Madame Architect’s founder and editor, Julia Gamolina, reports on what women in architecture are saying about themselves, which resources they wish they had, and suggests a few ways forward.

2019 Women in Architecture Celebration

We Are Here
Madame Architect
for Visibility, Retention & Change
March 21, 2019
5:00PM
Doors Open / Networking Reception
6:15PM
Presentation

Event Sponsors
AIA Ohio Honor Awards Jury
11327 Shaker Blvd. Suite 500W, Cleveland, Ohio 44104
● 216.830.2770 ● ClevelandNP.org

RE: AIA OHIO PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD NOMINATION

Madame or Mister Chairperson,
I am proud to pen this nomination on behalf of my colleagues on the AIA Cleveland Board, whom ask that one of our own, Jodi van der Wiel, AIA, be duly recognized with the Ohio Public Service Award. That she would be the first woman bestowed with this honor befits her action-oriented and inclusive tenure with AIA Cleveland.

Jodi is among the more talented architectural professionals and selfless leaders I have had the pleasure of working alongside. This has never been more obvious than when COVID19 threatened to sideline her leadership term. Instead of sulking about deferred programming and outreach opportunities, Jodi sprang into action—working even harder to effectuate an organization that has been proactive and decisive in uncertain times. During the Ohio distancing mandate, AIA Cleveland has become an indispensable partner for both members and firm and institutional leaders that need connectivity in isolation, continuing education without events, and best practices to inform their own leadership choices. We have even reworked the newsletter to make it more helpful—all at Jodi’s urging and under her leadership. Albert Einstein famously remarked that, “adversity introduces a man to himself” and, gender exclusivity aside, these unprecedented times have validated both Jodi’s character and merit as a leader.

Just the third female President in our Chapter’s 130-year history, Jodi helped to co-found the AIA Cleveland Women in Architecture (WIA) committee in 2015 and has played an outsized role in shaping the organization since. At the time, the board was insular and lacking diversity. Today, more than half of the board is female, a member of a minority community, or both; and a renewed spirit of relevance, strategy, and engagement has accompanied the shift. This is due to the voices around the table and also to the various strategic planning efforts Jodi has overseen. AIA Cleveland has also become a model of engagement, doing meaningful outreach through the Girl Scouts, the Cleveland Metroparks, ACE Mentor Program, and Shaker Heights Public Schools. While some of this may not seem revelatory, contrarian feedback we still receive from a faction of the membership is a reminder of the headwinds that have prevented this necessary modernization in the past.

… but all in day’s work for Jodi! Please contact me (402.541.9040) if I can be of further assistance.

All the Best,
Wayne A. Mortensen, AIA, NASW
AIA Cleveland President Elect
JODI BELIEVES IN PAYING IT FORWARD.

van der Wiel's passion for Education, Inclusivity, and Outreach drive her to use her voice to make an impact for her Community. She is a public servant, giving her time and sharing her knowledge, educating the community on how comprehensive design-thinking will solve problems. She continues to generate an inclusive, diverse pipeline to the profession while exemplifying how architects can be of service to their communities.

Jodi's Presidency in 2020 marked the occasion of the most diverse Board of Directors and Executive Committee in the 130-year history of the Chapter. This unprecedented shift has made AIA Cleveland leadership a place where many young capable leaders begin their paths to life-long service. Diversity in leadership: gender, race, culture, and age has augmented leadership to be a more direct representation of our members which has grown our membership to the largest body in our history.

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

City of Cleveland Design Review Boards
For the past eleven years, Jodi has been an active advocate for design and planning excellence for the City of Cleveland’s design review process.
2012 - Present, Downtown Flats Region
The Downtown | Flats Region covers Downtown Cleveland and the Flats, the Lake Erie shoreline, Edgewater Park and the Cleveland-Hopkins airport.
2010 - 2018, East Region
The East Region covers the area east of the Cuyahoga River, south of the Innerbelt | Cedar Avenue and west of East 93rd | Woodhill. This region includes: Broadway, Burten Bell Carr, and the Opportunity Corridor Design Review Districts.

Kent State University: Practice Liaison
2019 - Present, Jodi continues to serve as an active liaison between Kent State, the Cleveland UrbanDesign Collaborative, and Practice. Offering her time for reviews, designing workshops, and field trips to contribute to the pipeline of future architects and designers.

Rocky River High School Guest Lecturer
2013 - 05.03 - Instructor, Cohesive Architectural Design + Mentorship
Course: Architecture: The Project Process + Career Path, Co-Lead

Avon Lake High School Senior Project Mentor
2013 - Laura Fraser, AIA + Curriculum - Design Tools + Process, 3D Visualization, Field Exposure

Project Pipeline Architecture Camp, National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA)
Our mission is to empower young people to affect change in their community through Design.
2019 - 07.09 - Instructor, Cohesive Architectural Design + Mentorship
Course: Design Tools + Process, 3D Visualization, Project Work + Mentorship

ACE Mentorship Program (Architecture + Construction + Engineering)
Our mission is to engage, excite and enlighten high school students to pursue careers in architecture, engineering and construction through mentoring.
2020, Instructor, Rhodes High School
2019, ACE Reactor Panelist
2016, Mentor, Rhodes High School
2013, Mentor, John Hay High School

dreamARCHITECTURE Cleveland V1.0, Shaker Heights School District - Grades K-5 + 9
Eight-hundred students were encouraged to explore Architecture early in life through this pilot.
2019 - 12.13 - Architecture Career Day - Sharing the Profession + Introducing the Problem
2019 - 10.21 - Faculty Workshop - Developing the dreamARCHITECTURE Rubric

CANstruction Cleveland + Akron
2019, Cleveland + Akron CANstruction Awards Jury

Girl Scouts of Northeast Ohio
2019 - Present, STEM Advisory Board, Girl Scouts of Northeast Ohio (GSNEO)
The STEM Advisory Board assumes primary responsibility for providing quality, accessible STEM programming to all 30,000 girls in the eighteen counties that make up GSNEO.
2020, 05.03 Founder, GIRLSBuild Architecture Day Camp V1.0, Camp Ledgewood
2018 - 2020, Girl Scout Troop #71369 Program Guide - Daisies, Brownies
2019 - 2020, Badge Boss + Career Exploration Expert
Career experts provide programming to troops that highlight their career expertise which encourage the girls to earn badges related to their occupations.

Cleveland 2030 District
2020 - GREG COMMITTEE, 2030 District Programming
2019 - Event Co-Chair, Environmental and Human Health through Design 2 HSW | GBCI
The program explores air and water quality, diseases/illnesses exacerbated by poor environmental quality, and how to mitigate environmental health issues with smart design practices.

Building Enclosure Council • ASHRAE • COTE
2020 - Event Liaison COTE Collaboration, The Impact of Climate Change 1.5 HSW | GBCI

International WELL Building Institute
2020 - Coronavirus Task Force
Deploying strategy to channel the collective expertise and insight of the global WELL community.

Cycling for a Cause
2018 - VELO SANO Cleveland Clinic | Team vocon raised $60,778 | Cancer Research
2016 - VELO SANO Cleveland Clinic | Team vocon raised $33,000 | Cancer Research
2005 - Pedal to the Point | MS 150 | National MS Society
2004 - Pedal to the Point | MS 150 | National MS Society
2003 - TOUR de CURE | American Diabetes Association | Northeast, Ohio
2003 - Visual Challenge | Cycle for Air | American Lung Association | Cleveland, Ohio
2003 - TOUR de CURE | American Diabetes Association | Northeast, Ohio

Cycling with Pete | Partnering to Fund Cerebral Palsey Research
2020, 05.03 Founder, GIRLSBuild! Architecture Day Camp V1.0,

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Cycling with Pete | Partnering to Fund Cerebral Palsey Research
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2019 - 2023 AIA CLEVELAND STRATEGIC PLAN

Jodi initiated, planned and orchestrated the AIA Cleveland strategic planning process in 2018. Jodi engaged Tim Hawk, FAIA, to moderate and to collaborate on the strategy work session. Her request, in retrospect, was very influential to the future of the Institute. She encouraged me to share the strategic direction of National efforts which immediately broadened the thinking of many participants. Simultaneously, I gathered feedback from heartland architects facing a post-industrial economy. This knowledge-exchange helped shape both the National and AIA Cleveland’s Strategic Plan. The architects in Cleveland heard about national’s five-year focus on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and how this initiative was shaping a more agile, open, and valued profession. The final AIA Cleveland Strategic Plan shifted the organization’s focus towards professional pipeline enrichment. Similarly, I was able to more clearly understand the importance of environmental stewardship in a rustbelt city like Cleveland which, in part, influenced a heightened focus on environmental stewardship in the AIA National Strategic Plan. Both plans more effectively position architects to become respected, engaged, community leaders. I am certain that the future of our profession was influenced by Jodi’s leadership.

Timothy Hawk, FAIA

AIA LEADERSHIP

AIA NATIONAL

2020 AIA Grassroots, New Orleans
2019 AIA Grassroots National Lobby on Capitol Hill
Ohio Congressional Representatives, Washington DC
• Historic Tax Credits, Safety in Schools
Architects Foundation Scholar, Women’s Leadership Summit
2016 AIA Leadership Institute - Cleveland Satellite

AIA OHIO

2020 Spearheaded OHIO-SAY IT LOUD Exhibit, Beyond the Built Environment
• Secured grant funding AIA Ohio, The AIA Ohio Foundation, The Cleveland Foundation
AIA Ohio Covid-19 Task Force
• Connected Governor’s Team and City of Cleveland with design professionals and resources to be of service for immediate built-outs of temporary facilities
2018 - Present, AIA Ohio Design Awards Committee
• Jury + keynote selection, submission vetting, past keynote achievements include: Rick Cook - Cook Fox, Chris Sharples - SHoP, Brandon Pace - Sanders Pace
• Honor award redesign (2019)

2019 - 2020, AIA Ohio Day at the Statehouse
Ohio Congressional Representatives, Columbus, Ohio
• SB 136 - Payment Assurance Act (Ohio is the sole state without Lien Rights)
• SB 266 - Occupational Licensing Reform
• Invest in America Act, Safety in Schools

2019 Chair, AIA Ohio Advocacy Task Force
2018 AIA Ohio Strategic Planning Workshop
• Formalized the subsequent five years of State leadership

AIA CLEVELAND

2020 AIA Cleveland President - “The Future of Practice”
• COVID - 19: Steady, resourceful leadership for our 560 members
• Authored newsletter redesign to heighten human interaction during quarantine
• 300 Board Mantra - “Do Cool Shit + Be Accessible”
• Diversified the Cleveland Connect mentor catalog
• Broadened the definition of community design leaders to include non-traditional and alternate career paths
• Championed outreach pipeline initiatives
• Connected AIA to the Arts and local foundations
• Spearheaded a reset of our Historic Resources Committee - providing structure, mentorship, and leadership development
• Moved to supplement the 2020 Board with an advisor on diversity
• Finalized Policy Directory and refined Bylaws, including Anti-Harassment and Code of Conduct Policies

2019 AIA Cleveland President-Elect
• Authored conduct guidelines for AIA Cleveland continuing education Chair, AIA Cleveland COTE
• Re-established AIA Cleveland’s COTE after a ten-year hiatus
• Established sustainable criteria for design awards submissions
• Actualized COTE Top Ten Toolkit roundtable discussions
Event Co-Chair, Speakers on the Square: Sustainable CLE 1.5 HSW | GBCI
• Highlighted Cleveland’s sustainable infrastructure and historical Impact Chair, AIA Cleveland Nominating Committee
• Formalized chapter nominations for the AIA Ohio Honor Awards
• Advisor, AIA Cleveland Women in Architecture Committee
• Championed scholarships for the National Women’s Leadership Summit
• Lobbied for Diversity in jury review panels for Cleveland schools of Architecture

AIA CLEVELAND, contin...

2018 AIA Cleveland First Vice-President
• Crafted process, Authored + Presented the Five-Year Strategic Plan [2019-2023]
• Elevated Equity, Diversity + Inclusivity and Outreach as Chapter Initiatives
AIA Cleveland Nominating Committee
• Advocated for Board Diversity
Advisor, AIA Cleveland Women in Architecture Committee

2017 AIA Cleveland Secretary, Executive Committee
Advisor, AIA Cleveland Women in Architecture Committee
• Awarded scholarships for the National Women’s Leadership Summit
AIA Cleveland Design Awards Committee
Cleveland CONNECT - Active Formal Mentor: AJ Swever, AIA, Megan Hafl, AIA, Lily Maniet, AIA, LEED AP BD+C, WELL AP

2016 AIA Cleveland Director of Programming
• Promoted Diversity of presenters
• Streamlined course creation and reporting
Co-Chair, AIA Cleveland Women in Architecture Committee
• Initiated the WIA+ Directorship as a Board position
Co-Founder Cleveland Connect, The Chapter’s mentorship program
AIA Cleveland Executive Director Search Committee
• AIA Cleveland Design Awards Committee
AIA Cleveland Beach Day Graphics Package, Media + Sandcastle Competition
Cleveland CONNECT - Active Formal Mentor: Amanda Romeo, AIA

2015 AIA Cleveland Director of Programming
Co-Founder + Co-Chair, AIA Cleveland Women in Architecture Committee
• Co-Crafted mission and generated the annual WIA programming structure
Event Co-Chair, First Annual Women in Architecture Celebration
• Championed this first event which began our Cleveland design community’s discourse on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity
In 2015-16, as AIA Cleveland’s first Director of Programming, Jodi crafted an annual framework for customized programs to inspire and to educate. She and her team streamlined the creation and reporting of HSW courses for the Chapter and taught others to follow and to teach. This educational structure still exists as the cornerstone of the Chapter’s core member services and a result the Chapter has grown to its largest member-base in history. The rich diversity in programming has been widely recognized by AIA Ohio and our sister chapters. Over the course of Jodi’s Directorship, AIA Cleveland reported 65 tailored credits, including 35 HSW-focused CEU. Jodi continues to advocate for the diversity of presenters.

**“Jodi believes that design can make a difference in people’s lives. She is committed to raising awareness on sustainability and wellness for her community and her clients, enabling them to make intentional decisions that reinforce their ethical beliefs and workplace cultures. She strives for knowledge and she believes that architects and designers have a responsibility to educate, to be environmentally responsible, and to further the health and wellness of society through smart design best practices.”**

Dr. Gina Makris, MS, DC, WELL AP, WELL Faculty, LEED Green Associate [Co-Presenter]

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**KNOWLEDGE-SHARING**

- **AIA Cleveland**
  - Design Award Juries
    - 2020 – AIA Cleveland | Cleveland Restoration Society Preservation Awards Jury
    - 2019 – AIA Cleveland Student Awards Jury, Kent State Graduate Work
    - 2019 – AIA Maryland Design Awards Jury, Professional + Student Work
    - 2019 – Cleveland Construction Employers Association (CEA), Building Excellence +Craftsmanship
    - 2018 – AIA Pittsburgh Design Awards Jury
    - 2018 – Pittsburgh Magazine, Home of the Year Jury
    - 2017 – Pittsburgh Magazine, Home of the Year Jury

- **AIA Rhode Island**
- **AIA Maryland**
- **AIA Pittsburgh**

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**Ongoing Visiting Critic**

- 2008 - Present, Kent State College of Architecture and Environmental Design - Kent, Ohio
  - Charles Harker, Integrated Design Studio - Adjunct Professor; Mike Thomas - Interior Design Faculty; Adam Yaras, First-Year Foundations - Adjunct Faculty; Jonathan Penrose, First-Year Foundations - Adjunct Faculty; Zahra Safaverdi, First-Year Foundations - Schindler Emerging Faculty Fellow; Robert Kobet, Fourth-Year Sustainable Design/Integrated Systems - Adjunct Faculty; Thom Stauffer, AIA, Architecture Graduate Program - Professor
- 2008, Cleveland Urban Design Collaborative - Cleveland, Ohio
  - Jayne Schwartzberg, Landscape Architecture - Adjunct Faculty; Eric Pempus, FAIA, Adjunct Faculty Graduate Studies
- 2001, Iowa State University College of Design - Ames, Iowa
  - Charles Masterson, Architecture - Professor

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**Workplace, Design + Sustainability**

- Environmental and Human Health through Design, Moderator 2 HSW | GBCI
  - November 2019, Cleveland 2030 District + AIA Cleveland COTE
- A Visual Presentation of the Business and Science Case for Human Health Components of The WELL Building Standard, Co-Lead 1.5 HSW | GBCI
  - September 2019, AIA Ohio Valley Regional Conference
- Customizing Sustainability + Wellness for Your Client, Lead 1.25 HSW | GBCI
  - September 2019, AIA Ohio Valley Regional Conference

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**Integration - COTE Top Ten Toolkit** - Roundable Lead

- August 2019, AIA Cleveland Committee on the Environment

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**Oatey: Responsive Sustainability**, Lead 4 HSW | GBCI

- May 2018, Cleveland 2030 District Building Education Series
  - Oatey Corporate Headquarters: LEED Gold + WELL Case Study
- Oatey Corporate Headquarters: A National Case Study, Speaker | Lead Designer
  - August 2017, Haworth Documentary

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**Practice, Mentorship + Equity**

- Leadership, Ethics + Office Management, Guest Lecturer
  - March 2020, Cleveland Urban Design Collaborative, Eric Pempus, FAIA, Adjunct Faculty
- Architectural Design Process + Case Studies, Lead
  - March 2020, Rhodes High School, ACE Mentorship Program
- Emerging Professionals as Leaders, Panelist + Host, Mentorship Mixer
  - September 2019, AIA Cleveland CONNECT
- Cohesive Architectural Design + Process, Lead
  - July 2019, National Organization of Minority Architects [NOMA], Project Pipeline Architecture Camp
  - Women in Architecture - Changes in Education + Practice, Panelist
    - March 2019, AIAS Kent - Advocacy Committee - Roundtable Discussion
- Practice + Diversity, Lead
  - December 2018, Women’s Leadership Initiative Winter Social
  - Urban Land Institute, Host + Speaker
- Equity by Design 4.0, Panelist 1.5 HSW
  - March 2018, Kent State University College of Architecture and Environmental Design

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**Equity by Design 3.0, Panelist 1.5 HSW**

- September 2017, AIA Ohio Valley Regional Conference
- NeoX3Road - Negotiation, Moderator 1 HSW
  - September 2017, AIA Cleveland WA+
- Equity in Architecture 2.0, Panelist 1.5 HSW
  - March 2017, AIAS Ohio, Women in Design Week, Knowlton School of Architecture
- Equity in Architecture 1.0, Panelist 1.5 HSW
  - October 2016, AIA Ohio Conference

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**Celebrating Women in Architecture, Panelist 2 HSW**

- March 2016, Second Annual AIA Cleveland Women in Architecture Celebration
- Film Screening - Making Space: 5 Women Changing the Face of Architecture
- Architecture: The Project Process + Career Path, Co-Lead
  - May 2013, Rocky River High School
WOMEN IN ARCHITECTURE +

Nominee's Role

WIA+ Co-Founder + Advisor

WIA+ was formed in 2015 to address the critically important issues of increasing diversity, equity and inclusion in the profession of architecture in Cleveland. In the 6 years since their formation, through their leadership, the AIA Cleveland Strategic Plan now prioritizes inclusivity as a key tenet; the Board of Directors is now much more diverse, by gender, age and cultural diversity; and AIA Cleveland is now led by the third woman president (Jodi) and the first mother in the chapter’s 130 years.” Kate Schwennsen, FAIA

Second Woman to Lead AIA National [2005-2006], Director of the School of Architecture, Clemson [2020]

Challenge: Create a channel to empower, to support, and to elevate women as leaders.

Outcome: Five years strong, our WIA+ committee celebrates accomplishments, elevates profiles, and educates members on the obstacles facing women and minorities. To date, WIA+ has garnered +$85,000 in sponsorship support, impacting many thousands through awareness. In 2017, the Directorship rose to a Board seat per Jodi’s recommendation.

WIA+ Mission: “WIA+ aspires to Educate, Advocate and Empower on matters of Gender Equity in our Profession, Visibility and Influence of women architects and designers, and Leadership and Mentorship for ALL.”

Tactics:

• Knowledge-Sharing
  2016 - 2019 - Equity in Architecture 1.0, 2.0, 3.0 + 4.0 - Jodi and her peers share their career journeys with students and architects across the region, raising awareness on matters of Equity.

• Annual March Celebrations
  For the past six years, 800+ participants have experienced this gathering in celebration of women’s history month. WIA+ provides the platform for wave-making advocates from across the Nation to take a stand and to share their voices. As a result, our perspectives have expanded. Conceived in 2015, this event has become one of AIA Cleveland’s most anticipated by ALL, drawing 180+ participants, including: AIA members, the broader Design Community, the Arts Community, students, civic leaders, and the public. In 2015, WIA+ emerged from this first discourse on Equity, Diversity, Work-Life Balance, and General Career Advice. This signature event raises our member profiles by National and local media outlets, empowering and elevating women in our design community by honoring their accomplishments.

• Annual March Celebrations, continued...
  2017 - Intersection of Architecture + Design + Culture, Susan Skarsgard, General Motors, This lecture illustrates an unusual career path that has wandered through some of the most important legacies of design in America, including Saarinen’s masterpiece, the GM Technical Center campus. 2018 - An Evening with Kate, Kate Schwennsen, FAIA shares her career journey, the second woman to lead AIA National and a leading female in acadamia.
  2019 - We Are Here: Madame Architect for Visibility, Retention and Change, Julianna Gamolina of Madame Architect reports on what women in architecture are saying about themselves and which resources they wish they had. Julia presents her work on her blog which broadcasts the stories of female practitioners from all over the globe and she interviewed two of our local practitioners.
  2020 - I Was Asked to Stand, Pascale Sablan, AIA educates and empowers to understand the cause and the potential solutions for the disparity in representation, documentation, and acknowledgement of the great works of women and diverse designers. The lecture unpacks the history and how we may proactively change the profession while advocating for Equity.

• Exhibits
  OHIO: SAY IT LOUD - In 2020, under Jodi’s leadership, AIA WIA+ championed the statewide exhibit curated by Beyond the Built Environment, the activation of a National movement of sharing, protecting and celebrating the journey of the underrepresented to inspire the next generation. Jodi secured grants from AIA Ohio, the AIA Ohio Foundation, and The Cleveland Foundation. We had an unprecedented 186+ registrants, 24 sponsors, 44 exhibit entrants, and 33 video entries for OHIO: SAY IT LOUD. Upon its opening, at Karamu House, the oldest African American Theatre in the country, OHIO: SAY IT LOUD premiered as the largest exhibit of its kind in history. Upon and her Team garnered sponsorships from numerous local architects, designers, and community partners in excess of $25,000 to allow the exhibition to travel the state. SAY IT LOUD continues to tour, visiting local component chapters and schools of Architecture, conferences, and signature component events. Over three thousand viewed the highlights to vote for people’s choice, making this curation the most impactful outreach initiative by AIA Cleveland to date.

• Skill-Building
  NaXXIReads are book-club style gatherings led by facilitators that address a topic through the lens of gender. Successful topics have included: Negotiation, Firm Leadership, and Pay Equity.
  The First Time I... is an open discussion with participants centered on facing a career hurdle or adversity.
  Workshops - Solve Problems through Negotiation: Negotiation Fundamentals, Strategies and Practice

• Press
  Two accomplished Clevelanders talk with Madame Architect about building careers, overcoming challenges and more, March 2019, Scott Suttell, Crain’s Cleveland Business
  Local organization continues support, recognition of female architects, Jordan Vandenberge, March 2019, News cleveland The Right Dynamic: Utako Tanebe on Speaking up and Keeping an Eye on the Bigger Picture, April 2019, Madame Architect
  Two-Hundred Percent: Sandra Madison on Flexibility, Camaraderie, and Passion, April 2019, Madame Architect
  The Sound of Ideas with Rick Jackson - Kate Schwennsen, FAIA on Women in Architecture, March 2018, Rick Jackson, WVIZ/PBS NPI’s ideastream became a platform for Kate to reach thousands in Northeast Ohio with her message on Equity.
  Social Media Campaigns
  SAY IT LOUD, March 2020 - Elevating members, sharing their drive for adversity and their community impacts.
  #WE ARE HERE, March 2019 - Raising member profiles, stating their thoughts on their professional passions.

In March of 2019, I traveled to Cleveland to speak at AIA Cleveland’s annual Women in Architecture signature event. I had lectured for various organizations previously, and was a frequent participant in AIA NYWomen in Architecture Committees and meetings. However, in Cleveland, I had experienced something else entirely – the attendance was extraordinary, the level of energy invigorating, and the movement that these women have created, truly wave-making.” Julia Gamolina, Madame Architect [2019]
Nominee's Role
Leader, Initiator, Teacher

Channels | Partners
- Girl Scouts of Northeast Ohio
- Shaker Heights Schools
- ACE Mentorship Program
- National Organization of Minority Architects
- AIA Cleveland
- AIA Akron

**OUTREACH + PIPELINE INITIATIVES**

Challenge: Create impactful initiatives outreaching to the community and generating a pipeline for women and diversity in Architecture.

Outcome:
Multiple channels have been generated and built-upon to reveal the craft of Architecture to thousands of young students, targeting a diverse population of K-5 and high school students.

Tactics:
- **girlsBUILD! ARCHITECTURE Pilot**
  Jodi initiated and led a task force to craft curricula for the first Architecture program through the Girl Scouts of Northeast Ohio, home to 30,000 girls. This pilot commenced our Architecture Patch, designed and sponsored by the women of AIA Cleveland, featuring Cleveland’s MOCA building, designed by Farshid Moussavi. Although the Boy Scouts have had a patch for over one-hundred years, this opportunity does not exist for the girls. We now have telling data describing that girls are not likely to explore careers in STEAM if not exposed at the K-5 level. This crucial initiative expands our pipeline.
- **dreamARCHITECTURE Pilot**
  During Jodi’s 2020 Presidency, she and the Outreach team began the year by spending hours in the arts classrooms at Shaker Heights Schools, our most diverse district in Cleveland. We introduced our dreamARCHITECTURE challenge to 800 students and later juried the work to elevate early design-thinking.
- **sandFEST + ACE**
  In 2015, the AIA Cleveland Board brought back sandFEST. This celebration is now an annual event and its exposure and outreach have skyrocketed via local and social media coverage, transforming this festival into a community summer highlight at Edgewater Beach, overlooking Cleveland’s skyline. Over the past five years, $19,800 has been sponsored through this fest to support future students of Architecture via Cleveland’s ACE (Architecture • Construction • Engineering) Mentorship Program.
- **Project Pipeline**
  Jodi is a consistent instructor for NOMA’s diverse groups in the summer months, sharing Architectural design and design-thinking, to interact with kids, and to stress the need for life-long mentors.
- **Hip Hop Architecture Camp ®**
  In 2017, AIA Cleveland hosted hundreds for Michael Ford’s Hip Hop Architecture Camp, The Camp uses hip hop culture as a catalyst to introduce underrepresented youth to architecture, urban planning and design.

I can honestly say that many of my own professional successes are a direct result of Jodi’s unyielding mentorship. Jodi has a unique ability to see someone’s inner strengths, even if they don’t see it there themselves. She inspires confidence in many of her proteges, encouraging them to step out of their comfort zone and accept challenges that truly develop their skills and abilities. Her mentorship often goes beyond the world of architecture and design, and she strives to bring out the best in everyone she works with. Most importantly, Jodi’s tenacity and conviction are also balanced with generosity and kindness, and she is able to be both a strong leader as well as a compassionate confidant.

Crystal Knapik, AIA

During the last few months, I’ve had the opportunity to work closely with Jodi van der Wiel in planning Women in Architecture’s inaugural Girls Build + Design event hosted at Girl Scouts of North East Ohio’s Camp Ledgewood, in Peninsula, Ohio. Girls will learn more about architecture with hands-on experiments from women in the field. Jodi’s leadership has been golden—she’s been instrumental in the team creating a sound, holistic program that helps girls learn about design in a fun, hands-on way. I look forward to continue working with the team and to watching the program grow. Through partnerships like this, girls are able to engage in fun ways to learn, while acquiring and applying their STEM skills. Fallon Pulley, Director of Girl Experience, GSNEO
March 31, 2020

To whom this may concern,

It is with great enthusiasm and confidence that I submit this letter in support of Ms. Jodi van der Wiel’s application for the AIA Ohio Public Service Award.

Given the purpose and intent of the AIA Ohio Public Service Award, I believe it is important to note that Ms. Van der Wiel first came to my attention while in attendance at an AIAS meeting at Kent State University in Fall of 2019. As a new faculty member, I was seeking colleagues in the profession that could participate as jurors for my fourth year Integrated Design Studio (IDS). Specifically, my goal was to increase jury diversity with practitioners well-versed and experienced in sustainable design and development, high-performance green buildings, and environmental stewardship. It was immediately apparent that Jodi was well-respected and appreciated for her expertise. Several AIAS students quickly suggested that I reach out to her.

I was soon to learn why Ms. Van der Wiel was so popular with students, and why they value her involvement, both academically and personally. Jodi not only happily accepted my invitation to participate as a juror, she enlisted two additional colleagues! Together, the jury provided an informed, spirited, very positive critique for my entire studio section. Suffice it to say the student response was completely positive.

Subsequently, I was flattered by an invitation from Jodi to attend an AIA COTE meeting. There I realized positive critique for my entire studio section. Suffice it to say the student response was completely positive.

Lastly, I am inspired by Jodi’s unwavering commitment to the Kent State community in the wake of the ongoing corona virus pandemic. At a time when many can be excused for focusing inward and curtailing their involvement in anything but the most important activities, Jodi’s ongoing corona virus pandemic. At a time when many can be excused for focusing inward and curtailing their involvement in anything but the most important activities, Jodi’s response to the postponement of all of our ongoing collaborations was simple…“Bob, I understand. I’m here for you and your students. Just let me know what I can do for you.”

I have come to know Jodi as a consummate professional; selfless, generous and dedicated to the AIA and the communities that it serves. I wholeheartedly endorse her application for the AIA Ohio Public Service Award. I hope you agree.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert J. Kobet
Adjunct Professor
Kent State University College of Architecture and Environmental Design
rkobet@kent.edu
412-980-9725
www.bobkobet.com
Letter of Recommendation | Jodi van der Wiel – 2020 AIA Ohio Public Service Award
Mark Mistur, AIA, Dean, College of Architecture and Environmental Design, Kent State University

March 28, 2020

To: AIA Honors Awards Jury

I enthusiastically recommend Jodi van der Wiel for the 2020 AIA Ohio Public Service Award. Jodi has been an extraordinary bridge – not only between the academy and the profession but to best practice. She demonstrates commitment to the understanding that design matters and has consequence on and in the lives of users and society – and is ever active in doing what she can to make those consequences positive as was so clearly demonstrated at recent AIA Ohio conference presentations. Hers stood above and apart from others with respect to the quality of the work clearly tied to its ethical, human-based approach. Ms. van der Wiel is a compelling leader in her practice, an effective leader in the AIA, and an actively engaged leader in highly effective public service aimed, among other things, at the education of architects and interior designers.

Her regular, willing, and effective volunteer engagement with the college as a studio reviewer (invited by as many as 9 different and diverse faculty in studios ranging from first year foundations, to third and fourth year interior design, to fourth year integrated design studio, to graduate architecture, urban design and landscape architecture studios), invited course lecturer in professional practice courses, AIAS invitee and mentor, expert panelist (Equity by Design), portfolio reviewer, firm visit host, and partner in the development of the first co-led workshop between Kent State and an Architecture firm (the Role and Efficacy of AR and VR in the Design Process), have made significant impact on the college, its faculty and students.

Not only does she engage our learning community effectively – she models the kind of progressive and empathetic leadership that is sorely needed. In a world driven by bottom lines and performance criteria, Jodi shows us that other human-centric considerations are not mutually exclusive. She understands the role of education beyond training, and the part professionals can best play in complementing academics. This is rare and the basis of her ability to bridge between the education and practice.

Jodi van der Wiel is progressive in practice management. She is an integrative, multidisciplinary, critical thinker who upholds the highest standards for her own practice and the profession and prolifically gives back in public service – whether to the college generally, as an advocate and mentor for women in the profession, or a liaison to the next generation through the ACE program or the Girl Scouts. We celebrate her as a model and as a bridge who is enhancing the experience of our students through her input, advocacy, mentoring, and support of students through internships. We have a productive and growing partnership that serves many in profound ways. I cannot think of another person as highly qualified or deserving for the 2020 Ohio Public Service Award and highly recommend her to the jury.

Sincerely,

Mark Mistur, AIA
Dean

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Dear AIA Honor Awards Jury,

I first met Jodi van der Wiel, AIA, in late 2016 through the AIA Cleveland Programming committee when that year’s AIA Cleveland First Vice President (and Principal at Bowen + Associates) encouraged me to get involved, remarking:

“You’ll love Jodi – she’s great and is doing outstanding things. It would be good for you to get to know her.”

I took his recommendation and attended a few Programming meetings where Jodi’s commitment to increasing equity, diversity, and inclusion in the AIA Cleveland component and the profession was readily apparent. Though, it wasn’t until I served on the Board as the 2018-19 Director of Women in Architecture – a position that Jodi helped establish – that I truly understood the full depth of Jodi’s commitment and service.

The WIA+ committee was co-founded by Jodi van der Wiel, AIA, and Hallie Crouch, Associate AIA, in 2015 after they organized AIA Cleveland’s inaugural Women in Architecture Celebration. That event, which focuses on equity, diversity, and inclusion in architecture, has become an annual signature event for our component. Capitalizing on the event’s success, Jodi and Hallie formed the WIA+ Committee with the mission to “aspire to educate, advocate, and empower on matters of gender equity in our profession; visibility and influence of women architects and designers; and leadership and mentorship of all members.” The overwhelming positive membership response to that committee prompted Jodi and Hallie to request that AIA Cleveland’s Board establish the Director of Women in Architecture position in 2017.

Throughout my involvement with WIA+, Jodi has been an active advisor, providing advice, insight, and connections to national figures, such as Kate Schwennsen, FAIA. Much of the success of the WIA+ Committee stems from Jodi’s involvement, passion, and creativity, and she has been integral in establishing many WIA+ programs, including the annual Women in Architecture Celebration; the NeXXt Reads discussion series, which explores topics such as pay equity, firm leadership, and negotiation; and a local AIA Cleveland scholarship to support members attending the AIA Women’s Leadership Summits.

Through her service, Jodi has established connections with a national network of architects and designers who share her passion and commitment to service. As a result, Jodi was selected to represent AIA Cleveland in the A’20 Seminar Equity in Architecture: A Coast to Coast Exchange to share examples of local programs, many that she helped create, that deliver valuable outcomes in building an equitable practice.

Jodi’s efforts to promote equity and inclusion extend beyond AIA. She regularly participates in discussion panels and design reviews at Kent State University’s College of Architecture and Environmental Design, where she works to connect faculty members to local professionals, emphasizing the importance of diversity of jury panels. She is also currently leading development of “Girls Build! Architecture + Design”, a day camp program for the Girl Scouts of NEO, that will introduce girls to and excite them about a future in architecture.

As AIA Cleveland’s current President, Jodi maintains her advocacy for equity, diversity, and inclusion, working to widen the reach of her service. She was integral in bringing to Cleveland the 2020 Women in Architecture Celebration keynote, Pascale Sablan, and the SAY IT LOUD! Ohio exhibition. Through Jodi’s efforts, AIA Cleveland received grants from local foundations that helped raise $25,000 in sponsorship to support the event and allow the SAY IT LOUD! Ohio exhibit to travel to multiple locations after it’s opening in Cleveland, including the AIA Ohio Conference in Dayton, Ohio in Fall 2020.

Jodi’s commitment to fostering inclusivity and diversity is further illustrated by the individuals serving on the 2020 AIA Cleveland Board of Directors. The current Board is a true representation of our local design community, including traditional firm leaders, non-traditional practitioners, and architects in non-traditional career paths. By Jodi’s design, 2020 marks the most diverse AIA Cleveland Board of Directors in the 130-year history of the Chapter. Compared to the 2015 Board, which reflected negligible racial, cultural, gender, and age diversity, 50% of the 2020 Board is comprised of customarily underrepresented groups.

Even in this current climate of uncertainty resulting from the public health crisis, Jodi has continued to focus on how she can serve AIA Cleveland’s members, working with the Board and committees to adjust course, transitioning upcoming programs to virtual learning opportunities and staying a relevant resource for information, support, and connections.

I have loved working with Jodi. She is a passionate and creative advocate who continues to implement exemplary programs and initiatives that promote a more equitable, diverse, and inclusive profession. It is with great enthusiasm that I recommend Jodi for the 2020 AIA Ohio Public Service Award, that will introduce girls to and excite them about a future in architecture.

Sincerely,

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