

Vision Statement

After registering as a licensed architect in the state of Texas in 1996, I became a member of AIA in 1997. Since then, I have maintained my full AIA membership for 26 years. After I expatriated to China in 2010, I also transferred my membership from Dallas chapter to Shanghai chapter when it was established. AIA has always played a crucial role in my professional career.

Currently, our region, industry, and market are confronting unprecedented challenges. Many firms are downsizing or closing down, and most foreign architects have left China. Long-time sponsors are grappling with financial constraints and reducing budgets. Moreover, a significant number of young professionals are switching careers and leaving our industry. These are undeniably trying times that demand strong leadership and a capable team for our chapter.

We should actively recruit new members to ensure our chapter's growth and influence on our community. We must take advantage of all the latest technology and popular effective mediums to keep promoting AIA's influence in our region to promote design excellence and attract new generations. We need strength the relationship with colleges and universities to build the influence on architecture students. We should engage more with big AIA firms for their support. AIA should not merely be a social club but a professional organization that upholds high academic and professional standards.

We must provide our members with highly valuable and meaningful services, such as Continuing Education learning units, Architect register examination help, and support their professional development. We should keep developing our learning programs, including project tours, exhibitions, seminars, and lectures. AIA chapter should be a learning hub or platform to encourage all kinds of learning with more creative methods. AIA should provide chapter members with more opportunities to expand their network, find new jobs or work, career development.

Furthermore, we must continue to foster, continue and develop close relationships with other professional organizations like ULI, ASSC, RIBA, AMCHAM, and local universities to engage the local community in design awards program, co-organized public events and promoting sustainable development, ESG and AIA 2030 goals.

We should keep enhancing and enriching our AIA design awards program and make it as influential as in the US. We will invite and engage more influential design jury members and develop different award programs at different professional levels (students/ unlicensed young professionals/architects/firm/project, etc.) I got my first AIA Dallas Chapter award in 1994 for Ken Robert Delineation Competition-Professional. This award influences my architect career significantly by engaging me with AIA events and activities. As a new graduate and young designer, I got the great opportunity to know so many excellent mentors I can learn from outside the office. I believe that experience can also be helpful for today's young people.

In 2018, I left the firm CRTKL where I worked for more than 19 years and joined HKS, the 2nd largest US architecture firm. As HKS's East Asia regional director, I worked with my team to grow HKS China from 20 people project office to 60 people office with Commercial, Healthcare and Sports all 3 major practice in less than 4 years. My career path taught me that TEAM is the key to win our goal. All these objectives cannot be accomplished by a few individuals alone but require a robust team comprising passionate architects and design professionals, even during current challenging times. We eagerly welcome more young professionals to join us in creating a better future together.