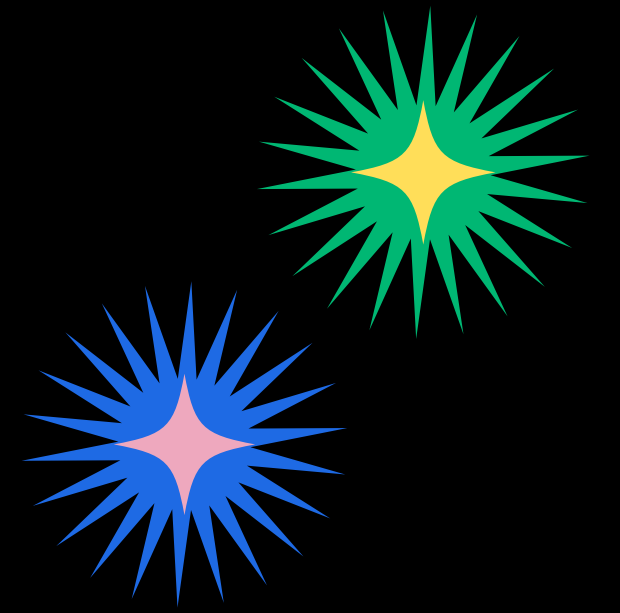




2026 STUDENT DESIGN AWARDS JURY



Laura Ayers, AIA ,LEED AP

Principal & Co-owner, WhiteSpace Architects

With 30 years of architectural experience, Laura Ayers brings design sensibility, project-management skills, and leadership. She has led many of WhiteSpace Architects' award-winning commercial, educational, and residential projects, including Punahou School's Mary Kawena Pukui Learning Commons and Waianae High School's Searider Productions complex. Laura holds a Master of Architecture from the University of Michigan and a Bachelor of Science from Georgia Institute of Technology, including study at École d'Architecture La Villette in Paris. A longtime AIA Honolulu member.



Hazel Go, AIA

Senior Associate, WCIT Architecture

A graduate of Carnegie Mellon University, Hazel is an architect with design and architectural expertise gained from working on local, national, and international projects in New York City, Washington, D.C., and Honolulu with WCIT Architecture. Her experience across a broad range of project typologies and scales over 20 years has shaped her attention to detail, efficiency, forward-thinking, flexible management style, and a design process grounded in the outdoor environment, human experience of place, and storytelling; while her love of nature provides constant inspiration.



Chris Hong, AIA

Principal, CHRIS HONG DESIGN LLC

Chris brings 20+ years of architectural experience spanning healthcare, institutional, and commercial projects across Hawaii and the Pacific. Born and raised in Honolulu, he has a deep understanding of Pacific Island construction challenges, regulatory environments, and cultural contexts. His primary focus is on project innovation, sustainable design, and integrated collaboration to deliver high-value solutions for complex institutional projects. Chris also oversees strategic design initiatives while maintaining active leadership roles in Hawaii's architectural and civic communities.

