

Robert Benson

Design Director / Associate Principal

education

Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Master of Architecture, AIA Gold Medal, 1996

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Bachelor of Science in Architectural Studies, 1993

affiliations

Chicago Architecture Club
President 2004-05,
2005-2006, Board of Directors
Chicago Loop Alliance

Robert is an Associate Principal and Design Director for the Chicago Studio of 4240 Architecture. He is a respected panelist, most recently at the Greentown USA conference, a published and exhibited expert designer, and a finalist in a number of national and international design competitions and exhibitions including the Burnham Plan Centennial's 'Big, Bold, Visionary. Chicago Considers the Next Century'. Three recent projects, for which Robert was the lead designer, received AIA citation of merit design awards. Two of which are acclaimed for their high caliber of urban design: 4240 Architecture's collaboration with Thornton Tomasetti Engineers on the concept for the world's longest clear span pedestrian bridge, and 4240's innovative design for a community public space which is variable at the whim of the community. Another proposed design for a Customs and Border Patrol in Van Horn ingeniously manipulated harsh Texan weather conditions to the facility's advantage.

His cumulative project experience is varied and includes large-scale hospitality, governmental facilities, commercial architecture, corporate interiors, municipal facilities, higher education, exhibition centers, low-income housing, high-end custom housing, multi family housing and park planning.

After finishing his graduate work at MIT, Robert was invited to attend the Ecole D'art Americaines-Ecole des Beaux Arts program in Fontainebleau, France where he received awards for his Arc et Senans and Chateau installations.

Robert is an Adjunct Professor at the University of Illinois - Chicago School of Architecture. He is also an invited critic at numerous schools. Robert was a finalist in the AIA Chicago's 2003 'Emerging Visions in Architecture' award. He has also been a member of the Chicago Architectural Club's Board of Directors and was elected president for the 2004-05 and 2005-6 seasons.

Robert was honored with placement in Building Design + Construction's 2007 top 40 under 40 program which recognizes outstanding leaders in the AEC industry. He continues his association with BD+C as award committee member, critic

and design consultant valued for his imaginative, sustainable design aesthetic.

Robert is also an accomplished artist and was recently featured in a solo show for his photography entitled "no thing" at the TOJO Gallery, Chicago.

projects

Commercial Interiors:

Aurora Health Care, Milwaukee, WI
Chicago Manufacturing Center, Chicago, IL
Electronic Arts, Chicago, IL
Investment Bank Office, Chicago, IL
Kerosene Creative Services, Chicago, IL
Law Office, Chicago, IL
Quixote Corporation, Chicago, IL
Rohner Letterpress, Chicago, IL
The Poetry Foundation, Chicago, IL
Polk Bros Foundation, Chicago, IL
Sapient, Chicago, IL
Transwestern Commercial Services, Dallas, TX
Transwestern Investment Company, Chicago, IL

Commercial:

101 North Wacker, Chicago, IL
150 North Wacker Drive, Chicago, IL
200 North LaSalle, Chicago, IL
Law Office, Chicago, IL
Mesa Del Sol: Culver Studios, Albuquerque, NM

Higher Education:

21st Century Housing Project and Student Life and Modular Student Housing Study
Bouwkunde Building- Faculty of Architecture, Delft University of Technology, Holland, Netherlands
University of Illinois - Urbana Champaign Illini Union Remodel, Urbana, IL
University of Illinois - Urbana Champaign Ikenberry Residence Hall, Urbana, IL
University of Illinois - Urbana Champaign FAR Oglesby/Release Renovation, Urbana, IL
Public/Private Enterprise - Modular Student Housing, Dekalb, IL

Institutional / Not-for-Profit:

Department of Homeland Security - Citizenship and Immigration Services, Irving, TX
Department of Homeland Security/Customs and Border Protection, Van Horn, TX
GSA Recovery State Street South, Chicago, IL
Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Denver, CO
Mixed Use Municipal Building, Highland Park, IL
NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service, Gloucester, MA
Peace Lutheran Church, Lombard, IL
The Poetry Foundation, Chicago, IL
Polk Bros Foundation, Chicago, IL
Unity Temple Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Oak Park, IL

Residential:

2501 Larimer Mixed Use, Denver, CO
Blue Ribbon Loft Apartments, Milwaukee, WI
Mill Quarter Mixed Use, Bend, OR
Private Residence, Chicago, IL
Kingsbury Estates, Chicago, IL
Wrightwood Residence, Chicago, IL
Geisler Residence, Chicago, IL
Wolfram Residences, Chicago, IL

Entertainment:

Shanghai Entertainment Club, Shanghai, China

Hospitality:

Hotel/Casino, Atlantic City, NJ

Urban Planning:

Glow Bridge, Pittsburgh, PA

Hydrogenerator, Chicago, IL

Urban Open, Chicago, IL

Visible City, Web-based

project awards

Hydrogenerator (revitalized 3 mile train line) a 4240/

Gensler collaboration, Chicago, IL

2009 International SPARK Silver Award

Customs and Border Patrol, Van Horn, TX

Chicago AIA Citation of Merit, Unbuilt Design, 2008

Glow Bridge, Pittsburgh, PA

International SPARK Design Award,

Top SPARK Award for Architectural Design 2007

West End Bridge Design Competition, Pittsburgh PA

Honorable Mention, 2006

Chicago AIA Citation of Merit, Urban Design, 2006

Urban Open Design Competition, Chicago

Finalist, 2006

Chicago AIA Citation of Merit, Urban Design, 2006

Eisenhower Interstate Design Competition Exhibit

Honorable Mention, 2006

Chicago Prize- Chicago Portal Competition,

Finalist, 2003

Investment Bank Office, Chicago AIA

Design Award, 2003

Polk Bros Foundation, Chicago AIA

Design Award, 2003

Big Shoulders Small Schools, Chicago Public Schools

Competition, Notable Design Award Winner, 2001

City of Chicago Visitors Center Design Competition, Jury

Selected Finalist, 2001

Our Lady of Guadalupe Church Design, Chicago AIA

Citation of Merit, 2000

TKTS Times Square Ticket Booth Design Competition,

Exhibition selection, 2000

Millennium Plaza Competition, Wheeling IL,

Honorable Mention, 1999

Townhouse Revisited Competition, Graham Foundation,

Honorable Mention, 1999

Untitled Installation, Ecole des Beaux Arts

Arc et Senans Prize, 1996

honors

40 under 40, Building Design + Construction, 2007

Emerging Visions in Architecture, Finalist, Knoll

International + American Institute of Architects-
Chicago, 2003

Invitation and Scholarship, Ecole D'art Amercaines-

Ecole des Beaux Arts, 1996

American Institute of Architects Henry Adams

Scholastic Gold Medal, MIT, 1996

professional experience

4240 Architecture

Chicago

Senior Associate, 2004-present

von Weise Associates

Chicago

Project Manager, 1999-2003

Booth/Hansen

Chicago

Project Architect, 1997-1999

Skidmore Owings & Merrill

Chicago

Project Architect, 1996-1997

Robert Benson

Design Director / Associate Principal

[continued]