25 LEADERS

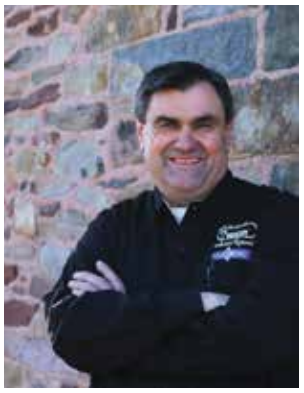
THE COUNTRY'S TOP CARETAKERS OF ARCHITECTURAL TRADITIONS.

BY JENNIFER SPERRY

Every day, in all parts of the country, experts in their fields are preserving and replicating historical architecture in its myriad forms. And no more so than the following 25 leaders, who have dedicated themselves and their careers to furthering traditionally built environments through education, architecture, design, and craft. They are enriching our future by honoring building traditions of the past. Let's celebrate their impressive achievements.

Andrew deGruchy

Lime*Works*.us



Andrew deGruchy has spent more than four decades championing the use of traditional lime-based materials. As founder and owner of Lime*Works*.us—the nation's top manufacturer and distributor of environmentally friendly mortars, plasters, and paints—he is at the forefront of a growing movement to revive time-honored craftsmanship and protect the architectural heritage of American communities.

His commitment to excellence in masonry restoration began in 1979, when he earned a full scholarship to Williamson Free School of Mechanical Trades (now Williamson College of the Trades). There, he completed a three-year masonry program and was honored with the school's prestigious "Key" award for exemplifying its founding ideals.

Over the past 40 years—working at his original company, deGruchy Masonry Restoration, and for 26 years at Lime*Works*.us—deGruchy has led specialized crews in the restoration of hundreds of historic buildings throughout the Delaware and Lehigh Valleys of Pennsylvania. Their work is a testament to technical precision and a deep reverence for America's built heritage

Recent projects include the Stroud Mansion for the Monroe County Historical Association, the Fischer Fine Arts Library at the University of Pennsylvania, and the iconic Tower at the University of Texas at Austin. All were restored using custom-formulated lime mortars and materials.

The company's training and education initiatives allow deGruchy and his team to pass on traditional skills to the next generation of artisans and preservationists. His volunteer efforts often focus on America's historic burial grounds and vintage architecture, areas he sees as key to understanding and honoring our shared past.

At the heart of this impressive body of work is a calling to preserve the cultural, historical, and architectural landmarks that define American identity.

Beth Webb

Beth Webb Interiors

Beth Webb is an internationally acclaimed interior designer and founder of Beth Webb Interiors, a celebrated Atlanta-based firm known for its timeless, sophisticated, and richly textured spaces. With over two decades of experience, Webb has crafted homes that embody warmth, serenity, and a refined sense of style.

To Webb, interior design "has always been about creating a feeling—something you sense the moment you walk into a space. I love the poetry of working within tradition while bringing it to life through texture, light, and detail," she says. "My role is part interpreter, part editor, with the aim of making classical design feel fresh, serene, and deeply livable."

Traditional design has such enduring relevance, notes the design veteran. "To be part of the dialogue is incredibly meaningful," she relays. "My approach has always been about restraint and refinement—celebrating craftsmanship, honoring scale, and creating rooms that stand the test of time. Being recognized as a leader in that space affirms that there's still a deep appreciation for beauty that's quiet, tactile, and rooted in tradition but not stuck in the past."

Her work has been widely published in leading design and lifestyle publications worldwide. Her first book, *An Eye for Beauty* (Rizzoli, 2017), explores the fundamental principles shaping her design philosophy. Her highly anticipated second book, *Embracing Beauty* (Rizzoli, February 2025), is a study in organic elegance. A respected industry voice, Webb serves on the board of the Design Leadership Network, furthering dialogue and innovation within the design community.

Carl R. Lounsbury

Architectural Historian; Adjunct Associate Professor, William & Mary

For nearly 50 years, Carl Lounsbury has celebrated early American architecture through research, design, reconstruction, teaching, and writing.

Much of this work was conducted during Lounsbury's tenure as Senior Architectural Historian at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. For 35 years, he was responsible for long-term architectural research projects centered on early American building types. He also contributed to the design and interpretation of new exhibition sites in the historic area, including the Courthouse and Market House.

As part of this vital role, he supervised architectural draftsmen and directed the work of graduate and undergraduate interns. He established and maintained a primary source architectural database with more than 100,000 entries and was responsible for publishing books and articles related to the department's work.

"There is so much more to discover and write about. Historical research never answers all our questions—it only opens new paths of investigation."

Says the architect and professor: "I have always been attracted to the dynamic interplay between classical design ideas and regional building practices during the 17th and 18th centuries. I have found this line of inquiry richly rewarding intellectually and filled with many interesting details that illuminate how the new world's economic, social, and environmental conditions reshaped old world building ideas and practices.

Currently, Lounsbury teaches architectural history at William & Mary and is an independent architectural historian. Acting as a consultant to governments, museums, universities, and more, he is actively involved in preserving, studying, and the restoration of several historic buildings. Meanwhile, he is in the process of researching and writing his twelfth book, *Ecclesiastical Architecture of Early America*.

"Even now, I feel that I am only getting started," says the historian, adding, "There is so much more to discover and write about. Historical research never answers all our questions—it only opens new paths of investigation."

Steven W. Spandle

Steven W. Spandle Architect

Steven Spandle is the founding principal of Steven W. Spandle Architect, which specializes in residential design. The firm has undertaken a diverse array of commissions ranging from single-family homes to Manhattan penthouses to museums. "Integrating modern conveniences into classically inspired spaces is always an exciting part of our work," Spandle contends.

A practitioner of classical design and passionate collector with a deep knowledge of history and the decorative arts, Spandle is the architect of the White House Tennis Pavilion—the first free-standing addition to the grounds in decades. For this project, he received both the ICAA John Russell Pope Award and *Traditional Building*'s Palladio Award. From 2017 to 2021, he contributed to various restoration projects at the White House and Camp David.

A native of Georgia, Spandle graduated from the Georgia Institute of Technology's architecture program and received a Master's of Classical Architecture from the University of Notre Dame School of Architecture. Before opening his practice in 2015, he worked with nationally recognized architecture firms in Atlanta, Boston, and New York.

His enthusiasm for the fine and decorative arts brings a unique perspective to his practice. He also shares his knowledge generously via prominent speaking engagements, service on various boards, and membership in significant organizations such as the Connoisseur Society at George Washington's Mount Vernon; the Collector's Circle at the Winterthur Museum, Library, and Garden; and the Friends of the Collections at Colonial Williamsburg.

Spandle's lifelong fascination with architecture, art, and design began with childhood visits to museums and historic houses. These destinations profoundly shaped his professional pursuits and influenced his understanding of design.

"Classicism, or traditional architecture, is a language, and much like a written narrative, there are endless stories to be told," he describes. "Whether designing something new or reimagining an existing building, the process is always exciting."

Marsha Faulkner

Studio M Interior Design

With over 30 years' experience, interior designer Marsha Faulkner is a visionary, collaborator, educator, and leader in her field.

Her love for design began with theatrical sets during high school. It blossomed during college and post-graduation travels through Europe, where she soaked in the timeless elegance of classical interiors.

She launched Studio M Interior Design in 2010 and, since then, the firm has become known for its ability to blend classical elements with modern sensibilities. As an author, adjunct professor, and keynote speaker, Faulkner prioritizes education, working with IIDA and ASID to advance the entire field of interior design.

"When you have a stellar project with a very talented team, the challenges that inevitably arise become interesting ways to do something really great."

When it comes to projects with historical aspects, she embraces both the overt and hidden opportunities. "I enjoy researching the building or style and brainstorming how to bring modern comforts into the scenario in a way that respects the heritage," explains Faulkner, who is currently the Florida ICAA President and has been on the board since 2008.

The design veteran also invites collaboration with true craftsmen and master builders who bring it all to life. "When you have a stellar project with a very talented team, the challenges that inevitably arise become interesting ways to do something really great," she describes. "This is honestly what drives me as a designer."

Devin Kimmel, AIA, ASLA

Kimmel Studio

Devin Kimmel, AIA, ASLA, managing principal of Kimmel Studio, is a leading voice in traditional architecture and design. His unwavering commitment to classical principles is evident in the studio's renowned high-end custom architecture and historic preservation projects.

"My passion for traditional architecture stems from a belief in the continuous history of design," he says. "It's not about blind replication but learning from the past to inform the future. I'm driven by the challenge of reinterpreting these principles for contemporary life, ensuring our built environment tells a story and fosters a meaningful experience."

As an all-in-one firm, Kimmel Studio seamlessly integrates architectural design, landscape architecture, and interior design, reflecting its principal's holistic vision. This fusion of services also significantly enhances the success of traditional-leaning and preservation projects.

"My passion for traditional architecture stems from a belief in the continuous history of design."

A dedicated member of the ICAA, Kimmel demonstrates a profound understanding of classical forms, proportions, and detailing. This knowledge has been honed through extensive study, travel, and his tenure teaching classical drawing and building typology at the University of Maryland.

His dedication to preserving architectural heritage is exemplified by the award-winning Cloverfields mansion project, which garnered multiple accolades, including two John Russell Pope Awards from ICAA. Kimmel's talent for traditional design on a grand scale was further highlighted when his classical design was selected as a finalist for the National World War I Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Through his dedication to classical and traditional styles and his innovative integration of landscape, Kimmel stands as a national leader, consistently setting a benchmark for excellence in the field.

Thomas N. Rajkovich

Thomas Norman Rajkovich Architect, Ltd.

Thomas Norman Rajkovich is an architect and urban designer whose 40-year career has combined professional practice, teaching, lecturing, drawing, painting, and writing. The son of two educators, his lifelong objective has been to instill in others a passion for what Henry Hope Reed called "The Classical," and to teach students the essential principles and skills required to meaningfully contribute to that great tradition.

Rajkovich is an Affiliated Fellow of the American Academy in Rome (1985) and a Fellow of the Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts Manufactures and Commerce. He has taught at several universities, beginning in 1987 at the University of Illinois at Chicago, and at his alma mater, the University of Notre Dame, where he was tasked with restructuring the Rome Program curriculum on a classical model, a curriculum that continues to this day.

"I'm intellectually indebted to the Italian Renaissance for my approach to classical architecture as a language," reveals Rajkovich. "It is a privilege to learn from and aspire to rival these brilliant mentors distanced by time and to bring those lessons to bear on contemporary projects."

The architect has served as a guest critic at numerous institutions, including Yale University under the deanship of Robert A. M. Stern, and was recently the Michael C. Duda Visiting Professor of Architecture at Notre Dame's graduate program. He has taught under four deans at Notre Dame over the past 35 years.

An avid painter whose watercolor wash drawings are held in several private collections, Rajkovich regularly speaks on classical architecture to academic and general audiences. He has received the Arthur Ross Award in Architecture in 1987 from Classical America (now the ICAA), numerous ICAA Chicago-Midwest Chapter Acanthus awards, and a 2025 Palladio Award.

Explains the architect: "I've intentionally struck a balance in my professional life between architectural practice and teaching in a university setting. I believe that the classical tradition necessarily involves building and making as well as mentoring future generations. I find joy in the dynamic between the two."

Fernando Wong

Fernando Wong Outdoor Living Design

Fernando Wong started his global eponymous landscape architecture firm over 20 years ago. Since then, it has grown into one of the most sought-after firms boasting not just awards and accolades but a boutique clientele, with offices in Miami, Palm Beach, Southampton, New Orleans, and London.

Wong has been called "one of the best landscape designers in the world" by the Chelsea Design Centre in London, "one of the most influential landscape designers in America" by *Elle Décor*, a "landscape legend" by *Forbes*, and "the creative mind behind Miami's lushest landscapes" by *Architectural Digest*. His television show *Clipped* with Martha Stewart is on the HGTV/Discovery Plus channels, and his work has been featured on *The Today Show* as well as in international media. Vendome published his new book, *The Young Man and the Tree*, this year.

Using classical architectural principles and over 20 years of experience designing landscapes for large homes, hotels, museums, and parks, Wong's firm creates comprehensive master plans. It works with installers and nurseries to create sustainable and magnificent landscapes that integrate with and are sympathetic to architecture and terrain. It thoughtfully incorporates large trees, garden follies, fountains, sculpture gardens, and hardscapes—all using classical architectural principles.

Wong has won some of the most prestigious awards in classical architecture, including the Lesly S. Smith Award from the Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach, multiple Addison Mizner Landscape Awards from the ICAA, and a Palladio Award from *Traditional Building* for Exterior Spaces: Gardens & Landscapes.

Wong has been called "one of the best landscape designers in the world."

Gary H. Behm

St. Louis Antique Lighting Company

St. Louis Antique Lighting Company founder Gary Behm describes himself as a "farm kid from Minnesota with artistic leanings." The oldest of 14, he left home at 14 to get an education and became a Lutheran minister/director of counseling for 23 years.

In 1968, Behm and his wife, Gloria, moved into the Central West End of St. Louis. They revived their 1890s Richardsonian Romanesque home, which included a basement shop where he restored and replicated period lighting. In succession, he opened a retail store in 1980; bought an old 1927 factory in 1985; and oversaw lighting for their first state capitol in 1987, the U.S. Capitol in 1988, and 14 more since then.

The period lighting expert currently serves on the development subcommittee of the AIA Historic Resources Committee, is a member of the Illuminating Engineers Society of North America, and is secretary of the board at the Charles M. Russell Museum. He enjoys sharing his knowledge via a national speaking engagement called "Lighting Historic Places."

At 79, Behm gratefully serves as President Emeritus of the company he founded in his basement. Since this inauspicious start in 1973, St. Louis Antique Lighting has received numerous local, state, national, and international awards.

"I am now one of the country's few remaining historic lighting experts," Behm admits, "not because I know more but because all the guys who did know more are gone. I enjoy passing on my knowledge to those with a passion for historic lighting or professionals needing to specify and budget projects.

"Not a day goes by," he continues, "that I am not teaching or learning."

James C. McCrery, II, AIA, NCARB

McCrery Architects,
Catholic University of America

James McCrery is founding principal of McCrery Architects, a Washington, D.C.-based firm committed to the design of churches, civic and university buildings, and unique commissions. An internationally recognized leader in classical architectural design and construction, he balances his architectural profession with teaching at Catholic University of America.

"Classical architecture is a limitless resource for inspiration and a resource to which I feel particularly obligated to contribute," McCrery contends. "I know that my work as a professor is already helping form the next generation of classical architects. A great number of them work at my firm and at many other leading practitioners of classical architecture throughout the U.S.," he says, adding, "It is a joy to see them thrive."

McCrery is the design architect of the recently completed Cathedral of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus in Knoxville, Tennessee; the Saint Mary Help of Christians Church in Aiken, South Carolina; and the St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel at the St. John Neumann Center, University of Nebraska at Lincoln. He designed the pedestal for the statue of President and Governor Ronald Wilson Reagan in the United States Capitol Rotunda, the pedestal for the recently completed statue of The Reverend Billy Graham in the Capitol Rotunda's Crypt, and the Book and Gift Store in the United States Supreme Court Building.

His current work includes a new master plan and Revolutionary War Memorial for the North Carolina State Capital Grounds, a new mountaintop Benedictine Monastery in rural Tasmania, and several commissions for new buildings at Hillsdale College.

McCrery is a tenured member of the faculty of the School of Architecture and the Allied Arts at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., where he is the founding Director of the Concentration in Classical Architecture and Urban Design. He is a founding member of the National Civic Art Society, a National Design Peer of the U.S. General Services Administration, and an appointed member of the United States Commission of Fine Arts.

Elizabeth Lawrence

Williams Lawrence

Elizabeth Lawrence has spent her career working alongside legendary interior designer Bunny Williams, executing projects across the country, from Manhattan to Palm Beach to Los Angeles. After Lawrence was named Bunny's only partner in 2017, the duo rebranded their firm as Williams Lawrence in 2023. Currently, they run the Bunny Williams umbrella of brands together.

Originally from Wilmington, Delaware, Lawrence attended the University of Richmond and then the New York School of Interior Design, where she was honored at its annual gala in 2020. Her work has been widely published in the *New York Times*, *Architectural Digest*, *Elle Décor*, *Veranda*, *Galerie*, *House Beautiful*, and more. Rizzoli will publish the firm's newest book, *Decoration*, in the fall of 2026.

Heritage projects, in Lawrence's experience, require a delicate dance between historic integrity and modern amenities. "The needs of clients revolve around how they live in their home and, increasingly, how they use technology," she explains. "In recent years, home tech has become smaller, sleeker, and better integrated. As a designer, you need to stay up to date on what is available, to incorporate technology in a way that doesn't detract from a traditional setting."

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At the outset, Lawrence brings to the table a collaborative spirit. "It is inspiring and exciting when a client puts their team together from the start, and that's when they get the best outcome," she relays. "Everyone is working together for a common goal, and the exchange of ideas and inspiration is an exciting process."

Hiring a designer is a luxury, she admits, adding, "We owe it to our clients to dig deep, really listen, and study their needs."

John B. Murray, AIA

John B. Murray Architect, LLC

John B. Murray was born in California and grew up in Philadelphia. Upon graduating from Carnegie Mellon University, he moved to New York City to begin his design career.

Early in his apprenticeship, he discovered his love for residential architecture, which led him to join Parish-Hadley Associates. It was during this tenure that Murray began to refine his understanding and appreciation of the vital relationship between traditional architecture and interior design and decoration.

With the support of Albert Hadley, Murray embarked upon the formation of Ferguson Murray & Shamamian Architects. Murray founded his independent practice, John B. Murray Architect (JBMA), in 1997. For over 25 years, JBMA has earned national and regional architecture awards and served the classical architecture community.

"I remain passionate about the language of traditional architecture because it is rooted in the classical principles of utility, good building practices, and beauty," Murray explains. "Adapting these principles to 21st-century living is what brings me joy and keeps traditional architecture fresh and inventive."

Jenny Wolfe, AICP

Planning 2 Preserve, LLC

Jenny Wolfe is a cultural resource advocate who has spent 20 years in local government and nonprofit preservation planning. Her firm, Planning 2 Preserve, creates customized preservation strategies for clients ranging from local government agencies and nonprofits to private property owners.

Before launching Planning 2 Preserve in 2024, Wolfe worked as the preservation planning specialist for Preservation Design Partnership. Since 2014, she has been on the Board of Trustees for the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation and recently completed a term as board president. Her résumé also includes 10 years working as the Historic Preservation Officer for the City of St. Augustine.

Wolfe, who earned her master's degree from the University of Florida in historic preservation, believes that long-standing places and spaces serve as symbols of societal values, embodying both tangible and intangible characteristics that cannot be reproduced. She finds purpose in exploring these connections and understanding their significance to advocate for preservation.

"Each place offers unique contributions," she says. "I am driven by the possibility that others will come to appreciate how these spaces meaningfully enrich our collective experience and provide valuable opportunities for engagement and discovery."

Ultimately, her goal is to expand the definition of a "preservationist" and show that this work belongs to everyone who cares about a community's built environment and cultural heritage. "The choice for preservation should be second nature rather than an afterthought," she asserts, "because it fosters more resilient, authentic, and environmentally responsible communities."

JB Clancy

Albert, Righter & Tittmann Architects

A partner at Albert, Righter & Tittmann Architects, JB Clancy practices the art and science of architecture throughout the Northeast with a focus on place and sustainability.

He is interested in traditional design that is innovative and artful, specifically the buildings of the Adirondacks and New England. In fact, he designed the state of Vermont's first-ever certified Passive House using traditional farmhouse forms and New England languages.

"As an architect, my passion is fueled by process and discovery. I am always learning from traditional buildings," says Clancy, who holds degrees from Brown and Yale School of Architecture. "Their connection to place, culture, and climate is enlightening and inspiring. I love observing the inventiveness and creativity that architects have displayed over time."

Clancy is a prolific architect with numerous awards to his name, including a Bulfinch award from the NE ICAA. He was also named "Architect of the Year" by the New England International Furnishings & Design Association. Prior to his joining Albert, Righter & Tittmann Architects, he helped develop a master plan for New York City's 2012 Summer Olympics bid.

All these accolades notwithstanding, Clancy believes strongly in mentorship and working with the next generation of architects. True to this belief, he stays busy teaching architectural drawing at Boston University and leading annual travel sketching workshops in the Adirondacks exploring traditional architecture through drawing.

"As a teacher and mentor, I hope that my students will learn through drawing to see, analyze, and understand the world around them," says Clancy, adding that he hopes they discover that "traditional architecture displays lessons of creativity and continuity."

David Andreozzi, ARCHITECT, RBA

Andreozzi Architecture

In 38 years as an architect, David Andreozzi, founder of Andreozzi Architecture, has spent his career educating the public on good design. Further, he has committed himself to supporting the profession of traditional and classical architecture from within.

"Every time I convince a person to judge a design not based on style but according to its inherent connectivity to people, culture, history, and vernacular, it touches my soul," says the architect, who is currently spearheading a new movement, Architectural Delight, to educate the public on the importance of culturally responsible design.

Andreozzi is an appointed member of U.S. General Services Administration (GSA)'s National Register of Peer Professionals, a group relied upon to help steward the design of future government buildings. He is also on the boards of Lutyens Trust America and the NE ICAA, where he served as president and received a Bulfinch Award in 2014 for his stewardship of the organization.

Before this, Andreozzi was AIA's National Chair of CRA (Custom Residential Architects Network). In addition to this leadership role, he personally helped develop CRANtv, an internet-based series of viral videos that educate the public on the importance of good design and the architect's role. This series received national accolades.

A graduate of Rhode Island School of Design, Andreozzi is the son of a second-generation contractor and an interior decorator. He grew up working on building sites learning all aspects of construction from artisans. From hammer to pencil to paintbrush, he is committed to further discovering and nurturing craft and beauty.

Douglas C. Wright

Douglas C. Wright Architects

Douglas Wright founded his New York-based firm, Douglas C. Wright Architects, in 2010 and personally directs the architectural output. Throughout his career, Wright has designed and overseen the administration of a broad range of projects in historical and contemporary styles across the U.S. and abroad.

Growing up in a historic home introduced Wright to fine architecture built for a specific setting. Travel and education, with subsequent bachelor's and master' degrees from Yale and the University of Texas at Austin, nurtured architecture as a lifelong interest. Prior to forming Douglas C. Wright Architects, he was a partner at Miller & Wright Architects and a principal at Hart Howerton.

At the beginning of his career, Wright worked as an architect/designer with the renowned decorating firm Parish-Hadley Associates and continued with Brian J. McCarthy before pursuing further studies in architecture. He developed his expertise as an associate with Robert A. M. Stern Architects and worked with Ferguson & Shamamian Architects, B Five Studio, and Davis, Brody, Bond.

Wright, a member of the American Institute of Architects and the President's Council of the ICAA, will soon be publishing his first book, *From Hand to Home* (September 2025, Rizzoli). The coming volume includes 20 projects showcasing the architect's ability to blend classical influences with contemporary sensibilities.

Michael Mesko

University of Notre Dame
School of Architecture

Michael Mesko has been at the forefront of architectural education in academia and in the nonprofit sector for over 20 years. His work in education focuses on teaching classical architecture as a practical discipline and explores shared ideas, principles, and intersection points across building traditions and cultures worldwide.

As a Professor of Practice, he teaches architectural design at the University of Notre Dame School of Architecture, where he directs the foundational sophomore studios for the undergraduate Bachelor of Architecture program.

As Education Chair for the ICAA, Mesko oversees the development of content and curricula for educational initiatives aimed at university-level students and industry professionals. Examples include a four-week Summer Studio in Classical Architecture in New York City and one-day University Workshops held at campuses across the country. These programs introduce students to the fundamentals of classical design.

His work in education focuses on teaching classical architecture as a practical discipline.

To help meet demand for more in-depth learning, Mesko recently launched a building studies program in Washington, D.C., that examines the innovative compositions and design techniques used by classical architects, urban planners, landscape architects, and their collaborations with artisans from 1880 to 1940 (one of the most significant yet least studied periods of civic development). These programs help students discover insights that can enrich architectural design and city-making and foster stewardship of our most valued places.

For design professionals, he helps orchestrate the development of the ICAA's longstanding continuing education program. At the heart of the program are week-long Intensives in Classical Architecture, which provide a methodical introduction to classical design, and annual Drawing Tours to study iconic buildings and places.

These educational initiatives aim to bridge gaps in higher education, facilitate opportunities for professionals to impart their expertise through teaching, and to ensure the continuation of classical design and building traditions.

Eliot H. Lothrop

Building Heritage, LLC

Eliot Lothrop is principal of Building Heritage, LLC, which combines the finest craftsmanship in traditional trades with advanced knowledge of historic preservation and timber framing ethics and rules.

Lothrop founded the Vermont-based company in 2004 after earning his master's degree from the University of Vermont in Historic Preservation and earning valuable experience working in the field, notably for Jan Lewandoski on the restoration of Vermont's iconic West Monitor Barn.

Since its launch, the company has specialized in stabilization and structural timber repairs of historic buildings with an emphasis on barns. It has preserved some of the state's earliest barns and managed the adaptive reuse of some of its largest. It has also restored historic timber-frame houses, churches, covered bridges, and more.

As a timber frame expert, Lothrop works as a consultant for private clients and field schools (collaborations between the University of Vermont and the National Park Service).

He has been involved in the ongoing restoration of Las Flores Adobe Ranch in Oceanside, California. He also traveled with the Preservation Trust of Vermont to Cuba, where he and other preservation contractors spent a week visiting five churches in Santiago de Cuba and performing conditions assessments. For travel projects most recently, he and several Building Heritage crew members worked on the 180-foot-tall Moffett blimp hangars in San Francisco and a gold mining dredge in Breckenridge, Colorado.

In 2023, Lothrop was chosen to lead the restoration of the East Monitor Barn (he had done initial stabilization work already in 2004). Lothrop's historic building preservation projects continue to expand in exciting new directions, now focusing on workforce development as well as working with the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps (the owners of the East Monitor Barn). Together with VYCC, Building Heritage has started a timber frame pre-apprentice program currently in its inaugural year with four amazing young timber framers.

Sarah Magness

Studio Magness

Sarah Magness is the principal and founder of Studio Magness, a New York-based architecture and interiors atelier known for classically rooted, globally inspired residential design.

With degrees from University of Texas Austin and Pratt Institute, Magness honed her craft under legendary mentors before founding her firm in 2010. Her work—featured in *Elle Décor*, *Architectural Digest*, *Town & Country*, and more—blends architectural integrity with layered interiors that feel deeply personal and timeless. She values being trusted by clients to meet their family's needs while preserving the timeless elegance and integrity of their home's architecture.

"Each home has its own story and soul," she describes, "and it's incredibly rewarding to breathe new life into these spaces while honoring their original classical character."

Magness is continually inspired by the diversity of residential renovation projects in her firm's growing portfolio. "Each home has its own story and soul," she describes, "and it's incredibly rewarding to breathe new life into these spaces while honoring their original classical character."

The dedicated preservationist and cultural advocate serves on the Executive Board for the New York Landmarks Conservancy and the Advisory Board for the University of Texas at Austin School of Architecture. She is also on the ICAA President's Council.

Says the designer: "There are so many elements that contribute to a successful traditional or classical project, and interior architecture is certainly one of the most vital. For me, classical architecture isn't just a profession—it's part of my upbringing and family heritage. It truly runs in my blood."

Thomas E. Austin

Architect of the Capitol

On May 22, 2024, the bicameral Congressional Commission announced its unanimous selection of Thomas E. Austin to serve as the 13th Architect of the Capitol (AOC). In this role, Austin is responsible for leading the agency's mission to preserve and maintain the campus's historic buildings and grounds, including iconic structures comprising the House and Senate Offices, Capitol Visitor Center, Library of Congress, and U.S. Supreme Court.

"It is an honor to serve as the 13th Architect of the Capitol and steward of the historic and vital buildings that make up the Capitol campus, ensuring their preservation, functionality, and safety for Members of Congress, staff, and visitors," said Austin in his testimony to the Committee on House Administration in June 2025.

Led by Austin, the AOC and its 2,500 employees handle facilities maintenance and operation of the historic U.S. Capitol, the care and improvement of more than 570 acres of grounds, and the operation and maintenance of 18.4 million square feet of buildings. This includes care of all works of art and maintenance and restoration of murals, outdoor sculpture, and architectural elements.

A licensed professional engineer, certified construction manager, and project management professional, Austin retired from the U.S. Army as a colonel after nearly three decades in engineering and leadership roles. He served overseas in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Bosnia and was awarded the Bronze Star, Legion of Merit, Combat Action Badge, Ranger Tab, Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, and other honors.

His last decade of service focused on construction and facilities management roles with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, and Arlington National Cemetery. Most recently, Austin oversaw the construction management advisory team for the Cannon House Office Building Renewal.

Already, in his one year as AOC, the veteran has implemented long-term strategies to maintain and preserve the campus while modernizing. "This 24-hour, seven-day-a-week operation works in concert to preserve our historic assets and improve aging infrastructure," reveals Austin. "I am privileged, day in and day out, to be entrusted to lead this remarkable agency."

Ted Boscana

Director of Historic Trades and Skills, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

Ted Boscana has spent three decades immersed in woodworking and the historic building trades. Today, he serves as Director of Historic Trades and Skills at Colonial Williamsburg, overseeing 27 shops and sites where skilled craftsmen bring the past to life for visitors from around the world.

Boscana's passion for woodworking began in his adolescence, when he worked as a carpenter's helper for his father, Edwin. He honed his skills through a six-year apprenticeship in Carpentry and Joinery at Colonial Williamsburg. His journeyman project—reconstructing a lumber house on the Peyton Randolph site—deepened his interest in 18th-century joinery. That passion led him to help establish the Joiner's Shop as a distinct trade within the museum's interpretive program.

Over the years, Boscana has contributed to the reconstruction of more than 30 historic buildings in the Historic Area. While his role now focuses on leadership rather than daily bench work, his mallet and chisel are never far from reach when a new building project calls.

William H. Bates III, AIA, NCARB

Fairfax & Sammons Architects

During the '80s, William H. Bates III was introduced to the wonders of architecture and design through a family business of the import and sale of 18th- and 19th-century English antiques. "At a young age, I learned how to disassemble, repair, and restore beautiful old Mahogany furniture," says Bates. "Those lessons ultimately led me toward design and architecture."

One of the founding Faculty of the American College of the Building Arts (ACBA), Bates arrived in Charleston in the summer of 2005 with a group of eager international professors and administrators. He promoted hand drafting, freehand drawing, architectural history, and design studio courses as critical parts of the Building Arts curriculum, which became the foundation of the program today. Beyond teaching those courses, Bates also designed the school's crest, shield, and mantle and developed and led the first series of Italian summer study courses from 2009 to 2017. He also held the role of Chair of Architecture and Allied Arts at his retirement in 2020. Bates was honored with the title of Professor Emeritus for his long- standing and continued proponency of the college.

A registered architect, Bates is NCARB certified and an AIA member. He holds an undergraduate degree in interior design from Auburn University's School of Architecture and a master's in architecture from the University of Miami. He also studied at the Attingham Summer School and Sotheby's Institute of Art, taking courses in French polish finishing and oil and water gilding. A longtime member of the ICAA, he has held the title of Fellow since 2000. Bates' work has been noted in *Vogue*, *Monocle*, and *Period Homes* among many other publications, and he has lectured in the US and abroad.

Bates left ACBA and Charleston for New York City to lead Fairfax & Sammons Architects, where he had worked early in his career as a draftsman and construction administrator. Here, he continues to champion classical design.

David Riccio, PA AIC, RP APT

John Canning & Co.

A principal with and president of John Canning & Co., David Riccio is a nationally recognized leader in architectural conservation and restoration with over 30 years' experience.

Riccio's journey began as an apprentice, with rigorous training under the tutelage of John Canning. Following a syllabus inspired by the esteemed London & City Guilds, Riccio completed an intensive 6,000-hour program, which immersed him in the meticulous techniques of 19th-century English and French decorators.

Through continued learning and professional development, the craftsman deepened his expertise in ornamental plastering, mastering the consolidation and stabilization of historic plasterwork and the art of traditional three-coat application. His training in paint microscopy, color, and material analysis enables him to assess the condition of historic finishes and develop appropriate treatment plans.

With a passion for church decoration, Riccio established Canning Liturgical Arts in 2015 to address the nationwide demand for church restoration and beautification. Canning Liturgical Arts is now a recognized designer of decorative finishes in ecclesiastical art and decoration.

As a leading expert in architectural conservation and restoration, Riccio has helped shape some of America's most famous buildings, from the Virginia State Capitol to Radio City Music Hall. To him, his career is much more than just a job—it is an undertaking to sustain and grow the craft of architectural conservation. In a world that often prioritizes speed over quality, this master artisan reminds us of the beauty and significance of traditional craftsmanship.

Eric N. Kuchar

MCWB Architects

Eric Kuchar is deeply passionate about historic buildings. “I’ve spent my career looking at buildings that have lasted because they were designed using traditional principles,” says the building conservator. “It’s this knowledge that allows me to evolve with and adapt to the challenges of today.”

His nearly 30 years’ experience—working with nonprofits, on sensitive cultural sites, and in the field conducting building assessments—provides clients with successful results. These outcomes deliver a strong value to the community

At MCWB Architects, a full-service architecture, planning, and historic preservation firm, he works as senior manager in the Williamsburg, Virginia, office. During his 16 years of tenure with MCWB, he worked on several culturally significant restoration projects, including Mount Vernon, Montpelier, Monticello, Poplar Forest, the New York State Capitol, Annapolis State House, and numerous 18th- and 19th-century buildings throughout the eastern seaboard. He has managed several significant higher education projects at UVA, Hampden-Sydney College, and Sweet Briar College.

Prior to joining MCWB Architects, Kuchar co-owned the Traditional Building Collaborative, a historic architectural and preservation consulting firm. Following this endeavor, he spent five years in the public sector at the New York State Historic Preservation Office, where he assisted building owners on preservation projects.

Whether the day calls for leading a collaborative design team, assisting with grants and tax credits, consulting with preservation offices, or conducting field assessments, Kuchar continually strives to meet project expectations without sacrificing authenticity. His efforts are helping preserve the country’s architectural history but also shaping it for years to come.

Thomas Jester, FAIA, FAPT, LEED AP

Quinn Evans

Thomas Jester is principal and chief operating officer of Quinn Evans, a full-service architecture, interior design, planning, and landscape architecture firm with six offices throughout the Mid-Atlantic and the Midwest.

A national leader in historic preservation, Jester has directed many of the 200-person-strong firm’s most challenging projects. “Working on the preservation and renewal of significant civic buildings requires a rigor and ability to actively listen to the building and the client,” he explains. “Our goal is always to develop design solutions that balance retention of what makes the buildings significant while making them work for today’s needs.”

Jester has also been a key member of the firm’s multidisciplinary team that is modernizing the Smithsonian Institution’s National Air and Space Museum, one of the largest museum renovation projects in history. Other high-profile projects include the modernization of the National Academy of Sciences on the National Mall; the renovation of Old City Hall in Richmond; and the renovation of the Mid-Century Modern Arvonne Fraser Library in Minneapolis.

Besides significant architectural projects, Jester believes in giving back to the building community by actively sharing his knowledge via speaking engagements, publications, professional affiliations, and volunteer work. He is currently part of the national AIA HRC leadership and will be chair in 2028.

“Whether integrating systems or an addition, design excellence in preservation is all about managing necessary change sensitively,” says the award-winning architect. Ultimately, seeing the impact of his work in local communities is one of the greatest rewards.

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