

2024 Design Awards Jury



Laura Ayers, AIA, LEED AP (AIA Honolulu)
Principal & Co-Owner, WhiteSpace Architects

WhiteSpace Architects is a woman-owned architectural firm with offices on Oahu and the Big Island. Laura received a Bachelor degree from Georgia Tech and a Master's in Architecture from the University of Michigan. She moved to Hawaii and joined Philip White Architects in 2001 and became licensed architect in Hawaii in 2006. She earned an ownership role in 2016 when she and Pip White became partners and re-branded the firm as WhiteSpace Architects. With over two decades of experience in architecture, she has led many of the firm's most notable and award-winning commercial, educational, and residential projects. Laura spearheads two quarterly events for the local industry: a luncheon for female architects to encourage mentorship and a Small Firm Roundtable discussion. She is also on the AIA Board of Directors for 2024-25.

Lorrin Matsunaga, AIA, LEED AP (AIA Honolulu)
Founding Partner, Urban Works

Lorrin is a partner at Urban Works in Honolulu, which has focused on the design of educational, housing and community-related projects since its founding in 1984. Lorrin maintains active involvement on projects to provide design leadership and to foster dialogue between the client, stakeholders, and design team. After receiving his Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Design and Master of Architecture degrees from the University of Washington, Lorrin worked in smaller firms in Seattle, where he learned about the joy of creative design, mentorship and appropriate placemaking. He believes in the importance of reading, drawing and travel to help formulate ideas and intentions, and to experience architecture first-hand.



Yasushi Ishida, AIA (AIA Honolulu)
Architect & Assistant Professor, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa School of Architecture

Yasushi Ishida is a licensed architect and an Assistant Professor at University of Hawai'i at Mānoa School of Architecture. He received his MArch from the Southern California Institute of Architecture in 2004. He has over 15 years of professional experience, working for firms such as Atelier Hitoshi Abe, Gensler, Morphosis, and Michael Maltzan Architecture, serving a significant role in projects such as The Broad Museum (Los Angeles), Emerson College (Los Angeles) and Phare Tower (Paris, France). Previously, Ishida has been a visiting assistant professor at Woodbury School of Architecture from 2015 to 2018 and has taught at Cal Poly Pomona.



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**April Hughes, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP BD+C (AIA Chicago)
President, HPZS**

April is the President at HPZS. Since graduating from the University of Kansas, she has received recognitions like the 2014 AIA Chicago Dubin Family Young Architect of the Year and the AIA Illinois John Wellborn Root Award in 2013. She is dedicated to the firm's mission as a woman-owned enterprise, and she advocates for a net zero future, all while championing opportunities for women, ensuring their voices are heard and valued. She brings vast experience in sustainable design, with a track record of delivering platinum-rated LEED projects and pioneering net-zero energy designs. She served on AIA Wisconsin Design Excellence and was named a DuPont Emerging Leader at the Design Futures Council Sustainability Summit. She served as Board President of AIA Chicago in 2020, highlighting her emphasis on community enrichment and driving positive change within and beyond the industry.

**Brian Masuda, AIA, LEED AP, WELL AP (AIA New York)
Design Principal, Ennead Architects**

Brian is a Design Principal at Ennead Architects and an alum of the University of Hawai'i School of Architecture. With a portfolio including award-winning projects in higher education, visual and performing arts, commercial mixed-use, retail, research laboratories, and healthcare across the United States and Asia, he brings diverse experience and perspective to his collaborative design process. As a co-leader of Ennead's Cultural and Performing Arts Center of Excellence, he serves as an office resource focused on performing arts and cultural project metrics, trends, and innovations. Additionally, he has contributed his expertise as an educator, teaching integrated design at Cornell and Columbia Universities. Brian recently served as a distinguished member of the Urban Land Institute New York 2023 Awards for Excellence in Development Jury.

