

ByDESIGN

An Online Journal of Exceptional Achievement

**George
Kunihiro**

FAIA

Architect / Professor

Letting the Candle Burn to
the End

**16th Annual
CASA Alumni
Scholarships**

**ISAAC
ALCANTAR
HDR**

CASA Alumni at
Work

OUR TEAM

Editors

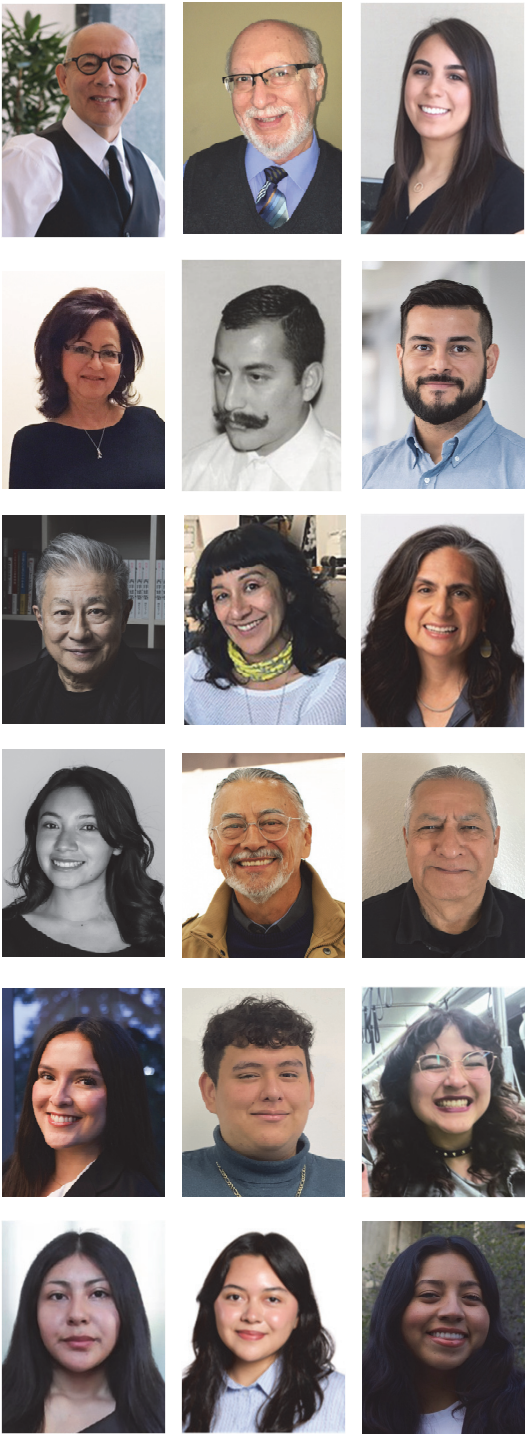
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CONTENTS

MEMO 2

Straighten Our Backs, Fight for Freedom
Rogelio R. Hernández, Publisher

Perspective 2

CASA Alumni
SCHOLARSHIPS



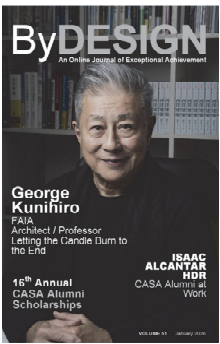
CASA Alumni Scholarships, Supporting the Dream for 15 Years
Aymee Barajas, Melissa Garcia, Patricia Alarcón

Architects Who Passed 3



Frank O. Gehry & Robert A.M. Stern
Joseph Martinez, Architect

Cover Story 4



George Kunihiro, FAIA, Architect / Professor
Letting the Candle Burn to the End
Joseph Martinez, Architect

CASA Alumni at Work 9



Supporting the Next Generation
Isaac Alcantar, Sr. Health Planner

Remembrance 11



Oswaldo Lopez, From El Rancho to the Big Leagues
Prof. Paul Lopez

CASA Now! 12



Serving, Supporting & Caring
Nohemi Hernandez, CASA President

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ON THE COVER

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Straighten Our Backs, Fight for Freedom

Rogelio Roy Hernández



Change does not roll in on the wheels of inevitability, but comes through continuous struggle. And so we must straighten our backs and work for our freedom. A man can't ride you unless your back is bent.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

The genesis for BD 15 years ago was to represent and support those who have struggled and excelled, despite hundreds of years of racial discrimination and repression. This is particularly applicable to immigrants and their progeny. When a regime places a target on the backs of immigrants, the outcome can only be fear, dread and death. In spite of past and present challenges our communities have survived and succeeded. The pages of ByDESIGN have been graced by these brilliant students, educators, and professionals, as is this case here.

This issue of BD celebrates the lives and achievement of those in the design community. The **Architects Who Passed** article by **Joseph Martinez** honors the lives of **Frank Gehry** and **Robert A. M. Stern**, giants who left an indelible mark on the practice of architecture.

The **Cover Story** on **George Kunihiro**, an alumnus of CED prior to attending Harvard GSD, went on to complete the rare circuit of teaching at Yale, Columbia and Harvard – and becoming an eminent international architect and professor.



George Kunihiro FAIA
Architect / Professor
M Arch, Harvard University GSD
BA Arch, UC Berkeley CED

The **CASA Alumni at Work** article by **Isaac Alcantar, HDR**, describes a successful professional trajectory and offers advice to design students.

The **Remembrance** piece by his brother, **Paul Lopez** honors and celebrates the life of Oswaldo Lopez, a close friend of mine for 53 years. The article evokes a deep sense of sorrow of a Chicano who came from humble roots and rose to the top of his industry. RIP my brother.

The **CASA Now!** article **Serving, Supporting & Caring**, by **Nohemi Hernandez** (CASA President), shares the makeup of the longest active student organization (of any type) at UC Berkeley's College of Environmental Design.

As the country honors Martin Luther King's birthday, and major US cities are occupied by private paramilitary armies, we urge all to straighten their backs, support each other, and dedicate ourselves to defending democracy. **Adelante!**

Activism Today

ByDESIGN Presents the 16th Annual CASA Alumni Awards

Fight the Power, Support Students

ByDESIGN Presents the CASA Alumni Awards program brings together Latino/a students, educators and professionals in the design community for an inspirational evening. The event provides a unique opportunity to make a donation to support low-income Latino/a, LGBTQ students at UC Berkeley, who live in a state of repressive fear for themselves and family members.

Once again, our partners, **Latinx in Architecture SF (LiASF)** will kick off this year's fund-raising effort with their exciting **El Arranque!** The fund-raising event represents the strong alliance between CASA Alumni Association and our strategic partner LiA SF for the last nine years. Our combined efforts represent a proactive 16-year commitment to recognizing and providing support -- scholarships, fellowships and internships to exceptional CASA students at UC Berkeley's College of Environmental Design.

In times like these, now more than ever, the daughters and sons of immigrants need your support!



February 24th AIA East Bay,
5:30 - 8:00 pm



15th Annual
CASA Alumni Scholarships

April 24th Wurster Hall Auditorium
UC Berkeley, 6:00 – 8:30 pm

For electronic contributions: <https://givebutter.com/ArbONm>

For checks: Center for Architecture + Design
Attn: CASA Alumni Scholarship
140 Sutter St, San Francisco, CA 94104

Checks payable: Center for Architecture + Design
Check subject line: CASA Alumni Scholarship,
Tax ID#: 20-2434734

Two very unique and celebrated gentlemen of American architecture passed away as we go to press. One an artist-architect and hyper-techno-computer junky, the other a dapper, scholar-architect, professor and later Dean. Both occupied center stage for more than five decades; they are respectively Frank O. Gehry (d. December 5, 2025) and Robert A.M. Stern (d. November 27, 2025).

Frank disrupted the practice of architecture in three different ways. First, with the "modernization" of his existing private home in Santa Monica, CA (1978) - off the shelf materials (e.g., chain link fencing, corrugation metal facades, etc.) re-constituted the otherwise "homely" house. Second, the Chiat/Day Building in Venice, CA (1991) - the care-free inclusion of King Kong size binoculars into the aesthetics, a collaboration with his artist-buddy Claes Oldenberg. And third, his tour de force, the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, Spain (1997) - best categorized in the architectural genre of deconstructivism, its non-linear surfaces of titanium, glass and limestone bend space and light into multiple, quasi-mobius strip.

Mr. Gehry designed elegant buildings in all four corners of the planet, lectured widely, and more recently was a Saarinen Visiting Professor at Yale University School of Architecture.

Bob will be remembered for three major achievements. First, as a prolific author and promoter of American Classicism. Second, as a practitioner with a collection of architectural works that exude charm and sublime composition. And third, in the capacity of Dean (1998-



2016), by rescuing the School of Architecture at Yale University - he directed the restoration of the University's Art and Architecture building, re-invigorated Perspecta the student journal, and tapped into his vast network of star-i- tects (Philip Johnson, Peter Eisenman, Sir Norman Foster, Dame Zaha Hadid, among others) to teach at his school.

I had the good fortune to enter and win a design competition in 1984 (Prospect Point, La Jolla, CA) with Bob - Wow! The stories I could tell!

Always the educator, he was our first commencement speaker at the New School of Architecture (San Diego) where I was the founding Dean. Rest assured, Bob occupies a special place in my heart, so much so that I send my best & brightest UC Berkeley CASA Alumni Scholars to Yale for their Master of Architecture Program.

Gran Arquitectos, descansen en paz.



George Kunihiro, Architect / Professor

Letting the Candle Burn to the End

Joseph Martinez, Architect



George, you've had an extraordinary 50-year career. How did you shape your path? What was it like to balance so many roles: professor, architect, scholar? Some would call you a Renaissance man.

"Renaissance man" is generous. But my introduction to the field had come at an early age. As a high school senior, newly admitted to UC Berkeley, I attended a lecture by Richard Neutra. I did not know who he was -- an 18-year-old seldom recognizes the giants of his future profession -- but I sat in the front row of Wurster Hall with a cassette recorder, capturing a voice that would soon be silenced. Neutra passed away in Japan just weeks later. I still have the tape, a reminder of how architecture first brushed against my life like a whisper.

At Berkeley, research and design coexisted in a rich, sometimes unruly ecosystem. Architects Dan Solomon, Joseph Esherick, and historian Spiro Kostof shaped my early enthusiasm.

Harvard was another world -- the world of Walter Gropius, Le Corbusier, Jose Luis Sert, Joseph Zalewski, and of course Fumihiko Maki, who's meticulous and human-scaled work would later become deeply influential to me. Yet Harvard taught me something else: that I was not a genius. I would not become the next Corbusier. And that realization, strangely, was liberating.

In a seminar on the business of architecture, we were asked to write about our own career path. I imagined it as a pyramid. At the apex stood the true legends of the field. I knew I would not join them. But I wrote that I wanted to stand just below the summit, close enough to speak to those giants, to call them by

“As a high school senior, newly admitted to UC Berkeley, I attended a lecture by Richard Neutra. I did not know who he was--an 18-year-old seldom recognizes the giants of his future profession - but I sat in the front row of Wurster Hall with a cassette recorder, capturing a voice that would soon be silenced. Neutra passed away in Japan just weeks later. I still have the tape, a reminder of how architecture first brushed against my life like a whisper.

name, to be invited to dinner or a journey. Not fame, but proximity to excellence. And I set a time frame: age fifty. That modest but audacious intention -- an architect not of myth, but of meaningful connection -- became my compass.

After graduation from GSD, I had an interview with Fumihiko Maki, who asked me to come to Tokyo. Then I waited a year—driving a cab in San Francisco—before receiving a letter saying he could not hire me due to the economic downturn following the oil shock.

Unexpectedly, I was invited to New York to help start an izakaya business.



**George Kunihiro,
Architect / Professor**

Before leaving for New York, I had translated several lectures by Japanese architects, including Tadao Ando. A year later, Ando invited me to translate for Rizzoli a project known as the “Chicago Papers”—a closed-door gathering where a dozen major architects critiqued one another’s work intensely over several days.

That room changed the trajectory of my life. I met César Pelli, Frank Gehry, a young Rem Koolhaas, Helmut Jahn, Mario Gandelsonas, Michael Graves, Peter Eisenman, and others who shaped the architectural imagination of our time. Ando liked my work, and I became his translator.

Soon after, Ando was invited to Yale. Because I was living in New York, I was asked to assist him and serve as an adjunct lecturer, commuting to New Haven three times a week for the semester.



Hubei Provincial Sport Complex

George Kunihiro, Architect / Professor

Letting the Candle Burn to the End

That opened the door to academia--first Yale, then Columbia, and finally, in 1991, Harvard. I had completed the rare circuit of teaching at all three Ivy League architecture programs.

In 1989, I founded my New York practice and continued until 1996, when Hong Kong's return to China created a surge of opportunity across Asia. So, I moved to Japan. There, a private university invited me to teach. With Ivy League experience, I became a tenured associate professor and later full professor, building an academic and research career across China, Vietnam, Hong Kong, and beyond.

Balancing the roles of professor, architect, scholar was never a burden. It was simply the life that unfolded from that early vow to stand near the highest tier -- not for glory, but for growth.

I tell my students the same: your path will zigzag. You will fall. You will wander. But if you hold a clear, sincere destination in your heart, you will return to it -- sometimes by a route you never expected. Opportunity favors those who say "yes".

How did you find your way from George Washington High School to Berkeley, and what was the College of Environmental Design like in the early '70s? And after that, how different was Harvard GSD when you arrived in Cambridge?

UC Berkeley in 1970 was electric. It was the era of Nixon, the Cambodian bombing, free speech protests, and the national student strike. My very first semester had no classes; instead, the campus was a vast debate hall, a battleground of ideas and ideals.

House MM
Principal use: Residence
Structure: Timber + S Structure
Site Area: 346.29 m²
Total Floor Area: 237.47m²



That opened the door to academia--first Yale, then Columbia, and finally, in 1991, Harvard. I had completed the rare circuit of teaching at all three Ivy League architecture programs.

When the strikes subsided, I found myself drawn into the movements reshaping architectural education -- Black, Chicano, Asian. During my senior year, I became one of the founders of Asian Neighborhood Design, a community design nonprofit that continues, fifty years later, to serve marginalized communities across San Francisco.

Moving from Berkeley to Cambridge felt like stepping from one world into another. Berkeley was radical, outward-looking, political. Harvard was disciplined, intensely design-oriented, and charged with ambition. For two and a half years, the atmosphere could be summed up in three words: Design, Design, Design.

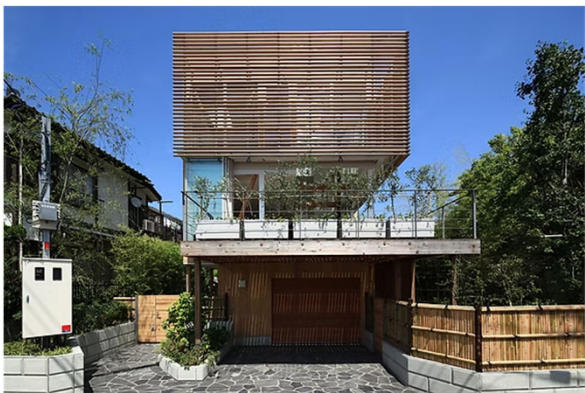
It was at the GSD that I met you and many of the Chinese students -- Joe Wong, Jack Tam, Wing Ting Leung, Michael Chan, and Kai Chan -- some of whom I had known from UC Berkeley. Friendships formed there have lasted half a century. I also encountered Fumihiko Maki when he visited to lecture.

Being an ethnic minority at Harvard was different from being one at UC Berkeley. On the West Coast, we spoke loudly -- Asian, Black, Chicano voices shaping the discourse. At Harvard, minorities were fewer and quieter.

With centuries of history, the sense of lineage, the knowledge that a Harvard diploma would accompany you for life -- not as a guarantee, but as a reminder of the responsibility to build something worthy.

You have a strong interest in Asian cultural aesthetics. You served as Vice Chair of the Modern Asian Architecture Network (mAAN) and have conducted various international workshops. How important is it to preserve culture for subsequent generations -- for people, places, and posterity?

My interest in Asian culture -- its aesthetics, its histories, and its modern transformations -- did not emerge suddenly. It evolved out of my own layered identity as a Japanese-American.



George Kunihiro, Architect / Professor
Letting the Candle Burn to the End

My grandparents had immigrated to the United States, my father was born there, and the family later returned to Japan. I was born in Tokyo. So, although I grew up Japanese, I had U.S. citizenship from birth. At age eight I spent a year in the United States, returned to Japan to finish elementary school, and later immigrated again -- this time to San Francisco. In San Francisco, identity was loosely framed into four groups -- white, Black, Chicano, and Asian.

The established Japanese-Americans didn't quite see me as one of their own; I was "FOB," First Off the Boat. Interestingly, it was the Chinese-American kids who embraced me. I became, in a sense, an honorary Chinese American, and many of my closest lifelong friendships grew out of that period.

At UC Berkeley, this cross-cultural grounding deepened. I became involved with groups such as the Asian Architecture Association (AAA) and A and D (Asian Neighborhood Design), at a time when Asian American cultural movements were gaining visibility in the 1970s.

When I later moved back to Japan, my academic life opened new doors. Through the university, the Japan Institute of Architects, and the International Committee, I became actively involved in conferences and dialogues across Asia-Arcasia conventions, forums, symposia. Although Kokushikan University expected me to teach American architecture, I found myself increasingly drawn toward the evolving field of Asian modernism.

Tell us a little about your design for the Floating Teahouse.

The Floating Teahouse was created for an exhibition at Elysium, a gallery on the Upper East Side owned by a Japanese gallerist. As you know, the traditional teahouse is one of the most essential spaces in Japanese culture -- a compact three-and-a-half tatami room where the host welcomes the guest for the tea ceremony.

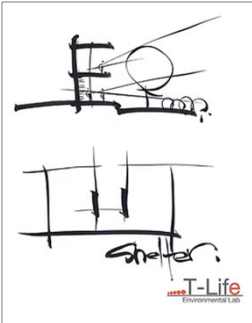


Principal use: Resident Structure: RC Structure

Historically, it was also a symbolic equalizer; regardless of social class, everyone entered through the low nijiriguchi, bowing and leaving swords outside, creating a temporary world where status disappeared. I created a raised platform that suggested levitation and separated the walls from the tatami plane, while the nijiriguchi itself was suspended from above. The entire composition was rendered in bold primary colors - reds, blues, yellows, greens -- drawing on Piet Mondrian and Rudolph Schindler, shifting the work from literal reconstruction toward abstraction. The installation, titled Floating Teahouse, was later published in Interior Design Magazine.

What are your favorite works of architecture in Japan? Worldwide? You've taught at Harvard, Yale, Columbia, and of course Kokushikan University (Tokyo): How has your global-perspective informed your studio courses? Professional practice?

In Japan, one of my favorite modern works is Tadao Ando's Sumiyoshi Row House (Azuma House). It was his debut residential project, and it remains incredibly powerful. The tripartite plan -- an entry space facing the street, an open courtyard in the middle, and living spaces at the back -- inserted into a dense urban neighborhood, was radical in its simplicity.



Site Area: 227.21 m² Total Floor area: 208.65m²

Ando later attempted to buy the house, but when the owner declined, he built a replica near his office. More recently, Sou Fujimoto's ring structure for the Osaka Expo 2025 made a strong impression on me. It was controversial-expensive and monumental -- but also deeply symbolic. The large circular wooden structure encloses the Expo site and makes a clear statement about contemporary Japanese timber construction and joinery. Beyond that, it frames the Expo itself as a space of peace.

There are, of course, works from earlier generations that I return to again and again. Le Corbusier's Villa Savoye, La Tourette, and Ronchamp are buildings we studied in school, yet they never lose their power. Each visit reveals something new. You do not simply enjoy them; you feel history, and you sense how intensely those masters struggled to transform a 19th-century mindset into what ultimately became a 20th, and even 21st century, architectural reality.

This leads naturally to the question of global perspective. I strongly believe that architects must travel. I have traveled to more than seventy countries and to China alone more than a hundred times. Of course, today we have the internet, social media, and online lectures. Information is everywhere. But physical experience -- being in a space with your body cannot be replaced.

George Kunihiro, Architect / Professor
Letting the Candle Burn to the End

“ Life is singular. We are given only one. So, my final advice would be this: Keep moving. Do not stop. Do not retire just because society tells you that you should. If you still have energy, curiosity, and inspiration, continue forward. Let the candle burn all the way to the end.

Over decades, I have consciously built a global network of colleagues and friends, and that connectivity has been essential to my life and work. It is a continuous process of learning and recalibration. This is why, in teaching, I strongly encourage travel with students -- workshops, study tours, and site visits.

You are the Managing Director of T-Life Environmental Lab Co. Ltd.: How is your company structured? Do you focus on private sector clients and/or public agencies? Particular building-types? What differentiates your firm from others?

T-Life Environmental Lab Company was established in 2014 with my partner in both life and work, Junko Kato. From the beginning, it was never intended to be a conventional architectural design office.

Our starting point was a simple but fundamental question: What do people actually need in order to live well? That led us to frame the practice around the essentials of human life -- food, clothing, and shelter -- rather than architecture as an isolated discipline.

Junko's background is not architecture in the traditional sense. She comes from the world of food culture: table manners, etiquette, and what I would call the broader culinary environment. That perspective shaped the firm's philosophy. Architecture, for us, was never about form-making alone. It was about solutions -- how spatial, environmental, cultural, and social issues could be addressed holistically. Design was a tool, not the objective.

Around 2024-2025, I began to feel a shift in my own role. I was not ready for retirement; instead, I moved toward advisory and consulting roles, contributing at a strategic level and helping organizations frame the right questions before jumping to solutions. That transition led me to PLANTEC Incorporated, which I joined about six months ago as an executive officer and report directly to the CEO.

What Would You Tell Your Younger Self?

Having reached this point in my life, what would I tell my younger self? I would begin by saying this:

What you are thinking now, what you are doing now, believe in it.

Trust yourself, and continue moving forward along your own vector, your own direction. You may not see the destination clearly, but if you stay true to your heading, you will eventually arrive somewhere meaningful. In fact, you will arrive where I am now.

Looking back, I feel my life as an architect has been deeply fulfilling. I have experienced so many things -- far more than I ever imagined. Compared to many architects around the world, I have been extraordinarily fortunate. I recognize that privilege, and I believe I have tried to give back to the architectural profession, to academia, and to society at large.

I would not tell my younger self to put money first, because had I done that, I might never have reached this life at all. But I would say this: Be aware. Be aware that family, personal well-being, and financial resources matter. They are part of life, and they deserve care. I neglected that balance and only now am I working, perhaps belatedly, to catch up.

Life is singular. We are given only one. So, my final advice would be this: Keep moving. Do not stop. Do not retire just because society tells you that you should. If you still have energy, curiosity, and inspiration, continue forward. Let the candle burn all the way to the end.

Hot Spring Resort



SIDE BAR

George Kunihiro, FAIA
Architect / Professor



Managing Director

T-Life Environmental Lab Co. Ltd.

Professor:

- Kokushikan University Visiting
- Tsinghua University

George Kunihiro, FAIA, is a noted architect and educator. He is a Professor of Architecture at the Kokushikan University in Tokyo, Japan. He has also held teaching positions at Harvard University, Yale University and Columbia University and Methodius University in Macedonia.

In 1980, Professor Kunihiro began his private practice in San Francisco. Subsequently, he opened his office in Los Angeles and New York and designed numerous projects in the United States and in Japan.

In 1997, Professor Kunihiro moved his base to Asia. Since his arrival back in Tokyo, he has maintained an international architectural practice, and as an academic, continues his research on the modern heritage in the contemporary Asian society.

Education

- M of Arch, '76 Harvard University Graduate School of Design
- BA, '74 University of California Berkeley.

International Recognition

- **2013/2015** Ruchard Upjohn Fellowship, AIA, Presidential Medals, American Institute of Architects
- **2010** Presidential Medal Federacion de Colegios de Arquitectos de Mexico, for significant contributions to the field of architecture.
- **2008** “2@5”, a residence in Tokyo, was selected in the JIA Architect of the Year Annual
- **1993** Japan Commercial Environmental Design Award, Architect of the Year
- **1992** 11th Annual Space Design Review

Representative Works

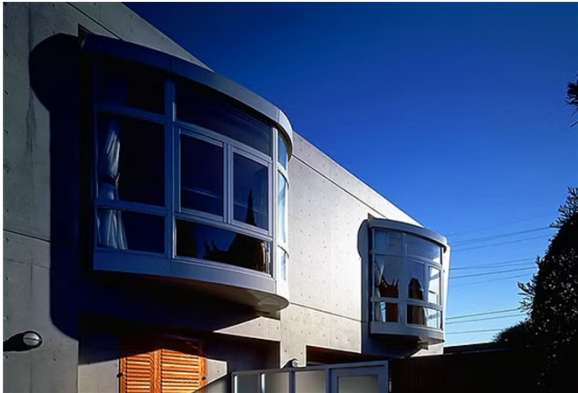
- 2015 Guizhou Resort Hotel
- 2014 Chengdu High Rise
- 2010 Two River Four Shores Urban Plan, Xixiang, Shaanxi Province, PRC,
- 2008 Weekend House MM Kamakura
- 2006 2 ? 5 D Residence
- 2002 Blue Aoyama Building
- 2000 Okinawa S Resort Project 2005 Field of Dreams N Residence
- 2000 7th Volunteer Fire Fighting Division, Nishi-Tokyo
- 2000 Grand Blue Roppongi Wine and Dining
- 1999 Daishouin Temple, Monk's Quarter
- 1996 CoCos Nobuoka Osaka 1994 Restaurant Marilyn
- 1991 S Residence
- 1992 Communicate Saloon Pia
- 1990 Villa Rosa
- 1987 Cine Citta Kawasaki
- 1983 La Petite Chaya

Member of Professional Competition Jury

- 2019 UIA International Architectural Design Competition. Tripoli, Lebanon
- 2018 ARCASIA Architecture Award Tokyo, Japan
- 2016 AIA Japan Chapter Award Jury Tokyo, Japan
- 2012 Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia (PAM) Award Master Jury Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2011 ARCASIA Awards 2011-2012, Architects Regional Council Asia Danang, Vietnam
- 2010 Hong Kong Chapter, AIA Honors & Awards Hong Kong, SAR
- 2008 UIA International Competition for Architects Under 35 Torino, Italy
- 2008 International Competition for Centennial Independence Plaza Mexico City, Mexico
- 2004 8th TEPCO Comfortable Residential Design Contest Tokyo Electric Power Company
- 2003 7th TEPCO Comfortable Residential Design Contest Tokyo Electric Power Company
- 2001 6th TEPCO Comfortable Residential Design Contest Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO)
- 2000 5th TEPCO Comfortable Residential Design Contest Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO) Tokyo, Japan



1



2



3



4

1. Principal Use: Residence, Structure: RC Structure, Site Area: 178.94m², Total Floor Area: 178.44 m²
2. Principal Use: Residence, Structure: RC Structure, Site Area: 7510.51 m², Total Floor Area: 281.79 m²
3. Duxton Place Housing Complex
4. Hotel / Culture



“ Healthcare architecture was a field I hadn't yet explored or even heard of, but it soon became my calling through a deeply personal trial. After being a victim of crime in Oakland, I was treated at a local trauma center, Highland Hospital.



How did your professional career start: you can describe the firms you have worked at positions you have held?

When I entered Berkeley's Architecture program, I envisioned myself designing iconic stadiums that host big sporting events. Jobs in such typology were scarce, a former Graduate Student Instructor (GSI) from ARCH 140 forwarded all her students an internship opportunity at Kaiser Permanente's internal group of architects and engineers. This internship became a permanent position as a Medical Planner/Architect.

Healthcare architecture was a field I hadn't yet explored or even heard of, but it soon became my calling through a deeply personal trial. After being a victim of crime in Oakland, I was treated at a local trauma center, Highland Hospital. My experience as a patient – navigating a chaotic trauma room and observation unit, being admitted to a shared patient room, and the discharge journey – all was harrowing. That ordeal solidified my purpose: I wasn't just building structure; I was designing and planning environments for human healing.

At Kaiser Permanente (KP), I helped developed design criteria, room templates, and Design Excellence guidelines for AE firms to use.

I wanted to pursue licensure, so I left KP and relocated to Los Angeles to begin my journey in the AE firm side of our industry with ZGF Architects, where I developed most of my skills and interests within healthcare. While at ZGF, I was a Medical Planner teamed with a Principal Medical Planner. I primarily worked on Pediatric and Oncology projects, amongst a few other specialties.

Some of the highlight projects I worked at ZGF include local projects such as Cedars Sinai Playa Vista Physician Office & Urgent Care, Cedars Sinai Ventana Cancer Care Clinic and Infusion Center, and the University Health Women's & Children's Hospital in San Antonio, Texas.

After four years in Los Angeles, I relocated back to the Bay Area where I started a similar position as Medical Planner at NBBJ. While there I focused on healthcare consulting, primarily served as a firm-wide resource supporting all healthcare efforts in multiple offices.

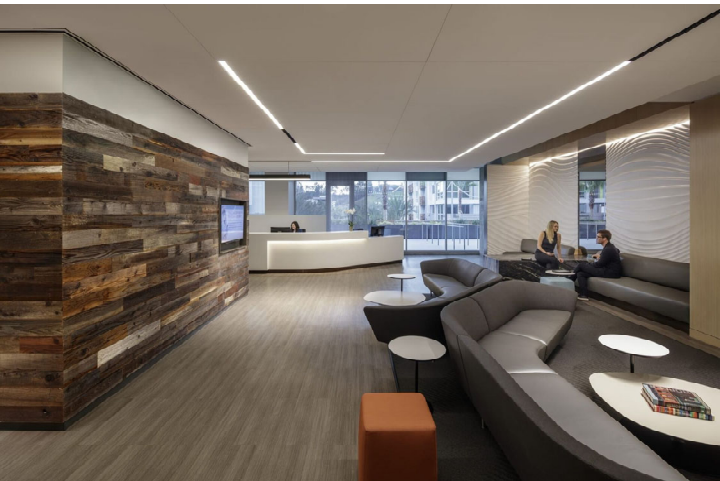
Highlight projects at NBBJ include a few San Francisco projects: UCSF Connie Frank Transplant Center Renovation and UCSF Moffitt Inpatient Unit Renovation.

My interest in large scale projects drove me to a new role at HDR Inc., the leading healthcare firm in the world. My role as Health Planner embarked with a major role in a joint venture with world renowned architects Herzog & de Meuron disrupting the San Francisco skyline with the new UCSF Helen Diller Hospital.

What do you do today, and what are your roles and responsibilities?

Currently on the path to becoming a Senior Health Planner at HDR, I have transitioned into a leadership role where mentoring the next generation of architects and planners is a primary focus.

My expertise lies in the early, high-impact of a project – from conceptual design through design development – where I act as the bridge between clinical operations and architectural execution.



1. Cedars Sinai Playa Vista Physician Offices and Urgent Care | ZGF Architects
2. Cedars Sinai Ventana Cancer Care Clinic and Infusion Center | ZGF Architects

My roles and responsibilities range from meeting with the clients and their clinicians to understand their operational needs and strategies.

I take client’s visions and goals into my planning of healthcare facilities – from macro to micro. I partner with a project architect who focuses on the technical aspects of my work.

While the UCSF Helen Diller Hospital originally brough me to HDR, my recent portfolio has expanded across a dozen diverse projects, with a significant concentration in oncology.

My recent work on the Texas Tech University Cancer Center in El Paso, Texas allowed me to pioneer a “hospitality-first” approach to health planning. By studying aviation trends – such as intuitive wayfinding and premium seating ergonomics – I advocate for infusion environments that prioritize patient dignity and comfort.

As I grow as a future subject matter expert in oncology, I continue to apply these cross-industry innovations in aviation to ensure our healthcare facilities are as emphatic as they are functional.

I am deeply committed to supporting the next generation of CED and CASA students. My goal is to provide the financial advocacy and professional guidance necessary to empower more Latino/a architects to lead our industry with confidence and strength. A little financial help will go far for an undocumented student in CED.

What do you enjoy most about your job/career?

The most rewarding aspect of my work is the opportunity to elevate the patient experience.

I am constantly inspired and fascinated by rapid medical advancements and innovations, but I believe that technology must be matched by a compassionate built environment.

My goal is to design healthcare facilities that fundamentally improve the lives of those within them. Whether a patient is there for a routine check-up or their final stages of care, I am committed to ensuring their surroundings offer comfort, happiness, and a sense of humanity.

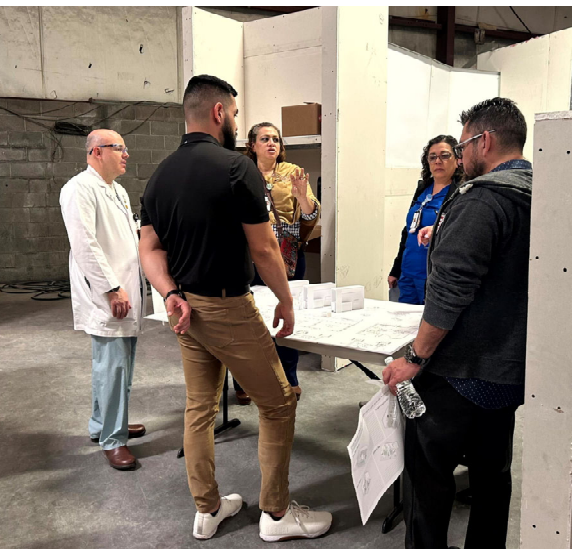
Why do you support the CASA Alumni Scholarships?

My journey through UC Berkeley was marked by both financial hardship and a lack of professional mentorship. Navigating the transition from student to professional without a roadmap was a significant challenge, and it inspired a lifelong promise: to be the guide I never had.

I am deeply committed to supporting the next generation of CED and CASA students. My goal is to provide the financial advocacy and professional guidance necessary to empower more Latino/a architects to lead our industry with confidence and strength. A little financial help will go far for an undocumented student in CED.



- 3. Helen Diller Hospital, UCSF | HDR
4. Texas Tech University Cancer Center Survivor Support Group | HDR
5. Texas Tech University Cancer Center Mock Ups | HDR
6. Texas Tech University Cancer Center Groundbreaking | HDR



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Oswaldo D. Lopez
From Rancho to Big Leagues
Paul Lopez



Prof. Paul Lopez
Chicano Studies,
Chico State University

“ My brother Os was a highly accomplished professional, but like many Latinx children, he came from a working-class background. My parents first raised us on a ranch just north of Santa Barbara, known as Dos Pueblos Ranch. As the oldest, my brother likely carried the clearest memories of our time there. My sister was born two years after Os, and I was born five years after him.

Growing up working class, there were few expectations placed on Mexican-American children. We came of age during an era of academic tracking, when Mexican-American boys were expected to work with their hands and girls were expected to become good wives and mothers. Os exceeded those limited expectations – and then some. He attended one of the best public universities in the country, the University of California, Berkeley, where he earned both his B.A. and M.A. In short, he used his talents and determination to build a distinguished and respected career. - Paul Lopez



Charismatic, he exuded positivity,” 1952 – 2025
Christmas Day

CASA
Chicano Architectural Student
Association, CED, UC Berkeley



In the studio

ByDESIGN
On Online Journal of Exceptional
Achievement



Significant Work
Development Manager Hotels/
Resorts, Commercial, Housing



Barrio Logan
Design Team



CASA Alumni Scholarships
CED, UC Berkeley



1. Oswaldo co-founded ByDESIGN with the inaugural issue published on Cinco de Mayo 2011. He acted as Co-editor and contributor until Vol 33 in 2020 with an article on Bill Harrell, AIA.
2. CASA Alumni Scholarships March 2014, ByDESIGN Vol 12.
3. CASA Alumni Scholarships April 22, 2016, ByDESIGN Vol 19.

Professional Experience:

- Voy Investment LLC, Managing Director
- Golub & Company, Development Manager
- Selene International, Inc, Senior Partner
- Outrigger Hospitality Group, VP Capital Planning, Construction and Project Management
- Oasis West Realty, LLC, Executive Vice President
- Hilton Worldwide- Senior Director, The Americas
- Archstone Communities, Regional Vice President
- Sierra Pacific Land Company, President
- Metropolitan Structures, Director of Development
- Gruen Associates, Senior Architect
- Edward C. Barker AIA - Associate Architect
- U.S. Department of HUD – Architect



1. CED UC Berkeley, Studio (1974)
2. CASA Mural, outside of what once was the CASA Office on the 5th floor. (1977)
3. Barrio Logan Master Plan Community Design Program (San Diego). Master's Thesis, addressed the idea of a neighborhood school as a rallying point for the local Chicano Community. The Design included a school, library, community theater, clinic and aquatic center. (1978)
4. Receiving a Master's in Architecture, a dream realized since writing about it in a 5th grade paper.
5. Graduation with a M Arch: Rogelio Hernandez, Oswaldo Lopez, Maritza Delgadillo, Chris Escobedo, and Carlos Rodriguez. (1978)

1. Waldorf Astoria Beverly Hills.
2. Development Director, One California Plaza (953,367 sq ft, 42 floors, 5 floors underground), Inter-Continual Hotel high rise development. \$1.2 billion dollar multi-phased project, the largest urban redevelopment project in North America at the time.
3. American Resort Development Assoc. awarded the Hilton Grand Waikikian its Ace Project of Excellence Award on March, ARDA's 2010 Convention & Exposition in Las Vegas. The 331-unit timeshare hotel opened in December 2008.
4. MOCA, a civic art museum in downtown LA, provides 24,500 square feet of exhibition space. It was completed in 1986.



Nohemi Hernandez
CASA President
BA Architecture '26
College of Environmental Design
University of California, Berkeley



Lauren Maria Velasco
BA Urban Studies
CASA Vice President

Serve, Support, and Care for Students

The Chicax/Latinx Architecture Student Association (CASA) aims to serve, support, and care for students in the Design Field. In addition to professional and academic support, our familia aims to generate awareness about past and current issues in Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Planning, and Sustainable Design; while also understanding current ongoing issues that ultimately affect and impact our communities.

Learning from the past and present will allow us to record and understand positive impacts through the efforts of design. Ultimately, we strive to create a space where our students can feel comfortable and safe, all while embracing our cultural backgrounds and designing for a better future.

How CASA has built community:

CASA's community has grown from its unwavering pursuit of strength. Rooted in a rich history, we look to our alumni with hope that we carry forward their advocacy, wisdom, and pride.

Our intern program nurtures this growth by pairing students with board members who welcome them into the familia and guide them as leaders. Together, we speak from the heart, support one another, and create a lasting home and legacy worthy of those who came before us.



Nohemi Hernandez
BA Architecture
CASA President

I am a third-year architecture student, fascinated by how architecture can empower and disfigure communities. Coming from a high-risk community in Los Angeles, I witnessed how the built environment reflects onto people and their futures. I dream of building community spaces honoring the environments that led to my achievements as a first-generation student.



Daniel Alvarez Deleon
BA Architecture
CASA Treasurer

I'm a third-year Architecture major serving as a Treasurer.

I grew up in San Francisco in an immigrant household, which shaped my interest in community, design, and representation.



I am a senior Urban Studies major with a Sustainable Design minor and Vice President of CASA. Shaped by my experiences and upbringing, I am passionate about working in this field to help create cities and spaces where everyone feels supported, included, and able to thrive within their environment.



Amalia Juarez
BA Urban Studies
Academic Chair

As a third generation Chicana, I am delighted to be the Academic Chair. I am a 4th year Architecture student at CED, originally from SoCal in Pico Rivera, California. Growing up in a small, predominantly Latinx city, I love finding my people in CASA as I navigate college's trials and tribulations. I am excited for another year of forming bonds, strengthening community, and raising voices with my team!



Alondra Castillo
BA Architecture
Publicity Director

I'm a fourth-year double major in Architecture and Society and Environment. Growing up, hard work, determination, and community were always important to me. These values continue to guide my work, inspiring me to design for people and the environment in ways that are just and equitable.



Ash Silva
BA Sustainable
Environmental Design
Community Service
Chair

I am CASA's Community Service Chair. I'm in my third year of studying Sustainable Environmental Design with a minor in City Planning. With my degree, I hope to give back to my hometown of Coachella by fostering affordable, sustainable, and equitable housing and infrastructure.



The CASA legacy was officially established in 1972 by José Arce, Fred Atilano, Cesario Rodríguez and Antonio Risianto.

The first CASA meetings in 1970-71 were attended by: Robert Esparza (RIP), José Arce (RIP), Michael Ordonia, Julio Martinez, Fred Atilano (RIP), Tomás Sánchez (RIP), Carlos Mendoza, David Zamora, Carlos Villagrán, Antonio Risianto, Juan Betancourt, Cesario Rodríguez (RIP), Robert Daughters, and Antonio Pizano. So began the Chicano Movement in CED.

Antonio Pizano, MA Arch '75, BA '73 UC Berkeley, CED
January 2026



Sofia Usquiano
BA Architecture

I'm a third-year Architecture student at UC Berkeley and currently serve as CASA's Alumni Chair. Growing up in Los Angeles shaped my appreciation for community, and I'm grateful to be involved in and give back to Berkeley's Latine community through CASA!



Marina Bejar
BA L. Architecture

I am a senior studying pure mathematics with a minor in landscape architecture. I am one of the alumni co-chairs and am excited to connect with and organize events to bring together Latinos in architecture.



Johanna Granados
BA Architecture

I'm a third year Architecture student from the Inland Empire in Southern California, serving as Social Chair for CASA. Growing up as a first-generation student has influenced my passion for building community and supporting student involvement.



Paulina Alatorre
BA Architecture

I am the Co-Community Service Chair and in my last semester at Berkeley as an Architecture major, double minoring in Sustainable Design and Environmental Design & Urbanism in Developing Countries. I hope to use my degree to increase access to sustainable and beautiful design.



Alexa Yanez
BA Architecture

I am the Co-Community Service Chair and am currently in my last semester at Berkeley as an Architecture major, double minoring in Sustainable Design and Environmental Design & Urbanism in Developing Countries. I hope to use my degree to increase access to sustainable and beautiful design.



Isaac Herrera
BA Architecture

I am an undergraduate at UC Berkeley, pursuing a BA in Urban Studies. I'm currently an intern for the vice president in the Chicano/Latinx Architecture Student Association. I grew up in Los Angeles' San Fernando Valley and hope to see transit expand in the city.



Olivia Velasquez
BA Architecture

I am a junior transfer majoring in Sustainable Environmental Design and minoring in City Planning. I am one of CASA's interns for the Community Service Chairs. I am grateful to have found a community of like-minded Chicano and Latinx peers.



Ramón Gimeno-Herrera
BA Architecture

I'm a freshman at UC Berkeley studying architecture, and a publicity intern with CASA! I am Mexican & Spanish, and I arrived to California when I was 5. Both of my parents, and much of my family are artists, thus art is a big part of my life!



Jennifer Gonzalez Morales
BA Architecture

I'm a second-year architecture student at UC Berkeley. I served as Community Service Chair intern during my freshman year and now serve as Outreach Chair intern. Having benefited from mentorship and resources in high school, being part of CASA allows me to contribute to a community that helps provide those same opportunities for students in CED.



Monica Bernal-Santos
BA Architecture

I'm a second-year architecture major interning in the digital/marketing role. I grew up in a low-income Mexican household and gradually built my academic confidence through out high school, where I discovered my passion for architecture and design-driven storytelling.



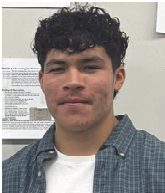
Perla Mendoza Zepeda
BA Architecture

I'm a Junior architecture major and city planning minor. Therefore, I want to get the most out of my remaining time at Berkeley which is why I joined CASA! I look forward to giving back to communities of color in CED. As an intern of the internal department, I have the opportunity to do just this by helping in the creation of social events within the club!



Marcella Cuellar
BA Architecture

I am a 2nd year Architecture student and this year I am an intern for the community service committee at CASA.



Kevin Angeles
BA Architecture

I am a second year architecture student and grew up in the high desert of California. Currently serving as the co-chair of Outreach for CASA.



Sarah Garcia
BA Architecture

Hello, I am in my fourth year studying architecture and this year, I am co-treasurer for CASA!