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2020 AIA Fellowship

Candidate Christopher Eseman
Organization LMN Architects
Location Seattle, Washington
Chapter AIA Washington Council; AIA Seattle

Category of Nomination

Object 2 > Practice (Technical Advancement)

Summary Statement

Chris Eseman, AIA has transformed convention center design, creating iconic places that engage visitors in the urban landscape, enrich civic life, invigorate neighborhoods, and connect convention delegates with the community.

Education

Columbia University, Graduate School of Architecture and Planning; New York, NY
1982 - 1983 / 1 year: Master of Science in Architecture and Urban Design

Lawrence Technological University, School of Architecture; Southfield, MI
1975 - 1976 / 1 year: Bachelor of Architecture
1970 - 1975 / 5 years: Bachelor of Science, Architecture

Licensed in: Illinois, Missouri and Washington

Employment

LMN Architects, Seattle, WA (May 1990 – present / 29 years 5 months)
Stull & Lee, Boston, MA (January – April 1990 / 4 months)
Eseman/McCallum Architects, Manchester, NH (June 1987 – January 1990 / 2 years 8 months)
Lavalley/Brensinger, Manchester, NH (June 1986 – May 1987 / 1 year)
James Stewart Polshek & Partners, New York, NY (December 1983 – June 1986 / 2 years 7 months)
Cooper Eckstut & Associates, New York, NY (June 1983 – December 1983 / 7 months)
William Walker Associates, Seattle WA (July 1980 – August 1982 / 2 years 1 month)
Various, Seattle WA (July 1978 – June 1980, 2 years)
William Blurock & Partners, Newport Beach, CA (June 1977 – June 1978 / 1 year 1 month)



26 September 2019

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Mr. Paul Mankins, FAIA
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The American Institute of Architects
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Washington, DC 20006-5292

Re: AIA Nomination to College of Fellows
Chris Eseman, AIA

Dear Paul:

I am very pleased to sponsor Chris Eseman for Fellowship in the AIA, and to recognize his transformative contributions to Convention Center design. I have worked with Chris for many years on various Baltimore Convention Center expansion projects. I was immediately impressed with his deep knowledge about every detail of Convention Center buildings and how they are used by cities for tourism opportunities and how they can contribute to the positive shaping of the urban environment in which they sit. Chris worked on the first expansion of the Baltimore Convention Center in the 1990's, which was one of the first Convention Centers to break out from the prior standard "box", and to deeply consider the surrounding urban environment, and to enrich the user experience.

The incredible evolution of Convention Center design can be seen in Chris' timeline of projects over the years, starting with Baltimore, then advancing those ideas in projects around the world, and now with the design of the latest expansion in Baltimore, which will become the most state-of-the-art Convention Center in the world. Chris has pioneered transformative ideas such as including transparent program elements, infusing natural light deep into these large buildings, combining convention centers with major urban public spaces, and even including the design of the first high-rise convention center, knit into the dense urban fabric of downtown Seattle.

Chris' experience in the design of 39 built convention center projects, and many more master plans and concept studies, is second to none. I have seen first-hand that his initial thought process is to prepare an intense study of the local site and cultural surroundings. Then the design ideas grow from that understanding, thus making all of his projects unique and contextual to their city. The Baltimore project that we are working on together, will be a Baltimore solution, not one taken from other cities, nor one that can be transported to other cities.

Through many speeches and presentations at national and international conferences, as listed in his submission, Chris has shared his ideas on the improvement of convention center design to a wide audience. His work has received numerous design awards and has been covered often by national and local media publications. He has shared his experience and ideas to the next generation of architects at LMN, so that they can take those ideas even further than to what Chris has started.

Chris has distinguished himself as a leader in Convention Center design for decades. The projects that he has led have dramatically transformed the urban environment surrounding these large buildings, has created iconic places with respect to the local culture, and have connected users to the surrounding community. I believe that Chris Eseman, AIA, should be recognized for his dramatic contributions to the profession as a Fellow in the American Institute of Architects.

Sincerely,
AYERS SAINT GROSS, INC.

Glenn W. Birx, FAIA, LEED AP
Vice President/Chief Operating Officer
College of Fellows

1.0 SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS

SUMMARY STATEMENT

Chris Eseman, AIA has transformed convention center design, creating iconic places that engage visitors in the urban landscape, enrich civic life, invigorate neighborhoods, and connect convention delegates with the community.

SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS

I. TRANSFORMING THE URBAN CONVENTION CENTER In his 30-year career, Chris Eseman has led the evolution of convention centers from introverted, insular objects at the edge of the urban core (the “box with docks”) to extroverted and iconic components of the urban landscape. As an industry leader in convention center master planning and design, Chris’s innovations have enhanced cities around the globe, weaving the building type into its surroundings with creative reinterpretations of the industry’s strict functional requirements. His design approach enlivens convention activities as well as the surrounding public realm through the use of careful massing, maximizing transparency and integrating pedestrian-oriented, mixed-use activity to strengthen the relationship between the building, its site, and community life.

Examples of Chris’s award-winning projects include convention centers in Baltimore, a pioneering example which locates the truck docks underground while “breaking down the box” above grade into distinct, transparent components; Anchorage, featuring an infusion of natural light and views of the extraordinary landscape; Cincinnati, where the ballroom is elevated to the status of signature space; Cleveland, with a below-grade convention center that serves as a platform for significant urban public space; and Seattle, where an urban district has been redefined by the addition of a multi-block, mixed-use development that creates the first high-rise convention center.

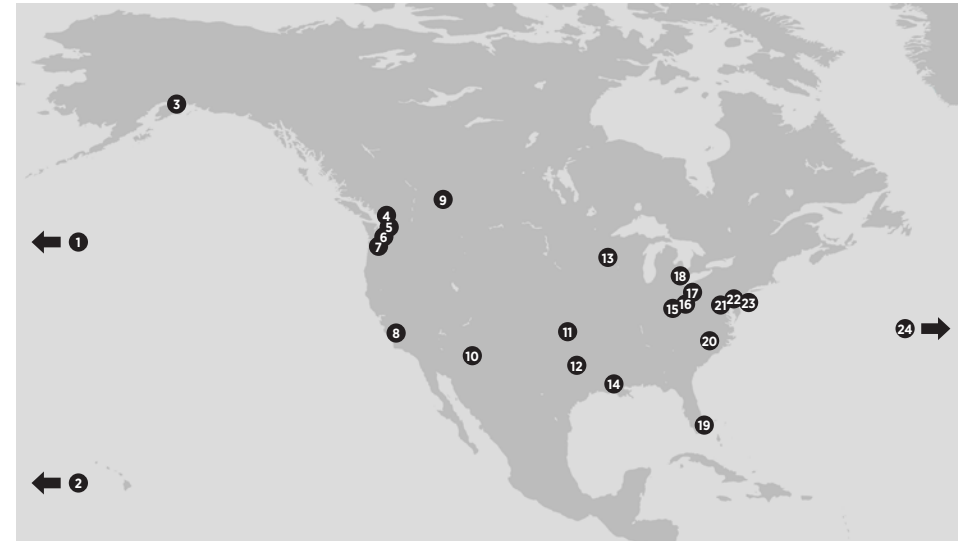
- II. MASTER PLANNING FOR CIVIC IMPACT** Chris has led 39 convention center projects and an additional 14 master planning / concept studies in the US and abroad. He consistently leverages opportunities inherent in master planning, where the basic diagram and future direction for a project are established. His creative approach emphasizes local site and cultural surroundings to create exciting urban experiences that engage both the visitor and the local community. Through this integration philosophy, Chris has coordinated the efforts of a diverse range of industry partners – as many as 25 to 30 participating firms – on complex urban projects that transform their surroundings.
- III. REINFORCING AUTHENTICITY** As the demographics of convention attendees change, a new generation demands shared experiences that celebrate the defining characteristics of their destinations. Chris is perfecting the integration of program, context, and user experience with local influences that define the characteristics of place – scenery, climate, environmental conditions, history, and culture – which all contribute to the urban experience unique to each city.
- IV. INDUSTRY LEADERSHIP AND MENTORING** Chris is widely recognized for his expertise and often asked to present at national and international conferences, such as the Urban Land Institute, the International Association of Venue Managers, and the International Association of Convention Centers. His work has been widely covered by national, regional, and local media, and has received numerous local and national design awards. As the convention center practice leader at LMN for 28 years, he has mentored the firm’s next generation, successfully preparing his colleagues for leadership positions in the firm and the broader industry.

2.1 SIGNIFICANT WORK

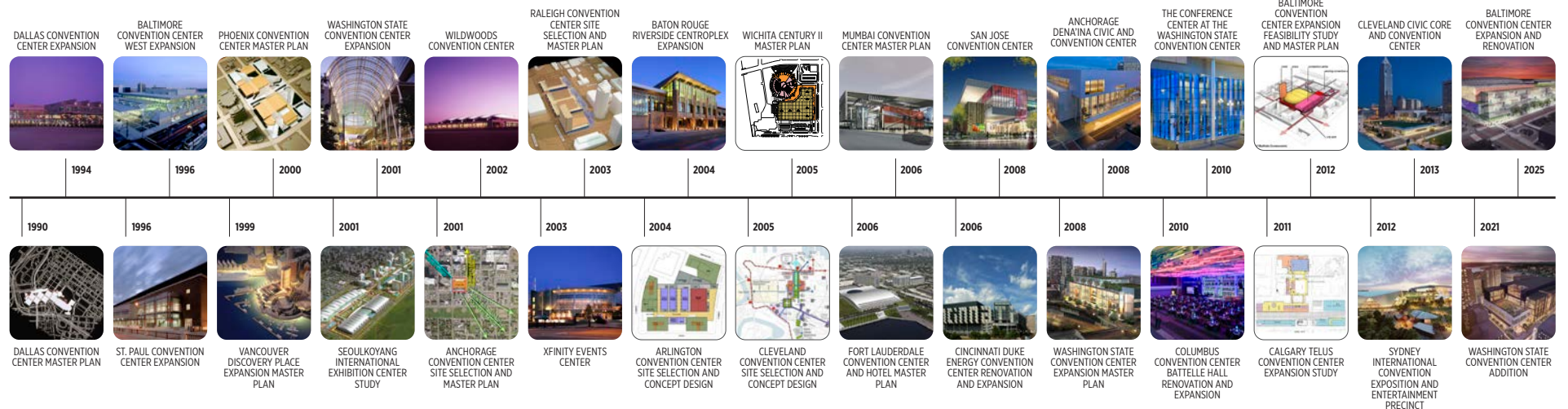
Chris Eseman has amplified the impact and influence of urban convention centers on their sites, cities, and regions. His body of significant work includes major projects around the globe, each drawing inspiration from the attributes of its unique urban landscape to generate greater civic impact that enriches community life. His work has advanced architectural practice through both design and execution, collaboration, and industry innovation, inspiring the evolution of convention center design from introverted and isolated to extroverted and engaging, bringing profound improvements to cities around the world.

Master Planning for Civic Impact

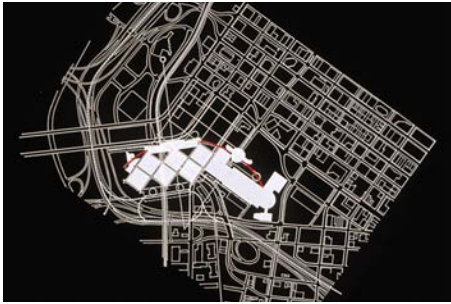
On every convention center planning project, Chris focuses on creating broader community interaction, thus integrating the project into the urban fabric. He has led many master planning studies in cities from Baltimore to Seoul, Cleveland, Fort Lauderdale, and Seattle, where his creative planning and successful execution earned the trust of civic leaders. He often advises civic leaders on the viability of planning options or potential implications of various alternatives, giving him the opportunity to shape not only the convention center site but also the broader urban agenda, as well. His involvement and personal leadership style has resulted in more than 35 design awards, including national, regional, and local AIA awards.



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|---------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Seoul, South Korea | 7. Seattle, WA | 13. St. Paul, MN | 19. Fort Lauderdale, FL |
| 2. Sydney, NSW, Australia | 8. San Jose, CA | 14. Baton Rouge, LA | 20. Raleigh, NC |
| 3. Anchorage, AK | 9. Calgary, AB, Canada | 15. Cincinnati, OH | 21. Arlington, VA |
| 4. Vancouver, BC | 10. Phoenix, AZ | 16. Columbus, OH | 22. Baltimore, MD |
| 5. Bellingham, WA | 11. Wichita, KS | 17. Cleveland, OH | 23. Wildwood, NJ |
| 6. Everett, WA | 12. Dallas, TX | 18. Detroit, MI | 24. Mumbai, Maharashtra, India |



2.1 SIGNIFICANT WORK — MASTER PLANNING FOR CIVIC IMPACT



DALLAS CONVENTION CENTER MASTER PLAN DALLAS, TX

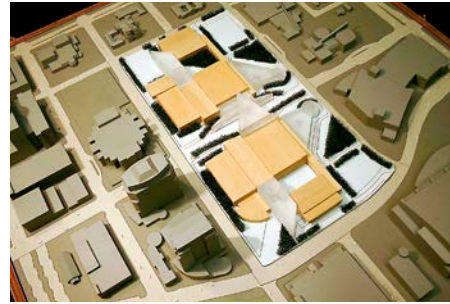
ROLE: Project Designer/Architect

COMPLETED: 1990

SIGNIFICANT COLLABORATORS:
JPJ Architects

As a designer and project architect, Chris unified a disparate collection of previous expansions into a cohesive urban complex envisioned to become one of the largest in the country.

- The goal was to achieve 1 million sf of contiguous exhibit hall area.
- The extraordinary size of this project anticipated a single building that would unite several urban districts and their transportation networks.
- The unique program was organized around a public concourse configured as a “grand arc” animated by the addition of specific, extroverted public function spaces at major intersections, engaging the city grid into the overall building geometry.



PHOENIX CONVENTION CENTER MASTER PLAN PHOENIX, AZ

ROLE: Project Director

COMPLETED: 2000

SIGNIFICANT COLLABORATORS:
Gould Evans Architects

As director of this 1.5 million sf expansion master plan, Chris transformed a “box with docks” into a model for hospitable, flexible meeting space focused on public engagement.

- Chris proposed a stacked expansion, allowing for vibrant public space and outdoor trellised courtyards that double as meeting spaces, blurring the line between outdoors and indoors.
- Natural light was filtered through courtyards to take full advantage of the climate.
- The perimeter provided a welcoming environment to connect the convention center with adjacent downtown amenities.



SEOUL KOYANG INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION CENTER STUDY SEOUL, KOREA

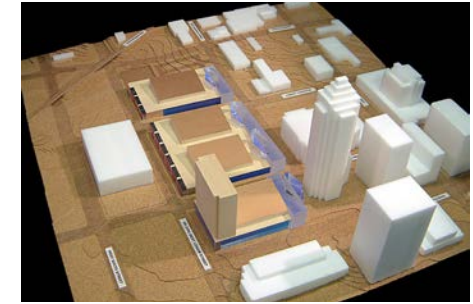
ROLE: Project Director

COMPLETED: 2001

SIGNIFICANT COLLABORATORS:
Yamasaki Associates

Chris led a multi-disciplinary team in developing a phased, mixed-use district plan offering a new model for “live/work” anchored by an international exhibition center.

- The program included a major convention center, bus terminal, aquarium, international school, hotel and trade center, as well as retail/office space organized along a central pedestrian spine.
- The design was influenced by nearby parks and lakes, bringing nature into the high-density development scheme.
- Hotels and visitor amenities surround the convention center while mixed-use residential and “officetels” encouraged a work-live environment.



RALEIGH CONVENTION CENTER SITE SELECTION AND MASTER PLAN RALEIGH, NC

ROLE: Project Director

COMPLETED: 2003

SIGNIFICANT COLLABORATORS:
HVS Consulting, Market Analysis

Leading a collaborative process with civic leaders to examine potential sites, Chris and team selected a downtown site near existing hotels and amenities, maximizing pedestrian connections to the surrounding area.

- The design positioned the below-grade exhibit hall at the lowest end of the site with meeting rooms and ballroom facilities stacked above.
- The loading dock was “lidded” with retail to promote pedestrian activity on all sides.
- The convention center’s primary entry and a new hotel were located along Raleigh’s visual and cultural center, reopening the visual axis between the Capitol and adjacent BTI Arts Center.

2.1 SIGNIFICANT WORK — MASTER PLANNING FOR CIVIC IMPACT



ARLINGTON CONVENTION CENTER SITE SELECTION AND CONCEPT DESIGN ARLINGTON COUNTY, VA

ROLE: Project Director

COMPLETED: 2004

SIGNIFICANT COLLABORATORS:
Halcyon Ltd. Real Estate Advisors

A team of architects, developers, and real estate advisors led by Chris, proposed a mixed-use program that included three office towers and a hotel surrounding a convention center and media arts center.

- The site study and master plan examined four potential sites across the Potomac River from Washington, D.C.
- Applying an innovative zoning strategy, development density at the site was increased as a funding mechanism for public amenities including the conference and media arts centers allowing for a much larger mixed-use development to enrich the district.



CLEVELAND CONVENTION CENTER SITE SELECTION AND CONCEPT DESIGN CLEVELAND OH

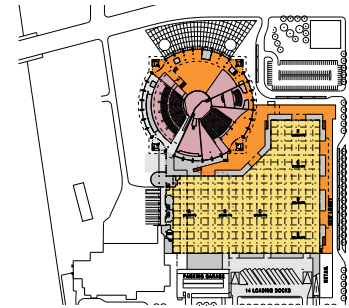
ROLE: Project Director

COMPLETED: 2005

SIGNIFICANT COLLABORATORS:
Robert P. Madison International, GGN,
Landscape Architects

Working with a multi-disciplinary team and civic leaders, Chris analyzed four potential sites for a proposed new Cleveland Convention Center.

- The selected site was home to the Daniel Burnham-designed Mall, a cornerstone of the America Beautiful Movement.
- The innovative concept placed a new convention center below the surface of the Mall, maintaining public space while infusing the entire district with greater pedestrian vitality.
- The new site provided improved walking connections to downtown hotels, all-weather passages from downtown to the lakefront and museums, and adaptive reuse of the adjacent landmark Public Auditorium.



WICHITA CENTURY II MODERNIZATION STUDY WICHITA, KS

ROLE: Project Director

COMPLETED: 2005

SIGNIFICANT COLLABORATORS:
HVS Consulting, Market Analysis

Chris led the planning of this unique multi-purpose facility, proposing improvements to open an introverted facility to neighboring streets.

- The study called for expansion of a mixed-use combination of concert hall, convention hall, exhibition hall, meeting rooms, and theatre, organized in a radial pattern on the banks of the Arkansas River.
- The plan opened the insular facility to the riverfront and pedestrian activity of the downtown retail district, improving function and internal acoustic performance.
- Wrapping around the circular facility, the expansion established a street presence while engaging the pedestrian retail core.



FORT LAUDERDALE CONVENTION CENTER AND HOTEL MASTER PLAN

FORT LAUDERDALE, FL

ROLE: Project Director

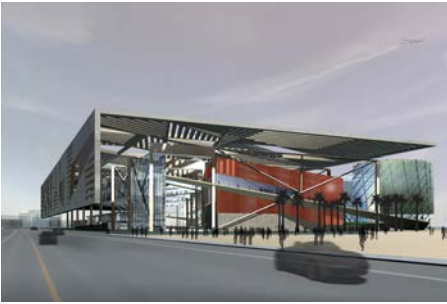
COMPLETED: 2006

SIGNIFICANT COLLABORATORS:
Architectural Alliance

In anticipation of an expansion and new hotel, Chris led a master plan that proposed connections to the adjacent waterfront, welcoming residents and delegates into a mixed-use convention center district.

- The Fort Lauderdale Convention Center's proximity to Port Everglades created post-9/11 security concerns, impeding pedestrian circulation and sealing off the existing facility from the adjacent waterfront.
- The conceptual plan focused on connecting convention delegates with the unique characteristics of the waterfront site and Fort Lauderdale.
- By turning the building "inside out," the facility could take advantage of its waterfront and feature pedestrian connections to nearby hotels.

2.1 SIGNIFICANT WORK — MASTER PLANNING FOR CIVIC IMPACT



MUMBAI CONVENTION CENTER MASTER PLAN MUMBAI, INDIA

ROLE: Project Director

COMPLETED: 2006

This innovative master plan envisioned the convention center as a key component of an emerging Mumbai commercial district.

- The program included mixed-use retail, entertainment, and office projects located around a central exhibition, convention, and meeting facility.
- Sustainability was a key driver, including an innovative roof system to provide sunlight through a PV trellis designed to reduce heat gain, collect stormwater, generate solar power, and capture wind energy.
- The building section was organized with the main exhibition hall below grade, allowing a public street to cut diagonally across the site above while forming a covered arcade lined with retail outlets and street-facing building fronts.



WASHINGTON STATE CONVENTION CENTER EXPANSION MASTER PLAN SEATTLE, WA

ROLE: Project Director

COMPLETED: 2008

SIGNIFICANT COLLABORATORS:
GGN, Urban Design

Chris led a multi-disciplinary team to design a new convention center master plan model: the program was vertically stacked, featuring natural light throughout, with a pedestrian focus as the anchor of a newly revitalized multi-use district in the city center.

- The project occupies multiple city blocks with a portion over an adjacent freeway. To minimize impact, the exhibit hall and loading docks were located beneath adjacent blocks and streets, with the streets restored.
- The project is planned as the first high-rise convention center in North America.
- As part of developing a vibrant mixed-use neighborhood, the study incorporated two privately developed towers.



SYDNEY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION, EXPOSITION AND ENTERTAINMENT PRECINCT SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

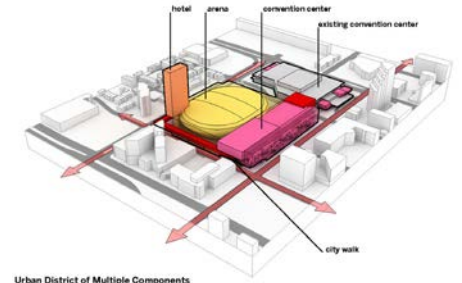
ROLE: Project Director

COMPLETED: 2012

SIGNIFICANT COLLABORATORS:
Architectus, Richard Francis Jones Associates

To integrate new facilities within a re-imagined public realm, Chris and partners worked closely with facility operators, specialist consultants, and builders.

- The site encompassed a major civic district along Darling Harbour, one of Australia's most beloved public spaces.
- The program included new exhibit space, a multi-purpose arena designed for concerts and sports, two tiered-seating plenary halls, and a hotel.
- The project blurred the line between interior and exterior, extending the public precinct into the facility while encouraging internal activities to spill outdoors, engaging delegates with the wider community.



Urban District of Multiple Components

BALTIMORE CONVENTION CENTER EXPANSION FEASIBILITY STUDY AND MASTER PLAN BALTIMORE, MD

ROLE: Project Director

COMPLETED: 2012

SIGNIFICANT COLLABORATORS:
Ayers Saint Gross, Populous, Peter Fillat Architects

A large team of specialists created a master plan envisioning a stacked and overlapped convention center expansion, arena, and hotel within a public/private mixed-use development on a dense downtown site.

- Chris and team developed an innovative approach to stacking and overlapping program components, symbiotically sharing front and back of house support areas to maximize the available footprint.
- The result anticipated a much more active convention center district along the nearby waterfront, interspersing meeting spaces with retail and pedestrian concourses along transparent street façades.

2.1 SIGNIFICANT WORK — CONVENTION CENTER AND ADDITIONAL CIVIC PROJECT DESIGN

Convention Center Design

As an international leader in convention center design over the past 30 years, Chris has had a tremendous impact on cities around the world. His projects are recognized for innovative arrangements of required program elements (large, bulky volumes such as exhibition halls and disruptive functional elements like loading docks), accommodating rigorous functional needs while elevating relationships with surrounding streets, public spaces, and neighborhoods. His design innovations have influenced the industry and have been duplicated in cities throughout North America. These innovations include:

- Vertical program organizations that manipulate building forms and functions to enrich the urban context. This approach frequently locates loading docks below grade with vibrant streets above;
- Integrating mixed-use components to create an active urban district. His convention center projects have included high-rise office, hotel, and residential towers along with a variety of retail spaces, art studios, community spaces, galleries, and public gardens;
- Signature public spaces serving broad community uses beyond the specific needs of the convention center;
- Significant use of exterior glazing, opening convention activities to engage the life of the community and enhance the convention center experience with daylight and views;
- Redefining the expectations of convention center ballrooms as a theatrical event space with sculptural forms and materials as well as multiple architectural and theatrical lighting systems;
- Multidisciplinary design team collaborations including nontraditional partners such as visual artists, poets, colorists, scientists, and urbanists; and,
- Iconography that embodies the fundamental conditions of place, people, and events, where the form, mass, and articulation of each facility is influenced by geography, the public domain, community values, and the unique sense of place that strengthens the institution's image and adds texture to its urban setting.



DALLAS CONVENTION CENTER EXPANSION DALLAS, TX

ROLE: Project Architect

COMPLETED: 1994

SIGNIFICANT COLLABORATORS:
JPJ Architects

Chris led the design execution of the first phase of LMN's 1990 concept design, including the circulation arc and public spaces.

- In an innovative approach to organizing a facility that lacked cohesion, public circulation and prefunction spaces were featured in a long arc along the building perimeter, organizing disparate spaces behind a unifying image while providing city views to help attendees continually orient themselves within the building, a strategy commonly employed in the industry today.
- The circulation arc was animated at all intersections with city streets, engaging the city grid into the building geometry.



BALTIMORE CONVENTION CENTER WEST EXPANSION BALTIMORE, MD

ROLE: Project Director

COMPLETED: 1996

SIGNIFICANT COLLABORATORS:
CS&D Architects

As an early example of the "extroverted" convention center, the Baltimore Convention Center is an industry pioneer.

- Chris led the expansion, developing several design innovations that have become common strategies today, including partially below-grade exhibit halls to reduce bulk; multi-level public spaces organized along the building perimeter to promote an attractive, daylight, and open environment; clear, suspended glazing to transmit event activity to the surrounding streets; and segregated, screened, efficient service access and circulation.

2.1 SIGNIFICANT WORK — CONVENTION CENTER DESIGN



ST. PAUL CONVENTION CENTER EXPANSION ST. PAUL, MN

ROLE: Project Director

COMPLETED: 1996

SIGNIFICANT COLLABORATORS:
HGA Architects

Chris led the development of this competition-winning scheme that revitalized the St. Paul riverfront.

- Occupying a challenging site within a complex that included Wilkins Auditorium, Rice Park, and the Ordway Music Hall, the Convention Center originally faced away from the Mississippi River. Chris inspired the design of an expansion that reversed the circulation layout to embrace the pedestrian-oriented riverfront.
- Innovative design solutions included truck access to the facility through enclosed underground loading docks located beneath the lobby, sharing portions of the circulation spine and access to the exhibit halls. The resulting compact footprint helped minimize the expansion's impact on the sensitive riverfront precinct.



WASHINGTON STATE CONVENTION CENTER EXPANSION SEATTLE, WA

ROLE: Project Director

COMPLETED: 2001

SIGNIFICANT COLLABORATORS:
MKA, Structural

Spanning city streets and incorporating three separate private co-development projects, Chris led this challenging expansion from master plan through design and construction.

- The project created a contiguous expansion of heavy-load exhibition space by connecting with existing facilities over Seattle's Pike Street, utilizing a transparent public event bridge and an adjacent service bridge, creating a new public space at street level below a glass arched roof.
- The building connected three adjacent neighborhoods via a multi-story public galleria, while providing access to Freeway Park for visitors and residents.
- The project fully integrates co-development by including a hotel and an office building above the exhibit hall.



WILDWOODS CONVENTION CENTER WILDWOODS, NJ

ROLE: Project Director

COMPLETED: 2002

SIGNIFICANT COLLABORATORS:
Sykes O'Connor Salerno Hazaveh Architects

Chris was the project lead for this design, inspired by the lively vacation spirit of Wildwood.

- Located along the famous Wildwood Boardwalk, the convention center celebrates its beachfront context, employing materials that are both sympathetic with regional coastal buildings and evocative of seaside imagery.
- A new public pier on the south side invites the public to the water's edge, while the transparent east face of the exhibition hall opens onto a wide deck overlooking the beach and ocean beyond.
- The exhibition hall roof was constructed with a membrane tent structure, admitting indirect natural light while providing an iconic profile on the beach.



BATON ROUGE RIVERSIDE CENTROPLEX EXPANSION

BATON ROUGE, LA

ROLE: Project Director

COMPLETED: 2004

SIGNIFICANT COLLABORATORS:
Post Architects

This introverted and tired civic center was reimagined as into an engaging contributor to riverfront life.

- The expanded convention center flipped the circulation path away from its internal civic center focus to present an engaging public presence linked to adjacent waterfront amenities.
- The new circulation path invites residents and convention-goers alike to use the center to access adjacent facilities and activities.
- The expanded center presents an iconic new front door image for the entire complex, utilizing evocative exterior trellis elements to filter light into the public spaces beyond.

2.1 SIGNIFICANT WORK — CONVENTION CENTER DESIGN



SAN JOSE CONVENTION CENTER

SAN JOSE, CA

ROLE: Project Director

COMPLETED CONCEPT: Concept Design
Completed 2008

SIGNIFICANT COLLABORATORS:
GGN, Landscape Architecture

Chris led a multi-disciplinary team that employed a hybrid approach – integrating building form, landscape, and urban ecology, while embracing San Jose’s technological prominence, agrarian history, Mediterranean climate, and commitment to sustainability.

- The concept included several firsts for a large convention center: buoyancy HVAC using 100% fresh air in the ballroom and extensive use of daylighting.
- The ballroom exerted an interactive, “smart building” presence juxtaposed against landscaped public plazas, courtyards, and surrounding green space.
- The design established a new standard for technically advanced and highly flexible meeting and event spaces.



CINCINNATI DUKE ENERGY CONVENTION CENTER RENOVATION AND EXPANSION

CINCINNATI, OH

ROLE: Project Director

COMPLETED: 2006

SIGNIFICANT COLLABORATORS:
Cincinnati Architectural Collaborative; a joint venture of GBBN, BHDP and Cole Russel Architects; Sussman Prejza, Interiors

A multi-disciplinary design team led by Chris created an industry icon.

- In addition to an expansion, new perimeter circulation and lobbies reversed the facility’s insular nature, providing views of the skyline and river.
- A central organizing “graphic wall” featured abstracted images of Cincinnati’s riverfront past.
- The façade integrates public art and architecture with a series of pixelated metal panels set at angles to form the word “Cincinnati” in 50-foot tall letters, creating a gateway on the western edge of downtown.



ANCHORAGE DENA’INA CIVIC AND CONVENTION CENTER

ANCHORAGE AK

ROLE: Project Director

COMPLETED: 2008

SIGNIFICANT COLLABORATORS:
RIM Architects

Chris led this unique project from master plan through execution, celebrating Alaska’s unique natural light and stunning views to the city, water, and mountains.

- While an influx of natural light predominates, clerestory windows also reflect indirect light.
- In the ballroom, a series of roof monitors and windows capture indirect and direct light and views.
- Interior materials were chosen based on their reactivity to light, including metallic, shimmery paint, floor tiles with metallic finish, ribbed stainless steel panels, ribbed resin panels and a metallic “shimmer screen” in the ballroom comprised of multiple strings of stainless steel bead chains.



COLUMBUS CONVENTION CENTER BATTELLE HALL RENOVATION AND EXPANSION

COLUMBUS, OH

ROLE: Project Director

COMPLETED: 2010

SIGNIFICANT COLLABORATORS:
Karlsberger Architects

A brutalist, introverted arena hall was transformed into a signature ballroom.

- The ballroom was animated by a new 34’ by 120’ floor-to-ceiling window, opening previously sealed space to natural light and views.
- The new ceiling featured an array of metallic fins with programmable LED lighting, capable of providing a different atmospheric effect for every possible use of the space.
- The new city-scaled window along with the new iconic ceiling treatment engaged the facility with its environment.

2.1 SIGNIFICANT WORK — CONVENTION CENTER DESIGN



THE CONFERENCE CENTER AT THE WASHINGTON STATE CONVENTION CENTER SEATTLE, WA

ROLE: Project Director

COMPLETED: 2010

SIGNIFICANT COLLABORATORS:
HLB, Lighting Design

This trend-setting project created a stand-alone, high-end conference facility within a convention center.

- Located beneath the exhibition hall of the Washington State Convention Center, under-utilized space was reimagined as a conference center to operate in conjunction with the WSCC.
- The center occupies three levels of flexible banquet, tradeshow, and meeting space with an internal connection to the existing convention center and an iconic new entry.
- Establishing a new industry standard, the project has been replicated in many other cities such as Phoenix and Nashville.



CLEVELAND CIVIC CORE AND CONVENTION CENTER CLEVELAND, OH

ROLE: Project Director

COMPLETED: 2013

SIGNIFICANT COLLABORATORS:
Robert P. Madison International, URS, GGN, Landscape Architecture

Chris worked with civic leaders on site selection, master planning, programming, and concept design for this transformative project, later leading all design and construction phases.

- The team reimagined Daniel Burnham's iconic Cleveland Mall on the roof of a new convention center in the heart of downtown.
- The formal, paved promenades of the 1903 design were replaced by lush vegetation and public recreational lawns, while a raised entrance to the convention center created dramatic views of Lake Erie.
- The project also produced the Global Center for Health Innovation adjacent to the convention center, anchoring a revitalized mixed-use district.



WASHINGTON STATE CONVENTION CENTER ADDITION SEATTLE, WA

ROLE: Project Director

COMPLETED: 2021 (Under Construction)

SIGNIFICANT COLLABORATORS:
GGN, Urban Design

An innovative archetype for convention center design, Chris has led the project through every stage of its development.

- The facility's configuration is intensely vertical, distributing meeting and exhibition areas over eight floors, all connected through two large atriums, delivering natural light to the below-grade exhibit hall.
- The convention center occupies three city blocks below grade, and the primary exhibit hall, service areas, and loading area inhabit the full footprint beneath city streets.
- Above grade, the convention center respects the existing street grid and includes high-rise office and apartment buildings, and retail spaces that provide opportunities for connections between delegates and residents.



BALTIMORE CONVENTION CENTER EXPANSION AND RENOVATION

BALTIMORE, MD

ROLE: Project Director

COMPLETED: TBD (In Design)

SIGNIFICANT COLLABORATORS:
Ayers Saint Gross

Chris is leading this project through master planning, feasibility, and concept design and will lead the design phases beginning in early 2020.

- The facility's 1980s section will be demolished to make room for expansion, better utilizing the urban footprint and bringing more energy to the district's street life with a pedestrian-oriented perimeter.
- An innovative structural configuration will allow the stacking of event floors with minimal support columns. Atriums will bring natural light to every floor level.
- The mixed-use development will add a 500-room hotel, bringing additional energy to the district.

2.1 SIGNIFICANT WORK — ADDITIONAL CIVIC PROJECT DESIGN



STROH RIVER PLACE MASTER PLAN AND RENOVATION DETROIT, MI

ROLE: Project Architect, James Stewart Polshek & Partners

COMPLETED: 1986

Chris was responsible for developing the interior architecture of former factory buildings designed by Albert Kahn.

- This project provided a catalyst for riverfront district development and a new image for downtown Detroit.
- The master plan combined the existing industrial building fabric with new construction to create a unified whole, integrating laboratory facilities, commercial, retail, hotel, conference, residential, and cultural uses.
- Complementing the original Albert Kahn buildings, brick and limestone was used inside and out to create a unified, harmonious ensemble.



CARNEGIE HALL RENOVATION

NEW YORK CITY, NY

ROLE: Project Architect, James Stewart Polshek & Partners

COMPLETED: 1987

Chris led the technical development and team management in restoring America's most venerated concert hall.

- This project included exterior restoration, renovation of the main hall and recital areas, a new backstage, new infrastructure, and a new accessible lobby.
- An extensive restoration of original details celebrated the Hall's rich history while new details evoked the spirit of the original design, including custom lighting fixtures, railings, graphics, and a new marquee, announcing late-20th century improvements without compromising the building's historic character.



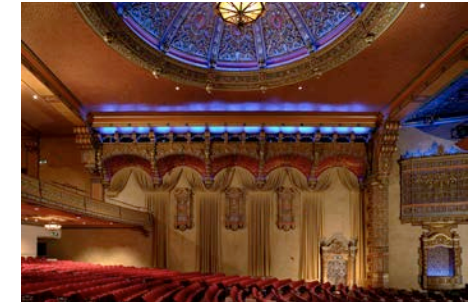
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON ALASKA AIRLINES ARENA RENOVATION SEATTLE, WA

ROLE: Project Director

COMPLETED: 2000

A feasibility study led by Chris demonstrated that this 1920s arena could be renovated rather than replaced. He then led the design and construction phases.

- The reconfiguration created an intimate, spectator-oriented facility by juxtaposing new elements against the architectural heritage of the original pavilion.
- The design stripped away previous renovations, exposing 1920s-era ornate brick façade, steel roof trusses, and long-concealed arched windows.
- View-obstructing columns were eliminated by inserting "super-trusses" spanning the building's length, while new corner support columns were exposed at entry points, revealing the entire structural system.



MOUNT BAKER THEATRE RENOVATION BELLINGHAM, WA

ROLE: Project Director

COMPLETED: 2004

The renovation of this historic theatre fulfilled the requirements of touring production companies while respecting the building's historic character.

- A phased renovation enhanced the building to better serve contemporary productions and provided new performance space for the local community by transforming a former storefront into engaging theater space.
- The exterior renovation carefully respected the original 1920s design, including restoration of the original sandstone façade and tile parapet.
- Interior renovations included theater and lobby spaces, acoustical and lighting upgrades, and an upgrade of the mechanical and electrical systems.

2.2 SIGNIFICANT AWARDS, HONORS & RECOGNITION



AWARDS

2017

AIA National Honor Award for Regional and Urban Design
Cleveland Civic Core and Convention Center CLEVELAND, OH

2016

AIA National Architecture Firm Award
LMN Architects

2015

AIA Washington Council Civic Design Awards, Citation Award
Cleveland Civic Core and Convention Center CLEVELAND, OH

2014

ENR Midwest Best of 2014, Award of Merit, Office/Retail/Mixed Use
Cleveland Civic Core and Convention Center CLEVELAND, OH

2013

AIA Seattle Chapter, Honor Award
Cleveland Civic Core and Convention Center CLEVELAND, OH

AGC Build Washington Awards, Private Building Under \$10 Million
Lakeside School, Allen Gates Renovation SEATTLE, WA

Architect's Newspaper Best of the Year Design Award; Façade Honorable Mention
Cleveland Civic Core and Convention Center CLEVELAND, OH

Architizer Special Mention, Architecture + Fabrication
Cleveland Civic Core and Convention Center CLEVELAND, OH

Architizer Special Mention, Architecture + Modeling
Cleveland Civic Core and Convention Center CLEVELAND, OH

2012

AIA Northwest & Pacific Region Firm Award
LMN Architects

AIA Washington Council Civic Design Awards, Award of Merit, Unbuilt Category
Cleveland Civic Core and Convention Center CLEVELAND, OH



2010

AIA Alaska Chapter, Design Honor: Award of Merit
Anchorage Dena'ina Convention Center ANCHORAGE, AK

Design-Build Institute of America, Design-Build Merit Award
Anchorage Dena'ina Convention Center ANCHORAGE, AK

2006

AIA Cincinnati Collaborative Category Honor Award
Cincinnati Duke Energy Convention Center Renovation and Expansion CINCINNATI, OH

2005

AIA Seattle Chapter, Commendation Award
Cincinnati Duke Energy Convention Center Renovation and Expansion CINCINNATI, OH

2004

Puget Sound Regional Council, Vision 2020 Award
Xfinity Events Center EVERETT, WA

2002

International Illumination, Design Award of Merit
Washington State Convention Center Expansion SEATTLE, WA

2001

AIA Honolulu Chapter, Award of Excellence
Hawaii Convention Center HONOLULU, HI

AIA Washington Council Civic Design Award, Merit Award
University of Washington Alaska Airlines Arena Renovation SEATTLE, WA

2000

Heart of Anchorage/Urban Design Commission, Merit Award
New Anchorage Civic & Convention Center Site Selection Study ANCHORAGE, AK

1999

Northwest Construction's Best Renovation/Restoration, Honorable Mention
University of Washington Alaska Airlines Arena Renovation SEATTLE, WA

1996

Design-Build Institute of America/National Design-Build Awards
Hawaii Convention Center HONOLULU, HI

Hawaiian Electric Company, Energy Project of the Year
Hawaii Convention Center HONOLULU, HI

2.2 SIGNIFICANT AWARDS, HONORS & RECOGNITION



AIA
Dallas

1994

AIA Dallas Chapter, Honor Award
Dallas Convention Center Expansion DALLAS, TX

Architecture in Perspective Award for Excellence in the
Graphic Representation of Architecture
St. Paul Civic Center ST. PAUL, MN



AIA
Seattle

1991

AIA Seattle Chapter, Citation Award
Dallas Convention Center Expansion DALLAS, TX

Preservation League of New York, Award for Significant
Achievement in Preservation
The Renovation of Carnegie Hall NEW YORK CITY, NY *James Stewart Polshek and Partners*



AIA
New York

The City Club of New York, Albert S. Bard Award of Merit in
Architecture and Urban Design
The Renovation of Carnegie Hall NEW YORK CITY, NY *James Stewart Polshek and Partners*

1990

New Hampshire AIA, Design Excellence Award, Unbuilt Category
Portsmouth Music Hall Renovation PORTSMOUTH, NH
Eseman/McCallum as part of Portsmouth Architectural Collaborative

1989

New Hampshire AIA, Design Excellence Award, Unbuilt Category
“Manchester New Hampshire—Mending the Urban Fabric” MANCHESTER, NH
Eseman McCallum Architects

1988

AIA National Honor Award
The Renovation of Carnegie Hall NEW YORK CITY, NY *James Stewart Polshek and Partners*

New York State AIA, Certificate of Excellence in Design
The Renovation of Carnegie Hall NEW YORK CITY, NY *James Stewart Polshek and Partners*

1987

National Trust for Historic Preservation, National Honor Award
The Renovation of Carnegie Hall NEW YORK CITY, NY *James Stewart Polshek and Partners*

Design Advancement Grant
National Endowment for the Arts, Design of Cities Program
“Manchester, New Hampshire—Mending the Urban Fabric” MANCHESTER, NH
Eseman McCallum Architects

1982

Scholarship Award
Columbia University NEW YORK CITY, NY

1976

Research Grant Award, Student Chapter, AIA
“Extended Development of Modular Housing,” Thesis, Lawrence Technological
University

DESIGN COMPETITIONS AND EXHIBITION

2001

Competition Project Award
Xfinity Events Center EVERETT, WA

1994

Competition Project Award
Hawaii Convention Center HONOLULU, HI

1991

Competition Project Award
St. Paul Civic Center ST. PAUL, MN

1989

Gallery Exhibition
“Mending the Urban Fabric,” **Currier Gallery** MANCHESTER, NH

1983

Competition Award of Merit
“Milwaukee Riverfront Design Competition” MILWAUKEE, WI

1979

First Award
“Landmark Ideas Competition” MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA



Preservation
League of NYS



AIA
New Hampshire



National Trust for
Historic Preservation

2.3 SIGNIFICANT PUBLICATIONS — PRESENTATIONS BY CHRIS ESEMAN



URBAN LAND INSTITUTE (ULI)

ANNUAL CONFERENCE, 2014 VANCOUVER, BC
“Case Study—Vancouver Convention Centre”

CALGARY CONVENTION CENTRE AUTHORITY

ANNUAL MEETING, 2012 CALGARY, AB
“Convention Centres of the 21st Century”



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CONVENTION CENTRES (AIPC)

AIPC ACADEMY, 2012 BRUSSELS, BELGIUM
“Venue Design”



AIPC ACADEMY, 2012 AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS
“Convention Center Design and Development”

ANNUAL CONFERENCE, 2011 SAN DIEGO, CA
“Enhancing Existing Facilities”

ANNUAL CONFERENCE, 2010 LIVERPOOL, ENGLAND
“Concepts to Design—Understanding the Design Process”

ANNUAL CONFERENCE, 2010 LIVERPOOL, ENGLAND
“About LEED—North American Sustainability Benchmarking”

ANNUAL CONFERENCE, 2009 ACORUNA, SPAIN
“Changing Industry Conditions—An Outline of Industry Trends”



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF EXHIBITION AND EVENTS (IAEE)

RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM, 2005 CLEVELAND, OH
“Discovering the Next Generation of Convention and Exhibition Facilities—Contemporary Design Issues”

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTER CONFERENCE (IAVM)

ANNUAL CONFERENCE, 2005 SAN FRANCISCO, CA
“Thinking Inside the Box—Transforming Existing Facilities”

ANNUAL CONFERENCE, 2004 ORLANDO, FL
“The Be-all Room: Defining the Convention Center Ballroom”

ANNUAL CONFERENCE, 2003 PASADENA, CA
“Convention Centers of the New Millennium—Design Trends, Hope and Dreams”

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (IEDC)

ANNUAL CONFERENCE, 2005 TEMPE, AZ
“Convention Center Facility Development: Expansion in Context”

ANNUAL CONFERENCE, 2004 ST. PETERSBURG, FL
“Convention Center Facility Development: Trends in Design”

ANCHORAGE CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

ANNUAL CONFERENCE, 2004 ANCHORAGE, AK
“When the Building is Over”

2.3 SIGNIFICANT PUBLICATIONS

ARCHITECT

2017

“Cleveland Civic Core,” *ARCHITECT Magazine* **MAY 02**

“The 13 most important construction and development projects in the United States,” *Curbed* **APR 11**

“Eleven Win in 2017 AIA Honor Awards for Architecture,” *Architects and Artisans* **MAR 01**

“The Evolution of Convention Centers,” *Meetings and Conventions* **NOV 03**

2016

“Convention Centers Plan for the Impromptu,” *Venues Today* **OCT 01**

“Inside LMN Architects, the studio designing major urban projects from San Antonio to Vancouver,” *The Architects Newspaper* **AUG 02**

“AIA Architecture Firm Award: LMN Architects A Seattle firm devoted to civic responsibility, sustainable development, and a healthy office culture,” *ARCHITECT Magazine* **MAY 17**

“Within the Urban Fabric,” *Washington State Magazine* **MAY 05**

2015

“LMN Architects Wins the 2016 AIA Architecture Firm Award,” *ARCHITECT Magazine* **DEC 02**

“Convention Center Architects Series Part I: Why Architects Have Become the Best Defensive Players for Cities,” *Exhibit City News* **NOV 03**

“City Beautiful Movement Redo,” *Innovative Design Quarterly* **SEP 22**

2014

“High-Class Precast,” *Precast Solutions* **OCT 01**

“The Architects. How today’s convention center designers are creating the venues of tomorrow,” *Meetings and Conventions* **JUL 01**

“Cleveland’s new Convention Center and Global Center for Health Innovation aren’t stand-alone icons, and that’s a good thing,” *Cleveland.com* **JUN 13**

“LMN Architects Materialize a Metaphor in Cleveland,” *Architects Newspaper* **MAY 21**

“Urban Remedy: The Global Center for Health Innovation and adjacent Cleveland Convention Center aim to reinvigorate an aging downtown,” *Architectural Record* **MAY 19**

“How Lewis/LMN team used 3-D design and ‘pull’ planning to build \$22M gym in half the time,” *Daily Journal of Commerce* **FEB 16**

“Cleveland’s bid to become the Epcot of Healthcare,” *Architects Newspaper* **FEB 05**

“Top 10 U.S. Cities for Green Meetings in 2014,” *GreenBiz.com* **JAN 02**

2013

“Architects designed the Global Center for Health Innovation to fit seamlessly with Cleveland’s new convention center,” *Cleveland.com* **OCT 2**

“Convention Centers of the Future, Designed Today,” *Collaborate Magazine* **OCT 01**

“Cleveland Convention Center to open early and under budget, officials say,” *Cleveland.com* **MAR 27**

ARCHITECTURAL
RECORD

Auditoria

contract

The New York Times

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

USA TODAY

2.3 SIGNIFICANT PUBLICATIONS

contract

ARCHITECTURAL RECORD



The New York Times

2011

"Fins to Win," *LD+A* JUL 01

"Cleveland to Welcome First US Medical Mart," *Contract* MAR 10

2010

"Design for New Convention Center Tries to Create Alluring Landscape," *The Plain Dealer* AUG 06

"LMN Architects Will Propose Sloping the Downtown Cleveland Mall to Create a Dramatic New Convention Center Entry," *Cleveland.com* AUG 05

"Mall Concept Unveiled by LMN Architects Shows Great Promise," *Cleveland.com* AUG 05

"Early Medical Mart and Convention Center Plans Preserve Lake View," *The Plain Dealer* MAY 20

2009

"Breaking with Convention," *Auditoria* NOV 30

"Linked In," *Auditoria* NOV 30

"Convention Centers: The Embodiment of the City," *Auditoria* OCT 09

2008

"Oxbow Performance Venue Design Work Gets Under Way," *Coloradoan.com* OCT 14

2006

"Duke Energy Center: Hybrid Design," *Auditoria* SEP 01

"Turning Surface into Symbol—Cincinnati Convention Center Expansion," *Architectural Record* JAN 01

2001

"Industry Trends: Washington State Convention and Trade Center Expansion," *Seattle Daily Journal of Commerce—Special Coverage Article*

1999

"Hec Edmundson Pavilion Renovation Makes Historic Area Better Than Ever," *Northwest Construction* JUL

1995

"Oscar McGaskey, Jr., 1995 Prime Site Award Winners, Dallas Convention Center," *Agent & Facilities Manager* DEC

1994

"Designing Dallas – AIA Awards," *Texas Architect* JUN

"Dallas Builds on its History as a Major Convention Center," *Dallas Morning News* JAN

"The Dallas Convention Center's Public Art Project is Designed to Dazzle Visitors," *Dallas Morning News* JAN

"Five Artists give Dallas' Art in Public Spaces Program a Good Start," *Dallas Morning News* JAN 09

"New Box has a Bow," *Dallas Morning News* JAN 09

"Opening New Fronts at Battery Park City," *The New York Times* SEP 04

1993

"New/Converted Residential Project Makes Effective Use of Space," *Sun Coast* OCT

1990

"2 New Projects Test a Sluggish Market," *The New York Times* AUG 10

2.3 SIGNIFICANT PUBLICATIONS



ARCHITECTURAL
RECORD

The Detroit News

The New York Times

Newsweek

Prior to joining LMN, Chris was project architect for the Carnegie Hall Renovation, Stroh River Place Master Plan and Renovation, and Liberty Place Condominiums at Battery Park City for the office of James Stewart Polshek & Partners. These projects were published widely throughout the country and featured in publications such as the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal* and *Newsweek*, in addition to *Progressive Architecture* and *Architectural Record*. The following are a few representative examples:

1988

“Building the New City,” *Progressive Architecture* **MAR**

“Liberty House, Parcel J,” *Progressive Architecture* **MAR**

1987

“Carnegie Reopens,” *Progressive Architecture* **FEB**

“Carnegie Hall: Better Than Ever,” *Architecture* **FEB**

“Carnegie Hall, New York City,” *Architectural Record* **JUN**

“Sounds in the Night,” *TIME Magazine* **FEB 16**

1986

“The Next Great Place,” *New York Magazine* **JUN 16**

“The Carnegie Hall of the Future,” *The New York Times* **AUG 31**

“Carnegie’s Allegro Facelift,” *The New York Times* **DEC 2**

“Facelift for an Old Beauty,” *Newsweek* **DEC 22**

1985

“Harbortown set for launch,” *Detroit Free Press* **APR 29**

“Stroh’s Project Won’t Ignore Past,” *Detroit Free Press* **NOV 15**

“Good Design is Sought for New Condos,” *The New York Times* **SEP 15**

1984

“Stroh unveils ‘Greektown by the river,’” *The Detroit News* **JUL 13**

“River Place—Stroh’s Dream for Detroit,” *The Detroit News* **JUL 24**

“Riverfront: Past, Present, and Future are Partners In Revival Area,” *Detroit Free Press* **NOV 29**

“Stroh’s shows riverfront plan,” *Detroit Free Press* **JUL**

“Retreading Motown: New Oases in the Urban Desert,” *The Wall Street Journal* **NOV 05**

“Michigan...Detroit,” *USA Today* **JUL 13**

1983

“Milwaukee Riverfront Competition,” *INLAND ARCHITECT* **NOV-DEC**

3.0 EXHIBITS



EXHIBIT 1
Leading the Evolution of the Urban Convention Center
“Transforming an Urban Icon”



EXHIBIT 5
Washington State Convention Center Expansion
“A New Benchmark for Integrated Mixed-Use”



EXHIBIT 2
Dallas Convention Center Expansion
“Transforming with a Unifying Gesture”



EXHIBIT 6
Cleveland Civic Core and Convention Center
“Public Space brings Community Engagement”



EXHIBIT 3
Baltimore Convention Center Expansion
“Breaking the Box”



EXHIBIT 7
Anchorage Dena’ina Civic and Convention Center
“Celebrating Authenticity”



EXHIBIT 4
Cincinnati Duke Energy Convention Center Renovation and Expansion
“Creating Iconic Signature Space”



EXHIBIT 8
Washington State Convention Center Addition
“Envisioning a new Urban Model”



Silent Generation		Baby Boomer		Generation "X"		Millennials		Generation "Z"	
PRE-1977 DIGITAL IMMIGRANTS		1977-1991 DIGITAL NATIVES		1991-2008 WEB GEN.		2009-2022 MOBILE GEN.		2022-2032 WEARABLE GEN. [?]	

Chris Eseman’s pivotal leadership in convention center planning and design has played a central role in a transformational evolution of the industry over the past three decades. The first U.S. convention centers appeared in the 1960s on sites typically located at the edge of downtown, convenient to highways and parking, and were often separate from city life. They have since evolved, due in large part to Chris’s innovations and influence across the country, with improvements that enhance the visitor experience, producing iconic urban public spaces and making convention centers important elements of community life.

DECLARATION OF RESPONSIBILITY I have personal knowledge of the nominee’s responsibility for the exhibit listed above. That responsibility included: *Project under the direction of the nominee.*

Mark Reddington FAIA
LMN Architects Partner (Role: Partner-in-Charge)

3.1 THE EVOLUTION OF THE URBAN CONVENTION CENTER

GENERATION ONE **BOX WITH DOCKS** (1960s-1980s)

The earliest convention center facilities rose from semi-industrial roots, typically with a large exhibition hall on the edge of downtown. Many were placed in the center of the site surrounded by parking with a small lobby on one side and a loading dock on the other side of a single exhibition hall. Coined the “Box with Docks,” in many respects the convention delegate was isolated from the surrounding city. As cities expanded, many of these centers found themselves unintentionally located adjacent to urban amenities.

GENERATION TWO **BREAK THE BOX** (1990s)

The next generation, led by the Baltimore Convention Center (with Chris as project director), created connections with the city’s urban fabric and adopted a more iconic attitude with transparent edges, concealed loading docks, and more sculptural forms. Amenities such as hotels and restaurants became more accessible, and convention delegates enjoyed walking access to entertainment and cultural facilities and urban promenades.

GENERATION THREE **DISTINCTIVE INTERIOR SPACES** (2000s)

In the 2000s, the prior generation’s success through transparency and the place-making potential of iconic imagery was brought to the interior of the building with enhanced finishes and access to natural light. At the Duke Energy Convention Center in Cincinnati, for example, Chris led a diverse multi-disciplinary design team to develop Generation Three’s primary innovation: the Signature Ballroom. This unique space offers unparalleled multi-functional flexibility with brand imagery unique to that facility.

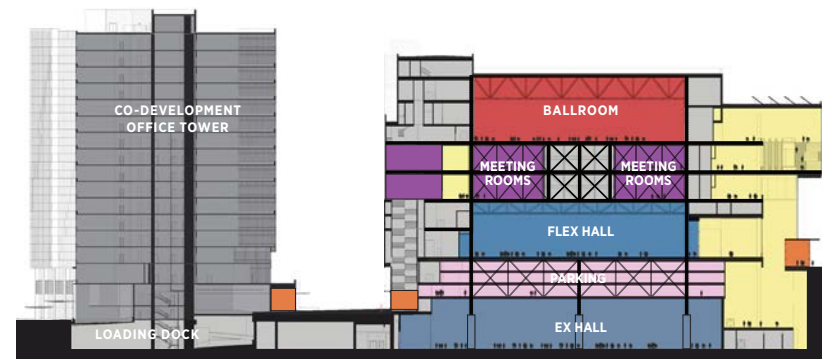
GENERATION FOUR **MIXED-USE PROGRAM** (2010s)

Opening in 2013, the Cleveland Civic Core and Convention Center engages the community with the first-of-its-kind mixed-use Global Center for Health Innovation, fully developed perimeter retail and a public park on the roof of the convention center itself. Chris led civic leaders through site selection, program development, and design over 10 years to create this influential, award-winning project. The community-oriented program is further enhanced by locating the “big box” convention center functions like exhibit halls and loading docks below grade while introducing natural light into public spaces and even the below-grade exhibit hall itself.

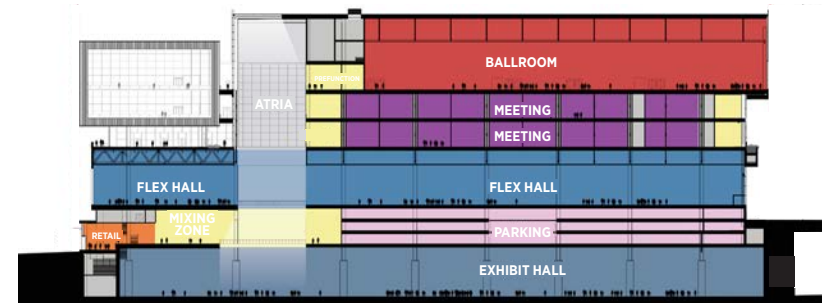
GENERATION FIVE **THE VERTICAL CONVENTION CENTER** (2020s)

Pointing toward the future, Generation Five facilities such as the Washington State Convention Center Addition acknowledge the value of their urban sites by using all of their available site footprint, including air rights, to maximum effect. Utilizing a vertical organization, the largest and most disruptive program components of the exhibition hall and loading docks are located below-grade, under city streets with convention center and mixed-use co-development towers located above grade in the air rights space above the center. Transparency is achieved on all elevations with natural light introduced to every level and in every type of program space. Outdoor function spaces and active mixed-use edges maximize the potential of the site to engage in the development of a vibrant, pedestrian-oriented community.

Today’s convention delegates seek unique, authentic experiences. Chris’s innovations are the vanguard of Generation Five facilities, grounded in authentic celebrations of local character, history, cuisine, and culture. Convention centers now offer unique views, locally sourced materials, and active engagement with the local community.



Exhibition hall and loading docks below grade maximize pedestrian activation at grade.



Atriums extend the full height of the building, bringing natural light to below-grade spaces.

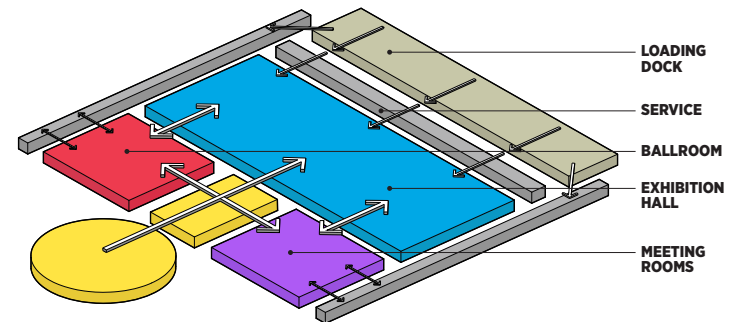
3.1 THE EVOLUTION OF THE URBAN CONVENTION CENTER

MASTER PLANNING FOR CIVIC IMPACT

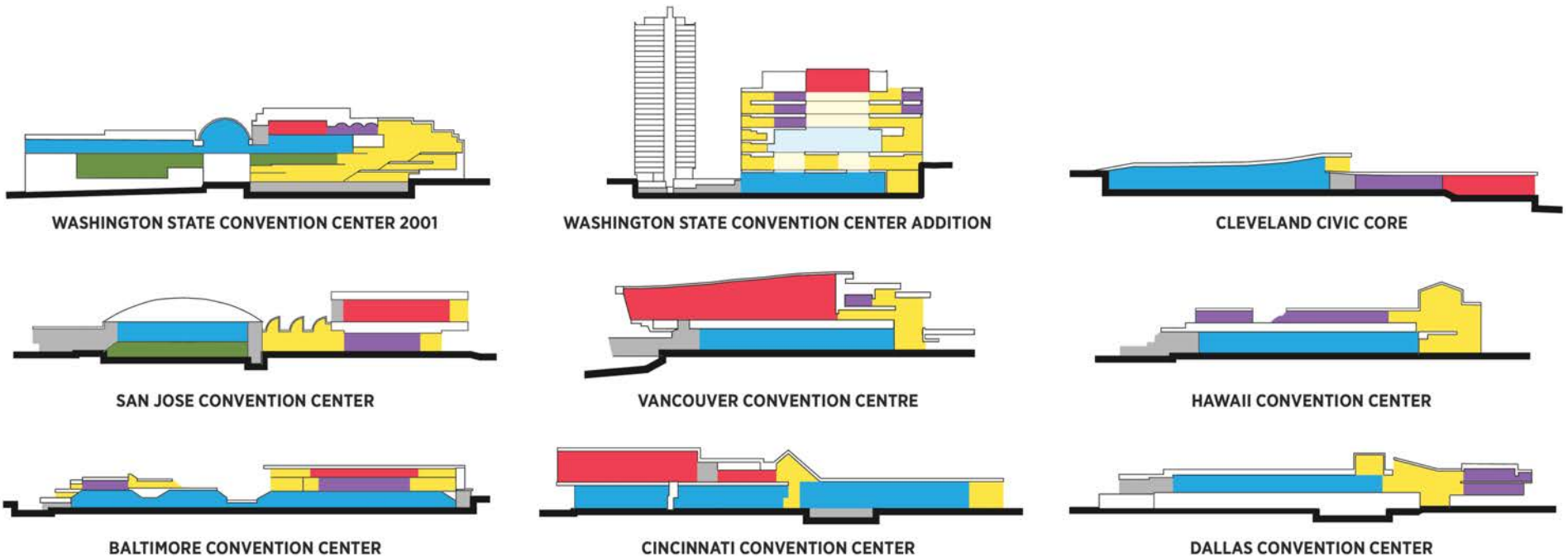
The organizational diagram of a convention center is deceptively simple. The “Ideal Diagram” illustrates the critical functional relationships between program components in a typical convention center. The fundamental principles include the separation of public and service components, organization of the component parts to facilitate simultaneous use by multiple groups, and flexibility in the layout that anticipates the components being used in a variety of combinations. The urban convention center typically has a smaller available footprint, dictating a vertical organization of the program. While the key functional relationships must be maintained, the opportunities for urban engagement increase dramatically.

Chris has played an important role in the evolution of the urban convention center, creatively applying the above principles to specific urban sites – often at the master planning stage – establishing the configuration of overlapping program components while maintaining the key functional relationships and maximizing opportunities for urban engagement. The following diagrams compare several projects where Chris led the facility planning, demonstrating that the placement of the exhibit hall (shaded blue) is far more flexible than conventional industry thinking would suggest. From the above-grade

configurations of Washington State and Dallas to Cleveland’s below-grade configurations or the Washington State Addition and various hybrids in between, Chris has championed the specific conditions of site, topography, and urban context, rather than a rigid functional formula. The objective is to allow prefunction spaces to be configured creatively along the perimeter, bringing the center’s energy to the neighborhood and engaging the community as active participants. This is the ultimate breakthrough that allows a convention center to evolve into a mature, engaged element of the urban landscape.



Ideal diagram of program relationships



3.2 DALLAS CONVENTION CENTER EXPANSION



ARCHITECTURAL FIRM OF RECORD JPJ Architects
DESIGN ARCHITECT LMN Architects
ROLE OF NOMINEE Project Architect
COMPLETION DATE 1994

The Dallas Convention Center had previously been expanded in three phases, resulting in a disorganized circulation system and an appearance lacking in cohesion. The challenge for the 1994 expansion was to expand the facility to 2.5 million sf with over 1 million sf of contiguous exhibit space, while reorganizing the circulation system and transforming the building image.

Chris led a multi-disciplinary team to create a master plan that organized the expansion around a public circulation arc which enveloped the existing facility in public space, providing a new, clear circulation system while pulling disparate parts into a unified whole. He then led the creation of innovations that have since become industry standards:

- The circulation arc transformed the existing bunker-like facility behind an animated transparent façade, inviting the outside community as an active participant. The arc also became a powerful internal wayfinding device while providing changing views of the Dallas skyline.

Christopher Eseman AIA, LEED AP

- The arc provided flexible public space that could be easily reconfigured to meet the needs of different events, and space for participants to enjoy and socialize.
- The arc's scale engaged several neighborhoods and multiple transportation modes, celebrating intersections with the city street grid with unique public function spaces.
- An extensive public art program added authenticity to the project, employing local public artists as participants in the design phases and integrating their contributions as integral components of the building.



AWARDS

- AIA Dallas Chapter, Honor Award **1994**
- AIA Seattle Chapter, Citation Award **1994**

SELECT PUBLICATIONS

- "1995 Prime Site Award Winners," *Dallas Convention Center Agent & Facilities Manager* **DEC 1995**
- "Designing Dallas—AIA Awards," *Texas Architect* **JUN 1994**
- "Dallas Builds on its History as a Major Convention Center," *Dallas Morning News* **JAN 1994**
- "The Dallas Convention Center's Public Art Project is Designed to Dazzle Visitors," *Dallas Morning News* **JAN 1994**
- "Five Artists give Dallas' Art in Public Spaces Program a Good Start," *Dallas Morning News* **JAN 1994**
- "New Box has a Bow," *Dallas Morning News* **JAN 1994**

DECLARATION OF RESPONSIBILITY I have personal knowledge of the nominee's responsibility for the exhibit listed above. That responsibility included: *Project under the direction of the nominee.*

Judsen Marquardt FAIA
LMN Architects Founding Partner (Role: Partner-in-Charge)

3.3 BALTIMORE CONVENTION CENTER - WEST EXPANSION



ARCHITECTURAL FIRM OF RECORD Cochran, Stevenson and Donkervoet
DESIGN ARCHITECT LMN Architects
ROLE OF NOMINEE Project Director
COMPLETION DATE 1996

Positioned on a prominent urban site on the pedestrian path between Baltimore’s Inner Harbor and adjacent sports stadiums, Chris led one of the first convention center projects to “Break the Box,” articulating program components into disparate identifiable parts and transforming the convention center’s presence in the urban landscape. The expansion inspired several industry trends, including transparency and natural light in all public areas, outdoor meeting space, and publicly accessible terraces. In addition, multiple entrances were distributed around the site, encouraging community interaction and engaging the pedestrian realm while further mitigating the scale of the facility.

As project director, Chris led all phases of this project, implementing design innovations that included locating program elements in the very deep interstitial structure necessary for supporting the event floors in stacked, column-free, long-span event spaces, reducing the bulk that would be otherwise required in a vertically stacked facility – in this case reducing the height of the building by over 20 feet.

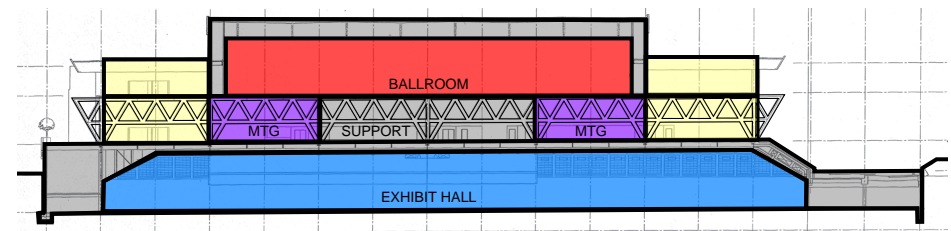
“The facility has been overwhelmingly received by our clients and the public. The center is quite architecturally striking and complementary to our downtown area.”

Peggy Daidakis, Executive Director, Baltimore Convention Center

DECLARATION OF RESPONSIBILITY I have personal knowledge of the nominee’s responsibility for the exhibit listed above. That responsibility included: *Project under the direction of the nominee.*

Peggy Daidakis
Executive Director, Baltimore Convention Center (Role: Client)

Christopher Eseman AIA, LEED AP



Program occupies interstitial long-span trusses

3.3 BALTIMORE CONVENTION CENTER - EXPANSION AND RENOVATION



HOTEL BUILDING

PARKING STRUCTURE

ARCHITECTURAL FIRM OF RECORD Ayers Saint Gross

DESIGN ARCHITECT LMN Architects

ROLE OF NOMINEE Project Director

COMPLETION DATE TBD (In Design)

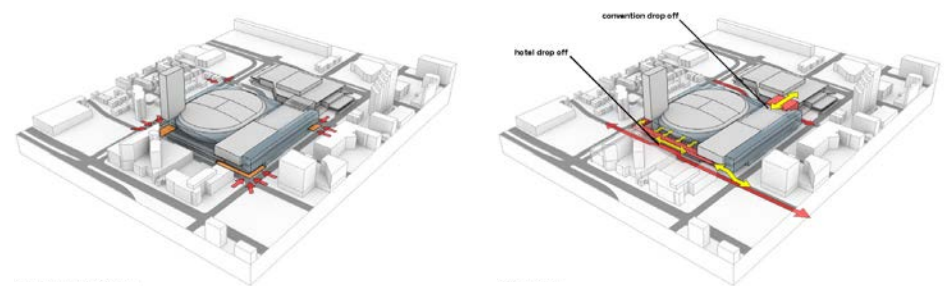
In 2012, Chris led an architectural consortium in the development of a master plan that included an expansion of the existing center, a new arena, and hotel. The master plan envisioned an increase in site density, with program components stacked and overlapped to maximize available site footprint. The design was to be a catalyst in creating a more active convention center district, interspersing meeting spaces with retail and pedestrian concourses along transparent street façades. The project has recently completed Concept Design as a convention center expansion and new hotel. The Schematic Design Phase will be commencing in 2020.

DECLARATION OF RESPONSIBILITY I have personal knowledge of the nominee's responsibility for the exhibit listed above. That responsibility included: *Project under the direction of the nominee.*

Peggy Daidakis

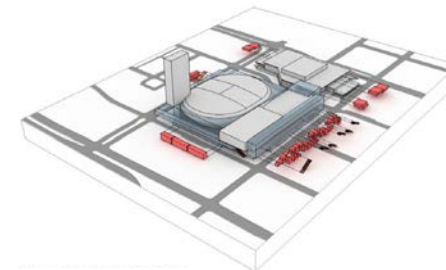
Executive Director, Baltimore Convention Center (Role: Client)

Christopher Eseman AIA, LEED AP

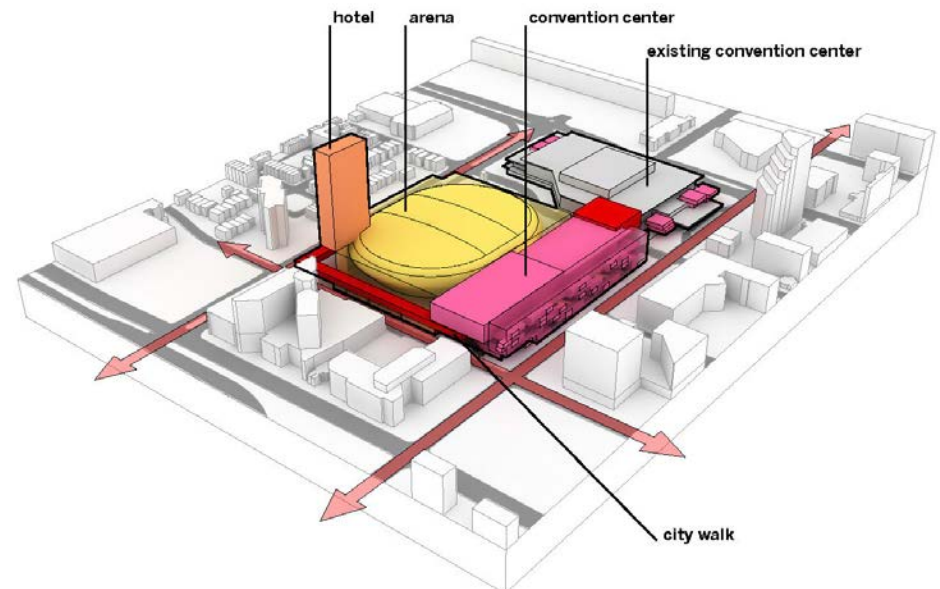


CIVIC PRESENCE AT CORNERS

CONNECTIONS

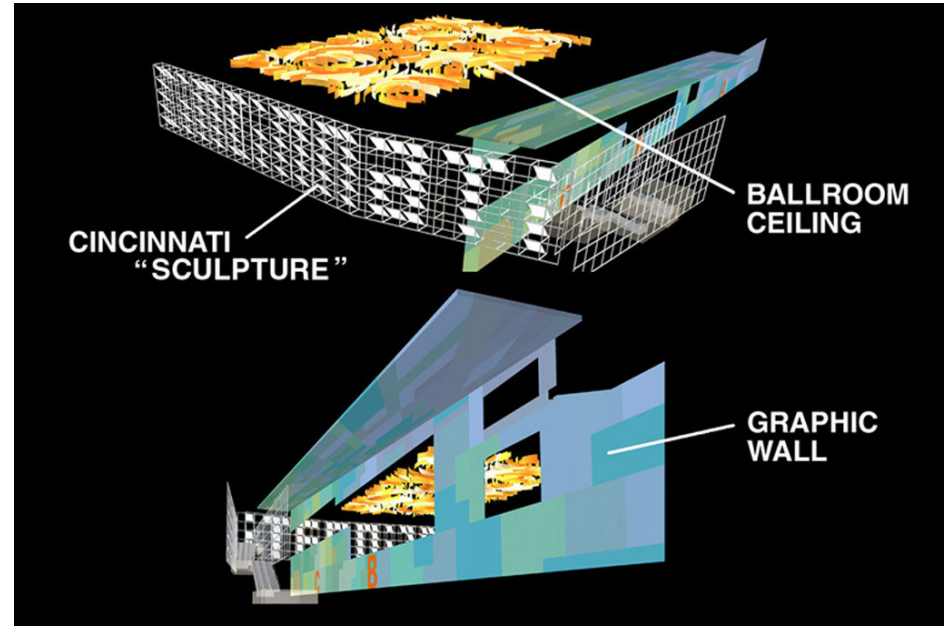


PROGRAM / CIRCULATION AT STREET EDGE



URBAN DISTRICT OF MULTIPLE COMPONENTS





ARCHITECTURAL FIRM OF RECORD Cincinnati Architectural Collaborative (a joint venture of GBBN, BHDP and Cole Russel Architects)

DESIGN ARCHITECT LMN Architects

ROLE OF NOMINEE Project Director

SIGNIFICANT COLLABORATORS Sussman Prejza

COMPLETION DATE 2006

Doubling the area of the existing center, the expanded facility reinvigorated Cincinnati as a convention destination. Chris led all phases of the project, transforming the formerly insular and monolithic facility into a transparent, light-filled, and energetic icon, providing views up and down adjacent streets and focusing activity along the perimeter. The massing articulated each of the major program components, breaking down its bulk along the two-block long site while engaging the adjacent community with an appealing ground floor.

The west façade elevated public art to the city-scale, celebrating its location on the edge of downtown with a series of metal panels set at angles to pixelate the word CINCINNATI. In the interior, a graphic wall organizes the circulation spine with images referencing the bridge structures spanning the adjacent Ohio River. The distinctive ballroom is one of the industry’s first iconic interior spaces, an innovation that has since become an expected standard.

Christopher Eseman AIA, LEED AP

AWARDS

AIA Cincinnati, Collaborative Category: Honor Award **2006**

AIA Seattle, Chapter Commendation Award **2006**

PUBLICATIONS

“Duke Energy Center: Hybrid Design,” *Auditoria* **SEP 2006**

“Turning Surface into Symbol - Cincinnati Convention Center Expansion,” *Architectural Record* **JAN 2006**

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Robert Gramann FAIA
GBBN Chairman Emeritus (Role: Associate Architect)

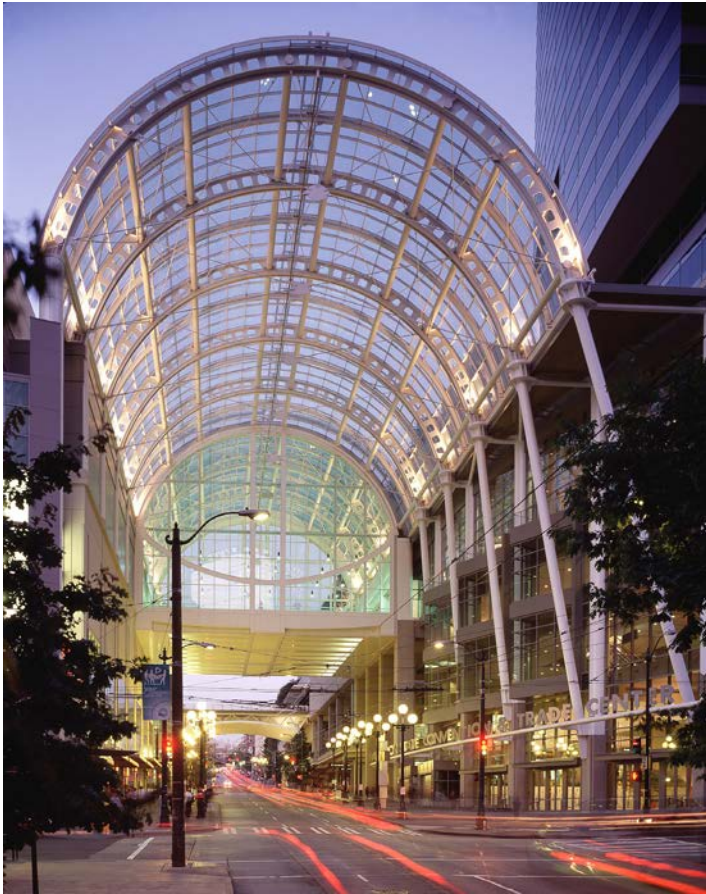


“Architects know that to innovate at this scale offers a real challenge, to integrate a major civic structure with its urban surround. Here the exterior expresses a sense of the city, with a sunscreen that literally reflects the urban neighborhood and relates it to the riverfront.”

2006 AIA Seattle Chapter Commendation Award, Jury Comments

3.5 WASHINGTON STATE CONVENTION CENTER EXPANSION

EXHIBIT 5



ARCHITECTURAL FIRM OF RECORD/DESIGN ARCHITECT LMN Architects
ROLE OF NOMINEE Project Director
COMPLETION DATE 2001

Originally located on the edge of downtown, the Washington State Convention Center is now surrounded by Seattle's retail district. With expansion as a priority, Chris led the development of a master plan with several improvements that are now considered industry trends.

- Expansion on a site across the street. In the past, streets would simply be closed, but that strategy is no longer viable or desirable, requiring a more creative approach.

Christopher Eseman AIA, LEED AP

- An exhibit hall expansion that explored the nature of “contiguous.” The existing sloping site placed the exhibit hall high in the air as it crossed the street. Since the floor levels needed to align, two separate street crossings connected the expansion to the existing building: a glass pedestrian bridge that linked the exhibit hall expansion with the existing hall and its expanded lobby, and a vehicular bridge that accommodated loading and exhibit servicing.
- Celebrating the public street crossing is a block-long extension of the glass bridge roof, creating covered public space at street level, which is lined with retail.
- Co-development in “air-rights” space above and below the convention center was programmed with an office tower, hotel, parking, and retail space to help fund the project and bring additional mixed-use energy into the district.



Chris then led execution of the master plan, directing the convention center design team along with coordinating the design work of three development-partner design teams. The building is woven into the circulation patterns of the existing neighborhood, providing a public path through the convention center to adjacent uphill neighborhoods. Authenticity is reinforced through unique views from the bridge to Pike Place Market and Puget Sound.

AWARDS

International Illumination, Design Award of Merit **2002**

PUBLICATIONS

“Industry Trends: Washington State Convention and Trade Center Expansion”, *Seattle Daily Journal of Commerce, Special Coverage Article* **2001**

DECLARATION OF RESPONSIBILITY I have personal knowledge of the nominee's responsibility for the exhibit listed above. That responsibility included: *Project under the direction of the nominee.*

John Christison

Former CEO and General Manager, Washington State Convention Center (Role: Client)



“In terms of urban design...we have a very dazzling, dramatic proposal for the North Expansion that will be an exciting development for the City of Seattle.”

*Dr. Norman Johnston,
Professor Emeritus
University of Washington
College of Architecture
and Urban Planning*

3.6 CLEVELAND CIVIC CORE AND CONVENTION CENTER

EXHIBIT 6



ARCHITECTURAL FIRM OF RECORD URS, Robert P. Madison International
DESIGN ARCHITECT LMN Architects
ROLE OF NOMINEE Project Director
SIGNIFICANT COLLABORATORS GGN, Robert P. Madison International
COMPLETION DATE 2013

Cleveland is the home of Daniel Burnham's Cleveland Mall – a unique American public open space flanked with significant civic buildings on a bluff overlooking Lake Erie. Chris led a complex interdisciplinary team of designers and feasibility consultants through a site selection process that recommended the Mall to elected officials as the new home of the Cleveland Convention Center.

After working closely with civic leaders during a 10-year planning process, Chris led the execution of the master plan through all project phases, delivering a new below-grade convention center with raised ceilings and abundant natural light, topped by a nine-acre civic park, celebrating a unique Cleveland resource and reestablishing the Mall as a grand organizing space for the city's community life.

The result of a strong collaboration with landscape architect GGN, the new complex respects Burnham's original vision while reimagining it for today, weaving together multiple public facilities with green space to catalyze a dramatic revitalization of the downtown core.

In addition to the convention center, the project included a new five-story, 235,000 sf Global Center for Health Innovation, connecting with the convention center below grade. Its design featured transparent connections at ground level interfacing directly with street life and the adjacent park. The first of its kind to be integrated with a convention center, it provided a permanent showroom for Cleveland's thriving medical research industry and a year-round anchor tenant for the convention center.

The project has been wildly successful, spawning the development of a new hotel on an adjacent site, completing the perimeter of The Mall, and reinvigorating development in several downtown neighborhoods.

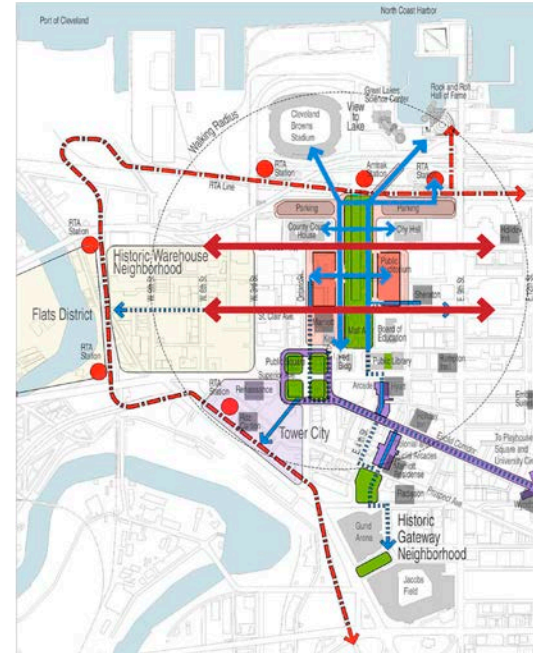
AWARDS

- AIA Northwest and Pacific Region, Honor Awards **2018**
- AIA National, Honor Award for Regional and Urban Design **2017**
- AIA Washington Council Civic Design Awards, Citation Award **2015**
- ENR Midwest, Best of 2014 Award of Merit, Office/Retail/Mixed Use **2014**
- AIA Seattle, Chapter Honor Award **2013**
- Architect's Newspaper, Best of the Year Design Award; Façade Honorable Mention **2013**
- Architizer Special Mention, Architecture + Fabrication **2013**
- Architizer Special Mention, Architecture + Modeling **2013**
- AIA Washington Council Civic Design Awards, Award of Merit, Unbuilt Category **2012**

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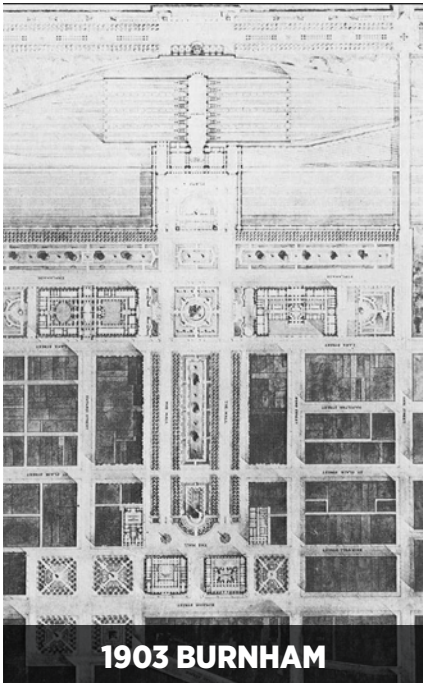
Robert P. Madison FAIA
Founding Partner, Robert P. Madison International (Role: Architect of Record)

3.6 CLEVELAND CIVIC CORE AND CONVENTION CENTER



“Establishes a coherent civic center. The gestures are large but it works well on a human scale. A great example of an urban design project.”

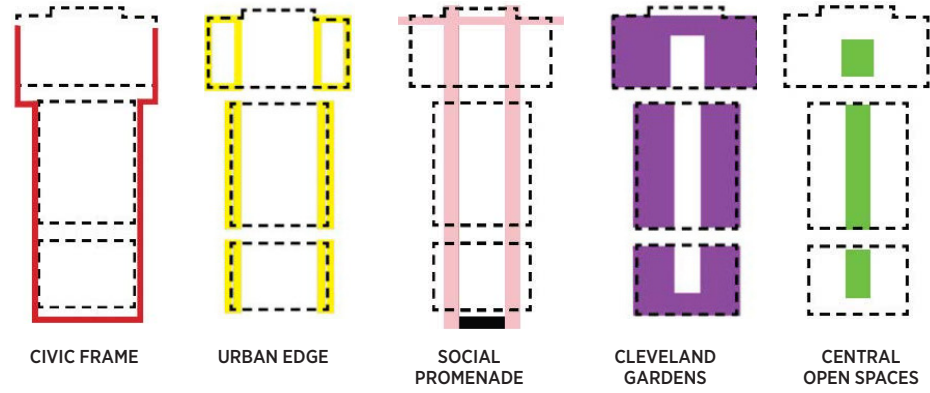
AIA Northwest and Pacific Region Design Awards Honor Awards jury comment, 2018



1903 BURNHAM

“We’re transforming Cleveland and Northeast Ohio in a way that was really only talked about or dreamed about for decades...(it’s) the latest symbol of our region’s renewal.”

Ed Fitzgerald, Cuyahoga County Executive



CIVIC FRAME

URBAN EDGE

SOCIAL PROMENADE

CLEVELAND GARDENS

CENTRAL OPEN SPACES



2013 CIVIC CORE

Guiding Principles from 1903 Burnham Plan reinterpreted in new Civic Core

3.6 CLEVELAND CIVIC CORE AND CONVENTION CENTER



3.7 ANCHORAGE DENA'INA CIVIC AND CONVENTION CENTER

EXHIBIT 7



ARCHITECTURAL FIRM OF RECORD RIM Architects
DESIGN ARCHITECT LMN Architects
ROLE OF NOMINEE Project Director
COMPLETION DATE 2008

From site selection through material selection and construction, Chris led a large team of civic leaders and project collaborators to create a project that celebrates Alaska's unique attributes. The project capitalizes on views of nearby mountains while focusing on the exceptional quality of light, where the duration, intensity, and color of daylight varies not only from season to season, but also from day to day.

Meeting the objectives of the City's Urban Framework Plan, Chris led the team through the site selection process, supporting civic leaders in the selection of a small downtown site near city amenities, as opposed to sprawling suburban options.

- The site required an innovative, vertically stacked configuration, unique for a small center.
- Public lobbies were oriented toward city, water, and mountain views while a high degree of transparency engaged the activities within the building with the local community.

- Public spaces were flooded with natural light while clerestory windows above the roofline reflected indirect light into event spaces.
- The 25,000 sf ballroom was positioned on the highest floor level and incorporated a series of large roof monitors and windows to capture a full spectrum of direct and indirect daylight, fully controllable with automatic shading devices. The interior wall surfaces continue the concept of luminosity, utilizing a metallic "shimmer screen" comprised of multiple strings of stainless steel bead chains, integrating refracted light with the materiality of the space.
- The project employed a large team of First Nation artists in the design of art pieces integrated in the architecture, further celebrating the authenticity of the location.

The project has helped to invigorate central downtown Anchorage while establishing its relevance as a convention center destination.

AWARDS

AIA Alaska Chapter, Design Honor: Award of Merit **2010**
Design-Build Institute of America, Design-Build Merit Award **2010**
Heart of Anchorage/Urban Design Commission Merit Award **2000**
New Anchorage Civic & Convention Center Site Selection Study,
Anchorage, Alaska

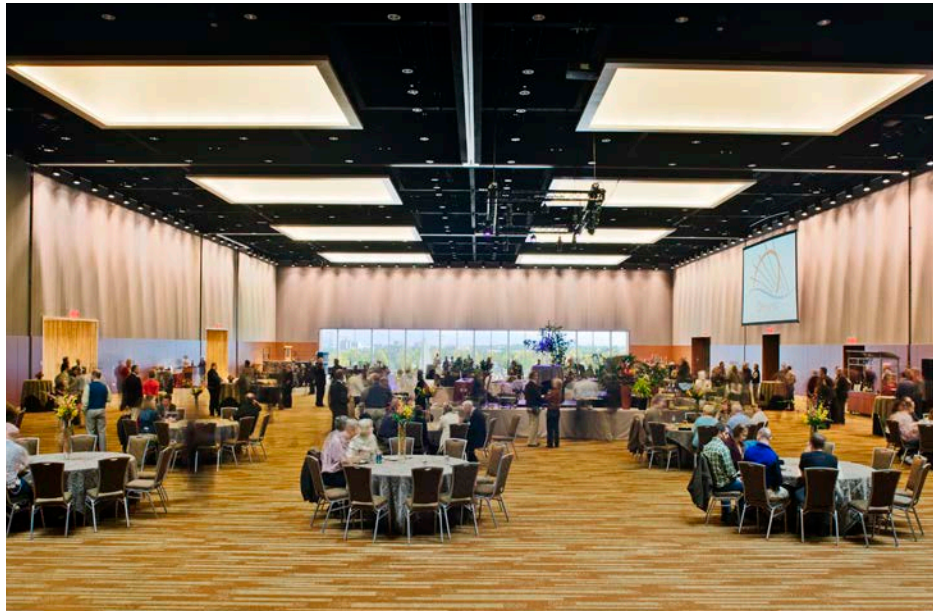
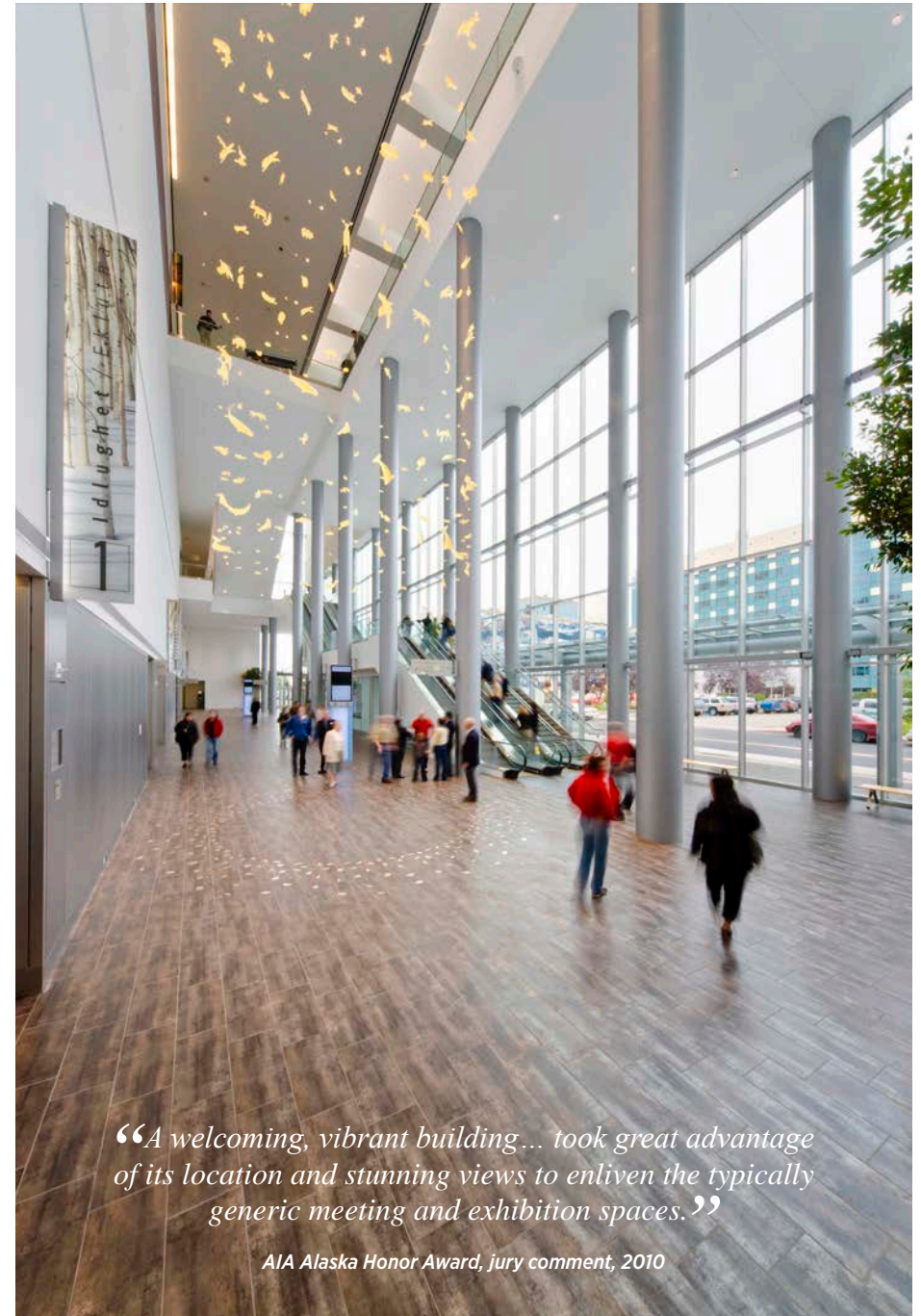
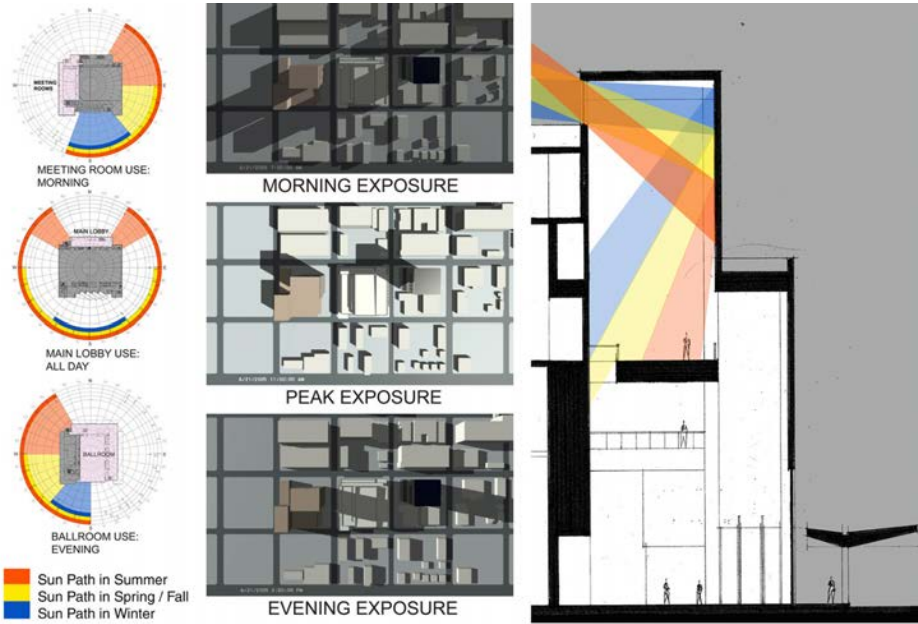
PUBLICATIONS

"Linked In," *Auditoria* **NOV 2009**

DECLARATION OF RESPONSIBILITY I have personal knowledge of the nominee's responsibility for the exhibit listed above. That responsibility included: *Project under the direction of the nominee.*

Larry Cash FAIA
RIM Architects, CEO (Role: Associate Architect)

3.7 ANCHORAGE DENA'INA CIVIC AND CONVENTION CENTER



3.8 WASHINGTON STATE CONVENTION CENTER ADDITION

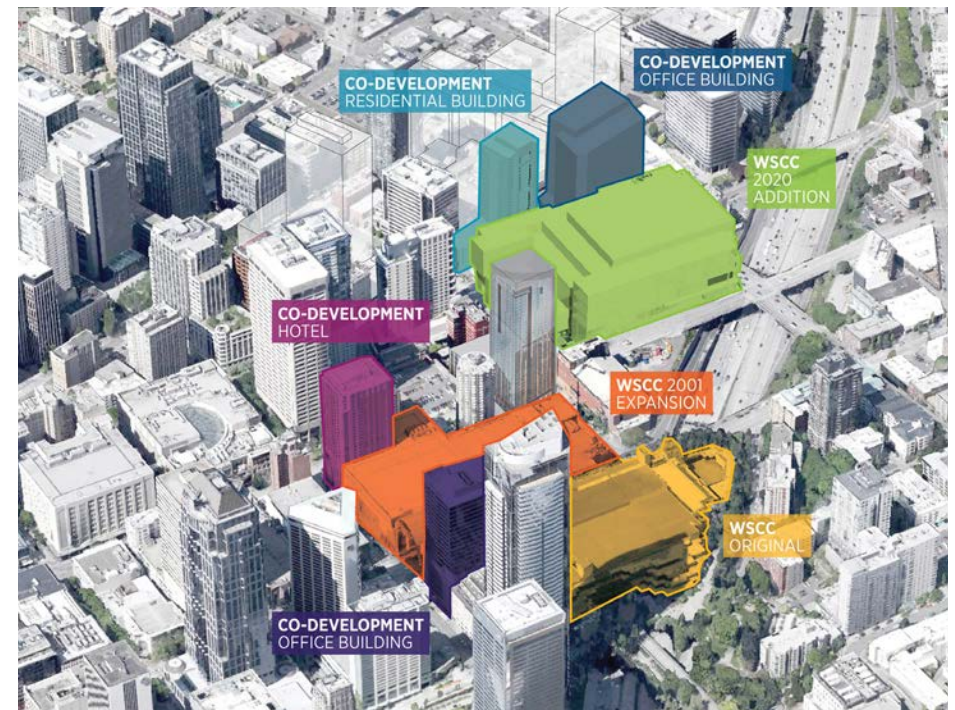


ARCHITECTURAL FIRM OF RECORD/DESIGN ARCHITECT LMN Architects
ROLE OF NOMINEE Project Director
SIGNIFICANT COLLABORATORS GGN
COMPLETION DATE 2021

A 1.5-million sf addition will serve as a connecting hub for multiple urban districts, redefining the long-anticipated mixed-use development zone north of the downtown retail core. Chris led a complex team of planners, designers, and engineers through development of a master plan to envision an innovative program spread across three city blocks below grade, but only a single block above grade, respecting the existing city street grid and preserving the district's pedestrian focus. In addition to the convention center, two co-development towers will occupy each of the other two blocks above the convention center's below-grade loading dock. The program is distributed across six public levels, including two stacked exhibit halls (both above and below grade), an at-grade entry and registration level, two stacked meeting room levels, and an industry-leading 60,000 sf ballroom. Chris then led the team through all design phases and is currently leading the construction phase.

Christopher Eseman AIA, LEED AP

The facility's massing is carefully coordinated with adjacent historic structures while each façade presents a highly interactive, transparent edge, blurring the boundaries of the site with the city context and the building program. Each program component embraces natural light and the major program spaces are connected vertically through two large atria, bringing natural light to even the below-grade exhibit hall. The volume reducing strategy of locating program elements in the deep interstitial long-span trusses, originally developed in Baltimore, is expanded to include multiple levels of parking in the exhibit hall spanning trusses and two meeting room levels located in the floor structure of the ballroom, saving the volume of several floors when compared to conventional framing. Interior circulation patterns and public spaces are located at the edge of the building, creating dramatic west-facing views to the Pike Place Market and Puget Sound.



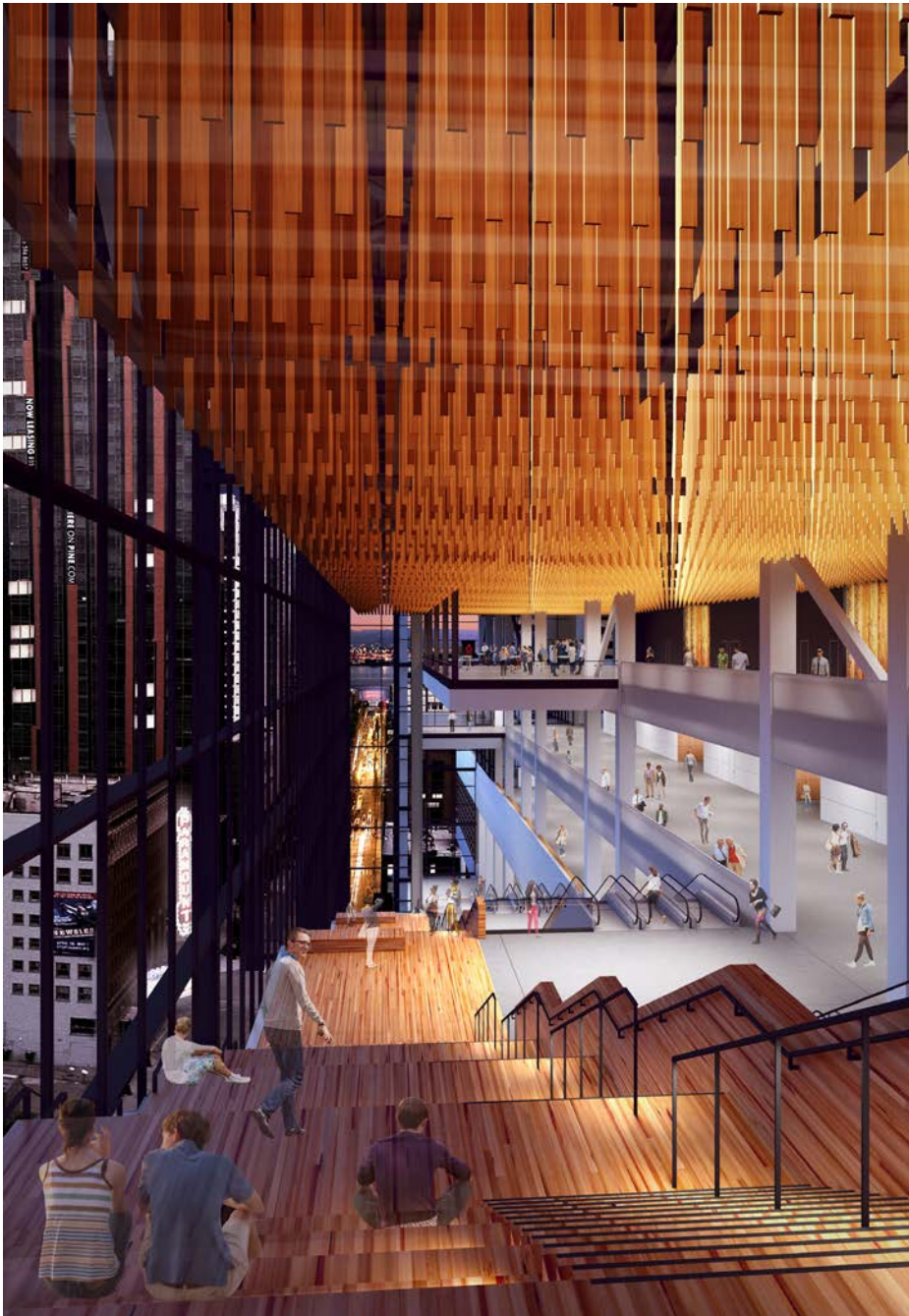
DECLARATION OF RESPONSIBILITY I have personal knowledge of the nominee's responsibility for the exhibit listed above. That responsibility included: *Project under the direction of the nominee.*

Jeff Blosser
President and CEO, Washington State Convention Center (Role: Client)



As the first high-rise convention center in North America, the facility will set new standards in the industry for transparency, mixed-use engagement and the integration of natural light.

3.8 WASHINGTON STATE CONVENTION CENTER ADDITION



Local materials and iconic views to Pike Place Market and Puget Sound reinforce local authenticity.

Christopher Eseman AIA, LEED AP

The facility is designed to celebrate the attributes of Seattle. The ground floor of the convention center and co-development projects will be attractive to delegates and the local community alike with welcoming and informal retail and public spaces. Interior finishes throughout reflect the materials of the northwest while local artists have been engaged to further interpret the character of the region.

As the first high-rise convention center in North America, the facility will set new standards, transforming industry expectations for transparency, mixed-use program integration, spatial flexibility, and the incorporation of natural light. Specific innovations include:

- Transformation of the typical building program with similar program elements on more than one level.
- Visual connectivity and natural light provided internally by multi-level atria.
- Natural light in all program categories.
- Interstitial long-span trusses containing building program in multiple locations, reducing bulk when compared to conventional framing.
- Authenticity reflected through transparency, views, material selection, and the integration of local artists' works.
- Mixed use integration; including co-development towers and shared public space with retail activation at all hours.

