2022 AIA Fellowship

Candidate  Kenneth Luker
Organization  Perkins&Will
Location  Durham, North Carolina
Chapter  AIA North Carolina; AIA Triangle

Category of Nomination
Object 1 > Design

Summary Statement
Kenneth Luker’s designs reconcile an inequitable past with architecture’s responsibility to a more just future. He shapes program, space, and form to cultivate individual understanding, social awareness, and inspire collective community experiences.

Education
1993-1996 Harvard University Graduate School of Design, Cambridge MA

Master of Architecture

1995 University of Cambridge, Cambridge England

Architectural Design and Theory (no degree)

1988-1991 Texas A&M University College of Architecture, College Station TX

Bachelor of Environmental Design

1985-1987 Grayson County College, Denison TX

Civil Engineering (no degree)

Licensed in:
North Carolina

Employment
2006-2021 The Freelon Group / Perkins&Will - 15 yrs

2002-2006 O’Brien/Atkins Associates, PA - 4 yrs

1998-2002 Pearce Brinkley Cease + Lee, PA - 4 yrs
1996-1998 Cherry Huffman Architects, PA - 2 yrs

1996 Darlow Christ Architects, Inc. - 4 months


1991-1992 Corgan Associates Architects - 6 months
September 28, 2021

Steven Spurlock, FAIA, Chair
Jury of Fellows, American Institute of Architects
1735 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 2006-5292

Re: Kenneth Luker, AIA, Candidate for Fellowship

It is an honor for me to sponsor Kenneth Luker, AIA, for Fellowship in the American Institute of Architects. I met Kenneth when he first arrived in Raleigh in 1996, full of enthusiasm and burgeoning with talent and have had the pleasure of seeing him emerge as one of the most talented designers I know. His work has evolved as it has become more rooted in meaning while maintaining its positive and enduring qualities.

His positive impact on communities is best exemplified by the breadth of his work at the iconic National Center for Civil and Human Rights in Atlanta which has become a national beacon for civil and human rights. Similarly, in Los Angeles, Destination Crenshaw provides a model for community engagement as well as public/private investment in an area once fearful of cultural erasure.

Kenneth has proven that his design work, regardless of type, can have a profound and lasting impact on its users. Strong in concept and carefully crafted, his designs are skillfully woven into their environment. His voice and his work speak for those who sometimes cannot speak for themselves and are manifested into a product that is thoughtful, well-executed, and, quite frankly, beautifully composed.

Kenneth openly shares his knowledge beyond his daily project responsibilities. He is an inspirational instructor and critic at the College of Design at North Carolina State University where he also serves on the Leaders Council, including as its President from 2012-2014. He is also a sought-after speaker on a variety of topics including Social Behavior at UNC Chapel Hill, Rebuilding Community at the NOMA National Conference in Oakland, CA, and Remembrance Design at the South Atlantic Regional Conference in Asheville, NC.

His talent, energy, commitment, and approachable manner whose care in the craft of his work combine to create a potent individual whose impact will continue to positively affect people and communities across the country. These groups can greatly benefit from thoughtful and humane leaders like Kenneth who can thoughtfully illuminate their untold stories. I am extremely proud of his vast array of accomplishments. It is with great pleasure that I enthusiastically encourage you to consider Kenneth Luker, AIA, for elevation to the College of Fellows.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Dennis E. Stallings, FAIA
Principal | Design Director
Section 1 — Summary
Kenneth Luker’s many years of design leadership on projects throughout North America has created a body of work that inspires active participation in buildings and public spaces. His career is motivated by architecture’s role in how we design and build—all the while upholding timeless tenets of architectural composition with clarity of purpose, beauty, and function. Inspired by the stories that define every community, Kenneth co-created a restorative design process—Remembrance Design™—to engage historically disenfranchised and marginalized communities. His designs begin with recognition of a community’s history and using that history as a framework for architecture that reflects the aspirations, shared values, and priorities that uplift the community while inspiring more aware and engaged citizens. This restorative approach to design recognizes that architecture is not impartial: every design brings the potential to either challenge or reinforce the status quo.

The National Center for Civil and Human Rights in Atlanta celebrates the struggle of millions for justice, supporting dialogue and inspiring action around issues of civil and human rights. The Center has become a national gathering place for social, civil, and environmental justice with close to 300,000 visitors annually. His work for Destination Crenshaw in Los Angeles and Hogan’s Alley in Vancouver creates ‘unapologetically Black’ urban landscapes that are deliberate models for reconciliation and ‘place keeping’ against cultural erasure from urban redevelopment and gentrification.

Architecture Creates Space for New Communities
Kenneth’s design principles are also applied to creating environments for new learning communities to emerge and flourish. He brings an understanding of human occupation of space to create places that welcome and embrace users with open and intuitively legible designs, encouraging shared experiences and a common sense of place. Responding to the challenges of fostering new campus communities for Wake Tech Community College and Elizabeth City State University, Kenneth designed ‘campus in one’ environments organized around centralized and intimate shaded quads that encourage users to linger and interact. Kenneth champions the value of architecture as agent for social change by presenting his work at topic-specific design and industry conferences including national and regional AIA, NOMA, and ULI. As a recent guest speaker for the Thurgood Marshall College Fund, Kenneth encouraged students from minority communities across the US and US territories to consider a career in architecture to advance minority leadership in design. When teaching at NC State College of Design, Kenneth’s studios push beyond buildings as beautiful objects to emphasize design of architectural spaces and urban landscapes that are activated by shared community values for a more equitable and inclusive society.
Section 2 — Accomplishments

Gregg Museum of Art and Design, Raleigh NC
Professional Practice

2006-2021
The Freelon Group / Perkins&Will
Design Principal

2002-2006
O’Brien/Atkins Associates, PA
Associate | Senior Designer

1998-2002
Pearce Brinkley Cease + Lee, PA
Design Team Leader | Project Architect

1996-1998
Cherry Huffman Architects, PA
Project Designer

1996
Darlow Christ Architects, Inc.
Intern Architect

Tittle Luther Partnership, LLP
Intern Architect

1991-1992
Corgan Associates Architects
Student Intern; Intern Architect

Education

1993-1996
Harvard University Graduate School of Design
Master of Architecture

1995
University of Cambridge, England
Architectural Design and Theory

1988-1991
Texas A&M University College of Architecture
Bachelor of Environmental Design
Graduated Cum Laude

1985-1987
Grayson County College
Civil Engineering

2.1 — Positions Held

Chairperson
Communications Committee, AIA Triangle Board of Directors 2006-2009

Member
Design Awards Committee, AIA Triangle 2004-2005

Chairperson
Design Awards Committee, AIA Triangle 2005

Member
Isosceles Design Awards Committee, AIA Triangle 2000-2003

“Kenneth has been a leader at every level of design, authoring numerous projects recognized by AIA design awards. His design legacy includes the full range of creative expression from ideation and concept development to design team leadership and hands-on mentoring of emerging young architects. As the accompanying portfolio clearly demonstrates, Kenneth’s design sensibilities align perfectly with the Modern idiom and the principles espoused by Henry Kamphoefner.”

Philip G. Freelon, FAIA | From nomination letter for the 2019 AIA North Carolina Kamphoefner Prize
Positions Held

Juries

Juror
Housing Awards, AIA National 2022
Juror
Design Awards, AIA Houston 2019
Juror
Design Awards, AIA Gulf States Region 2012
Juror
Design Awards, AIA Washington DC 2011
Juror
Design Awards, AIA Northern Virginia 2009
Juror
Design Awards, AIA Wisconsin 2008
Member
AIA Gold Medal Nominating Committee 2007
Juror
Design Awards, AIA South Carolina, 2001

Academic Service

COLLEGE OF DESIGN, NC STATE UNIVERSITY

Member
Community Growth & Development Conference Vision and Planning Committee 2021/2022
Member
Diversity/Equity/Inclusion Task Force 2020
Member
Leaders Council Board of Directors 2009 – present
President
Leaders Council Board of Directors 2012 – 2014
Member
Faculty Search Committee 2012

Member
External Relations Liaison Committee, 2011

COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE, TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Student Representative
Undergraduate Studies Committee 1990-1991

Teaching

Visiting Instructor
“A Purposeful Practice: The Freelon Group and Design for All,” Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, Duke University, Fall 2020

External Thesis Advisor
5th Year, College of Architecture and Construction Management, Kennesaw State University, Spring 2019

Visiting Assistant Professor in Architecture
ARC 501 – Architectural Design, NC State College of Design, Fall 2009

Visiting Assistant Professor in Architecture
ARC 501 – Professional Architecture Studio, NC State College of Design, Fall 2001

Volunteer Builder
Habitat for Humanity Durham, 2017-2021

Committee Representative
Boy Scouts of America Occoneechee Council, 2009-2012

Member
Trinity Park Neighborhood Association Land Use Committee, Durham NC, 2009-2011

Chairperson
Trinity Park Neighborhood Association Land Use Committee, Durham NC, 2011

Construction Coordinator
Playground/Outdoor Classroom Fundraising and Construction Campaign, Watts Elementary, Durham Public Schools, 2007-2009

Member
American Red Cross, Taylor Cty., Texas Board of Directors, 1992-1993

Co-founder
Watts Elementary AiG Math+Architecture Program, Durham Public Schools 2016-2021
How Transportation Infrastructure Catalyzes Community-Led Development
P3 Government Conference, Panel Presentation, December 2020

Rebuilding Community: History as a Framework to Designing an Equitable and Culturally Sustainable Future
NOMA National Conference, Panel Presentation Moderator, October 2020

A Short-Term Solution to a Temporary Challenge,
ULI Triangle, August 2020

Race and Equity in Design
Perkins&Will Global Engagement Forum, Panel Presentation, July 2020

Remembering Phil Freelon, Humanitarian Architect
2020 OLLI at Duke Lecture Series, February 2020

Urban Remembrance: Culture and History as Catalysts for Urban Rebirth
2019 Urban Land Institute Fall Meeting, Washington DC, September 2019

Thurgood Marshall College Fund
Guest Interview, Durham, April 2019

Remembrance Design: Memory and Identity in Designing Shared Experiences
ASPIRE - AIA South Atlantic Region Conference, Asheville, April 2019

Remembrance Design: Hogan’s Alley
Creative Placemaking Symposium, Kennesaw State University, November 2018

Coding Our Context
Art of Cool / Innovate Your Cool Conference, Durham, September 2018

Telling Stories: Design Thinking and Project Community Stakeholders
2017 Leaders Council Fall Meeting, NC State College of Design, November 2017

Imagination Corridor – Rethinking the Experience of Science
2017 Lab Design Conference, April 2017

The Future of Design Education
2016 Leaders Council Fall Meeting, NC State College of Design, September 2016

The Building will Sing for All of Us
Bechtler Museum of Modern Art - Modernism+Film 2016 Series, May 2016

Celebrating Culture in the City
Urban Design Center lecture series, City of Raleigh Museum, June 2015

3D Printing: The influence of additive manufacturing on architecture + design
AIA North Carolina Center for Architecture and Design, April 2015

Space/Form/Content/City
Lecture to SEGD Design Symposium, NCSU College of Design, October 2012

REACH: Work of The Freelon Group
Exhibition and catalogue, MIT School of Architecture and Planning, 2011

Regional Practices/Local Practices - The Design Work of Freelon
Lecture at NCSU College of Design, Fall 2011

Alternative Methods for Project Delivery
Department of Architecture, MIT School of Architecture and Planning, 2009

Designing Thin Cladding Systems
AIA National Convention, Panel Presentation, 2001

Preserving Modernism: Thoughts on the Preservation of Our Modern Architectural Heritage
Lecture to 31st International Conference of the Association for Preservation Technology, Banff, Alberta, 1999

Effects of the Built Environment on Social Behavior
Lectures for the Department of Sociology, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, 1998, 1999

When Schools Were Modern
Retrospective Exhibition on Modernism and School Architecture in the United States, Harvard University Graduate School of Design, 1996 (with Dr. Hashim Sarkis)

Department of Architecture
1995 Annual Exhibition, University of Cambridge, 1995

Windows of Observation
Exhibition and catalogue of Architectural constructions at University of Houston School of Architecture, Texas A & M University College of Architecture, 1991
2.1 — Projects

800 Block Main Street Hogan’s Alley
Vancouver BC, (est. 2025 complete)
Design Principal / Lead Designer
Hogan’s Alley is an ambitious redevelopment collaboration between the City of Vancouver and its local Black Canadian community. Taken from them in the 1970’s to make way for a freeway, the land is now being replanned as a culturally focused and sustaining home for the community with a cultural center, markets, childcare, education, and affordable residential units. This project was guided by Remembrance Design in close collaboration with the Hogan’s Alley Working Group.

North Carolina Freedom Park
Raleigh NC, under construction (est. 2022 complete)
Design Principal / Design Advisor
Freedom Park is a new public park in the heart of the state capital and situated between the State Legislature Building and the Governor’s Mansion. Celebrating the rich legacy of African American innovators, scholars, artists, and politicians from North Carolina, the park is anchored by a tall, central sculpture at the crossroads of several paths that are lined with inspirational quotes and lists of those being honored.

2017 Merit Award (unbuilt), AIA North Carolina

Destination Crenshaw
Los Angeles CA, under construction (est. 2022 complete)
Design Principal / Lead Designer
Destination Crenshaw is an urban landscape enhancement project encompassing 1.3 miles of LA’s famed Crenshaw Boulevard. Designed in conjunction with the new LAX-Crenshaw metro rail line, the project creates an ‘unapologetically Black’ urban destination with eight new parks, art installations by prominent artists, storytelling kiosks, streetscapes, and landscapes to include 800 new trees.

2021 Design Award, AIA North Carolina
2021 LA AIA Next-LA Award
2019 Honor Award (unbuilt), NOMA National

Motown Museum
Detroit MI, unbuilt (est. 2023 complete)
Design Principal / Lead Designer
Architect of Record: Hamilton Anderson Architects/Rainy Hamilton, FAIA
The Motown Museum began in Hitsville USA, the two adjoined houses that were home to the original Motown Records and ‘Studio A’ where dozens of celebrated Black singing artists produced much of America’s most recognized popular music and played an active role in promoting racial integration. The 31,800sf expansion will quadruple the museum size to support telling the larger, more expansive, and definitive story of America’s most successful soul music label.
2.1 — Projects

**Pavilion of the African Diaspora**
London England, 2021
Design Coordinator

The Pavilion of the African Diaspora is a collaboration with the internationally acclaimed artist, Ini Archibong. Mr. Archibong envisions three follies, the Sail, the Wave, and the Shell that speak to the forced human migration from Africa and elements that represented that diaspora, now reconsidered as symbols of self-determination, reconciliation, and the resilience of the human spirit. Kenneth is leading a team of fabricators and engineers in translating each folly into full-scaled constructions of the artist’s vision.


**MLK Jr. Recreation and Aquatic Center**
Atlanta GA, 2018
Design Principal / Lead Designer
Architect of Record: KAI

This project replaces an older, dilapidated community recreation center with a gracious and welcoming modern recreation and aquatic center for the Sweet Auburn neighborhood of Atlanta. The design responds to the struggle for integration of recreation programs by conveying a welcoming statement of inclusion with glass enclosed gymnasium and swimming programs anchoring each of the two lobby entrances.

2018 Merit Award, AIA St. Louis
2018 Award for Excellence, ULI Atlanta

**Auburn Avenue Research Library**
Atlanta GA, 2018
Design Principal / Lead Designer
Architect of Record: JW Robinson & Associates

Auburn Avenue Research Library is one of four archival libraries in the US dedicated to preservation of African American cultural archives. The renovation introduced high-density storage to free up space for expanded archival research and preservation complimented with new community gathering and art gallery spaces that bring the vast collection to the public and expand the audience for the rich stories contained within.

2018 American Libraries Association Design Showcase

**Emancipation Park**
Houston TX, 2017
Design Principal / Design Advisor

This 10-acre public park, the oldest in Texas, was founded by four formerly enslaved men and today is a major destination in Houston’s Third Ward neighborhood. The project included comprehensive redevelopment of the park landscape, renovation of the community center and the aquatics center, and construction of a new recreation center. Public art installations celebrate the founders and its Juneteenth history.

2020 Honor Award, AIA South Atlanta Region
2019 Design Award, Texas Society of Architects
2018 Merit Award, AIA North Carolina
2018 Merit Award, AIA Houston
2018 Merit Award, AIA Triangle

Kenneth Luker, AIA

ARCHITECTURE is NOT IMPARTIAL
2.1 — Projects

Witherspoon African American Student Center, NC State University
Raleigh NC, 2017
Design Principal / Lead Designer

The Witherspoon Student Center sits in the heart of NC State’s campus and serves as a source of support and enrichment for minority students from all backgrounds. Originally constructed in the 1980’s, the near-windowless building lacked a welcoming presence on campus. The renovation will add much needed social space and a more welcoming front to the building overlooking a redeveloped front landscape and plaza for student gatherings.

National Museum of African American History and Culture
Washington DC, 2016
Programmer/Planner
Associate Architects: Adjaye Associates, Davis Brody Bond, Smith Group Architects

This 397,000sf Smithsonian Museum celebrates the rich history of African Americans and their contribution to American and world cultures. Designed by David Adjaye in collaboration with The Freelon Group, Davis Brody Bond, and the Smith Group, the design punctuates the National Mall in Washington with a bronze-colored corona in defiant celebration of a shared history.

National Center for Civil and Human Rights
Atlanta GA, 2014
Design Principal / Lead Designer
Architect of Record: HOK

This 42,000sf building in Atlanta is dedicated to creating ‘Space for Action’ that will inspire visitors to become more active supporters of human and civil rights. The two bold walls that characterize the building are inspired by large urban spaces that have been the site of historic civil and human rights events. With nearly 300,000 visitors each year and rapid growth of its programs, the Center is currently planning a major expansion.

2019 Honor Award for Architecture, AIA National
2018 Honor Award, AIA New York State
2017 Award of Excellence in Architecture, AIA Washington DC

Anacostia Library
Washington DC, 2010
Project Designer
Associate Architect: R McGhee & Assoc

This branch library serves the Anacostia community of Washington DC, an African American neighborhood marked by decades of low-income and underserved by the city. The new design replaces a windowless library from the 1970’s with a more welcoming, daylit building overlooking a new public plaza. Sheltered by a green canopy akin to the large oaks found throughout the neighborhood, the glass enclosed library fronts onto the plaza and welcomes all.

2013 Library Building Award, AIA National
2012 Merit Award, AIA Washington DC
2012 Honor Award, AIA North Carolina
2011 Honor Award, AIA Triangle
2.1 — Projects

**Imagination Corridor, NC State University**
Raleigh NC, 2018
Design Principal / Lead Designer

This ambitious campus planning project introduces a more cohesive campus fabric to the Science, Engineering, Design, and Mathematics facilities at NC State University. Comprising 30+ buildings across three quarters of a mile of campus paths, the design introduces a series of science, engineering, and design follies that celebrate university research, provide mapping landmarks, and create a more cohesive experience for the university’s central campus.

**Duke Regional Hospital Behavioral Health Center**
Durham NC, 2021
Design Principal / Lead Designer

The 150,000 sf medical center addition is the first of its kind in central North Carolina, combining a dedicated behavioral health emergency department with in-patient and out-patient clinical services. Scale of the large program is mitigated by two volumes with interwoven gardens and courtyards, bringing a human scale to the facility, aiding in wayfinding, and introducing the healing qualities of natural light, wood finishes, and views to the bucolic surroundings.

**Atrium Union West Hospital and MOB**
Stallings NC, under construction
( est. December 2021 complete)
Design Principal / Lead Designer

The new Atrium Hospital design challenges conventions of what a hospital experience can be by focusing on architecture that is more aligned with hospitality than traditional healthcare. Wood, natural stone, shaded paths, and intuitive wayfinding anchored by a central atrium lobby help this hospital create a calming and healthful experience for patients, staff, and visitors.

**The Columbus Museum**
Columbus GA, under construction
( est. 2023 complete)
Design Principal / Lead Designer

Established in the 1930’s in a donated estate, this public museum grew through a series of additions and renovations into a dense labyrinth of dark spaces that were confusing to navigate and disjunct from the surrounding Olmstead designed gardens. The new design reorients the main entrance with a courtyard threshold and opens the interiors with ‘destination vista’ sightlines, a daylit monumental stairway, more spacious galleries, and access to the gardens.

**ARCHITECTURE FOSTERS UNDERSTANDING and WELLBEING**
Cherry Hospital
Goldsboro NC, 2015
Design Principal / Lead Designer

Cherry Hospital is a 410,000 sf in-patient psychiatric hospital serving eastern North Carolina for the NC Department of Health and Human Services. The massing and program distribution of this extensive facility simulate the organization of a traditional town plan and focus on human scaled environments with daylit interiors, gracious and sheltering porches, and nine ‘public park’ courtyards that altogether contribute to a sense of place and well-being.

NCCU
Biomanufacturing Research Institute and Technology Enterprise (BRITE)
Durham NC, 2008
Project Designer

This research and technology building for NC Central University is a gateway to the newest portion of this HBCU campus. Responding to the challenge of extending an all-campus path across steep topography, the design creates a portal that visually anchors the west extent of the path, shelters a grand stairway, and creates a more human scaled and intimate entrance for the building.

2010 Education Award for Excellence, AIA National
2006 Honor Award (unbuilt), AIA North Carolina

George Washington Carver Museum, Cultural and Genealogy Center Master Plan
Austin TX, (est. 2025 complete)
Design Principal / Lead Designer

Since its construction in 1994, the Carver Center has become an anchor of East Austin’s African American community but is undersized and needing more room to sustain its robust programming. This master plan sets the course for a greatly expanded facility with improved internal functions and better connected to its surrounding city park and bordering streets. Particular emphasis is placed on spaces for community gatherings with a new special events room, theater, and outdoor bandshell.

New Castle County Southern Library
Middletown DE, under construction (est. Nov 2021 complete)
Design Principal / Design Advisor Architect of Record: Tetra Tech

This new branch library sits on the edge of an 18c community with a rapidly growing suburban population. The site is challenged with bridging the traditional pedestrian townscape and a newer more vehicular oriented edge of town. Organized as a pass-through public space, the library’s open plan is sheltered with several large light monitors and accessed from two entrances, each anchored by a space for community gatherings and creativity.
Lenovo Executive Briefing Center

RTP NC, 2019
Design Principal / Design Advisor

This addition to an existing corporate office and research facility will support the company’s rapidly expanding product lines and its aspirations toward a more cohesive corporate community. The simple program features a series of meeting and seminar rooms with a lounge on the ground level and a large, multi-purpose room on the second floor. Strong connections from interiors to surrounding park-like landscapes encourage employees to linger and engage around common experiences.

2020 Citation Award, AIA Charlotte

2.1 — Projects

General Classroom Building, Wake Tech Community College

Morrisville NC, 2019
Design Principal / Lead Designer

The new Research Triangle Park campus of Wake Tech will serve the many hi-tech corporate neighbors of this rapidly growing community college system. This first building of the new campus will define the spatial and aesthetic qualities of the campus by establishing a distinct destination anchored by a quad aimed at fostering a new collegiate community.

2020 Merit Award, AIA Triangle
2019 Merit Award, AIA North Carolina

Medical Sciences Research Building III, Duke University

Durham NC, 2018
Design Principal / Lead Designer

This six-story research facility for Duke University’s School of Medicine is positioned on a narrow site adjacent to other research facilities. Research labs are organized in a heavy volume with punched openings and offices are bundled in a glass enclosed volume overlooking the campus street. Ground level programs are focused on supporting the science community with meeting and seminar spaces, a large lounge, and cafe fronting onto a gracious loggia that connects an all-campus path.

Durham Studio

Durham NC, 2017
Design Principal / Lead Designer

Relocating from a suburban office park to downtown Durham was an opportunity to create a studio environment that reflected the core values of this design firm and aided its employees in connecting with their new urban context. The design is organized with circulation surrounding a dense core, uninterrupted views in all directions, movable partitions, and meeting and collaboration spaces minimally enclosed with operable glass walls.

2021 Design Award, AIA North Carolina
2019 Merit Award, AIA Triangle

CREATING SPACE for NEW COMMUNITIES
2.1 — Projects

Gregg Museum of Art and Design, NC State University
Raleigh NC, 2017
Design Principal / Lead Designer

The Gregg Museum’s relocation to the university’s historical chancellor’s residence on the edge of campus was an opportunity to engage a broader audience and expand the influence of its collection. The design collaborated with an adjacent church and city park for shared access, site amenities, and stormwater management. The result is a museum closely tied to its urban context while supporting a growing community that blurs traditional town/gown divides.

2019 Honor Award, AIA South Atlantic Region
2018 Honor Award, AIA North Carolina
2018 Honor Award, AIA Triangle

Durham Convention and Visitors Information Center
Durham NC, 2017
Design Principal / Lead Designer

Moving Durham’s Visitors Information Center from the edge of town to an historic building in the core of downtown was an opportunity to reconsider how the VIC engages visitors. No longer surrounded by a parking lot, the design opens to the busy sidewalks of downtown and beckons passersby with a luminous, cloud-like fixture anchoring the spacious double-height interiors.

2018 Durham Golden Leaf Award for Community Appearance

Northwest Library
Atlanta GA, 2016
Design Principal / Lead Designer
Architect of Record: Collins Cooper Carusi Architects

This branch library in a low-income neighborhood of Atlanta is surrounded by industrial facilities and older, single-family homes. Responding to nearby elementary and middle schools, the design supports a variety of youth programming as a safe after-school destination for young children. Gardens, music rooms, teen lounge, youth program rooms, and a secure play yard all support the library in contributing to the quality of its community.

2016 Honor Award, AIA Georgia

ECSU School of Education and Psychology
Elizabeth City NC, 2015
Design Principal / Lead Designer

This project brings together two academic departments in one facility on a new portion of the historic HBCU campus. The design creates an academic destination organized around a three-sided entrance courtyard oriented to more established districts of the campus. Vertical and horizontal circulation, including a two-story bridge surround the courtyard and promote academic community around shared experiences and interconnected academic environments.
CREATING SPACE for NEW COMMUNITIES

**Lord Corporation Office Building**
Cary NC, 2013
Lead Designer

This small, four-story office building is set into a wooded site and functions as swing space for a variety of company departments. To offset the isolating characteristics of working in corporate departments and build a sense of community, the design features overlapping double-height lobby and break room spaces connected by a monumental stairway. The result are spatially interconnected programs that bring employees together around shared experiences.

2013 Merit Award, AIA North Carolina
2013 Merit Award, AIA Triangle

**Tenley-Friendship Library**
Washington DC, 2011
Project Designer
Associate Architect: R McGhee & Assoc

This compact branch library is situated on an urban corner in the nation's capital. It opens to its busy surroundings with an array of vertical fins that define its exterior character and pause to signify entrance. A community room located on the second level is accessed by a daylit stairway and pre-function that overlook the city and emphasize the role of civic space in supporting community.

2012 Award of Excellence, AIA Washington DC
2012 Honor Award, AIA South Atlantic Region
2012 Honor Award, AIA Triangle
2011 Honor Award, AIA North Carolina

**Raleigh Convention Center**
Raleigh NC, 2007
Project Designer / Design Manager
Architect of Record: O’Brien/Atkins
Associate Architects: TVS, Clearscapes

This 500,000sf convention center in downtown Raleigh replaces an old, all-concrete Brutalist style convention center of the 1970’s with a civic architectural statement of visual access and social inclusion. With gracious, daylit public entrances on all sides, the design welcomes visitors into a series of grand spaces that interconnect and overlook the surrounding city.

2010 Merit Award, Brick Association North Carolina

**Research Triangle Park Headquarters**
Research Triangle Park NC, 2007
Lead Designer
Architect of Record: O’Brien/Atkins

This design establishes a new home for administration of the world’s largest corporate research park. A prismatic triangular entrance volume welcomes visitors and organizes the program into two distinct volumes supporting administrative functions in one and community meeting space in the other. The architecture and its robust agenda of public and corporate meetings contribute to common experiences and support a civic identity for the RTP.
2.2 — Awards | Honors | Recognitions

**AIA National**

- **2019 Honor Award for Architecture**
  AIA National / National Museum of African American History and Culture / Project Designer

- **2013 Library Building Award**
  AIA National / Anacostia Library / Project Designer

- **2010 Education Award for Excellence**
  AIA National / Biomanufacturing Research Institute and Technology Enterprise / Project Designer

**AIA Regional / State**

- **2020 Honor Award**
  AIA South Atlanta Region / Emancipation Park / Design Principal

- **2019 Kamphoefner Prize for excellence in development of Modern Architecture, AIA North Carolina**

- **2019 Design Award**
  Texas Society of Architects / Emancipation Park / Design Principal

- **2019 Merit Award**
  AIA North Carolina / Wake Tech Community College General Classroom Building / Design Principal

- **2019 Honor Award**
  AIA South Atlantic Region / Gregg Museum of Art and Design / Design Principal

- **2018 Honor Award**
  AIA New York State / National Museum of African American History and Culture / Project Designer

- **2018 Merit Award**
  AIA North Carolina / Gregg Museum of Art and Design / Design Principal

- **2018 Honor Award**
  AIA South Atlantic Region / Tenley Friendship Library / Project Designer

- **2018 Honor Award**
  AIA North Carolina / Tenley Friendship Library / Project Principal

- **2011 Honor Award**
  AIA North Carolina / Tenley Friendship Library / Project Designer

- **2010 Committee on the Environment Award**
  AIA North Carolina / Anacostia Library / Project Designer

- **2009 Merit Award (unbuilt)**
  AIA North Carolina / National Center for Civil and Human Rights / Design Principal

**AIA Local**

- **2020 Citation Award**
  AIA Charlotte / Lenovo Executive Briefing Center / Design Principal

- **2020 Merit Award**
  AIA Triangle / Wake Tech Community College General Classroom Building / Design Principal

- **2019 Merit Award**
  AIA Triangle / Durham Studio / Design Principal

- **2018 Honor Award**
  AIA Triangle / Gregg Museum of Art and Design / Design Principal

- **2018 Merit Award**
  AIA Houston / Emancipation Park / Design Principal

- **2018 Merit Award**
  AIA Triangle / Emancipation Park / Design Principal

- **2018 Best in Competition**
  AIA New York / National Museum of African American History and Culture / Project Designer

- **2018 Merit Award**
  AIA St. Louis / MLK Jr. Recreation and Aquatic Center / Design Principal

- **2017 Merit Award (unbuilt)**
  AIA Triangle / North Carolina Freedom Park / Design Principal

- **2017 Merit Award (unbuilt)**
  AIA North Carolina / Biomanufacturing Research Institute and Technology Enterprise / Project Designer

- **2004 Honor Award**
  AIA North Carolina / Wake Tech Health Sciences Building II / Lead Designer

- **2003 J Hyatt Hammond Scholarship for Young Architects**
  AIA North Carolina

- **2006 Honor Award (unbuilt)**
  AIA North Carolina / Biomanufacturing Research Institute and Technology Enterprise / Project Designer

- **2002 Merit Award**
  AIA North Carolina / Anacostia Library / Project Designer
2017 Award of Excellence in Architecture
AIA Washington DC / National Museum of African American History and Culture / Project Designer

2014 Merit Award (unbuilt)
AIA Triangle / MLK Jr. Recreation and Aquatic Center / Design Principal

2014 Merit Award (unbuilt)
AIA Triangle / Emancipation Park / Design Principal

2013 Merit Award
AIA Triangle / Lord Corporation Office Building / Lead Designer

2012 Merit Award
AIA Washington DC / Anacostia Library / Project Designer

2012 Award of Excellence
AIA Washington DC / Tenley Friendship Library / Project Designer

2012 Honor Award
AIA Triangle / Tenley Friendship Library / Project Designer

2012 Gail Lindsey Award for Sustainable Architecture
AIA Triangle / Tenley Friendship Library / Project Designer

2011 Honor Award
AIA Triangle / Anacostia Library / Project Designer

Allied Professions

2019 Honor Award (unbuilt)
NOMA National / Destination Crenshaw / Design Principal

2019 Development of Distinction
ULI Houston / Emancipation Park / Design Principal

2019 1st Place
NOMA Atlanta NSPIRE Awards / National Center for Civil and Human Rights / Design Principal

2018 Urban Open Space Award
ULI Houston / Emancipation Park / Design Principal

2018 Design Award for Small Commercial
IIDA Carolinas / Durham Studio / Design Principal

2018 Award for Excellence
ULI Atlanta / MLK Jr. Recreation and Aquatic Center / Design Principal

2017 Excellence in Interior Design Award
IIDA Carolinas / Durham Convention and Visitors Information Center / Design Principal

2016 Engineering Excellence
ACEC National / National Center for Civil and Human Rights / Design Principal

2014 Development of Excellence Award
ULI Atlanta / National Center for Civil and Human Rights / Design Principal

2014 Award for Community Improvement
CREW Atlanta / National Center for Civil and Human Rights / Design Principal

2012 Honor Award
NOMA / Anacostia Library / Project Designer

2012 Gail Lindsey Award for Sustainable Architecture
AIA Triangle / Tenley Friendship Library / Project Designer

2012 Design Award
IIDA / American Library Association / Anacostia Library / Project Designer

2011 Design Award
Architectural Lighting / Tenley Friendship Library / Project Designer

2011 Design Award
Architectural Lighting / Anacostia Library / Project Designer

Other Awards and Recognitions

2021 London Design Biennale Medal for Best Design
Pavilion of the African Diaspora / London Design Biennale / Design Coordinator

2021 Gold Award
Council for Advancement and Support of Education / Gregg Museum of Art and Design / Design Principal

2020 Honor Award (unbuilt)
Perkins&Will Biennale / Destination Crenshaw / Design Principal

2018 Durham Golden Leaf Award for Community Appearance
Durham Convention and Visitors Information Center / Design Principal

2018 Award for Community Appearance
Sir Walter Raleigh Awards / Gregg Museum of Art and Design / Design Principal

2018 Public/Civic Design Award
Contract Magazine / National Museum of African American History and Culture / Project Designer

2018 Beazley Design of the Year
London Design Museum / National Museum of African American History and Culture / Project Designer

2018 American Libraries Association Design Showcase
Auburn Avenue Research Library / Design Principal

2017 Building Team Gold Award
Building Design + Construction / National Museum of African American History and Culture / Project Designer

2014 #2, Atlanta’s Top 25 Designs of the Past 25 Years
Museum of Design Atlanta / National Center for Civil and Human Rights / Design Principal

2014 New Landmark Libraries Honorable Mention
Library Journal / Anacostia Library / Project Designer

2010 Merit Award
Brick Association North Carolina / Raleigh Convention Center / Design Manager

1996 James Templeton Kelly Prize for Outstanding Design Thesis Finalist
Harvard University Graduate School of Design

1991 Edward J Romieniec
FAIA Endowed Scholarship for Architecture, Texas A&M University

1991 First Prize
Texas Society of Architecture Student Design Competition

1990 Third Prize
Herman Miller Student Design Competition
2.3 — Publications

About Kenneth Luker

Texas Architect Magazine
Students Shape Urban Stadium | March/April 1991

Architects + Artisans
Kamphoefner Prize Goes to Luker | 12 October 2019

CityBizList
Kenneth Luker Awarded Prestigious Kamphoefner Prize by AIA North Carolina | 14 October 2019

Emancipation Park

Houston Chronical
Emancipation Park was never dead. But now it has been reborn. | 14 June 2017

Auburn Ave. Research Library

Atlanta INtown
Perspectives in Architecture: Renovation activates history and culture at Auburn Avenue Research Library, Melody Harclerode, AIA | 11 February 2020

National Center for Civil and Human Rights

Saporta Report
Potential of Atlanta’s Center for Civil and Human Rights finally being realized | 08 February 2021

Interior Design Magazine
Built Upon a Dream | 26 November 2014

USA Today
Atlanta Civil Rights Museum Focuses on Stories | 20 April 2014

Metropolis Magazine
Atlanta Welcomes New Civil Rights Museum | 28 June 2014

CNN
The Rise of the Civil Rights Museum | 25 August 2014

Architect Magazine
National Center for Civil and Human Rights | 11 May 2015

Architectural Record
The Freelon Group and HOK’s Center for Civil and Human Rights Opens Its Doors to Atlanta | 28 July 2015

Architectural Record
Freelon Group Tapped for Center for Civil and Human Rights | April 2009

MLK Jr. Recreational and Aquatic Center

Atlanta INtown
History Inspires Bold Design at MLK Jr. Recreation Center | 02 May 2018

Gregg Museum of Art and Design

Indy Week
In the New Gregg Museum of Art and Design, NC State Finally Gets a Nasher of Its Own | 23 August 2017

The News&Observer
Take an early look inside the $9.5m makeover of NC State’s Gregg Museum | 16 August 2017

Walter Magazine
Raleigh Now Spotlight: Gregg Museum | 18 August 2017

Cherry Hospital

Health Facilities Management
Building Better Behavior Health Care Facilities | 03 June 2015
2.3 — Publications

**Pavilion of the African Diaspora**

*Domus*
*Interview with Ini Archibong, artist of the future present* | 26 May 2021

*New York Times*
*Ini Archibong: What We Believe About Storytelling* | 01 June 2021

*Forbes*
*Somerest House Wows Visitors to London Design Biennale 2021: Pavilion of the African Diaspora* | 02 June 2021

*Design Week*
*First Look: London Design Biennale 2021 – A Tribute to the African Diaspora* | 01 June 2021

*Alt Africa*
*DESIGN: Ini Archibong celebrates black creativity and evolution of African heritage through design at London Design Biennale June 2021* | 12 May 2021

**Biomanufacturing Research Institute and Technology Enterprise**

*Metal Magazine*
*BRITE Lights, Perforated Metal Canopy Creates a Campus Gateway* | October 2009

**Destination Crenshaw**

*Architect Magazine*
*Destination Crenshaw* | 08 January 2019

*Los Angeles Times*
*Destination Crenshaw art project aims to reclaim the neighborhood for Black LA* | 30 January 2019

*NY Magazine*

**Hogan’s Alley**

*CBC Radio Canada*
*Society pitches new life for Hogan’s Alley after Vancouver viaducts come down* | 09 February 2021

*Daily Hive*
*First glimpse of the Hogan’s Alley redevelopment that will replace the Vancouver viaducts* | 24 November 2017

**By Kenneth Luker**

*Journal of Architectural Education*
*Guest Editor* | May 2009

*Raleigh News&Observer*
*Home of the Month Guest Columnist* | 2008

*North Carolina Magazine*
*Construction Begins Soon on New Convention Center* | December 2004
Remembrance Design™

Working across North America with communities whose ancestors and culture have been marginalized, overlooked, and suppressed by official history, Kenneth and his colleagues recognized the need to rethink how architects study and map project sites and contexts. Because the places and spaces we thrive best in are environments that vividly connect us to our collective past, Kenneth co-created Remembrance Design. The Remembrance Design process for urban design and architecture includes engaging historically disenfranchised and negatively impacted communities by recognizing and acknowledging their history and using that history as a framework to design an inclusive and culturally sustainable future. These types of projects provide the communities they engage and represent the opportunity to record a community’s history in the most undeniable, affirming way: as built architectural expression in public space. In Austin, Vancouver, Los Angeles, Miami, Charlotte, Greenville NC, and Raleigh, Kenneth and his team are implementing a broad application of Remembrance Design. His work is engaging communities in reconciling the past while planning an inclusive and culturally sustaining future.

Collaborating with Artists in Cultural Landscapes

In Europe and across the US, Kenneth is collaborating with and supporting artists to create cultural landscapes that confront challenging topics such as civil rights, the African Diaspora, cultural displacement, and the Black experience. By embracing the unique vision of each artist, Kenneth shapes distinct urban settings that highlight the art and support important storytelling experiences.

Working with the artist Larry Kirkland, Kenneth designed a plaza around Passage at the National Center for Civil and Human Rights in Atlanta, where two leaning 36ft-tall glass and stainless sculptures form a ceremonial gateway and feature inspiring quotes by Nelson Mandela and Margaret Meade.

In Raleigh, North Carolina, adjacent to the State Legislature Building, Kenneth’s studio is creating Freedom Park to celebrate the lives and contributions of the state’s African American citizens. At the park’s center will stand Beacon of Freedom, a 30ft sculpture of celebration and honor.

The collaboration for the Pavilion of the African Diaspora in London with artist Ini Archibong contrasts historic elements of oppression and enslavement with contemporary concepts of self-determination and reconciliation. ‘Sail’ is the first of three follies featured in the 2021 London Design Biennale, where it was awarded first prize. The second folly, Wave Gate will debut in Miami’s Art Basel in December 2021, followed by Shell to debut in New York early 2022.

In Los Angeles, Kenneth has designed the settings for many artist installations as part of the Destination Crenshaw project. Eleven major artists, among them Brenna Youngblood, Charles Dickson, Kehinde Wiley, Alison Saar, and Artis Lane, benefit from a unique landscape designed to highlight their sculpture within a thematic celebration of the Black LA community.

Kenneth’s collaborations with communities, artists, and storytellers exemplify his inclusive design process and contributions to creating welcoming and diverse urban environments.
Section 3 — Exhibits

EXHIBIT LIST

National Center for Civil and Human Rights
Photography: Mark Herboth

MLK Jr. Recreation and Aquatic Center
Photography: Jonathan Hillyer

Destination Crenshaw

Hogan’s Alley

Cherry Hospital
Photography: Mark Herboth

Duke Regional Hospital Behavioral Health Center
Photography: Mark Herboth

Gregg Museum of Art and Design, NC State University
Photography: Mark Herboth

General Classroom Building, Wake Tech Community College
Photography: Mark Herboth

School of Education and Psychology, Elizabeth City State University
Photography: Mark Herboth

Sankofa Park, Destination Crenshaw, Los Angeles
National Center for Civil and Human Rights

Challenge
Create a design to signify the ongoing history of the American Civil Rights movement and its relationship to contemporary global, human rights issues while encouraging dialogue and inspiring action.

Action Taken
The design advances the idea of creating a Space for Action to compel visitors to act within their own communities toward a more just and equitable world. Two signature curving walls rise from the earth, inspired by great urban spaces around the world that have become synonymous with historic civil and human rights events. Embraced within these walls is a transparent, daylit atrium lobby that welcomes visitors in to engage with programming and exhibits focused on contemporary civil and human rights challenges. The walls’ sweeping curves translate into a sense of refuge on the interior with flexible spaces to facilitate gathering and dialogue around difficult topics: race relations, voter suppression, genocide, torture, and mass incarceration.

The Center is home to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s manuscripts and features exhibits that aid visitors in understanding the impact of their everyday choices on all of our civil and human rights.

Outcome
The Center and its iconic architecture welcome nearly 300,000 visitors each year and have become a nationally recognized symbol of social progress and a gathering place for tens of thousands to celebrate and protest contemporary civil and human rights issues: 2017 Women’s March, March for Our Lives, Black Lives Matter. Based on the success of the architecture, Kenneth is designing a significant addition that will expand the Center’s ability to engage broader audiences and influence social progress.
I have personal knowledge of the nominee’s responsibility for the exhibit listed above. That responsibility included: *largely responsible for design.*

*Jill Savitt
President and CEO | National Center for Civil and Human Rights | Client*
MLK Jr. Recreation and Aquatic Center

Challenge
Design a new community and recreation center for Atlanta’s historic Sweet Auburn neighborhood to replace an old aquatic center long deemed unsafe and shuttered. Celebrate in the new architecture the history and perseverance of the surrounding African American community and the Center’s namesake, Dr Martin Luther King Jr.

Action Taken
The design responds to the history of the Civil Rights struggle for equal access to public recreational facilities that occurred in Atlanta and throughout America. Addressing the long history of discrimination associated specifically with public swimming pools and gymnasiums, Kenneth used programming to anchor both entrances of a linear lobby with highly transparent, glass enclosed gymnasium and aquatic programs that convey a welcoming statement of inclusion for all.

The message of inclusion and access is further reinforced by glass enclosed programming throughout. To encourage ‘passthrough’ traffic and ease of wayfinding from the surrounding community and adjacent city park, Kenneth arranged a linear lobby parallel to the street with community meeting and education programs bundled to one side of the lobby and athletic and recreation programs to the other. The building exterior further reinforces the building's namesake with inspiring quotes and an expressive marquee emblazoned with the likeness of Dr. King.

Outcome
Long underserved by inadequate and failing parks and recreational facilities, the 11,000 citizens of the Sweet Auburn neighborhood now enjoy a highly functional and inclusive community and recreation center that has become a thriving symbol of a progressive Atlanta.
I have personal knowledge of the nominee’s responsibility for the exhibit listed above. That responsibility included: largely responsible for design.

Herman Howard, AIA
Founding Partner | Tate+Hansen | Architect of Record (former Director of Planning + Urban Design, KAI-Design+Build)
Destination Crenshaw

Challenge
This project’s primary challenge is to offset the destructive impact of decades of marginalization, under-development, and looming gentrification on LA’s Black community by envisioning the new above-grade 1.3 mile LAX/Crenshaw rail corridor as an agent for positive community building to strengthen local businesses and surrounding neighborhoods and thwart further disenfranchisement and displacement in the historic heart of Black Los Angeles.

Action Taken
In three two-day workshops and eight follow-up sessions with the City’s local council district and the Destination Crenshaw Advisory Council, Kenneth led an intensive process of discovery structured around Remembrance Design, resulting in a unifying narrative titled, Giant Star Grass and rooted in the long history of the African diaspora, the Great Migration in the US, and rich traditions of Black LA.

Building on this narrative, Kenneth led a team of architects, landscape architects, exhibit designers, historians, and artists to reimagine the urban landscape of South-Central LA as storytelling opportunities to celebrate and support the surrounding community. Utilizing several vacant lots abutting Crenshaw Boulevard, a series of new pocket parks are being created, each anchored by one or more major artworks and reinforced with storytelling exhibits focused on various themes of the community’s history. All new streetscape paving, street lighting, landscaping, urban branding, and amenities tie these pocket parks together along Crenshaw. Dozens of custom shade structures express the spirit of the unifying narrative, Giant Star Grass and reinforce a unified and distinct urban landscape.

Outcome
Serving a quarter of a million residents, 97% Black and Latino, eight new public ‘pocket’ parks and 1.3 miles of new streetscape, exhibits, and art installations create an ‘unapologetically Black’ urban landscape as a ‘place keeping’ strategy against cultural erasure from gentrification and speculative development.
I have personal knowledge of the nominee’s responsibility for the exhibit listed above. That responsibility included: *largely responsible for design*.

Joanne Kim  
Sr Advisor, Los Angeles Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson | Destination Crenshaw | Client

“Kenneth is a vital part of the Destination Crenshaw success. From the beginning of our work with Perkins&Will, Kenneth and his team have engaged the Black LA community with deep respect and sincere curiosity. His design leadership is serving the needs and aspirations of our community with world-class design.”

Dr. Joy Simmons, MD | Kaiser Permanente Los Angeles Medical Center  
Senior Art and Exhibition Advisor for Destination Crenshaw
Challenge
In the 1970s, a thriving Black-owned business district of Vancouver, Hogan’s Alley, was razed for a new freeway. Today, the freeway is being demolished, and the land opened to community redevelopment. A new vision for resurrecting the spirit and history of Vancouver’s Black Canadian community necessitates a design framework to advance a prosperous, inclusive future.

Action Taken
Kenneth’s design reestablished the alleyway’s historic path as the development’s heart, scaling it to become a city-wide destination lined with storefront businesses, marketplace stalls, a community kitchen, childcare center, community theater, and educational programs. Above are 600-800 units of market-rate and accessible housing organized into ‘front porch’ clusters to encourage more intimate community affinities and connected across the alley by pedestrian bridges. Building massing maintains views to nearby mountains. A series of garden roofs exemplify the community’s values of good environmental stewardship.

Kenneth led engaging the representative community organization—Hogan’s Alley Working Group—in an extensive and cathartic process of Remembrance Design. Many members of the community were children in the 1970s and recall seeing their neighborhood destroyed; they then endured decades of displacement and marginalization. Transforming their pain into design vision, Kenneth co-led a series of ‘blue-sky’ workshops to re-imagine Hogan’s Alley as a new home where the Black Canadian community could thrive by co-creating a welcoming and supportive environment for all Vancouver’s historically marginalized and disenfranchised peoples. Anchored by a new community center fronting Main Street, the development plan provides flexibly scaled programming for ‘live-work-sell’ entrepreneurs and establishes land tenure rights for residential ownership.

Outcomes
The Hogan’s Alley redevelopment plan establishes a new standard in Vancouver for community engagement and co-creation that supports historically marginalized communities and contributes to the City’s goals for reconciliation, cultural redress, and a sustainably designed future.
I have personal knowledge of the nominee’s responsibility for the exhibit listed above. That responsibility included: largely responsible for design.

Holly Sovdi
Sr. Planner, Vancouver office | Urban Strategies, Inc. | Client (former Sr. Planner for Hogan’s Alley, City of Vancouver)
Cherry Hospital

Challenge
Design a mental healthcare facility for eastern North Carolina to provide patients, staff, and families a safe and supportive environment for managing the challenges of mental health and promoting community connections within and beyond the hospital environment.

Action Taken
The concept of creating a microcosm of a town around a central ‘main street’ flanked on one side by residential-scaled neighborhoods and community destinations on the other. Five neighborhood wings have their own dedicated courtyard, or ‘neighborhood park,’ while community destination programs are organized around four larger ‘city park’ courtyards. These nine outdoor spaces each have their own character with unique paths, plantings, and furnishings tailored to address specific mental health needs.

Along ‘main street’ patients access programs that encourage habits to facilitate a stable life beyond the hospital, including education/schools, dining/restaurants, clinics, barber/beauty shops, a store, chapel, and gymnasium. Each courtyard includes a series of ‘porches’ that establish consistent and legible thresholds. Porch overhangs provide shade and reduce glare while enhancing outdoor views.

Outcome
The design responds to the needs of mental health patients with environments that support forming ordered routines while increasing their sense of safety, security, and well-being. Key is access to daylight, views, and space for outdoor activities. Clearly organized programming across the complex, comfortably scaled spaces, and well-articulated thresholds support patient wayfinding and sense of comfort in familiar and understandable surroundings.
I have personal knowledge of the nominee’s responsibility for the exhibit listed above. That responsibility included: largely responsible for design.

Rodney Axtman, AIA  
Chief Architect (retired) |  
NC DHHS |  Client
Challenge
Within an environment of increasing awareness of the impact of behavioral health within our communities, the primary challenge involved designing an addition to the 1970’s era Duke Regional Hospital to provide a safe, dignified, and respectful emergency and outpatient mental healthcare treatment center for adults and adolescents and Durham County’s first behavioral health emergency department.

Action Taken
Responding to unique needs for outdoor activity, daylight, and safety of behavioral health patients and their caregivers, Kenneth introduced access to nature as the design’s primary organizing principle in contrast to decades of near prison-like environments common in mental health facilities.

To mitigate the scale of the 150,000sf facility and provide ease of wayfinding, he organized the massing into two units: a 14-bed unit dedicated to behavioral health emergency intake and another 42-bed unit for outpatient treatment. Gardens separate the two-storied units to create a tranquil arrival experiences and elevated courtyards provide safe and secure access to outdoor activities for patients and their families. Abundant use of safety glass encourages visual connections and contributes to patient safety from self-harm.

Glass canopies, natural stone, and wood accent the arrival experience in strong contrast to the conventional, sterile environment of most emergency departments. The wood and natural light extend to the interiors and create a warm, intimate, and calming environment for patient treatment. Interior circulation and patient activity rooms are punctuated with views to the exterior gardens and support patients with a continued connection to nature. Two elevated courtyards are connected by a glass enclosed dining and commons room and encourage ease of access, circulation, and patient observation.

Outcome
As the first behavior health emergency department in Durham County, this new facility provides individuals and families of Durham a critically essential and tranquil, comforting environment of refuge and support during some of their most challenging moments.

I have personal knowledge of the nominee’s responsibility for the exhibit listed above. That responsibility included: largely responsible for design.

Shawn Subasic
Director of Facilities | Duke Health | Client
Gregg Museum of Art and Design, NC State University

**Challenge**
Create a new home for the Gregg Museum to celebrate its broad collection of North Carolina art and craft while bringing this regional history to new audiences, preserving the legacy of NC State’s historic Chancellor’s residence and gardens, and integrating the building into surrounding Pullen Park and its programs.

**Action Taken**
The museum’s simple, modern volumes are sympathetic to the historical residence. Eastern white cedar siding compliments the scale and façade patterning of the brick structure. Solid and transparent elements clarify and delineate building entrances. Interior and exterior galleries support exhibit curation by situating the museum’s rich collection of domestic arts—quilting, ceramics, weaving, furniture, and textiles—within the residential structure and its addition to encourage deeper appreciation for how the arts enrich daily life.

Meticulous placement of glass walls filter landscape vistas and support visitor understanding of the connection between the arts, architecture, craft, and nature. Framed views acknowledge the historic chancellor’s residence while visually connecting the Gregg to allied art institutions. Working closely with the neighboring Pullen Baptist Church and Pullen Park Arts Center, the project established a three-party, shared access and stormwater management agreement to create a continuous park landscape for patrons of the complex’s three institutions. This work supported both the Gregg and the Arts Center in accomplishing LEED Gold certification.

**Outcome**
The new museum embraces the domestic scale of the 1927 NC State Chancellor’s residence. The contemporary design expands exhibit space while advancing understanding of the culture and legacy of North Carolina arts and craft for students and visitors. The design facilitates numerous campus and community activities that extend conventional exhibit programs and transform the museum into a cultural and social destination.
Kenneth Luker, AIA | 37

The design that Luker and his team came up with has met our every expectation... a wonderful space that has become a nexus of Raleigh’s art community as well as a landmark destination for out-of-town visitors.”

Roger Manley | Director of Gregg Museum of Art and Design

I have personal knowledge of the nominee’s responsibility for the exhibit listed above. That responsibility included: largely responsible for design.

Lisa Johnson, AIA
University Architect | NC State University | Client
General Classroom Building, Wake Tech Community College

**Challenge**
The first building for a new, 94-acre campus would define the character and direction of future growth while creating an environment to connect students to the academic community and encourage life-long learning. The institution’s entire student body commutes and most are part-time—factors that posed a significant challenge for community building.

**Action Taken**
Kenneth employed essential elements of the American collegiate tradition to create a ‘campus in one’ building with spaces designed and organized to connect students to one another and to encourage a shared sense of place. An expansive program of classrooms, faculty offices, student dining, library, auditorium, and administrative suites surround a three-sided campus ‘quad.’ This central quad will expand over time as the organizing focus of an eleven-building campus serving 7,000 students. Surrounding the quad is a circulation path defined by multistory glass and gracious, daylit stairways at building entrances. Both features make student activity highly visible and present opportunities for changing views of campus.

Flexible interior spaces provide the campus population a variety of locations to work and socialize. Wood accented interiors, covered outdoor dining, and shade trees create a sense of warmth and comfort for students and faculty.

**Outcome**
Establishing a distinct destination campus building with open, inviting spaces helps students, faculty, and staff bond as an academic community and share common experiences through architecture and placemaking.
I have personal knowledge of the nominee’s responsibility for the exhibit listed above. That responsibility included: largely responsible for design.

Rita Jerman, EdD  |  Strategic Business Advisor  |  Ellucian  |  Client (former Sr. VP of Enrollment and Student Services, WTCC)
School of Education and Psychology, Elizabeth City State University

Challenge
As the first building in a new campus precinct and isolated from an existing main campus, create a meaningful connection to established districts and foster an academic community within by uniting two previously separate academic departments.

Action Taken
Kenneth organized the building program around a welcoming entry courtyard that is open on two sides and oriented toward the distant main campus. This orientation allows for future development to bridge the gap as the campus grows.

Outcome
The design’s intimate and cohesive environment establishes a clear sense of identity through architecture and placemaking with a highly integrated spatial environment for the newly blended academic community to flourish.

Location
Elizabeth City, NC

Completion Date
2012

Role
Design Principal, Lead Designer

Design Firm
Perkins&Will

Architect of Record
Perkins&Will

The intimately scaled courtyard is anchored on one end by a three-story lobby and monumental stair that encourages inter-departmental engagement around common circulation. The experience is reinforced by a glass enclosed, two-story bridge that crosses the courtyard to connect the classroom wing with the department office wing. The result is a continuous path of interconnected and collaborative academic environments. The three-sided courtyard is encircled by daylit circulation and student lounges that associate activities of the academic calendar with shared spatial experiences.

The west wing of staff and faculty offices is elevated on a colonnade leading to the primary building entrance, providing a shaded retreat from the hot and humid coastal climate while expanding the courtyard space to the campus beyond.

The design incorporates several innovations in sustainability and was the first state facility to accomplish a goal of 30% increased efficiency above the ASHRAE 90.1 standard.
I have personal knowledge of the nominee’s responsibility for the exhibit listed above. That responsibility included: largely responsible for design.

Walt Havener, FASLA
Founding Partner
Surface 678
Landscape Architect