

FAIA WOMEN OF CENTRAL TEXAS

By JACKIE BENTON

An architect's life isn't easy.

There are the long hours working into the night and into the next morning. The plans that are drawn up, scrapped and drawn up again. Meetings with clients. Meetings with builders. Meetings with designers. Meetings with decorators. The phone calls in the middle of the night letting you know "something happened" with the project and now everything has (pick one or more): changed / been put on hold / been scrapped / let's start over. More hours. More plans. More meetings. And all the while, you're constantly creating, honing your skills, your craft, your mind, your artistry, just so you can see the vision you have built in your mind become reality.

And one fine day, your hard work is recognized by your professional peers — the same people who have been through what you've been through, who know just how hard it is and how much it is all worth it, because they've been there, too. You are nominated, and then sponsored by American Institute of Architects members, and then elected to the Fellowship program. You receive an invitation to attend the investiture ceremony at the AIA Convention, where you will be honored.

In recognition of all that hard work, late hours and creative brilliance, you find that you are not to be inducted into the Fellowship program of the American Institute of Architects.

You are to be elevated.

Welcome to a very exclusive club.

Welcome to the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Architects.



CAROLYN PETERSON, FAIA
Ford, Powell & Carson, San Antonio
Elevated to AIA Fellow: 1991

Over the years, working with historic and contemporary buildings, I have concluded that good design, in a wide range of material expression and cultural form, has a lot to do with the impact it has on one's experience with the building.... especially if that sense remains with you over time. All of the design elements come together in a balanced interaction with one another, and the building does what is needed of it beautifully.

JANE STANSFELD, FAIA
J. Stansfeld & Associates, Austin
Elevated to AIA Fellow: 1993

To paraphrase Sir Denys Lasdun, "Good design is when the client gets, not what he said that he wanted, but what he never even dreamt that he needed!" Good design is so much more than aesthetics. Of course it includes form, and response to the site, but function and economy are equally important. In addition, if a client knows exactly what he wants, then he doesn't need an architect; he needs a good builder. Good design also includes a meticulous attention to the use of materials and details so that the construction awes at every level.



HEATHER MCKINNEY, FAIA, LEED AP BD+C
McKinney York Architects, Austin
Elevated to AIA Fellow: 2008

Good design is fitted to its context, exceeds the expectations of the client, creates delight and is responsible. To me that means that it conserves the earth's resources, is energy-efficient and enduring.

I think it is a "Lean In Moment" for our whole profession. Women are more fully integrated than ever and together we must press on to meet rapidly changing needs caused by soaring populations and critical issues of global sustainability. — **Emily Little**



DONNA D. CARTER, FAIA
Carter • Design Associates, Austin
Elevated to AIA Fellow: 2010

To rephrase Louis Sullivan's famous "form ever follows function," "Design follows purpose or goal." The art of revealing excellence in design, and the special quality an architect brings to any project is the ability to solve problems, answer the questions posed by the task at hand with a design solution at once sustainable and sustaining; accessible and engaging; of its time and timeless; functional and delightful; useful and inspiring. In every respect, resonating with the user and exceeding their expectations.

Photo by Patrick Wong Photography



ELIZABETH DANZE, FAIA
Danze Blood Architects,
The University of Texas at
Austin School of Architecture, Austin
Elevated to AIA Fellow: 2009

Good design is what makes architecture relevant. It is seen in the exploration and understanding of problems at a range of scales: from a single piece of furniture to policies and infrastructure that effect entire geographic regions. Good design embraces different perspectives whether they be theoretical, cultural, social, technical or formal. At the scale of a building, good design in architecture poetically addresses the realities of construction while elevating the human spirit and the human condition. It has the potential to possess a quality that touches something deep within us and that transcends time, place and culture. The most extraordinary buildings have an ineffable quality, a quality that is difficult to put into words, but moves us deeply. Poetic application of intelligent, beautiful and compelling solutions to problems of any scale or type will change the world for the better. The power of good design in architecture has the power to unite all of us.



DIANE B. HAYS, FAIA
UTSA College of Architecture,
San Antonio
Elevated to AIA Fellow: 2010

Good design is rooted in an idea, is well proportioned, well-crafted with appropriate materials and connections, all of which are independent of "style."

