

## Nils Schweizer Community Service Award 2018



### **Holly B. Stenger, AIA**

**Holly Stenger, AIA, is a leader with a strong commitment to the community as an architect, educator, and active member of the profession.** As an architect, her influence on policies and projects within Central Florida elevates sustainability, aesthetics, safety and accessibility within the public and private realm. Holly uses her experience in service and leadership to inspire colleagues, students, and peers to raise the standards of the architectural profession and community awareness in these areas.

Holly Stenger has stood out as a leader with a strong commitment to the community as an architect, educator, and active member of the profession. Holly has a passion for good design in all realms of the built environment. Her unique **career path as an architect and urban designer includes public sector work at the City of Orlando for 10 years, as well as currently practicing in the private sector as a Senior Architect at Walt Disney Parks and Resorts.** While working at the City of Orlando, her influence on policies and projects within the City elevated sustainability, aesthetics, safety and accessibility within the public and private realm. Holly also uses her experience in service and leadership to inspire colleagues, students, and peers to raise the standards of the architectural profession and community awareness in these areas.

### **Professional Leadership**

Holly believes that it is important for Architects to be involved as professionals within their community. In partnership with the AIA, Holly has practiced this belief by participating and volunteering with community organizations, such as the **ACE (Architecture Constructions and Engineering) Mentorship program.** In 2017, she was a judge at the 2017 ACE Gala, and participated in providing feedback to the high school students who presented their year-long projects for the judges. Also, Holly was instrumental in coordinating a partnership between AIA Orlando and the **Center for Independent Living**, and volunteered during an accessible ramp “build” for citizens in need. Holly also participates in the annual **CANstruction** event locally, with her teammates from WDW Parks and Resorts.



*Figure 1: Volunteering for CIL Ramp Build*

*Figure 2: Maxwell and Karmann Stenger during CANstruction 2017*

Holly is a dedicated and passionate advocate for urban design and architecture. While serving as a civic architect at the City of Orlando, her service in the public sector promoted and defended excellence in design for the benefit of all citizens. Her contribution crossed projects that ranged from private single family homes to Creative Villages and Medical Cities, and public projects from fire stations and police headquarters, sports arenas to the Performing Arts Center, not to mention retail developments including small scale main streets to big box developments. She also contributed to policies and ordinances that will benefit the City for years to come. Examples include **the creation of the Appearance Review Board, City Lighting Standards, Community Sustainability Plan, Creative Village Streetscape Standards, Baldwin Park, and Project DTO**. The policies and projects that she contributed to have no doubt changed the aesthetics of Orlando from 2005-2015, and her legacy established high standard of development throughout the City.

## Academia

Holly shares her unique perspective and knowledge of the profession with many students studying at Valencia, UCF and UF CityLab School of Architecture. She has taught as an Adjunct Professor in both the **School of Architecture and the School of Public Administration at UCF**. In addition, she has participated in countless reviews at the local schools of architecture, as well as guest-lectures at Rollins College, UCF, and Women in Architecture events.

## AIA Florida & Orlando Chapter



*Figure 3: Panelists Holly Stenger, AIA, Lisa Chronister, AIA, Lee Quill, FAIA - AIA Conference on Architecture 2017 - "Shaping Communities through Design Review Committees".*

Holly served as **AIA Orlando Chapter President in 2017**, and represented the Chapter during the **2017 National AIA Conference on Architecture**, which was hosted in Orlando. In addition to her role as President, she also contributed to the Conference by organizing two walking tours of Baldwin Park, and was a speaker on a panel with Lisa Chronister, AIA, City of Oklahoma Planning, and Lee Quill, FAIA, Founding Principal of Cunningham Quill Architects of D.C. for a session titled "Shaping Communities through Design Review Committees".

Additional accomplishments during her term as President included appointing a task force to search for a new AIA Orlando Executive Director, appointing a task force to help with initial efforts for the Pulse memorial, and with the Board, a review and update to the 2020 Strategic Plan for the Chapter.

Currently, Holly continues to sit on the AIA Orlando Board as Immediate Past President. Also, she has been appointed the Co-Chair of the **AIA Florida Convention Planning Committee** with Jordan Yee, AIA; is a member of the Florida Architects' Political Advocacy Committee (FAPAC); and is on the AIA Florida Professional Development Committee.





Figure 4: Tallahassee Legislative Day 2015

Holly has been directly involved in leadership roles in various organizations since she began her architecture career in college. When she moved to Orlando and found her first full time position, it was only a matter of months before she was involved in the Orlando Young Architects Forum. She also sat on the USGBC Central Florida founding Board of Directors and became the Chair of Communications for two terms. Once obtaining her license in 2007, her involvement with the AIA increased as a participant on the Programs and Events committee. Holly was elected **AIA State**

**Director for the 2014-2015 term.** During her term, she served on the AIA FL Communications Committee, Governmental Affairs Task Force, and has participated in Legislative Day.

While serving on the AIA FL Communications Committee, she was involved in the redesign of the AIA FLA website and re-organizing the quarterly Florida and Caribbean Architecture publication. At the same time, she sat on the AIA Orlando Technology Committee and contributed to the redesign of the AIA Orlando website, refreshing the image of the Orlando Chapter to web visitors and improving the interface with local members.

In 2015, Holly was elected President-Elect for the AIA Orlando Chapter, and spent the following years preparing and planning for the AIA National Conference on Architecture, which Orlando hosted in 2017.

## Personal

From 2008-2011, Holly collaborated with her husband on designing and constructing their personal residence within the Traditional City of Orlando. The residence received LEED Gold certification in 2012 shortly after completion. While both were Adjunct Professors and architects, the construction and the project as a whole truly became a community effort. They often had students or colleagues participate in the construction of the house and had multiple tours for the AIA and USGBC Chapters while under construction. Part of the goal was to teach first-hand how a single family home could be constructed in a sustainable way, with a modest budget.



Figure 5: Stenger Residence

## Conclusion

The AIA defines a Citizen Architect as someone who *“uses her insights, talents, training, and experience to contribute meaningfully, beyond self, to the improvement of the community. The Citizen Architect advocates for higher living standards, the creation of a sustainable environment, quality of life, and the greater good.”* Holly exemplifies these defining characteristics in her personal and professional life. Orlando is fortunate to have Holly as a Citizen Architect, and for that she should be recognized with the **2018 AIA Orlando Nils M. Schweizer Community Service Award.**



Figure 6: Holly Stenger, President-Elect 2017, Tim Gibson - President 2016, and Mike Chatham, Immediate Past-President, Philadelphia AIA National Convention

## Timeline:

### Licensure and Certifications:

- 2006 CPTED Training – National Institute of Crime Prevention
- 2007 Architect License State of Florida
- 2008 LEED AP Accreditation
- 2013 State of California Certified - Safety Assessment Program

### AIA Orlando Chapter:

- 2002- Current AIA Member
  - Programs and Events Committee
  - Website re-design Taskforce Committee 2014
- 2014-2015 AIA State Director - AIA Orlando Chapter Representative
  - Communications Committee member, participated in redesigning AIA FL website
  - Governmental Affairs Task Force Committee 2015, restructuring of the FL Chapter by-laws to align with National AIA, reducing the FL Board from 55+ members to 22 members and a Strategic Council.
- 2015-2017 AIA National Convention Orlando Planning Committee member
- 2016 AIA Orlando Board Member: President-Elect
- 2017 AIA Orlando Chapter President
- 2018 AIA Orlando Board Member: Immediate Past-President

### Academia:

- 2011 UCF School of Architecture, Adjunct Professor: Environmental Technology II
- 2015 UCF School of Public Administration, Adjunct Professor: Urban Design

### Other Association Involvement:

- 2002 AIA Associate Member, Young Architects Forum. Joined AIA Programs Committee.
- 2003 CNU (Congress for New Urbanism) member, participated in the creation of the CNU Florida Chapter.
- 2004 USGBC Member, Participated as a Founding Board Member on the USGBC Central Florida Chapter, Chair of Communications.

### City of Orlando Planning Division Roles and Projects:

- 2008-2015 Baldwin Park Town Planner
- 2008-2009 Interim City Architect
- 2010-2011 Development Review Committee (DRC) Staff Coordinator
- 2011 Appearance Review Board ordinance creation and implementation
- 2013 Community Action Plan (Sustainability Plan), Greenworks Orlando – Envision 2040 Design Competition Project Manager
- 2013-2014 City of Orlando Lighting Ordinance creation and implementation
- 2014-2015 Project DTO Aesthetics and Open Space Committee Staff Coordinator
- 2012-2015 FDOT Ultimate I-4: City of Orlando Aesthetics Committee
- 2015 Electronic Plans Review implementation task force



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Project Manager, Urban Design Review projects of note:

- Sodo Target Development
- Mills Park Planned Development
- Lake Nona: UCF School of Medicine, Burnham Institute, Laureate Park, Village Center, Town Center, Ronald McDonald House, Lake Nona Master Sign Plan
- Creative Village Planned Development and Streetscape Standards.
- Amway Center and Parking Garage
- Dr. Phillips Performing Arts Center
- Citrus Bowl Renovation (2014)
- Crescent Central Station
- 899 North Orange Ave. (NORA)
- East End Market
- Lee Vista Promenade



Figure 7: Dr Phillips Center Beam Raising Ceremony- Jacki Hale, AIA, Jennifer Moreau, Holly Stenger, AIA

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Figure 8: AIA Orlando Leaders at Grassroots 2017, Clarice Sollog, AIA, Holly Stenger, AIA, Dan Kirby, FAIA, Michael Lingerfeld, FAIA, and Andy MacPhee, AIA





*Figure 9: AIA Orlando Design Awards 2017, Women in Architecture, Kandice Kroger, AIA, Ronok Nichols, AIA, Jacki Hale, AIA, Rebecca Talbert, AIA, Debora Lupton, FAIA, and Holly Stenger, AIA*