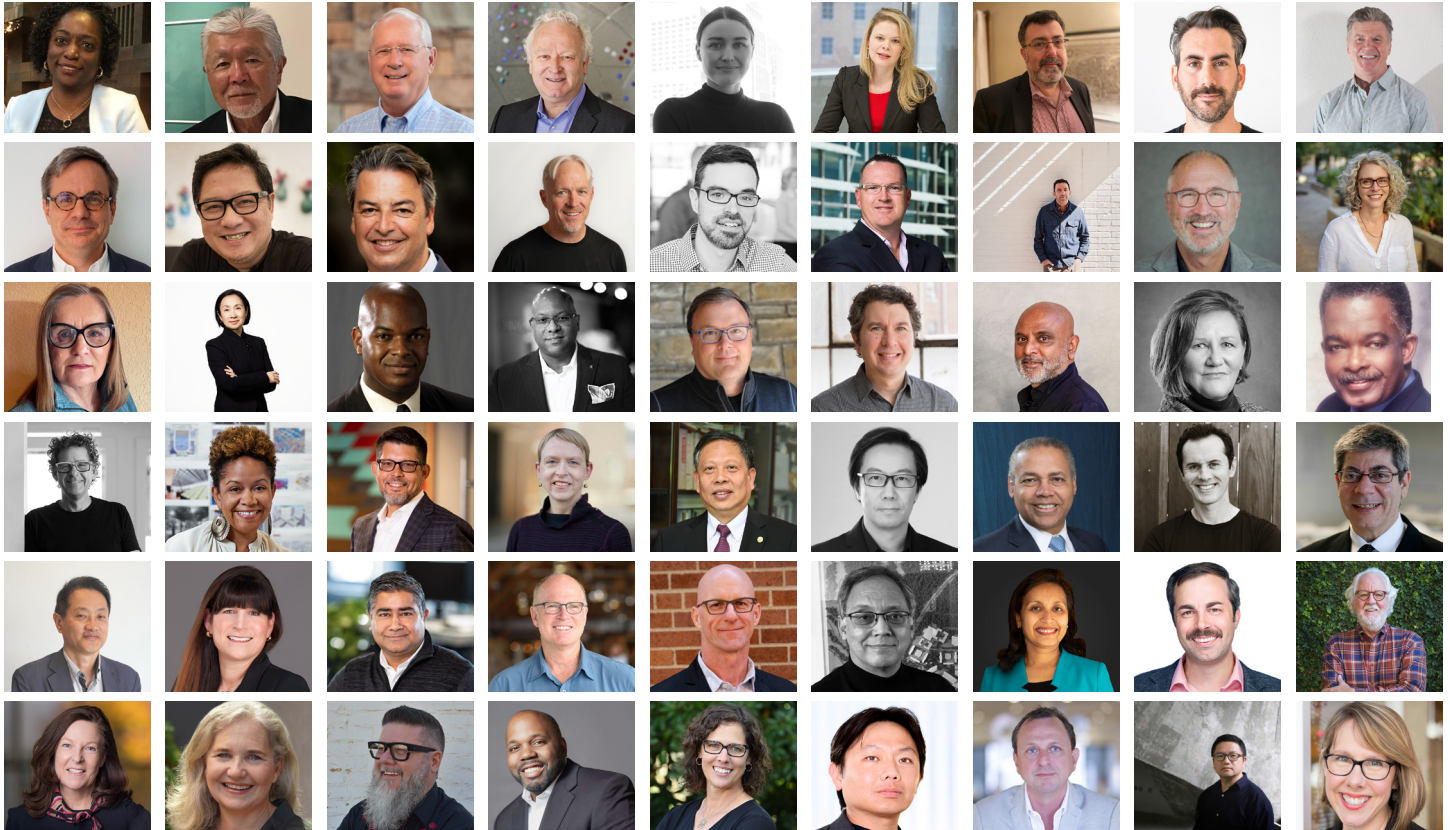


The AIA College of Fellows Quarterly

Q2 2023



Introducing New Fellows: Class of 2023



In this issue:
A'23: A Fellows' Guide
Mentorship, Part II: Firm-Wide Programs



AIA College of Fellows

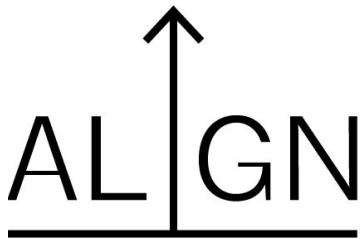
Founded in 1952, the College of Fellows is composed of members of the Institute who are elevated to Fellowship by a jury of their peers. Fellowship is one of the highest honors the AIA can bestow upon a member. Elevation to Fellowship not only recognizes the achievement of the architect as an individual, but also elevates before the public and the profession those architects who have made significant contributions to architecture and to society.

Mentorship at All Scales, Part II: National Programs

By Jessica O'Donnell, AIA



This second installation of the Mentorship series zooms out from the local AIA chapter programs highlighted in our past issue to shine a light on several national mentorship programs. We encourage you to get in touch and become involved!



Overview: Align Mentorship Program

The Young Architects Forum and College of Fellows Align Mentoring Program is a long-range initiative (think ten years, not one) that connects young architects with AIA Fellows. Through a grouping system referred to as “pods”, the program pairs four to six emerging professionals with two to three fellows, facilitating professional and leadership development. Align has been in its development stages serving as a pilot program since late 2019, launching its first full cohort in 2022.

The program's objectives are:

- To support young architects in defining their legacy within the profession while navigating their career paths.
- To create a vehicle for mentorship and career development that connects young architects and Fellows in community

with peers across the country.

- To accelerate contributions of young architects and develop regionally diverse collectives to contribute towards the future of the profession

For interest or more information on the Align Program, please email [Sarah Nelson-Woynicz, AIA](#). Call for program applicants are anticipated to open September 2023.

COF Experience - ALIGN

Stacy Bourne, FAIA (Virgin Islands)

I've found this program to be very energizing and look forward



to our monthly meetings. It allows me to step back into that period of my career and offer value and encouragement that I would like to have received. As with life, our Young Architects are overcoming obstacles, submitting awards, having families and starting their own firms, with 2 leaders focused and supporting them. They set the agenda for the year with topics important to them.

We have great participation and sometimes run over depending on the subject and availability. Our conversations keep me grounded in what MY team members could be lacking, allowing me to fill their gaps more specifically. We're not just a mentorship group anymore. Over the last year and a half, we've become family!

Young Architect Experience - ALIGN Monica Blasko, AIA (Pennsylvania)



During my recent career exploration and eventual move, my AIA network showed up for me in big ways. While my AIA Pittsburgh connections were on call for coffee and lunch chats, my participation in Align offered a regularly scheduled, virtual sounding board from experienced architects and fellow young architects from across the country. This journey to determine the next step in my career has solidified the importance of

programs like Align in my mind, as I can see the direct benefit of the connections sparked and relationships fostered with those I was unlikely to meet otherwise — due to geography, practice area, or career stage. I am grateful for my Align cohort that offers support and space to have honest, productive conversations that continually motivate me personally and professionally.



Overview: NEXUS

NEXUS's goal is to support equity and access to architecture as a profession. If you're new to the field, have plateaued in your growth/development, or are an associated professional who has always wanted to be an architect, this program provides a wealth of resources to help navigate your career.

Young professionals are connected with highly esteemed AIA Fellows who have practiced, researched, authored, and experienced the gamut of the field of architecture.

We look forward to seeking solutions, discussing new ideas, offering resources, and meeting an extraordinary new network of professionals this year!

For interest or more information on the NEXUS Program, please email [Carl Sergio, AIA](mailto:Carl.Sergio@AIA.org) and [Josh Mings, AIA](mailto:Josh.Mings@AIA.org). Call for program applicants are currently open through May 30, 2023.

COF Experience - NEXUS Angela Mazzi, FAIA (Ohio)



I participated in the NEXUS program starting in 2022 and found it to be a refreshing experience from most mentoring programs. I really appreciated the “speed dating” aspect that allows a better match to be made as well as the fact that the program included a monthly check in and educational component with a focus topic. These calls also included breakout

rooms where the mentor/mentee pair were placed with other pairs to discuss the education topic with prompts. This helped both the quality of discussions and allowed everyone to expand their professional network, which was really powerful. This is an amazing program! I've enjoyed being a mentor in it. If you or someone you know is in early career stages, please share with them and encourage them to apply!

Associate AIA Experience - NEXUS Hilda Boyadjian, Associate AIA (California)



Conversations with my mentor switched on the light I needed to see things that required resolve. Professional blockages and stagnation have so many causes, and it takes a keen eye and caring heart to connect, support, and establish such an impacting relationship over 6 months (and beyond!) The group of AIA Fellows who participate in this program

not only truly want to support, but they're actually best-equipped to give it. (How often does that happen?!) NEXUS mentors' collective architectural experience and knowledge are of the most distinguished of our field, and I'm honored to have participated in, and met everyone in the program.

CALL FOR FIRM-WIDE MENTORSHIP PROGRAMS

The Executive Committee seeks information on firm-wide mentorship programs to feature in the next issue of the Quarterly e-publication (Q3). In support of the Mentoring pillar of the College of Fellows' mission, the intent of this feature is to elevate and highlight the many ways firms support mentoring, including how Fellows contribute to the effort..

Please fill out [this form](#) if you would like to submit information about a firm-wide program. If you have any questions, please contact AIA COF Executive Committee (cof@aia.org).

Submissions are due by 11pm ET on **June 30th, 2023**.

Connection

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Issue 03

This issue: **Educate for Impact**

In this issue, education is highlighted at all levels. With experts from across the world, educational initiatives will be explored in various lenses, from K-12 outreach programming, university partnerships, professional development opportunities, and diverse pathways to fellowship.

Above Black Architects in the Making (BAM) Florida participants lead a design charette for students

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Arizona, Jordan Kravitz, AIA
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Michigan, Trent Schmitz, AIA
New Hampshire, Nathaniel St. Jean, AIA
New Mexico, Efrèn López, AIA
North Carolina, Shawna Mabie, AIA
Ohio, Seth Duke, AIA
Rhode Island, Bryan Buckley, AIA
South Carolina, Ryan Lewis, AIA
Texas, Samantha Markham, AIA
Utah, Melissa Gaddis, AIA
Virginia, Carrie Parker, AIA
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2023-2024 Young Architect Representatives

Alabama, Elliot Brown, AIA
Arkansas, Katherine Lashley AIA
California, Vasilies Beseau, AIA
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Hawaii, Kevin Loo-Chan, AIA
Idaho, Jorge Basulto, AIA
Illinois, Raquel Guzman Geara, AIA
Iowa, Kevin Wagner, AIA
Kansas, Garric Baker, AIA
Louisiana, Alexandra Tengco, AIA
Maine, Mario Lewis, AIA
Minnesota, Kyle Palzer, AIA
Mississippi, Robert Farr, AIA
Missouri, Chelsea McQueen, AIA
Nebraska, Jonathan Oswald, AIA
Nevada, Wellbe Bartsma, AIA
New Jersey, Abigail Benjamin, AIA
New York, Wei Wang, AIA
Oklahoma, Jordan Hall, AIA
Oregon, Nicole Becker, AIA
Pennsylvania, Melanie Ngami, AIA
Puerto Rico, Armando Rigau, AIA
South Dakota, Levi Pfeil, AIA
Tennessee, Sarah Page, AIA
Vermont, Devon Dushey, AIA
Washington, Tanya Kataria, AIA
Wisconsin, Wesley Churchill, AIA
Wyoming, Kendra Shirley, AIA

Young Architects Forum



Connection is the official quarterly publication of the Young Architects Forum of AIA.

This publication is created through the volunteer efforts of dedicated Young Architect Forum members.

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Align Mentorship Program

Connection + Community

The Young Architects Forum and College of Fellows Align Mentorship Program is a long-range initiative (think ten years, not one) that connects young architects with AIA Fellows. Through a grouping system referred to as “pods”, the program pairs four to six emerging professionals with two to three fellows, facilitating professional and leadership development. Founded as a pilot program in 2019 by Ryan McEnroe, FAIA, the Align Mentorship Program launched its first full cohort in January of 2022. Since the program’s founding, 69 young architects have been grouped with 29 Fellows, for a total of 98 participants across the three years of the program’s formation.

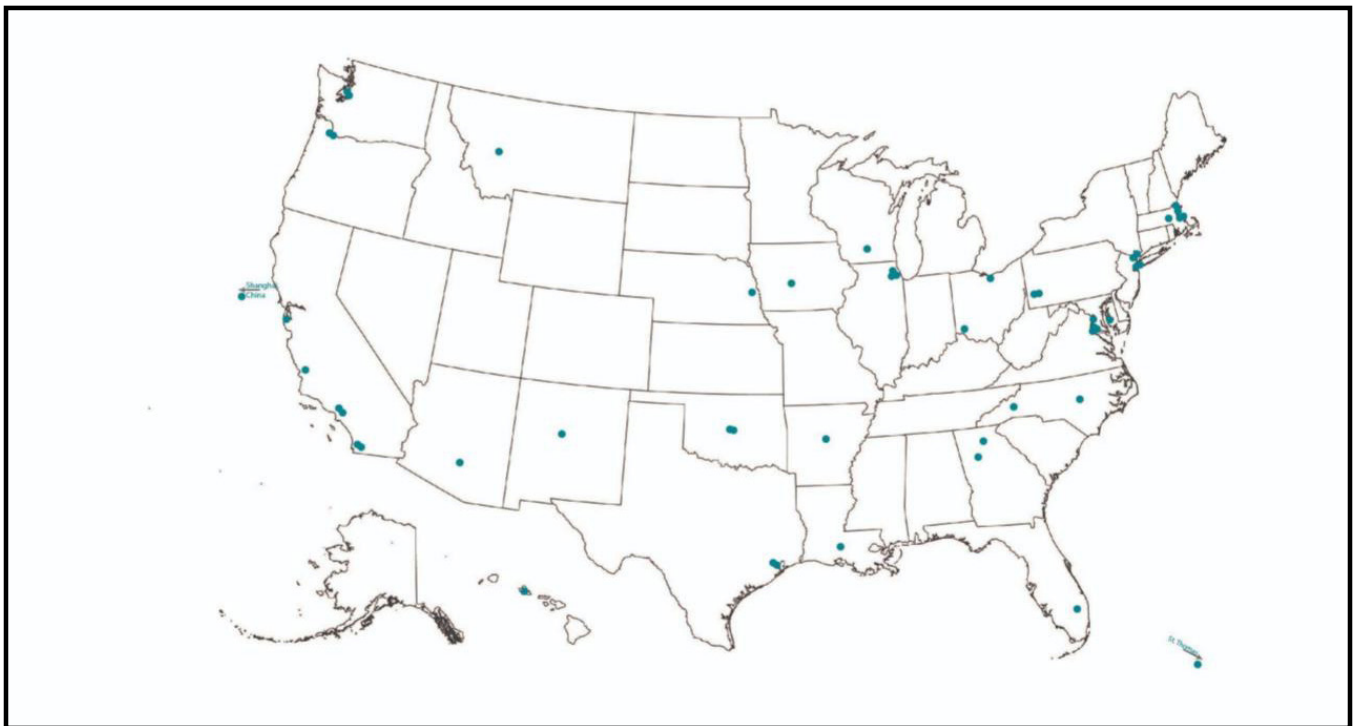
The overarching program objectives are:

- To support young architects in defining their legacy within the profession while navigating their career paths.
- To create a vehicle for mentorship and career development that connects young architects and Fellows with peers across the country.

- To accelerate contributions of young architects and develop regionally diverse collectives to contribute more in the future.

Pods are currently categorized around three main focus areas – Practice (Institute and Design Leadership), Scholarship (Education and Research), and Civic (Community and Public Leadership). Experience levels within each pod varies, but is focused on supporting licensed at the point of 10 years or less since licensure. Each AIA Fellow’s Object of Nomination typically aligns with the main focus area of their respective pod. Of the thirteen current pods, focus areas range from AIA leadership to advocacy to design and firm management to the Young Architect Award submission to small firm ownership and more.

We asked a handful of the 2023 Align Mentorship Program cohort to share their experiences and insights from participating



Above | The Align Mentorship Program connects young architects and AIA Fellows from across the world.

in the program for nearly a year. Ashley Snelson, Spencer Sommers, Vaama Joshi, and Jonathan Fischel, FAIA, share their insights below.



Above Ashley Snelson, AIA
(Seattle, Washington)



Above Spencer Sommers, AIA
(Aberdeen, South Dakota)



Above Vaama Joshi, AIA
(Charlotte, North Carolina)



Above Jonathan Fischel, FAIA
(Washington, D.C.)

Why did you decide to apply to the Align Mentorship Program?

Ashley Snelson (AS): I was seeking mentorship as I explore what it means to be in middle management, and how I can advance myself in support of advancing our profession for all people.

Spencer Sommers (SS): Align/YAF seemed like an exciting program to connect with architects outside of my usual network.

Vaama Joshi (VJ): I have been impacted tremendously by the support of mentors in the past. The Align program seemed like a perfect opportunity to connect with like minded peers and mentors.

Jonathan Fischel (JF): I applied to the Align program to engage with young architects beyond that possible within an office environment. The foundation of that process is built on a spirit of engagement, sharing, and caring that I learned during

the course of my career in architecture, and in large part from my AIA volunteer opportunities and those leaders who I served with, especially John Syvertsen, Steve Saunders, Doug Steidl and Kate Schwensen, along with Alice Sinkevitch, former AIA Chicago Executive Director.

What are one or two goals you have as a part of the program?

AS: I have applied for this program at a critical juncture in my career where I am incredibly ready to learn, grow, and give back at a whole new level. To build relationships and engage in mentorship of this value and magnitude would be a successful outcome of participating in this program.

SS: One goal was to have quality conversations with FAIA members for their insights on their professional experience as there are currently no living FAIA members in South Dakota.

VJ: By participating in the 2022 YAF Align program, I intend to develop skills to encourage clients and designers to choose sustainable & resilient design practices.

What value have you seen and experienced as a part of the Align program?

AS: So far, it has been a really great cohort of fellow high-achievers. As we have grown to know each other, the conversations have been more and more thought-provoking and supportive of tangible aspects in navigating an architecture career at this moment in time.

SS: YAF has introduced me to both young architects and FAIA members who I would otherwise likely be unable to have in-depth conversations with. I've gained great insight that helps with my professional life from people with experiences different from my own. It's refreshing to hear what other architects with similar interests are involved with nationwide.

VJ: A lot of times, you don't have mentors outside of your workplace. This program offers you a support system that's beyond your workplace and provides fresh perspective on issues through conversations with peers and mentors.

JF: Several monthly meetings into the Align program, my fellow FAIA participant, Bob Yohe and I suggested a reading list of leadership books and guides that we could read together and would become part of our discussions. For the first book, the Young Architects in our pod selected *Adapt as an Architect*, a *Mid-Career Companion*, written by Randy Deutsch. Reading 'Adapt...' has promoted wonderful discussions on personal experiences associated with career path and leadership, with considerable openness and sharing within our pod.

What encouragement or insight would you share for those who are not a part of the program but might be interested?

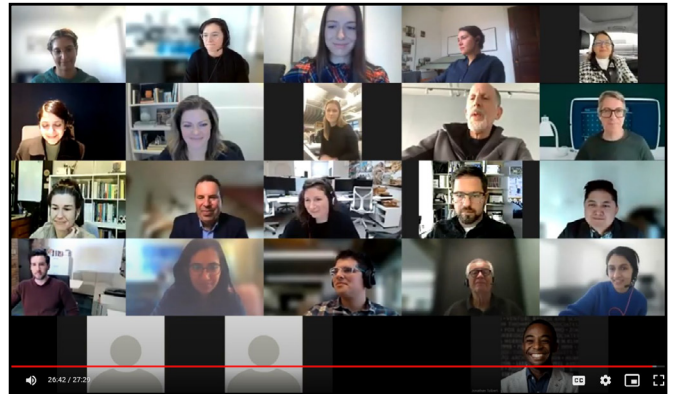
AS: I would encourage you to take that spark of interest and start writing down your specific reasons why you would want to apply to the program the next time applications are open.

SS: The reward vs. time investment is ten-fold. It's not just a useful mentorship program; I genuinely look forward to the monthly meeting with my peers.

VJ: By participating in this program you will make long term connections & friends.

JF: Understanding that we are just past mid-year on the first of hopefully a multi-year voyage, I highly recommend this program for Fellows for the opportunity to engage with Young Architects, and to give back to the profession we love: To share your knowledge, experience, and expertise, and develop relationships with bright, open, high-achieving, passionate and appreciative Young Architects in a setting outside of work. You will learn from them as well, and from your FAIA colleague. I would also hope that for Young Architects, it is an opportunity to develop relationships with peers and members of an older generation from across the country, along with the benefits of open discussion and sharing of knowledge on topics that each of you bring to the group.

Applicants for the Align Mentorship Program typically open during September of each year. If you are interested or know someone who may be, please visit the AIA Young Architect Resource page and email Sarah Nelson-Woynicz.



Above | Align Mentorship Group Calls.

Immense thanks to the AIA Young Architects Forum (YAF) Community Focus Group, the AIA YAF College of Fellows Liaisons Kate Schwensen, FAIA, and Jeanne Jackson, FAIA, and Jordan Kravitz for your leadership in the organization and continuation of the Align program. Additional thanks to the AIA College of Fellows and all Fellows who serve as mentors (but also are mentored!), providing invaluable guidance, insight, openness, and conversation.



Sarah Nelson-Woynicz, AIA

Nelson Woynicz is a Project Architect and Associate at HKS, Inc. Sarah is the Founder of *Pride by Design* and an "Out in Architecture" author. Sarah serves on the AIA YAF Advisory Committee as Community Director and is the incoming 2024 Vice Chair.



Jordan Kravitz, AIA

Kravitz is a Senior Project Architect at Stantec, AIA Phoenix Metro President, and the YAF Arizona Representative.