

CANDIDATE for AIA New Jersey 2019 Vice President: Joshua B. Zinder | AIA | NCARB | LEED AP



ACADEMIC | ORGANIZATIONS

New Jersey Institute of Technology, Adjunct Design Professor, 4th and 5th year
Bachelor of Architecture comprehensive design studios, 2006-2014
American Institute of Architects / US Green Buildings Council | LEED Study Group Facilitator 2009-2014

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Princeton Site Plan Review Advisory Board 2008 – 2014
Princeton Merchants Association Board, 2015 – present
Chair, Gotham Princeton, 2007 – present
Princeton Jewish Center Board of Directors 2004 – 2011, 2013 – 2016
Co-Chair, Business Group, Sustainable Princeton 2009 – 2011
Solomon Schechter Board of Directors, 2002 – 2012
Jewish Family & Children's Services Board, 2017 – present

MEMBERSHIPS

American Institute of Architects
United States Green Buildings Council
Princeton Regional Chamber of Commerce
Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture

HONORS AND AWARDS

Entrepreneur of the Year, Princeton Regional Chamber of Commerce, 2015
AIA-NJ Architectural Firm of the Year, 2014
AIA-NJ Architect of the Year, 2013
Gotham Networking, Networker of the Year, 2011
AIA Merit Award, Architectural Interiors, 2010
AIA Merit Award, Quark Park, 2006
AIA Easy Access Design, 1996

I am honored to be a candidate for the role of Vice President supporting our AIA state chapter. Having worked in the profession for over 25 years, at firms both large and small including the company that I founded 12 years ago, I can easily relate to the challenges facing many colleagues at various professional workplaces and career stages. I am eager to help address these issues by joining the Executive Committee of our professional organization dedicated to improving the outlook for all practitioners.

By way of biography: I earned my Bachelor of Architecture degree at Syracuse University in 1991, and an M.S. in Advanced Architectural Design at Columbia University in 1992. Before starting my firm, Joshua Zinder Architecture + Design, (aka JZA+D) in Princeton in 2006, I was an Associate at Michael Graves & Associates, and before that, a Project Manager at Peter Gisolfi Associates, among other design firms. My wife, four children and I have now resided in New Jersey for 18 years.

By now, my firm has grown to a staff of 16, and I am registered in NJ, NY, NV, FL, TX, and PA. JZA+D has been honored with three awards from AIA-NJ in the past few years, so we know how gratifying it is to have an active program of recognition from one's professional peers.

I regularly author and publish byline articles and blog posts on design issues, along with participating in interviews and providing materials for design and trade publications. I also give public presentations and speak on panels on design topics, such as "Integrated Practice for Emerging Firms," at Design on the Delaware, in 2014. These activities help promote and publicize the value of good design and the important role of the architectural design profession in shaping our built environment, and our very future.

Architectural training develops a range of analytic and synthetic skills that are broadly applicable to many challenges. The public and the clientele should know that an architect can and should be employed to create design solutions for a wide variety of building types, rather than being placed into a specialty niche. Part of my platform is to promote this universal capability. I am also interested in expanding the awareness and definition of the category of design referred to as "interior architecture," in contrast to "interior design."

As a strong mentor guiding professional development for younger members of this industry, I have supported the nomination of several staff members of my firm for AIA-NJ's "Intern of the Year Award." We were very proud when Megan Pritts, Associate AIA, who has worked with our firm for 5 years, was honored with this award in 2016, and again in 2017 when she was awarded the AIA College of Fellows Emerging Professionals Scholarship. Our firm encourages and supports participation in the AIA by our design staff, from attending Conferences to working on committees as Megan does.

Having recently elevated an associate to be my architectural partner in the firm, I am fortunate to now be able to share some of the many management responsibilities with a trusted colleague. This has allowed me to consider taking on a greater leadership role within the profession itself. Therefore, I have the privilege of asking you to vote for me to join the AIA Executive Committee in 2019.