

Heather Woofter studied biochemistry as a teenager at the University of Maryland and chemical engineering at Virginia Polytechnic Institute. She received a Bachelor of Architecture from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and Master of Architecture from Harvard University Graduate School of Design. She was a project architect and manager for Bohlin Cywinski Jackson in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, Marks Barfield in London, UK and Robert Luchetti Associates in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She is a registered architect in Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and Missouri and has a Royal Institute of British Architects Parts I and II. Heather taught at the Harvard Graduate School of Design Career Discovery Program, Boston Architectural College and Roger Williams University. She was an Assistant Professor at Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Visiting Professor at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki in Greece and Konkuk University in Seoul, Korea. Currently, she is a tenured Sam and Marilyn Fox Professor and Director of College of Architecture and Graduate School of Architecture & Urban Design at Washington University in St. Louis. She is a founding Co-Director and Owner of Axi:Ome llc of St. Louis with Sung Ho Kim since 2003.

Sung Ho Kim studied drawing and sculpture as a teenager at the Art Students League of New York and Harvard Graduate School of Design Career Discovery Program. He received a Bachelor of Fine Arts and Bachelor of Architecture from Rhode Island School of Design and an AA Diploma from Architectural Association of London, UK with Royal Institute of British Architects Part I and II. He also received his Master in Science in Architecture Studies from Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He was a project designer for Nasrine Seraji in Paris, France and Wellington Reiter in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He served as a principal researcher for the Interrogative Design Group at Center for Advanced Visual Studies at MIT. Sung Ho taught at Rhode Island School of Design and was an Assistant Professor at Northeastern University. He was a Visiting Professor at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki in Greece and Konkuk University in Seoul, Korea. Currently, he is a tenured Full Professor of Architecture and engaged in research with Biology and Computer Science at Washington University in St. Louis. He was a founding Director of Axi:Ome llc of Providence, RI from 2001 and has been Co-Director of Axi:Ome llc of St. Louis with Heather Woofter since 2003.

The Axi:Ome name derives from the crossing of the two Latin words axiom and forme. We engage in our practice as a mode of research, directly imbedded in the cultural, social and economic influences of our clients and the real circumstances of each project. For us, authenticity arrives from a thesis of situational collaborations and thematic concerns evolving through the work. Our students influence us; as educators we question the status quo in architecture, consider essential lessons and listen to the intuitive intelligence of young people energetically searching for answers to emerging design opportunities. We are conscientious of representations and how they inform the work. We believe in employing both analog and digital constructions as they offer the greatest ability to test ideas and to allow us to see spatial relationships.

Architects are on the edge of performance and material opportunities with developing digital operations that allow for increased participation in the building process. We encourage technological conditions that enable freedom within our design choices. For this reason, we aspire to actively explore the material, formal and technical production of spatial form and thus work on research projects independent of traditional clients in order to contribute knowledge to ongoing evolutions of architectural production. These parallel efforts contribute to a balance our concerns between new methods of fabrication and industry standards as we thoughtfully assemble them to address our clients' ambitions.

The Axi:Ome team is mindful of the social nature of our work. Our backgrounds in both architecture and interactive public media play heavily in the belief that design of all scales is principally derived from

people and the social events they create. We aspire to create fluid environments that have the foresight and flexibility to encourage evolving public activity. The boundaries of communication are continuously expanding our definition of place and allow for connections between people in ways that were previously considered impossible. We need sensitive design solutions that recognize these potentials in both spatial and practical applications. In our current atmosphere, architecture also depends on a sophisticated set of interconnected spatial relationships between built projects. Returning to the idea of the architect as both designer and coordinator of multi-disciplinary teams, our contemporary setting requires sensitivity to fluctuating local conditions, larger environmental concerns, and a close engagement with fabrication processes.

We believe that original work today necessitates a spirit of collaboration where ongoing conversations are led by tangible artifacts – models, drawings, diagrams – in pursuit of comprehensive projects. Our commissions include various scales, program types, and client needs which, in turn, leads us to address the fields of aesthetics, utility, technology, theory, culture, and economic and environmental domains. Within these opportunities, architecture depends on imagination paired with thorough research and discipline paired with a spirit of optimism.