virginia Tech Innovation Campus

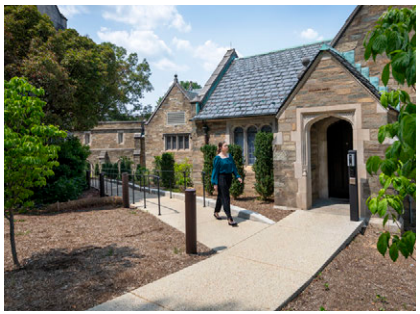
Alexandria, VA | 2025

SIZE 300,000 gsf, LEED Platinum (submitted)
ROLE **Design Principal**

AIA 2025 AIA Virginia, Honorable Mention
2021 AIA DC, Unbuilt Award

Sven's design for the Virginia Tech Innovation Campus is a bold, climate-responsive academic building that anchors a new identity for the university in the DC region. Featuring North America's largest facade-integrated photovoltaic system, its sculptural form, AI-optimized geometry, and expressive materiality embody innovation and sustainability, while dynamic interior spaces foster interdisciplinary collaboration and research.

Framework for Design Excellence: Optimized Massing and Passive Shading, Integrated Photovoltaics, Raingarden Cistern, Wellness Spaces, All Electric, Sustainability Educational Graphics



Washington National Cathedral Virginia Mae Center

Washington, DC | 2023

SIZE 27,000 gsf, LEED Silver
ROLE **Design Principal**

AIA 2024 AIA DC, Historic Resources Award
2024 AIA Northern Virginia, Historic Resources Award

The Virginia Mae Center at Washington National Cathedral transforms a historic dormitory into a contemporary convening hub for dialogue, spirituality, and justice. **Through surgical interventions and sensitive restoration, the design weaves together heritage and innovation—introducing accessible, light-filled gathering spaces** that honor the Cathedral's mission, while renewing the building's civic role for a more inclusive future.

Framework for Design Excellence: Careful Integration of Systems in Historic Context, Reuse of Mothballed Building, Energy Upgrades

Winston-Salem Innovation Quarter 2 Master Plan

Winston-Salem, NC | 2023

SIZE 28 Acres/ 2.7 million sf
ROLE **Design Principal**

The Winston-Salem IQ2 is a transformative mixed-use development that integrates cutting-edge life science facilities, vibrant public spaces, residential and hospitality options to create a dynamic and inclusive urban community. **Sven's design incorporates significant public art, a parking garage clad with a climbing wall, and dynamic architectural massing.**

Framework for Design Excellence: Integration of Development, Open Space, Green Space, Public Art, Within Walkable Mixed-use Environment

Eisenhower West Master Plan

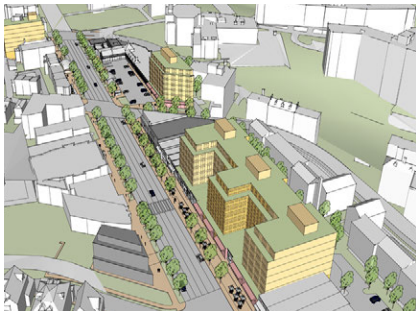
Alexandria, VA | 2023

SIZE 620 Acres
ROLE **Design Principal**

2016 APA Virginia
Sustainable Urban Design Award

Eisenhower West is a warehouse and light industrial area in Alexandria, VA. The plan develops a holistic configuration to revitalize and guide future development over the next 25 years. **Innovations include combined heat power using reclaimed nonpotable water from a waste-to-energy plant and combined maker space/residential zones.**

Framework for Design Excellence: Integration of Workforce Housing, Open Space, Green Space, Public Art, Within Walkable Mixed-use Environment



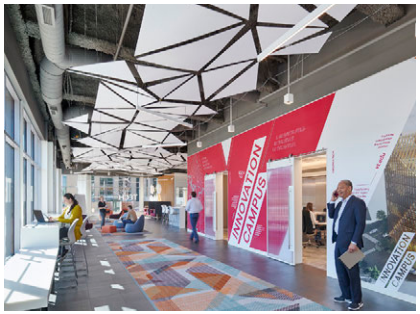
Rock Creek West Master Plan

Washington, DC | 2022

SIZE 13 square miles
ROLE **Design Principal**

The Rock Creek West Master Plan reimagines one of Washington, DC's most affluent yet exclusionary districts through an equity-centered lens. Blending data analysis with community engagement, the plan advances affordable housing, sustainable mobility, and inclusive growth. **Its visionary framework repositions planning as a tool for environmental justice.**

Framework for Design Excellence: Integration of Workforce Housing, Open Space, Green Space, Public Art, Within Walkable Mixed-use Environment



Virginia Tech Startup Headquarters

Alexandria, VA | 2021

SIZE 5,000 gsf
ROLE **Design Principal**

2022 IIDA Mid Atlantic
Premiere Design Award, Corporate Interiors

Conceived as a catalyst for Virginia Tech's Innovation Campus, the headquarters sets the tone for a new era of collaboration and discovery. **Sven created an inspiring interior defined by a sweeping sculptural ceiling and bespoke lighting that echoes the energy of innovation**. Even before the campus was complete, the space embodied its forward-thinking spirit.

Framework for Design Excellence: Maximized Daylighting, Sculptural Ceiling and Custom 3D Printed/Laser Cut Fixture as a Showcase of Innovation

DC Water Headquarters

Washington, DC | 2019

SIZE 150,000 gsf, LEED Platinum
ROLE **Design Principal**

2021 AIA National Innovation Award
2020 AIA DC, Architecture Award
2021 *Metropolis* Planet Positive Award
2018 *Fast Company* Innovation by Design Award

This headquarters project is shaped by the opportunities and constraints of the site. **Sven designed a serpentine facade modulated to accommodate structural considerations, while optimizing daylighting and views.** The facade is strategically stepped and is layered with cascading green glass to further reduce heat gain. The building has become a recognizable centerpiece for Washington, DC's Yards Park neighborhood.

Framework for Design Excellence: Biophilic Design, Optimized Passive Shading, 48% Energy Reduction, Rainwater Harvesting, Daylighting, Green Roof, Sustainability Educational Graphics, Sewage Wastewater Energy Exchange

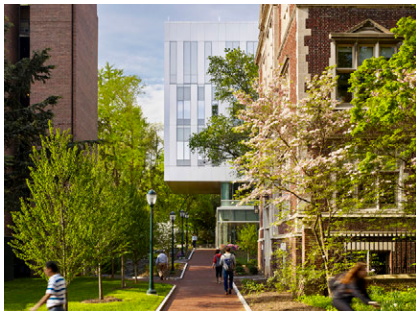
University of Pennsylvania Goddard Laboratory renovation

Philadelphia, PA | 2017

SIZE 5,000 gsf
ROLE **Design Principal**

Louis Kahn's Richards and Goddard Laboratories stand as an icon of 20th-century design. **Sven's intervention preserves the integrity of Kahn's served vs servant parti, while sensitively transforming one floor to accommodate contemporary dry lab research, enhancing functionality without compromising the building's architectural legacy.**

Framework for Design Excellence: Careful Integration of New Systems, Effective Use of Existing Building, Reduced Energy Use



Neural & Behavioral Sciences Building University of Pennsylvania

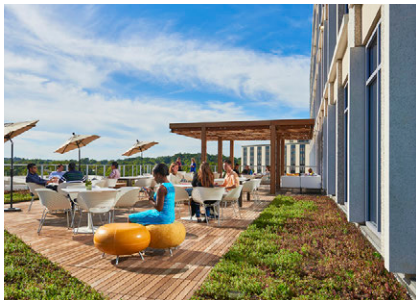
Philadelphia, PA | 2016

SIZE 78,000 gsf, LEED Silver
ROLE **Design Principal**

2017 AIA CAE, Award of Merit
2017 AIA Detroit, Honor Award
2016 AIA DC, Award of Merit
2016 AIA Potomac Valley, Gold Honor Award

This project is a new iconic gateway on the west edge of the University of Pennsylvania campus. The building and site welcome the neighborhood to the west and connect a grouping of buildings involved in allied disciplines creating a truly integrated new life sciences precinct. **Sven designed the project with a lacy south-facing sunscreen that reduces heat gain and glare, and boldly defines the newly minted precinct.**

Framework for Design Excellence: Biophilic Design, 50% Solar Heat Gain Reduction, Daylighting, Green Roof/Raingardens, Stairways Open to Circulation, Improved Accessibility for Connected Building



Evolent Health Headquarters

Arlington, VA | 2015

SIZE 100,000 gsf
ROLE **Design Principal**

2015 NAIOP Northern Virginia,
Best Interior Award of Excellence

This project establishes a design attitude for a start-up, health care consulting firm. **Sven designed a neutral palette of natural wood and stone materials to reinforce an ethic of wellness**, a driver of their core business. Multiple phases include a stunning exterior terrace that extends the warm materials outside with wood pavers and trellis that is surrounded by an artfully modulated green roof.

Framework for Design Excellence: Biophilic Design Incorporating Wood, New Terrace Providing Outdoor Space on Upper Floor, Wellness Spaces

Scotts Run Master Plan

McLean, VA | Entitled 2014

SIZE 8.5 million sf
ROLE **Design Principal**

2014 APA National, Urban Design Project Award
2014 APA Virginia Chapter,
Outstanding Private Sector Plan

This large master plan reinvents the archetypal 'Edge City' into a walkable, sustainable, transit-oriented mixed-use development. The plan reworks the site to create high density development focused around a stream valley park. **Sven took a unique approach with building form, emphasizing energy-reducing solar-responsive massing.** The innovative approach earned a National American Planning Award for sustainable urban design.

Framework for Design Excellence: Integration of Workforce Housing, Open Space, Green Space, Sustainable Infrastructure, Within Walkable Mixed-use Environment

L'Enfant Plaza Extended Stay Hotel

Washington, DC | 2011

SIZE 200,000 gsf
ROLE **Design Principal**

This unbuilt infill project is sited directly over a Metro entrance and between mid-century modern office and hotel buildings. **Sven's design adds color and fine-scale detail to play against the over-scaled and minimalist aesthetic of the nearby Brutalist buildings**. Colored glass and a wood canopy clarify the Metro entrance and welcome hotel guests.

Framework for Design Excellence: Infill Transit-oriented Development, Daylighting, Programmed Outdoor Space, Green Roof, Efficient Systems

Advisory Board Company (14+ projects)

Washington, DC; Chicago; San Francisco; Austin; Nashville; Chennai, India | 2010-2015

SIZE 500,000+ gsf, LEED Gold
ROLE **Design Principal**

AIA 2012 AIA Virginia, Award of Merit
2015 AIA Potomac Valley, Award of Merit

In this series of interior architecture projects, corporate design standards were established. But with each location, **Sven developed a unique expression of regional and individual sensibilities through a rigorous design process with each local client**. Careful material choices with a sensitivity to each building's context resulted in customized spaces not normally seen in multi-office corporate settings.

Framework for Design Excellence: Responsive to Regional Differences, Emphasis on Daylighting, Wellness, Regional Art, Efficient Systems

Wesley Theological Seminary Chapel Renovation

Washington, DC | 2010

SIZE 30,000 gsf
ROLE **Design Principal**

This project thoughtfully rehabilitates a 1950s chapel, enhancing accessibility, lighting, and audiovisual systems, while reconfiguring the chancel and introducing custom, contextually appropriate furnishings. **Sven's design honors the original mid-century modern architecture, seamlessly integrating contemporary functionality to ensure the chapel's continued relevance and resonance for future generations.**

Framework for Design Excellence: Integrating New Systems into Historic Space Bringing to Current Efficient Energy Standards, Increased ADA access

Postech Marine Science Campus Master Plan

Uljin, South Korea | 2010

SIZE 82 Acres/ 620,000 gsf
ROLE **Design Principal**

The unrealized new campus is configured as a wave—a form common to both land (mountains) and sea. The program includes academic and residential structures. **Sven's design highlights the site's natural beauty, weaving together academic and residential structures and tying the man-made with the undulating topography.**

Framework for Design Excellence: Biophilic Design, Raingardens/ Bioswales, Daylighting

Wesley Theological Seminary Master Plan

Washington, DC | 2009

SIZE 8.7 Acres/ 200,000 gsf
ROLE **Design Principal**

The campus plan incorporates strategies for growth and improvement over a period of 25 years. A new quad with below-grade parking as well as new library and residential buildings greatly improves campus image and student life. By removing parking, **the plan sets the stage for a lush pedestrian-friendly campus for the 21st Century.**

Framework for Design Excellence: New Efficient Systems, Design for Reconfiguration and Expansion, New Green Spaces/Integrated Stormwater

Taylor Office Building

McLean, VA | 2008

SIZE 250,000 gsf
ROLE **Design Principal**

This unrealized project is an iconic office tower sited at the head of Scotts Run Park, part of mixed-use, walkable master plan Sven designed to reinvigorate the former 'Edge City' of Tysons. For this signature building, **Sven designed a faceted glass wall, which references the adjacent topography and is activated when viewed from the moving Metro train.**

Framework for Design Excellence: Transit-oriented Development, Daylighting, Programmed Outdoor Space Open to the Public, Green Roof

1331 L Street, NW

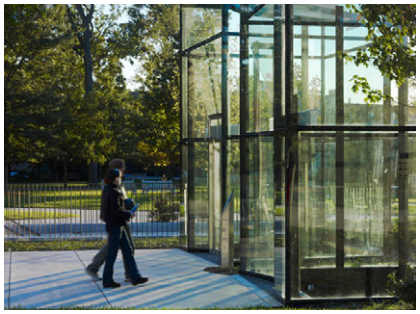
Washington, DC | 2008

SIZE 170,000 gsf, LEED Gold
ROLE **Design Principal, Phase II**

2008 USGBC Capital Region, Project of the Year

This project began as a speculative office and concluded as a high performance build-to-suit headquarters. During design, building skin and systems were upgraded to become the **first building to achieve LEED Gold core and shell and LEED Gold Commercial Interiors**. The building's roof terrace features a prominent fritted glass tower element coupled with a unique tensile fabric roof structure that give the building its iconic form, while shading the roof environment.

Framework for Design Excellence: Efficent Systems, Daylighting, Terrace



Washington National Cathedral Visitor Gateway

Washington, DC | 2007

SIZE 173,000 gsf
ROLE **Design Principal**

2007 AIA DC, Award of Merit
2007 AIA Maryland, Honor Award
2007 AIA Northern Virginia, Award of Excellence

This project reestablishes the lush landscape of the Cathedral's original Olmsted plan by carefully concealing parking for 18 buses and 450 cars below-grade, covered by what was the largest intensive green roof in the region. **One component of Sven's design are sculptural glass and steel elevator enclosures that facilitate access to below-grade features and also act as luminous gems in the landscape.**

Framework for Design Excellence: Integrates Transportation and Parking Needs with Historic Landscape, Intensive Green Roof, Celebrates Accessible Access

2020 K Street, NW

Washington, DC | 2004

SIZE 100,000 gsf addition
ROLE **Project Designer**

This 100,000-sf, three-story addition—built atop a fully occupied office building—**was among the first vertical expansions enabled by new zoning regulations and set a precedent for similar projects across the city.** Sven's design reinterprets the original ribbon window vocabulary into expansive glazed bays with deep mullions and a pronounced cornice.

Framework for Design Excellence: Adds Urban Density Near Public Transportation, Adds New Life to Aging Building

Terrell Place

Washington, DC | 2003

SIZE 600,000 gsf
ROLE **Project Architect/ Project Designer**

2004 AIA DC, Award of Merit, Historic Resources
2004 Mayors Award of Historic Preservation

Terrell Place is the development of nearly three-quarters of a block in a then-emerging neighborhood in Washington, DC. The corner is anchored by a renovated landmark 8-story Neo-Gothic white terra cotta building. Two new additions to this structure abstract the vertical expression in a series of projecting glass planes. **The project helped spur major redevelopment of the downtown core of Washington, DC.**

Framework for Design Excellence: Daylighting, Efficient Systems, Reuse of Historic Structures with New Construction

Dulles Town Center Atlantic Building

Washington, DC | 2000

SIZE 200,000 gsf
ROLE **Project Architect/Project Designer**

2000 AIA Virginia, Award of Excellence
1999 AIA Northern Virginia, Award of Merit

Designed as the inaugural signature office building along a newly established high-tech corridor, this project responds thoughtfully to its contrasting urban edges—a major highway and a commercial mall. **The precision and refinement of Sven's detailing—particularly in the lighting integration—earned recognition from Louis Poulsen, who photographed the project for inclusion in their global lighting catalog.**

Framework for Design Excellence: Thoughtful Integration of Lighting

AIA National

2021 Innovation Award – Holistic Design, Technology in Architectural Practice
AIA National | DC Water Headquarters | **Design Principal**

2017 CAE Education Award for Merit
Committee on Architectural Education (CAE), Educational Facility Design Awards
AIA National | University of Pennsylvania Neural and Behavioral Sciences Building | **Design Principal**

AIA Regional/State

2025 Honorable Mention
AIA Virginia | Virginia Tech Innovation Campus | **Design Principal**

2024 Award in Historic Resources
AIA DC | The Virginia Mae Center, Washington National Cathedral | **Design Principal**

2024 Award of Excellence
AIA Northern | The Virginia Mae Center, Washington National Cathedral | **Design Principal**

2021 Unbuilt Award
AIA DC | Virginia Tech Innovation Campus | **Design Principal**

2020 Honorable Mention
AIA Virginia | DC Water Headquarters | **Design Principal**

2020 Chapter Award for Architecture
AIA DC | DC Water Headquarters | **Design Principal**

2020 Citation for Sustainable Design
AIA DC | DC Water Headquarters | **Design Principal**

2018 Honor Award
AIA Maryland | University of Pennsylvania Neural and Behavioral Sciences Building | **Design Principal**

2017 Jury Citation
AIA Maryland | DC Water Headquarters | **Design Principal**

2017 Award of Merit
AIA Maryland | University of Pennsylvania Neural and Behavioral Sciences Building | **Design Principal**

2012 Award of Merit
AIA Virginia Society | Advisory Board Company - Austin | **Design Principal**

2008 Honorable Mention, Unbuilt
AIA Virginia Society | University of Pennsylvania Neural and Behavioral Sciences Building | **Design Principal**

2008 Award of Merit, Unbuilt
AIA DC | University of Pennsylvania Neural and Behavioral Sciences Building | **Design Principal**

2007 Honor Award
AIA Maryland | Washington National Cathedral Visitor Gateway | **Design Principal**

2006 Award of Merit
AIA DC | Washington National Cathedral Visitor Gateway | **Design Principal**

2000 Award of Excellence
AIA Virginia Society | Dulles Town Center | **Project Designer**

AIA Local

2024 Award of Excellence
AIA Northern Virginia | DC Water Headquarters | **Design Principal**

2024 Honor Award
AIA Potomac Valley | DC Water Headquarters | **Design Principal**

2017 Honor Award
AIA Detroit | University of Pennsylvania Neural and Behavioral Sciences Building | **Design Principal**

2017 Jury Citation
AIA Northern Virginia | DC Water Headquarters | **Design Principal**

2017 Award of Merit
AIA Northern Virginia | University of Pennsylvania Neural and Behavioral Sciences Building | **Design Principal**

2016 Gold Honor Award
AIA Potomac Valley | University of Pennsylvania Neural and Behavioral Sciences Building | **Design Principal**

2015 Award of Merit
AIA Potomac Valley | Advisory Board Company - Lobby East | **Design Principal**

2012 Award of Merit
AIA Potomac Valley | Advisory Board Company - Austin | **Design Principal**

2007 Award of Excellence
AIA Northern Virginia | Washington National Cathedral Visitor Gateway | **Design Principal**

1999 Award of Merit
AIA Northern Virginia | Dulles Town Center | **Project Designer**

Other National Awards

2024 Best of Design
Architect's Newspaper | Virginia Mae Center | **Design Principal**

2024 Top Projects
SmithGroup National Design Awards | Jefferson National Lab | **Design Principal**

2021 Planet Positive Awards
Metropolis | DC Water Headquarters | **Design Principal**

2021 Architecture + New Technology Award
Architizer A+ Awards | DC Water Headquarters | **Design Principal**

2021 Honorable Mention
The Architect's Newspaper | DC Water Headquarters | **Design Principal**

2019 Best Overall Project/Award of Excellence for Integration
Architectural Engineering Institute (AEI) | DC Water Headquarters | **Design Principal**

2018 Innovation by Design Award
Fast Company | DC Water Headquarters | **Design Principal**

2017 Award of Excellence
NAIOP Northern Virginia | Scotts Run Station Master Plan | **Design Principal**

2017 Top Projects
SmithGroup National Design Awards | DC Water Headquarters | **Design Principal**

2017 Top Projects
SmithGroup National Design Awards | University of Pennsylvania Neural and Behavioral Sciences Building | **Design Principal**

2015 Sustainable Building Project Award
American Planning Association National | Scotts Run Station Master Plan | **Design Principal**

2015 Honoree
Interior Design | Advisory Board Company Lobby East | **Design Principal**

2013 Design Is Award
Shaw Contract Group | Advisory Board Company DC | **Design Principal**

1995 Special Focus Award
Builder Magazine | Stanley-Tilt Residence | **Designer**

Other Regional and Local Awards

2024 Outstanding Plan
Lambda Alpha GW Chapter | Rock Creek West Comprehensive Area Plan | **Design Principal**

2022 Premier Design Award, Corporate Interiors
IIDA Mid Atlantic | Virginia Tech Startup Space | **Design Principal**

2021 Innovative Project Award
USGBC Capital Region | DC Water Headquarters | **Design Principal**

2021 Outstanding Project
Lambda Alpha GW Chapter | DC Water Headquarters | **Design Principal**

2021 Innovative Project Award
USGBC National Capital Region | DC Water Headquarters | **Design Principal**

2020 Game Changer Award
Washington Business Journal | Virginia Tech Innovation Campus | **Design Principal**

2015 Best Interior Award of Excellence
NAIOP Northern Virginia | Evolent Health | **Design Principal**

2015 Best Project, Interior Design
ENR Mid-Atlantic | Advisory Board Company Member Space | **Design Principal**

2015 Award of Excellence
IIDA Mid-Atlantic | Advisory Board Company Lobby West | **Design Principal**

2014 Outstanding Private Sector Plan
APA Virginia | Scotts Run Station Master Plan | **Design Principal**

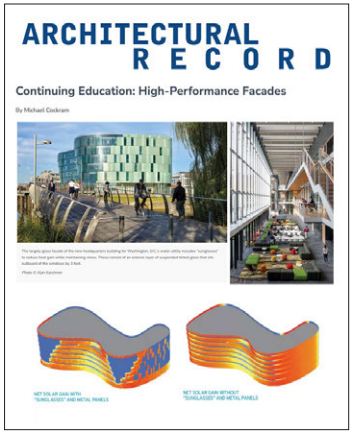
2013 *AL* Design Awards, Special Citation for a Facade's Treatment and Modulation of Light
Architectural Lighting | University of Pennsylvania Neural and Behavioral Sciences Building | **Design Principal**

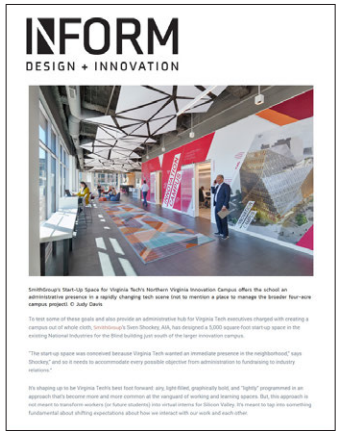
2013 *AL* Design Awards, Special Citation for a Facade's Treatment and Modulation of Light
Architectural Lighting | University of Pennsylvania Neural and Behavioral Sciences Building | **Design Principal**

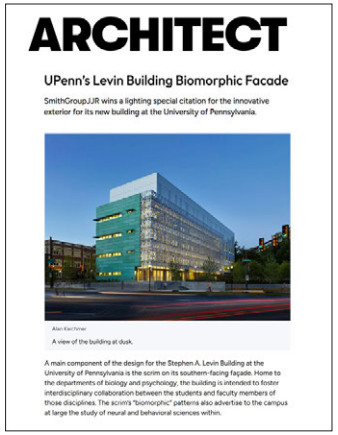
2008 Project of the Year
Mid-Atlantic Construction | Washington National Cathedral Gateway | **Design Principal**

2008 Award of Excellence
District of Columbia Mayor's Award for Historic Preservation | Cathedral Gateway | **Designer**

2008 Core and Shell Project of the Year
USGBC Capital Region | 1331 L Street | **Project Designer**







Publications Authored by Nominee

SmithGroup Perspectives (January 2024)
"Beyond Imagery: The application of AI to architectural design"

Facade Tectonics Institute (March 2018)
"Parametric Tools to optimize a curved facade"

Publications Featuring Nominee/ Quoted

National Public Radio – Interviewed
"Virginia Tech Innovation Campus Opens," 2025 (Online, Radio)

CoStar – Quoted
"Virginia Tech marks opening of academic building pitched in bid for Amazon HQ2," 2025 (Online) Featuring: Virginia Tech Innovation Campus

CoStar – Quoted
"Architect Coke Florance remembered for Influencing Nation's Capital," 2025 (Online)

Virginia Tech News – Interviewed
"Alumnus plays large role in designing Innovation Campus," 2024 (Online) Featuring: Virginia Tech Innovation Campus

Virginia Tech News – Interviewed
"Building Design reflects vision of Innovation Campus," 2024 (Online) Featuring: Virginia Tech Innovation Campus

***Washington Business Journal* – Interviewed**
"Architects say DC is finally thinking outside the glass box," 2016 (Online)

***Washingtonian* Magazine – Quoted**
"Four Projects that are going to Change Washington," 2015 (Print)

***Retrofit* Magazine – Quoted**
"Win the War on Privacy," 2013 (Online) Featuring: Advisory Board Company projects

***Retrofit* Magazine – Quoted**
"Today's Corporate Break Rooms," 2013 (Online) Featuring: Advisory Board Company projects

Shaw Contract Group – Interviewed
Interview, 2014 (Online)

Publications Featuring Nominee's Projects

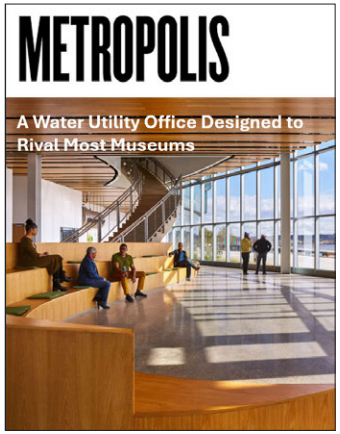
AIA Guide to Washington, DC
Moeller, Martin G, Johns Hopkins University Press, 2022 (Print) Featuring: DC Water Headquarters and Cathedral Gateway Projects

Beyond Bold—Inspiration, Collaboration, Evolution
Groft, Eric, et al, Pointed Leaf Press, 2022 (Print) Featuring: DC Water Headquarters

The Mystery, Science, and Art of Shadows
Goldstein, Bruce, University of Cambridge Press, 2026 est. (Print) Featuring: University of Pennsylvania Neural and Behavioral Sciences Building

***Washington Post* Book Review**
Exploring the Architecture of DC Beyond the National Mall, 2022 (Print) Featuring: DC Water Headquarters

Metropolis
'A Water Utility to Rival Most Museums,' 2021 (Print) Featuring: DC Water Headquarters



Inform
"Virginia Tech's Opening Gambit for the NoVa Tech Scene is a Window to the Future," 2021 (Print) Featuring: Virginia Tech Innovation Campus project

Architizer
Project feature, 2021 (Online) Featuring: University of Pennsylvania Neural and Behavioral Sciences project

Metal Architecture
"DC Water Headquarters," 2021 (Online) Featuring: DC Water Headquarters

***Architecture*DC**
"Liquid Assets," 2020 (Print) Featuring: DC Water Headquarters

***PRISM* Magazine**
"Form Design to Award Winning Project," 2019 (Online) Featuring: University of Pennsylvania Stephen A Levin project

***Governing* Magazine**
"Washington, DC Showcases the Architecture of Pumping Water," 2019 (Online) Featuring: DC Water Headquarters

Architectural Record
"High-Performance Facades," 2019 (Print) Featuring: DC Water Headquarters

Metal Architecture
"Biomorphic Sunscreen," 2017 (Print) Featuring: University of Pennsylvania Neural and Behavioral Sciences project

Philadelphia Architecture, A Guide to the City
Gallery, John Andrew, Paul Dry Books, 2016 (Print) Featuring: University of Pennsylvania Stephen A Levin project

***Architecture*DC**
"Best Practices Make Perfect," 2015 (Print) Featuring: Advisory Board Company projects

Washington Business Journal
"Coolest DC Office Spaces," 2014 (Print/Online) Featuring: Advisory Board Company projects

Nashville Post
"Greater Green Benefits," 2014 (Print/Online) Featuring: Advisory Board Company projects

Austin Business Journal
"A remodel of Success," 2013 (Online) Featuring: Advisory Board Company projects

Architectural Record
"Manufactured Techniques for Architectural Color and Textures," 2013 (Print) Featuring: Advisory Board Company projects

Interior Design
"Good Advice," 2012 (Print) Featuring: Advisory Board Company project featured

DesignDC
"Public Amenities," 2010 (Print) Featuring: Washington National Cathedral Gateway project

DLUX
"Goodbye Ivory Tower," 2009 (Print) Featuring: Washington National Cathedral Gateway project

Architectural Record
"Verdant Surfaces," 2008 (Print) Featuring: Washington National Cathedral Gateway project

Lectures/ Round Table Discussions

Case Study: Virginia Tech Innovation Campus
ULI Washington | March 2025 | Alexandria, VA

Heliomorphic Design
Virginia Tech Washington Alexandria Architectural Center | November 2024 | Washington, DC

Navy Yard: Reclaiming the Forgotten River
American Society of Landscape Architects National Conference | September 2024 | Washington, DC

Virginia Tech's New Icon: The Innovation Campus Innovation Building
AIA National Conference | June 2024 | Washington, DC

Building For Net Zero
Princeton University, Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory | April 2024 | Virtual

Civic Design for the Next Generation: DC Water Headquarters
American Society of Landscape Architects National Conference | October 2023 | Minneapolis, MN

Integrated Design: DC Water Headquarters
Howard University | October 2023 | Washington, DC

Maximizing Sustainability from District Scale Planning to Building Integrated Photovoltaics
Greenbuild Nature-based Solutions Summit | October 2023 | Washington, DC

Christopher Kelley Leadership Program
Invited guest speaker | August 2023 | Washington, DC

Tech + Cities: Virginia Tech Innovation Campus
AIA Northern Virginia CAE | September 2022 | Alexandria, VA

Blue Mind- All Blue Planet
Greater Washington Board of Trade | September 2022 | Washington, DC

DC Water Headquarters
Lambda Alpha, George Washington Chapter | December 2021 | Washington, DC

Moving Towards Net Zero
District of Columbia, Department of Energy and the Environment | December 2021 | Washington, DC

Award Winners Roundtable
United States Green Building Council, Big South | October 2021 | Washington, DC

Five Perspectives on Commercial Real Estate in DC
AIA DC | January 2020 | Washington, DC

Technology in Design: DC Water Headquarters
Urban Land Institute Fall Meeting | September 2019 | Washington, DC

Technology in Design: DC Water Headquarters
Architecture Engineering Institute (AEI) | April 2019 | City? VA

Variations of Neuroscience Facilities
National Laboratory Design Conference | April 2018 | Philadelphia, PA

Lessons Learned from DC Water Headquarters
Urban Land Institute, Washington, Transportation and Insfrastructure Conference | October 2018 | Washington, DC

Best Practices in Sustainable Design
US Department of Trade, Delegation from Central Asian Countries | October 2018 | Washington, DC

Parametric tools to optimize a curved facade
Facade Tectonics Institute | March 2018 | Los Angeles, CA

Best Practices in Sustainable Design
U.S. Department of Trade, Delegation from Ukraine | October 2017 | Washington, DC

Technology in Academia and Industry
Catholic University | October 2017 | Washington, DC

The reinvention of a 164-year-old firm
National Building Museum, Spotlight on Design | October 2017 | Washington, DC

Resilient design: DC Water Headquarters
AIA DC, DesignDC Conference | October 2017 | Washington, DC

Parametric Daylighting Tools Empower a New Design Partnership
International Association of Lighting Designers Conference | October 2015 | Washington, DC

Suburban Transformation: Case Study of Scott's Run in Tysons Corner Virginia
AIA DC, DesignDC Conference | September 2015 | Washington, DC

Observations of a Practicing Architect
National Building Museum Interns Fellows Program | July 2015 | Washington, DC

Building Enclosure, Lighting, and Mechanical Interactions
AIA DC, DesignDC Conference | May 2015 | Washington, DC

Observations of a Practicing Architect
National Building Museum Interns Fellows Program | July 2014 | Washington, DC

Scotts Run Master Plan: A case study for revitalizing the suburbs
International Making Cities Livable Conference | June 2014 | Portland, OR

Suburban Transformation: The case study of Scotts Run in Tysons Corner
American Planning Association, National Capital Area Chapter Conference | June 2014 | Portland, OR

Selected Design Award Juries

AIA New England
Juror | September 2018 | Washington, DC

AIA Miami
Juror | October 2017 | Washington, DC

Chung-ju National Museum Competition (National Museum of Korea)
Juror | December 2021 | Web-based

International Design Competition for Interswitch Headquarters, Lagos, Nigeria
Juror | December 2020 | Web-based

Global Architecture and Design Awards/ Rethinking the Future
Juror | October 2018 | Web-based

World Architecture Awards
Juror | October 2020 | Web-based

Sherwin Williams Student Design Challenge
Juror | March 2020 | Web-based

AIA National Conference

AIA National Conference
DC Water Headquarters | June 2024 | Washington, DC
Led tour, Design Principal for the project

AIA National Conference
Virginia Tech Innovation Campus | June 2024 | Washington, DC | Led lecture and tour, Design Principal for the project

AIA National Conference
University of Pennsylvania Neural and Behavioral Sciences Building | 2016 | Philadelphia | Led tour, Design Principal for the project

Selected Other Tours

Northern Virginia AIA, CAE committee
Virginia Tech Innovation Campus | September 2025 | Led tour, Design Principal for the project

National Building Museum, Hardhat Tour program
Virginia Tech Innovation Campus | September 2025 | Led tour, Design Principal for the project

NAIOP NoVA
Virginia Tech Innovation Campus | June 2025 | Led tour, Design Principal for the project

U.S. General Services Administration
DC Water Headquarters | June 2025 | Led tour, Design Principal for the project

Virginia Tech, Executive Master of Natural Resources Program
Virginia Tech Innovation Campus | May 2025 | Led tour, Design Principal for the project

Greenbuild Conference
DC Water Headquarters tour | September 2023 | Led tour, Design Principal for the project

International Living Futures Institute
Virginia Tech Innovation Campus | May 2023 | Led tour, Design Principal for the project

ULI National Fall Meeting
DC Water Headquarters | September 2019 | Led tour, Design Principal for the project

DC Office of Planning
DC Water Headquarters | August 2019 | Led tour, Design Principal for the project

Atlas Obscura
DC Water Headquarters | May 2018 | Led tour, Design Principal for the project

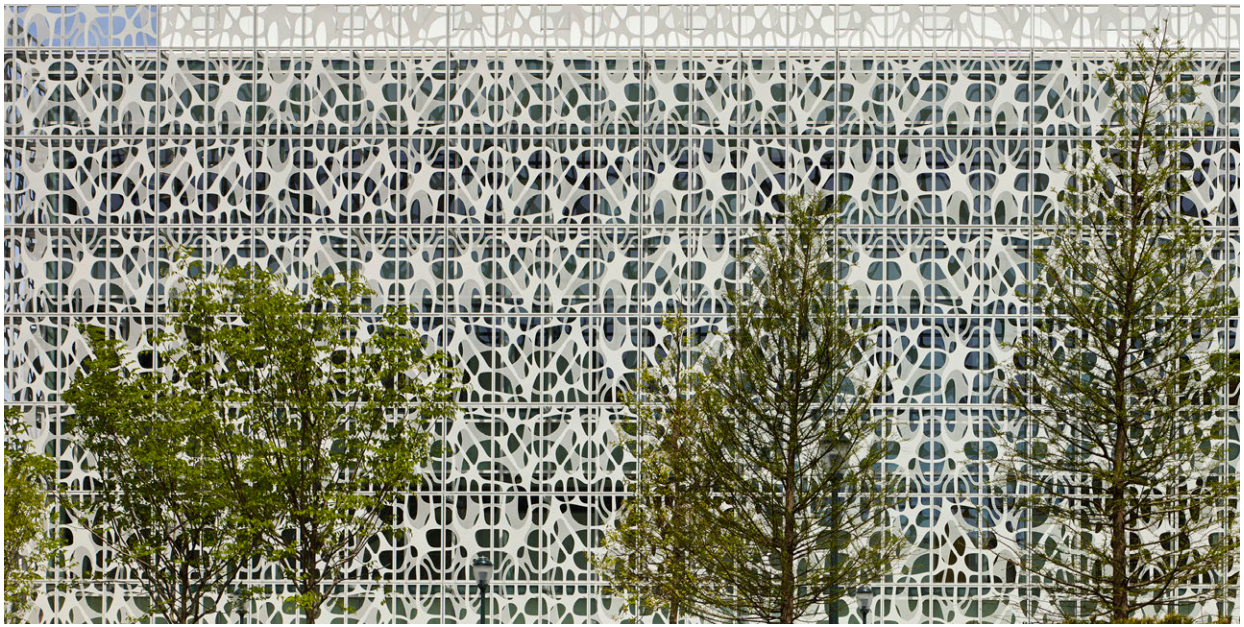
Selected Exhibitions

National Building Museum
"Alan Karchmer, the Architect's Photographer" | 2021-2022 | Washington, DC | DC Water Headquarters and Washington National Cathedral Visitor Gateway projects represented

National Building Museum
"House of Cars: Innovation and the Parking Garage" | 2009-2010 | Washington, DC | Washington National Cathedral Gateway project featured

Virginia Architecture House, Virginia AIA
"Architectural Studies" | 2009 | Richmond, VA | Exhibit of University of Pennsylvania Neural & Behavioral Sciences building scrim mockup panels

03 Exhibits



3.1 Virginia Tech Innovation Campus
Virginia Tech
Alexandria, VA | 2025

3.2 DC Water Headquarters
DC Water
Washington, DC | 2019

3.3 Scotts Run Master Plan
Cityline Partners
McLean, VA | 2014

3.4 Corporate Interior
Advisory Board Company
Washington, DC; Chicago; San Francisco; Austin; Nashville; Chennai, India | 2010 - 2015

3.5 Visitor Gateway
Washington National Cathedral
Washington, DC | 2007

3.6 Princeton Plasma Innovation Center
Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory
Princeton, NJ | 2026 (in construction)

3.7 Neural and Behavioral Sciences Building
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, PA | 2016

3.1 Virginia Tech Innovation Campus
Virginia Tech

LOCATION
Alexandria, VA

SIZE
300,000 gsf, LEED Platinum (submitted)

DESIGN FIRM/ ARCHITECT
SmithGroup

ROLE
Design Principal

COMPLETED
2025

SELECTED RECOGNITION
2025 AIA Virginia Honorable Mention
2021 AIA DC Unbuilt Award

PUBLICATIONS
Virginia Tech Magazine, The Nexus of Next, Spring 2025

I have Personal Knowledge that the nominee was largely responsible for the design of the project listed above.

LIZA MORRIS, Assistant Vice President for Planning and University Architect,
Virginia Tech

The Virginia Tech Innovation Campus represents a transformational moment for the university—an opportunity to establish a bold academic presence in a new location in the Washington, DC region and to position itself at the forefront of technological innovation and public-private collaboration. Located in Alexandria's emerging National Landing district, the project needed to signal a powerful institutional identity, while meeting ambitious performance, sustainability, and placemaking goals. The design challenge was to express future-forward values through architecture that could inspire, adapt, and lead.

Sven's concept advances a heliomorphic design approach—shaping the building mass around the movement of the sun to balance daylight, views, heat gain, glare reduction, and on-site power generation. To ensure facade-integrated photovoltaics performed effectively, the form had to be precisely oriented. Sven led his team to develop a custom computational process that tested more than 1,400 massing iterations, ultimately yielding an unusual faceted "gem" configuration. He then detailed each facet with tectonic precision, integrating diverse photovoltaic systems with terra cotta fins and high-performance glazing to create a dynamic, articulated building skin. Inside, the concept continues: spaces are suffused with light filtered through photovoltaic glass and tempered by terra cotta passive shading elements, reinforcing the harmony between performance and experience.

"When you hear multiple Fortune 500 CEO's refer to the architecture as 'badass,' 'gorgeous,' 'amazing,' and that they will have to up their game, it reaffirms the decision to be bold. Thank you all for the dedication to the project and amazing design work."

Liza Morris, University Architect, Virginia Tech

The result is a striking architectural presence through a materially rich, computationally informed envelope that synthesizes formal expression with environmental performance. **The facade—North America's largest known building-integrated photovoltaic system, producing enough energy to power 40 homes, has become an institutional icon, and is a powerful precedent for large scale building integrated photovoltaic installations.**

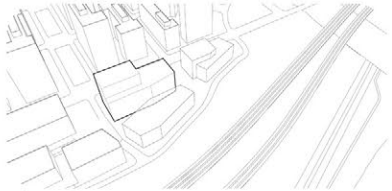
Sven's integration of sustainability, technological rigor, and experiential innovation redefines how architecture can support a university's strategic ambitions while engaging its broader urban and environmental context, serving Virginia Tech as a catalyst for the regional economy.

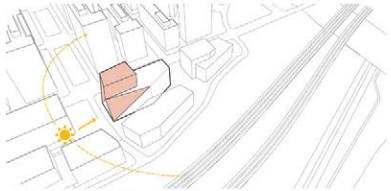
100%
All electric building

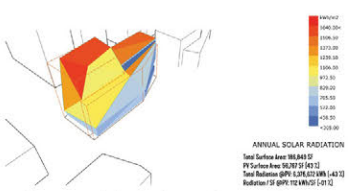
24%
Energy reduction

57%
Reduced water use

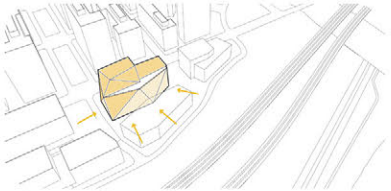
6-10%
Onsite renewable energy

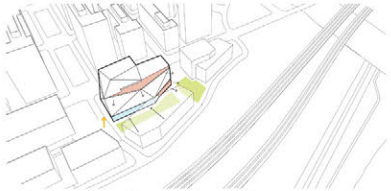

1. Zoning Envelope


2. Slice Massing Towards Sun

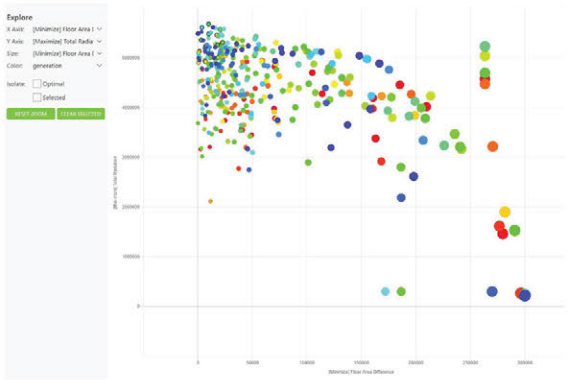


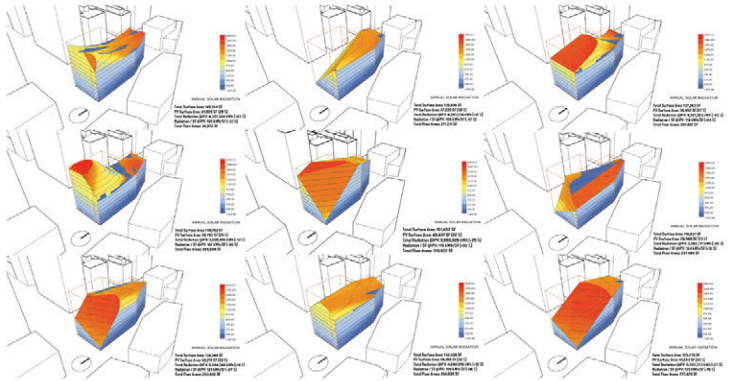
3. Maximize Solar Radiation Potential


4. Complete Shape of Gem


5. Carve and Lift Massing Responding to Urban Context

COMPUTATIONAL DESIGN TOOL





The building's form was optimized with a custom computational tool that balanced PV output with zoning and area requirements. Unlike conventional designs that limit photovoltaics to the roof, this approach integrates power generation into the south- and southeast-facing facades. Machine learning accelerated the evaluation of over 1,400 variations to arrive at the desired geometry.

Above: Photovoltaic glass softens sunlight into a gentle daylight glow, casting dynamic shadows that evolve through the day, while simultaneously generating power.


VIRGINIA TECH

Pre-project condition; the new building is constructed above the stepped brick structure

3.2 DC Water Headquarters

DC Water

LOCATION
Washington, DC

SIZE
150,000 gsf

DESIGN FIRM/ ARCHITECT
SmithGroup

ROLE
Design Principal

COMPLETED
2019

SELECTED RECOGNITION
2021 AIA/TAP National Innovation Award
2020 AIA DC Architecture Award
2021 *Metropolis* Planet Positive Award
2018 *Fast Company* Innovation by Design Award

PUBLICATIONS
Metropolis Magazine, "The River's Edge," Jan/Feb 2022
Architectural Record, High-Performance Facades, April 2019
*Architecture*DC, "Liquid Assets," Summer 2020

I have Personal Knowledge that the nominee was largely responsible for the design of the project listed above.

ROBERT BULL, AIA, Vice President | SmithGroup

The DC Water Headquarters presented a rare design opportunity: To transform a constrained industrial site—occupied by a working pump station and traversed by underground sewage tunnels—into a high-performance workplace, a civic landmark, and a living demonstration of sustainable infrastructure.

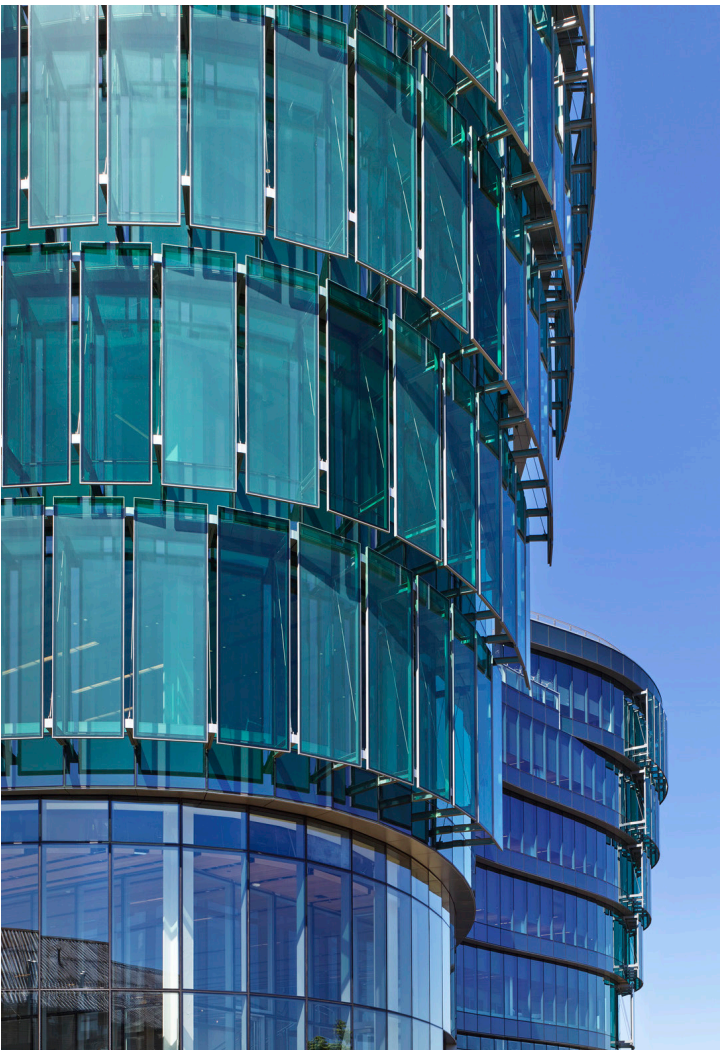
As Design Principal, Sven shaped the project referencing a conceptual framework of fluidity—the building is influenced directly by the impacts of the opportunities and constraints of the site. Significant constraints included minimal locations to place column foundations due to existing infrastructure, height limits and the maintenance of visual corridors. Balancing the constraints with maximizing the dramatic river views resulted in a serpentine form that is uniquely site-specific and contextually dramatic.

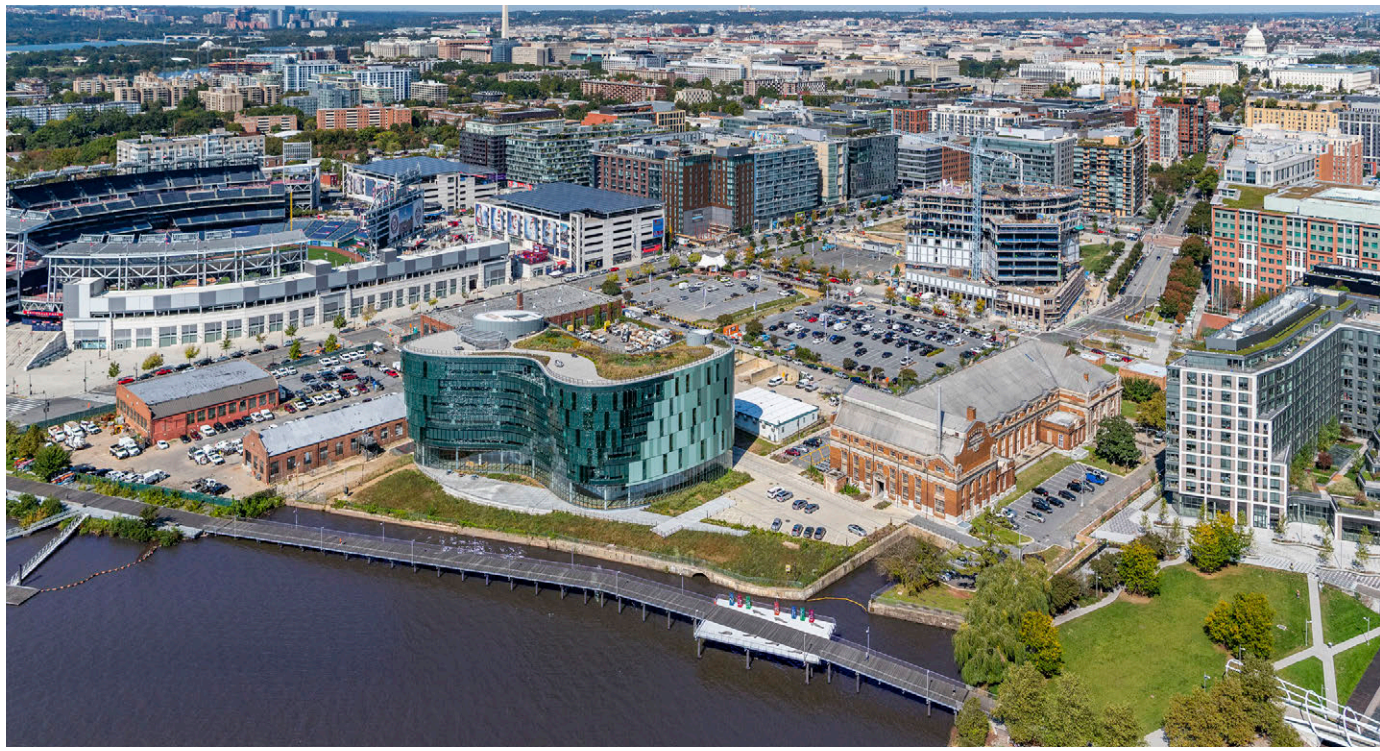
"The jury was struck by the attention to expressing environmental concerns in a way that will educate the public. The site approach results in a sensual form that creates an easy edge along the waterfront. The jury applauds this bold expression in a public infrastructure project."

AIA Maryland Award Jury

For building skin articulation, Sven took a novel approach, calculating solar heat gain levels for each facade panel. This method produced an expression in which facade elements shift and vary around the curving building, creating hyper-local responses for energy and daylighting optimization. Cantilevered forms and layered glazing assemblies operate both as high-performance systems and as crafted architectural tectonics, minimizing solar heat gain and glare, while preserving transparency and connection to the Anacostia River. These strategies, paired with a state-of-the-art mechanical system, reduced the building's energy consumption by 50%.

The project is a model of civic sustainable design. Widely recognized, including the 2021 National AIA/TAP Innovation Award, the project demonstrates how architecture can reveal and celebrate the systems that support urban life, turning function into narrative and necessity into beauty. Today, the venue is also widely rented out for public events and even weddings, generating a new revenue stream for the utility and reinforcing the project's civic and economic value.





Façade Materiality

Net Solar Gain Analysis of Façade Materiality

100%
All electric building

48%
Energy reduction

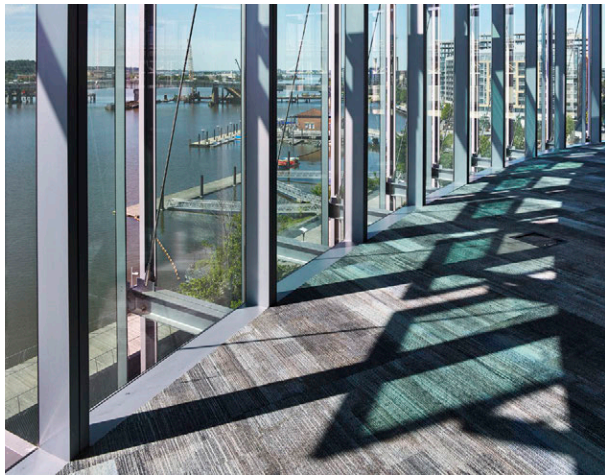
72%
Reduced water use

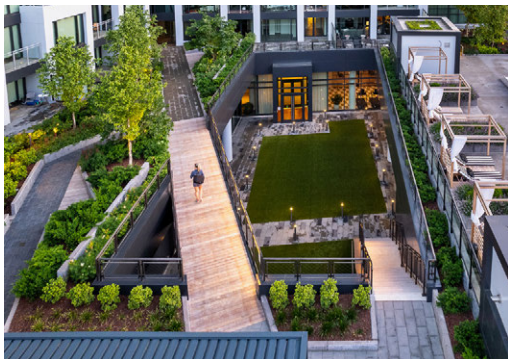
The stunning rooftop integrates a topographic green roof with hardscape, managing stormwater, while providing an amenity and event space.

"DC Water is one of the most environmentally innovative engineered buildings, I'm proud DC Water has built a beautiful, environmentally sound building to house its headquarters."

Tommy Wells, Director, District of Columbia Department of Energy and the Environment

Below: Green tinted shadows, overlapping in areas, animate portions of the building interior.





"It is a piece of urban design that at a stroke helps to generate this whole urban transformation."

Kenneth Lawrence, Fairfax County Commissioner

3.3 Scotts Run Master Plan
Cityline Partners

LOCATION
McLean, VA

SIZE
8.5 million sf

DESIGN FIRM/ ARCHITECT
SmithGroup

ROLE
Design Principal

COMPLETED
Entitled 2014

SELECTED RECOGNITION
2015 APA National Urban Design Project Award
2014 APA Virginia Chapter Outstanding Private Sector Plan

I have Personal Knowledge that the nominee was largely responsible for the design of the project listed above.

TASSO FLOCOS | Managing Director, Cityline Partners

Andrew Way, a completed civic space at the center of the plan, maintains the site's topography an is a neighborhood gathering place.

Master Plan: Vibrant streets centered around a park.
Pre Master Plan: Disconnected parcels and parking lots.

The Scotts Run Master Plan and public space design transforms a fragmented 40-acre suburban office park in Tysons, VA—once defined by superblocks, asphalt, and isolation—into a walkable, connected, transit-oriented urban district. Adjacent to the new McLean Metrorail station, the plan reimagines an auto-dominated landscape as a vibrant, mixed-use community anchored by thoughtfully designed public spaces and a stream valley park.

Sven conceived the vision for the 8.5 million GSF master plan and public space design, introducing a fine-grained, pedestrian grid that integrates office, residential, hotel, retail, and civic uses. At its core, the restored Scotts Run Stream Valley Park establishes a continuous ecological and recreational corridor that reconnects people to nature and gives the district its identity. Sustainability was embedded across scales. A parcel-specific stormwater toolkit ensures each site captures the first 1.2 inches of rainfall through green roofs, rain gardens, and cisterns that serve irrigation, cooling, and toilet flushing. Early-stage energy modeling guided building orientation: office towers were rotated primarily east-west, reducing energy use by up to 8%, while residential towers were aligned north-south to maximize daylight and views.

Today, **Scotts Run is a national APA award-winning model for converting "Edge Cities" into climate-responsive, livable places**. A new Metro station, 1.5 million SF of development, and significant public realm improvements are complete—establishing a walkable, green, high-density neighborhood that balances infrastructure, ecology, and human experience.

3.4 Corporate Interiors
Advisory Board Company

LOCATION
Washington, DC; Chicago; San Francisco; Austin; Nashville; Chennai, India

SIZE
500,000+ gsf

DESIGN FIRM/ ARCHITECT
SmithGroup

ROLE
Design Principal

COMPLETED
2010-2014

SELECTED RECOGNITION
2012 AIA Virginia, Award of Merit
2015 AIA Potomac Valley, Award of Merit
2012 AIA Potomac Valley, Award of Merit

PUBLICATIONS
Interior Design, Good Advice, May 2012

Washington Business Journal, Coolest DC Office Spaces, October 2014

Austin Business Journal, A Remodel of Success, July 2013

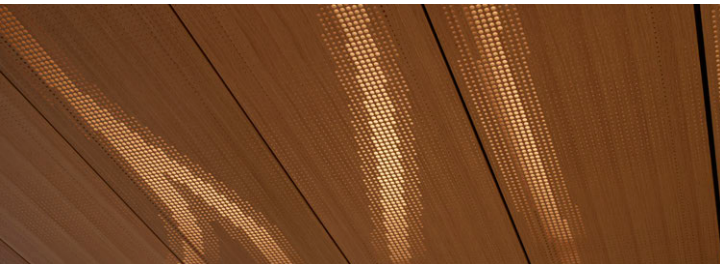
I have Personal Knowledge that the nominee was largely responsible for the design of the project listed above.

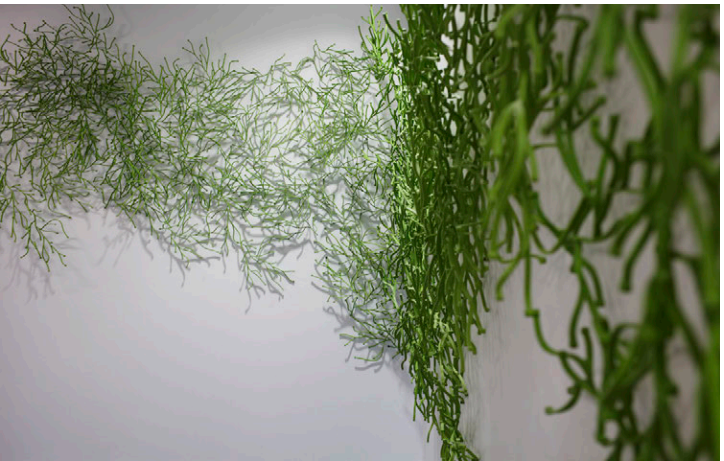
SCOTT STRZINEK | Former Managing Director of Real Estate, Advisory Board Company

The Advisory Board Company, a rapidly expanding international firm, sought to create high-performance, culturally resonant workplaces across the U.S. and India. With over 500,000 GSF of new and renovated space, the challenge was to design a portfolio of environments that would support recruitment, reflect regional identity, and meet ambitious sustainability goals—including LEED certification for every site. The company needed more than a consistent corporate image; it required diverse, adaptable spaces that honored local culture and staff input.

As Design Principal, Sven led the architectural vision for the Advisory Board's global workplace portfolio. He rejected a standardized, top-down design approach in favor of strategies tailored to local climates, customs, and user priorities. Sven worked closely with regional teams, elevating employee voices in the design process and crafting spaces that responded to both organizational goals and cultural context. Workplaces ranged from open, informal layouts to more structured, private settings—each calibrated to support performance, well-being, and identity.

In the Washington, DC headquarters, Sven designed a multi-level complex that included workspaces, client-facing conference suites, a café, and amenity-rich support zones. Materials such as slate, wood, and marble referenced the city's civic fabric, while natural elements like a living moss wall brought biophilic richness to the interior. He employed



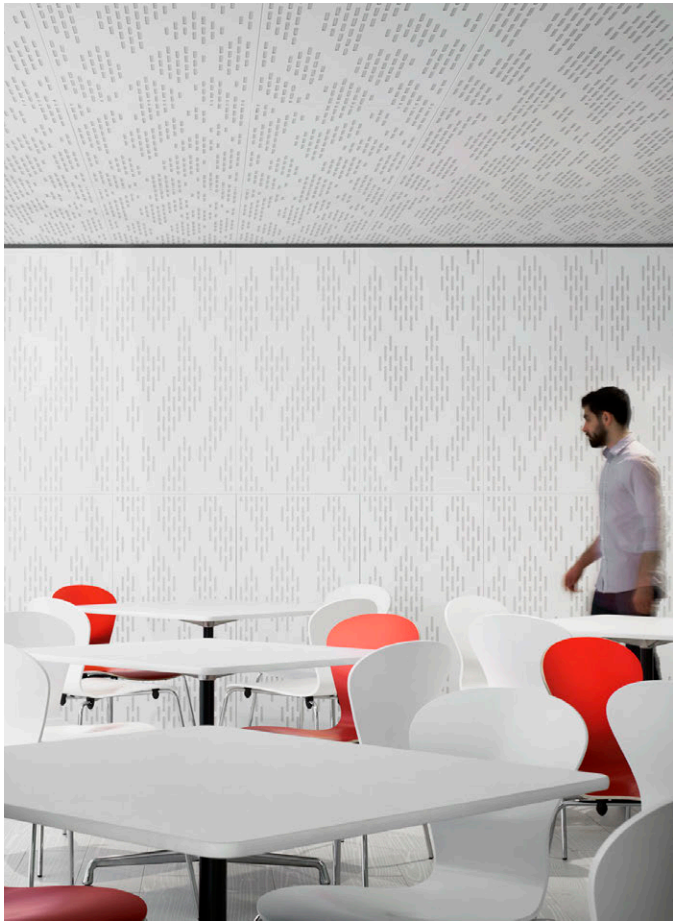


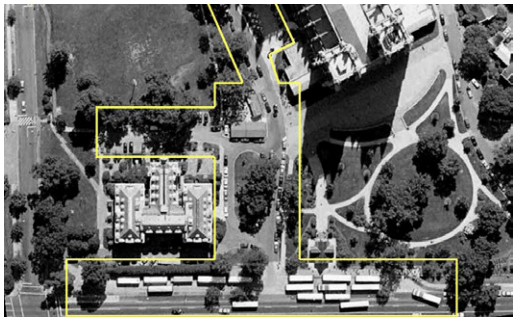
computational design to generate custom perforated surfaces inspired by organic patterns, and embedded narrative features such as a binary-encoded ceiling expressing the company's mission and a luminous wall subtly marked by etched client names. By contrast the spaces in Austin incorporated regional limestone, weathered wood, and work by local artists, attributes gathered through workshops with staff. Other corporate locations featured the same level of care and specificity.

Through a fusion of site specificity, digital craft, and sustainability, Sven transformed the Advisory Board's workplace strategy into a collection of dynamic, LEED enhanced environments. His design leadership helped position the company as a values-driven, design-conscious organization—one whose spaces reflect cultural nuance, environmental responsibility, and a deep investment in people.

"In my 15 years of recruiting, I've never had such positive feedback about office space. It feels like we're one of Austin's best kept secrets."

Advisory Board Company, Director of Human Resources and Recruiting





Before condition: Busses parked in front with roadways and parking adjacent to the Cathedral

3.5 Visitor Gateway
Washington National Cathedral

LOCATION
Washington, DC

SIZE
173,000 gsf

DESIGN FIRM/ ARCHITECT
SmithGroup

ROLE
Design Principal

COMPLETED
2007

SELECTED RECOGNITION
2007 AIA DC, Award of Merit
2007 AIA Maryland, Honor Award
2007 AIA Northern Virginia, Award of Excellence

PUBLICATIONS
Architectural Record, Verdant Surfaces, September 2008
DesignDC, Public Amenities, Spring 2010

I have Personal Knowledge that the nominee was largely responsible for the design of the project listed above.

RICHARD WILLIAMS, FAIA | Washington National Cathedral Buildings and Grounds Committee

The Washington National Cathedral, a revered destination for spiritual pilgrimage and tourism, faced growing logistical, safety, and aesthetic challenges at its primary point of arrival. Congested bus and car access, inadequate visitor facilities, and strained relationships with surrounding residential neighborhoods threatened the dignity of the experience and the integrity of the site. The project sought to resolve these conflicts, while preserving the sacred character of the century-old cathedral and its 59-acre landscape, known as the Close, originally designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., and both of which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

As Design Principal, Sven worked through architectural sleight of hand, using multidisciplinary excellence to seamlessly conceal car and bus garages, foregrounding the beauty of the Cathedral and grounds. His design introduces two below-grade structures—one for automobiles, the other for buses—carefully embedded into the landscape to alleviate surface congestion without disrupting the visual sanctity of the cathedral grounds.

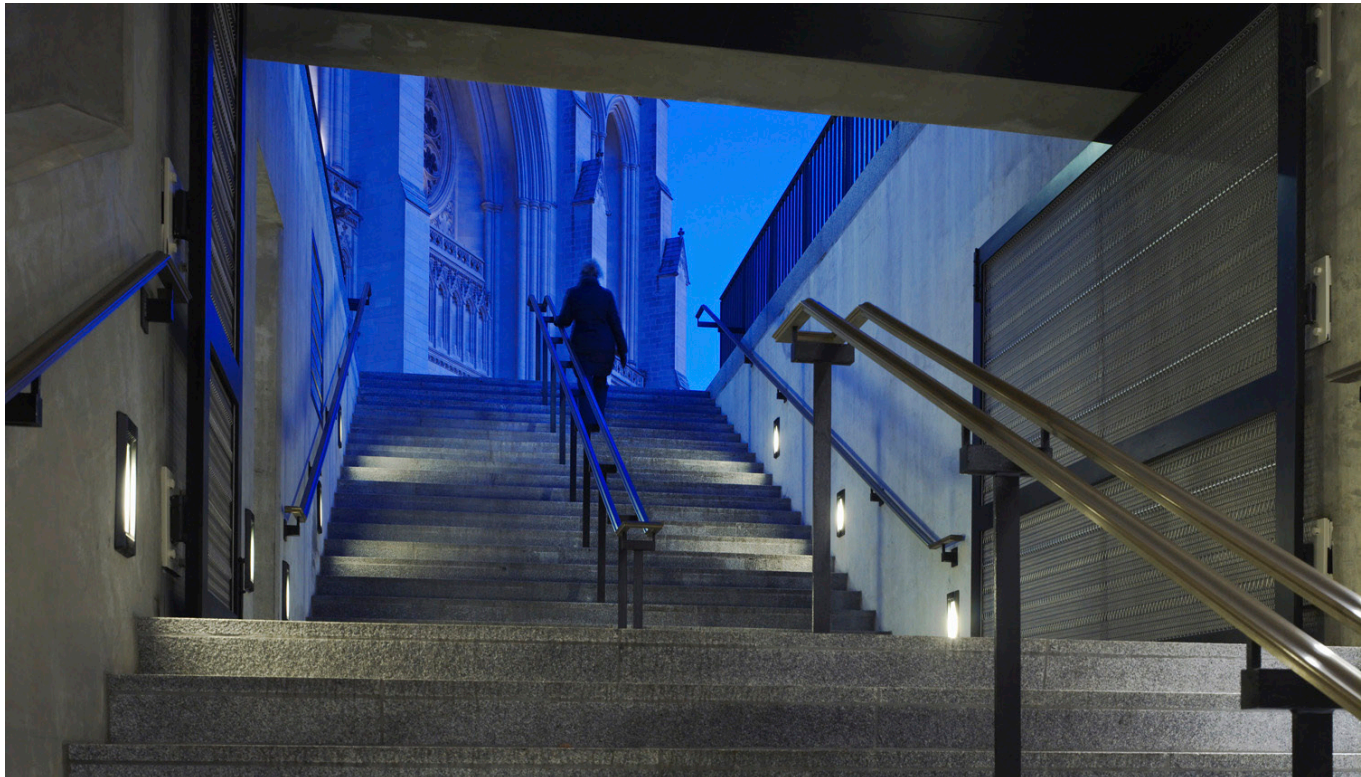
Sven's innovation lay in the structural and landscape integration. The bus garage, the only below-grade bus facility of its kind in the U.S., uses a folded post-tensioned concrete slab system to accommodate the long spans and tight turning radii required for bus circulation. This system also supports varied topography and the heritage trees above.

"The Visitor Gateway project is truly an exceptional response to a vexing problem. In one stroke, Washington National Cathedral has tamed the assault of vehicles, made peace with its neighbors, created a gem of contemporary architecture."

—Jury, Mayor's Award for Historic Preservation

Both garages are capped with intensive green roofs several feet deep, removing roads and parking while restoring Olmsted's original lawns and tree cover. The only significant above-grade elements—two elevator enclosures—are sculptural glass forms rotated to face the Cathedral towers. Their faceted design, developed in collaboration with fabrication specialists in northern Italy, echoes the Cathedral's chamfered fenestration and was realized through advanced structural glass and steel composite systems made possible by state-of-the-art digital analysis. Visitors arrive from below grade by glass elevator with iridescent glass doors to a dramatic reveal of the Cathedral's west front.

Since completion, visitorship has doubled, underscoring how thoughtful interventions can broaden engagement without compromising dignity. Widely acclaimed for its elegance and restraint, **the project sets a new precedent for how contemporary design can respectfully support and elevate landmark cultural sites.** Through material refinement, structural ingenuity, and deep contextual sensitivity, the Visitor Gateway demonstrates how architecture can both serve and honor place.



3.6 Princeton Plasma Innovation Center (PPIC)

Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory

LOCATION
Princeton, NJ

SIZE
68,000 gsf, LEED Platinum (pending)

DESIGN FIRM/ ARCHITECT
SmithGroup

ROLE
Design Principal

COMPLETED
2026 (in construction)

PUBLICATIONS
U.S. Department of Energy News, PPIC Heralds a New Era at the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory, May 2024

I have Personal Knowledge that the nominee was largely responsible for the design of the project listed above.

KENYON PETURA, PE | Campus Development Manager, Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory

The Princeton Plasma Innovation Center (PPIC) serves as the new collaborative hub for the Princeton Plasma Physics Lab (PPPL), a U.S. Department of Energy research facility managed by Princeton University. With a mission to advance plasma and fusion energy science in pursuit of carbon-free power, the lab needed a facility that could support advanced scientific inquiry, while redefining the identity and experience of its historically opaque, utilitarian campus. The design challenge was to create a state-of-the-art laboratory with human-centered attributes that could reflect the lab's transformative mission and welcome a broader community of collaborators, researchers, and visitors.

As Design Principal, Sven led the design of PPIC as both a spatial and symbolic departure from the inward-facing geometry of the existing campus. He introduced a dynamic architectural language that expresses energy, transformation, color, and transparency. The ground-level geometry aligns with the existing road and site axes, while the upper office and collaboration volumes rotate to follow the cardinal directions, optimizing solar orientation and creating an intuitive visitor entry marked by a cantilevered overhang.

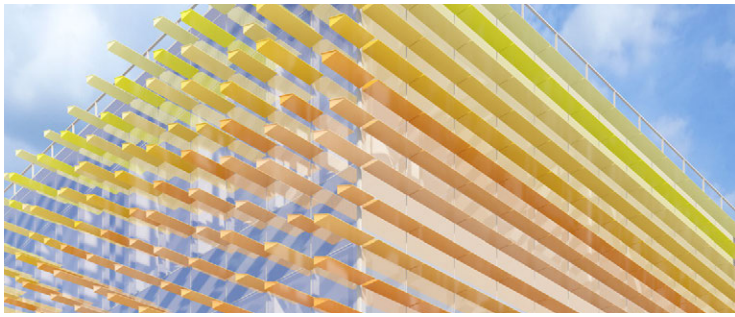
The building integrates specialty medium- and low-bay labs with open and enclosed offices, immersive research environments, seminar space, VR cube, collaboration zones, roof terrace, and a café directly connected to outdoor terraces.

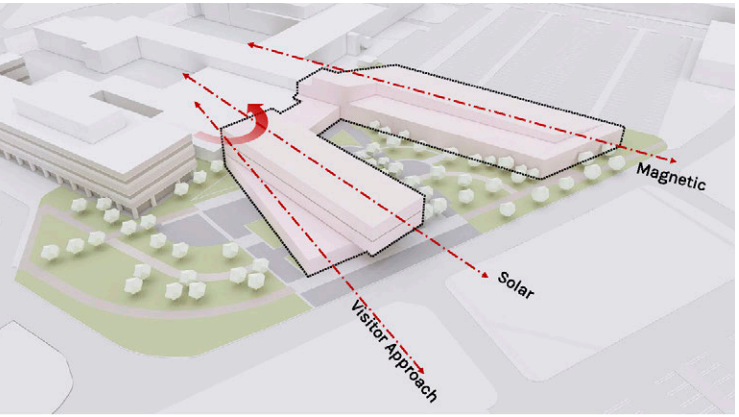
"PPIC will not only be a beautiful gateway into our national Laboratory, but it will also be a sustainable building. Sustainability is at the heart of our mission to achieve fusion energy as a clean, safe and virtually limitless source of energy."

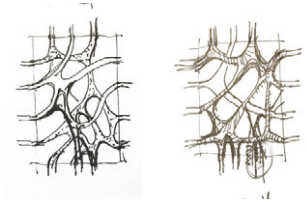
Sir Steven Cowley, Director
Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory

Sven's concept draws metaphorically and functionally from the sun, our everyday experience of plasma fusion, using it as both symbol and resource. **The architecture is shaped to admit, filter, and reflect daylight using computationally refined shading strategies and material systems reducing solar heat loads by 80%.** To contrast with the surrounding bland utilitarian buildings, Sven introduces a gradient of 16 colors into the passive shading elements, referencing Kelvin color temperature of the sun at the horizon and upper sky. Slated to be LEED Platinum, additional features include rain gardens, photovoltaics, geothermal wells, and significant outdoor gathering areas.

PPIC establishes a new architectural identity for PPPL—welcoming, efficient, and with striking architectural character that invites inquiry and exploration.







Sven's facade module concept sketch

3.7 Neural and Behavioral Sciences Building

University of Pennsylvania

LOCATION
University of Pennsylvania,
Philadelphia, PA

SIZE
77,000 gsf, LEED Silver

DESIGN FIRM/ ARCHITECT
SmithGroup

ROLE
Design Principal, SmithGroup

COMPLETED
2016

SELECTED RECOGNITION
2017 AIA CAE, Award of Merit
2017 AIA Detroit, Honor Award
2017 AIA Northern Virginia, Award of Merit
2016 AIA DC, Award of Merit
2016 AIA Potomac Valley, Gold Honor Award

PUBLICATIONS
Architect Magazine, "UPenn's Levin Building Biomorphic Facade," September 2017
*Architecture*DC, "Goodbye Ivory Tower," Spring 2010

I have Personal Knowledge that the nominee was largely responsible for the design of the project listed above.

CHRISTOPHER KERN, AIA | Director, Design & Construction, University of Pennsylvania

The University of Pennsylvania sought to create a new interdisciplinary facility that would unify its psychology and biology programs, while transforming a fragmented campus edge into a vibrant life sciences precinct. The chosen site presented complex design challenges: undefined open space, disconnected structures, and adjacency to sensitive assets including Louis Kahn's Richards and Goddard Labs and the Kaskey Botanical Garden. The University required a solution that would reconcile these elements, establish a compelling gateway, and create a true interdisciplinary teaching and research environment.

As Design Principal, Sven led the architectural vision for the 77,000 gsf Neural and Behavioral Sciences Building and surrounding site. He conceived a bold composition of two interlocking volumes—one clad in patina copper for laboratories and the other in white metal and glass for faculty offices. This contrast articulated programmatic clarity and asserted a distinct identity within the surrounding masonry fabric.

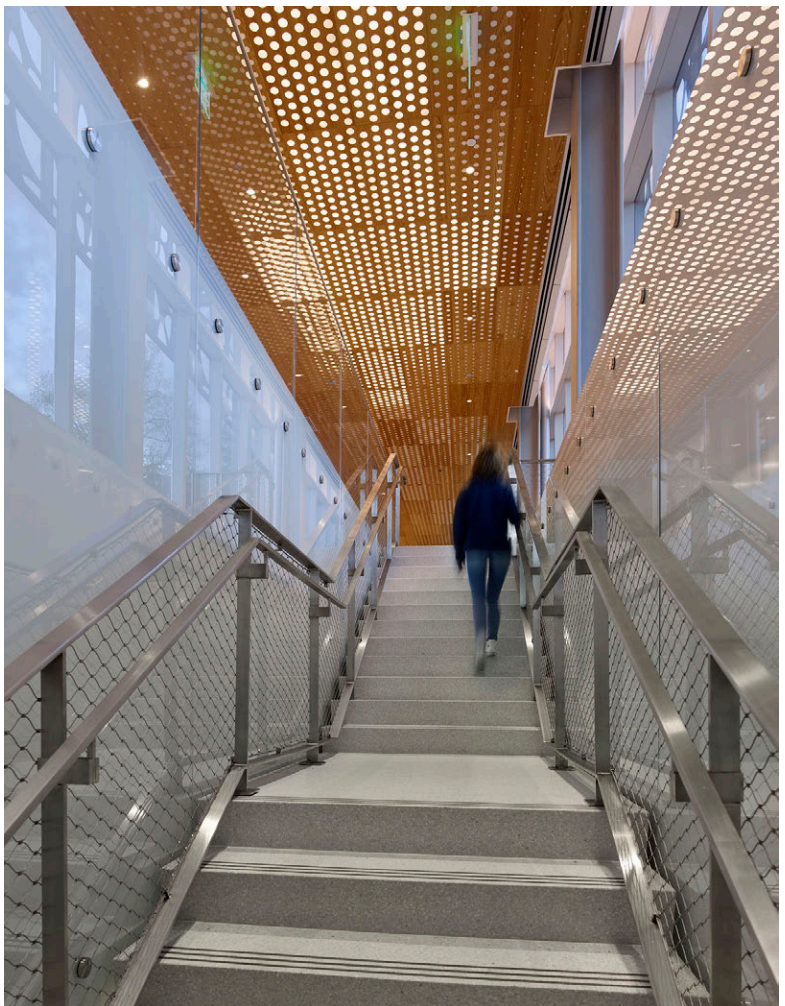
With the inserted structure, Sven established a new academic quad anchored by a luminous, south-facing scrim that shades fully glazed collaboration and circulation spaces, reducing solar heat gain loads by 50%, and artfully invokes branching forms found in all scales of biological systems. **The resulting interior shadow patterns dynamically change throughout the day as well as seasonally similar to the dappled light experienced in the forest.**

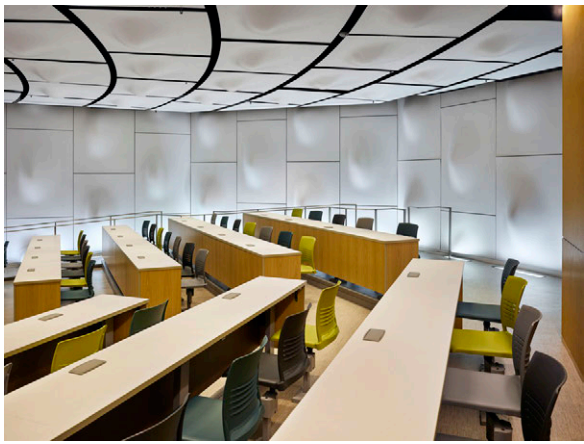
"The materiality of the building is striking and provides richness to the interior and exterior spaces. The dappled light and textures of the circulation and learning environments are visually and cognitively stimulating, a beautiful expression of the school's program."

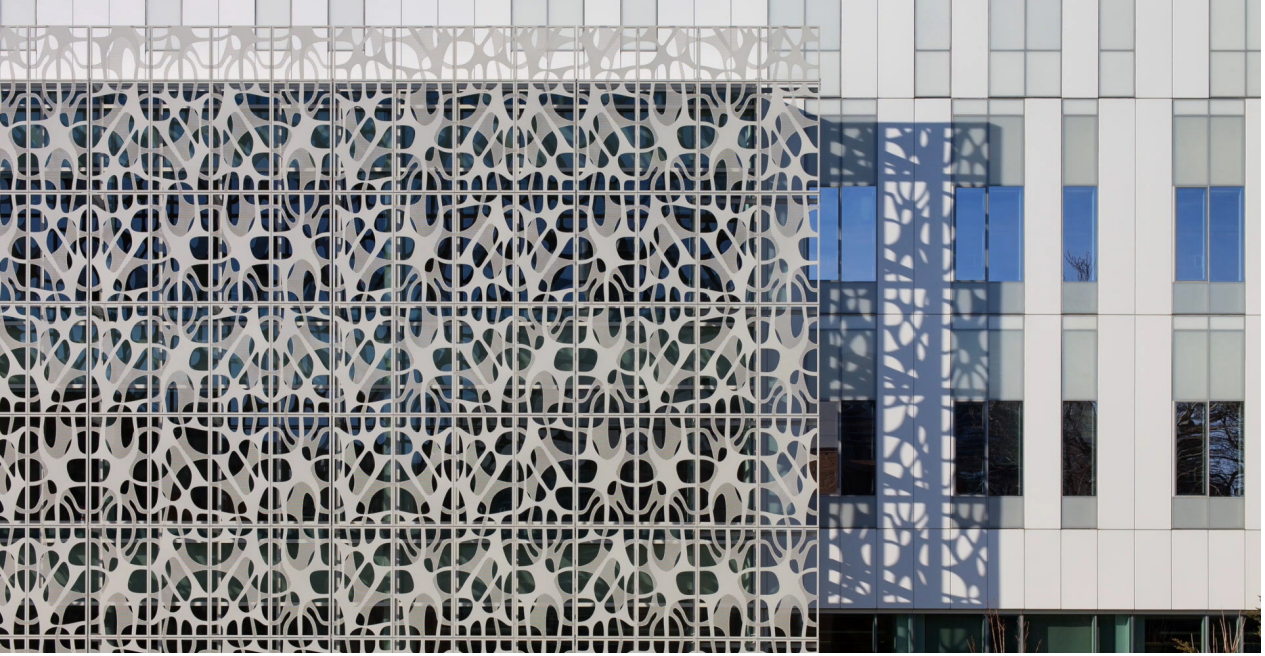
JURY, AIA Community on Architecture in Education Awards Program

In addition to the scrim, Sven's design foregrounds the perception and experience of light throughout the building's interior. A 150-seat auditorium features custom ceiling and wall panels with soft convex-formed geometry. The subtle edge lighting creates an effect in which the panels can be perceived as either concave or convex. The lobby ceiling features backlit perforated wood panels. The perforations become more open as they approach circulation areas, increasing impact at stairs, elevators, and points of entry.

The Neural and Behavioral Sciences Building has redefined the western edge of campus, knitting together formerly disconnected buildings and programs, while creating an inspiring and sustainable academic hub. The project elevates the campus's architectural identity and reinforces interdisciplinary connections between students, faculty, and fields of study. **Recognized with a 2017 National AIA Education Award, Sven's design exemplifies the transformative power of architecture in academic settings through a synthesis of formal clarity, environmental sensitivity, and contextual resonance.**







Below: Filtered through the scrim's play of solid and open patterns, sunlight turns the corridors into luminous passages of hourly and seasonally shifting shadows.

"...Our favorite from the very beginning, [the building] is filled with delightful spaces that encourage collegiality. It is a beautifully crafted, nicely proportioned, and a respectful building. UPenn is lucky to have you!"

Ted Flato, Lake Flato (AIA Potomac Valley Juror)