



UNCHARTED HORIZONS

AIA OKLAHOMA 2025 CONFERENCE ON ARCHITECTURE

22 - 23 OCTOBER 2025 | SKIRVIN HOTEL | OKLAHOMA CITY

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22

8:00 A.M.

REGISTRATION

9:00 – 9:30 A.M.

WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS

9:30 – 10:30 A.M.

OPENING KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Sponsored by ZFI Engineering

OKLAHOMA'S BOOM AND BUST ECONOMY: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR ARCHITECTS (1 LU)

Dr. Bob Blackburn | Ballroom

This will be an engaging and insightful presentation with historian Dr. Bob Blackburn — one of Oklahoma's most captivating storytellers! With his vast knowledge of Oklahoma's rich history and its built environment, Dr. Blackburn will take you on a fascinating journey through the state's boom-and-bust economy and reveal how these economic cycles have shaped our communities.

10:30 – 11:00 A.M.

TRADESHOW

WE LOVE OUR CONFERENCE PARTNERS!

Be sure to stop by their booths and say hi, get your TRADESHOW BINGO sticker and learn about the products and services they have to offer.

11:00 – 12:00 P.M.

BREAKOUTS

CULTURAL SENSITIVITY AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT: LESSONS FROM THE PUEBLO PINTADO HEALTHCARE CENTER (1 HSW)

Presented by Nicole Harris, AIA; Donnie Gillespie, AIA and Bob Dotson | Coreslab Structures Room

Discover how cultural sensitivity enhances program development in underdeveloped regions, integrating community needs with architectural solutions. Explore stakeholder engagement, adaptive design strategies, and ethical considerations in this insightful session.

ENHANCE YOUR HUMAN CENTRIC LIGHTING (1 HSW)

Presented by Justin Watson |

Redbud Architectural Systems Room

This program provides an in-depth exploration of Human Centric Lighting (HCL), focusing on its fundamental elements and significance in modern lighting design. This session will guide participants in specifying effective control narratives for HCL designs, ensuring optimal integration and performance

12:00 – 1:30 P.M.

LUNCH KEYNOTE

SCHOLARSHIP & AXP FRIENDLY FIRM RECOGNITION

Sponsored by The Boldt Company

BUILDING COMMUNITY (1 HSW)

Presented by Steve Dumez, FAIA | Ballroom

This presentation will introduce the architecture and design practice of EskewDumezRipple. Guided by a collaborative and inclusive design process, their projects emerge from listening, engaging, and amplifying the voices of community. Across a wide variety of scales and typologies, the work reflects a commitment to culture, climate, and context, demonstrating how thoughtful design can elevate civic life and marry beauty and performance through research and practice. In doing so, the studio advances a vision of architecture as a catalyzing force for equity, resilience, community engagement, and place.

1:40 – 2:40 P.M.

BREAKOUTS

IMPROVING NURSING HOME DEMENTIA CARE OUTCOMES THROUGH EVIDENCE-BASED BUILDING DESIGN: CAPTURING MISSED OPPORTUNITIES (1 HSW)

Presented by Shakil Ahmad Shimul, Julie Gordon and Dr. Hongwan Li | Coreslab Structures Room

Acknowledging the importance of the connection between dementia patients and their built environment, an interdisciplinary team from the University of Oklahoma examined this relationship through a comprehensive framework. The team investigated three nursing homes in Oklahoma and proposed an effective method for highlighting critical subjects and recommending possible enhancements.

MIDWEST MODERN – THE JOURNEY OF FREESE ARCHITECTURE (1 LU)

Presented by Brian L. Freese, AIA |

Redbud Architectural Systems Room

Since founding Freese Architecture in 1994, Brian L. Freese has created places that are modern yet fitting to the context of Oklahoma and Midwest America. This presentation of his more notable homes maps the journey Freese chose early in his career, embodying his individual design approach he calls Midwest Modern.

TOUR THE HARLOW: A TIMELESS SYMBOL OF STYLE AND SOPHISTICATION (1 HSW)

Led by Tradesman Architectural Studios |

Meet at the Registration Table

Confidently rooted in its modernist Art Deco identity, The Harlow reimagines the charisma, opulence, and elegance of the Roaring 20s and brings back to downtown Oklahoma City the electric, effervescent energy that defined the city in the early 20th century. Bearing the namesake of one of Hollywood's quintessential cultural icons, Jean Harlow, The Harlow pays homage to her trailblazing legacy of refined poise and independence, offering Oklahomans a unique living experience that is the epitome of consummate luxury and unparalleled quality. Boasting 265 high-end, upscale apartments and over 4,300 sq ft of retail and restaurant space—including the reintroduction of access to the OKC Underground—The Harlow combines two historic buildings integral to the story of Oklahoma City. Cost: \$20 (Space is limited).

2:40–3:10 P.M.

TRADESHOW

Visit our Conference Partners in their booths

3:20 – 4:20 P.M.

BREAKOUTS

BEYOND THE BLUEPRINT: SMALL PRACTICE STRATEGIES FOR RESILIENT, AFFORDABLE, AND CONTEXTUAL ARCHITECTURE (1 HSW)

Presented by Adam Lanman, AIA | Coreslab Structures Room

Explore how small firms can deliver resilient, affordable architecture through innovative design strategies. Learn real-world approaches to material selection, passive systems, adaptable planning, and cost-effective construction techniques that enhance health, safety, and welfare in the built environment.

WINNING WITHOUT A FIGHT: DESIGN-LED

COLLABORATION WITH YOUR CONSTRUCTION TEAM (1 LU)

Presented by Jon Mindrup, AIA, DBIA, LEED AP and Sean Creque |

Redbud Architectural Systems Room

This interactive session will quickly explore project case studies in which the architect led a process for collaboration with a construction team that resulted in a better project outcome. Each study will also highlight a key project lesson and method for implementation so that each attendee can leave equipped to lead these techniques themselves on their own projects moving forward and earn a black belt in avoiding the fight.

4:30 – 5:30 P.M.

CLOSING KEYNOTE

Sponsored by Ten Works Inspired Fabrication

BEYOND THE FAÇADE: INNOVATIVE DESIGN IN HISTORIC COMMERCIAL DISTRICTS (1 HSW)

SARAH LEMBKE, AIA | Ballroom

Explore the evolving role of architects in preservation-based revitalization, offering practical tools for rehabilitation projects, additions and new construction in historic districts. We'll break down design fundamentals for existing buildings, discuss real-world development pressures and community issues, and explore how thoughtful, creative design can be the solution everyone is seeking.

6:00 – 7:30 P.M.

RECEPTION

THE VAULT AT THE NATIONAL (120 N. ROBINSON AVENUE)

Join us Wednesday evening for a reception at The Vault at The National, where we'll gather for an evening of great food, refreshing drinks, and engaging conversation. All conference attendees, sponsors, and exhibitors are welcome—don't miss this chance to connect, celebrate, and be inspired in one of Oklahoma City's most iconic spaces.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23**8:00 A.M.****REGISTRATION & BREAKFAST****8:30 – 9:30 A.M.****BREAKOUTS****AN INTRODUCTION TO CONCEPTUAL DESIGN PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS FOR CARBON NEUTRALITY (1 HSW)**

Presented by Lee Fithian, AIA | Coreslab Structures Room

Presentation of free software tools for conceptual design analysis to reduce energy usage and limit operational carbon. Based upon the author's chapter in the book "Teaching Carbon Neutral Design in North America: Twenty Award-Winning Architectural Design Studio Methodologies."

COMPETENCE = CONFIDENCE: STRATEGIES AND TOOLS FOR STAFF DEVELOPMENT (1 LU)

Presented by Jared Zurn, AIA, NCARB, CAE and Nate Baker, AIA | Redbud Architectural Systems Room

Use the NCARB Competency Framework to determine areas for staff development. As you help your team gain confidence in their skills and abilities, you'll build a stronger, more resilient practice. .

9:40 – 10:40 A.M.**OPENING KEYNOTE**

Sponsored by PEC

COLLABORATIVE INTELLIGENCE: SPECULATING UNKNOWN TERRITORY (1 HSW)

Presented by Karl Daubmann, FAIA, FAAR and Sara Codarin | Ballroom

AI image generation challenges the premise of the design process through the creation of complex and finished images instantaneously. We no longer have to move from abstraction to reality through a drawn out process. These new tools offer efficiencies but can also challenge foundational approaches to amplify existing processes and produce transformative opportunities. We will share AI workflows to navigate 2D, 3D, and 4D through various case studies. By deploying AI as a new form of collaboration, architects are empowered to make critical decisions in new ways.

10:40 – 11:10 A.M.**TRADESHOW**

Visit our Conference Partners in their booths! Complete your TRADESHOW BINGO card!

DOWNTOWN OKLAHOMA CITY ARCHITECTURAL WALKING TOUR (1 LU)

Presented by the Oklahoma City Foundation for Architecture | Meet at the Registration Table

Take a step through time and design with our guided walking tour of significant architecture in downtown Oklahoma City. Beginning and ending at the storied Skirvin Hilton Hotel—a 1911 Renaissance Revival landmark—this tour explores the evolving architectural landscape of Oklahoma City's urban core. As we wind through the streets of downtown, you'll encounter some of the city's most iconic and historically significant buildings. Along the way, you'll learn about the architects and design movements that shaped these buildings—from Beaux-Arts to Art Deco to modern and contemporary styles. Cost: \$20 (Space is limited).

11:15 A.M. – 12:15 P.M.**BREAKOUTS****EXPANDING HOUSING THROUGH ZONING REFORM, DESIGN THINKING, AND ADVOCACY (1 HSW)**

Presented by Lisa Chronister, FAIA | Corsleab Structures Room

Architects design infill housing for individual project sites all the time. But what if they designed zoning regulations that shape infill housing across an entire city? With so many communities facing a housing crisis, come learn how architects can help through design thinking as well as legislation and advocacy.

SAY HI TO HIAWATHA...AND SUBURBAN HOME DESIGN IN OKLAHOMA (1 HSW)

Presented by Ronald H. Frantz, Jr., FAIA | Redbud Architectural Systems Room

At age 14, an aspiring architect checked out a handful of house plan booklets from the public library in Warr Acres, Oklahoma. Fifty-three years later, Ronald Frantz continues to research Hiawatha T. Estes, a prolific California-based house designer. The presentation will explore the surprising Oklahoma roots of this internationally-recognized designer.

12:15 – 1:45 P.M.**LUNCH KEYNOTE & LEADERSHIP AIA GRADUATION**

Sponsored by Southwest Terrazzo Association

VOICES TO VISION: HOW STORYTELLING SHAPES THE WAY WE DESIGN FOR STUDENT BELONGING (1 HSW)

Presented by Olivia Graf | Ballroom

Storytelling in design goes beyond aesthetics — it builds pride, belonging, and identity for students and their communities. When student and community voices shape the design narrative, schools become more than facilities; they become places where culture, history, and tradition come alive. In this session, Olivia Graf of Architecture for Education will share case studies — from Rio del Sol’s celebration of Chumash culture to the Rubidoux High School Concert Hall’s commitment to music equity — showing how story-driven design fosters student success and strengthens community connections.

1:45 – 2:15 P.M.**TRADESHOW**

Visit our Conference Partners in their booths! Last chance to get your TRADESHOW BINGO card filled to be entered to win a door prize!

2:15 – 3:15 P.M.**BREAKOUTS****PURPOSE DRIVEN INNOVATION: BEHIND THE SCENES OF GUERNSEY’S HQ (1 HSW)**

Presented by Mauro Dallabattista, AIA; Kasha Egan, PE, SE, CWI, PTI, ICCMSI, Eric Taylor, PE, LEED AP and Kyle Nelson | Coreslab Structures Room

Explore how Guernsey’s 63,000-square-foot headquarters redefined our approach toward design excellence using innovations from mass timber, weathering steel, advanced glazing, and other wellness-driven systems. This session reveals behind-the-scenes insights into the design, permitting, and construction process—highlighting how integrated innovation and purposeful decision-making can shape high-performance, human-centered environments and transform a firm’s design philosophy.

AI WITH INTEGRITY: LEVERAGING OPEN-SOURCE TOOLS FOR MEANINGFUL DESIGN SOLUTIONS (1 HSW)

Presented by Hans E. Butzer FAIA and Evan Sack, AIA | Redbud Architectural Systems Room

Discover how the emerging business model of Dolese Bros. leadership and the architect’s innovative approach to health design fused into the first WELL Building Institute’s “silver-certified” work of architecture in the State of Oklahoma. A design process inspired by rock quarries, shifting landscapes, and the chemistry of concrete will be illustrated alongside the latest highlights of evidence-based design that fosters better employee health, productivity, and well-being.

3:30 P.M.**JOIN US IN THE BALLROOM FOR THE TRADESHOW BINGO DOOR PRIZE DRAWING & ARCPAC RAFFLE DRAWING!****3:45 P.M.****THANK YOU FOR COMING!****LEARN MORE ABOUT THE SPEAKERS****aiaoklahoma.com**

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