

BUILDING DESIGN[®]

WHERE
TECHNOLOGY +
INNOVATION
COLLIDE

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2026

+ CONSTRUCTION

40
UNDER
FORTY

**Meet Krutika
Shah** and 39 Other
Rising AEC Stars

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Meet Kerry Lorts and 39 other AEC industry rockstars

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48 GENSLER HEALTHCARE WORKPLACE SURVEY 2026

1,204 frontline health workers express their wants and needs in the healthcare workplace



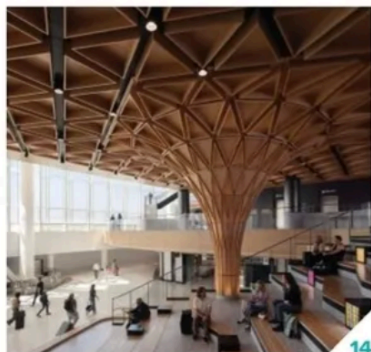
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Pennsylvania governor orders strict requirements for new data centers

TRENDSETTING PROJECTS

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Kansas City Chiefs' new stadium will be enclosed and "built for noise"

PRODUCT INNOVATIONS

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Modular data center aisle containment solution; welded wire lath assembly for continuous insulation

GREAT SOLUTIONS

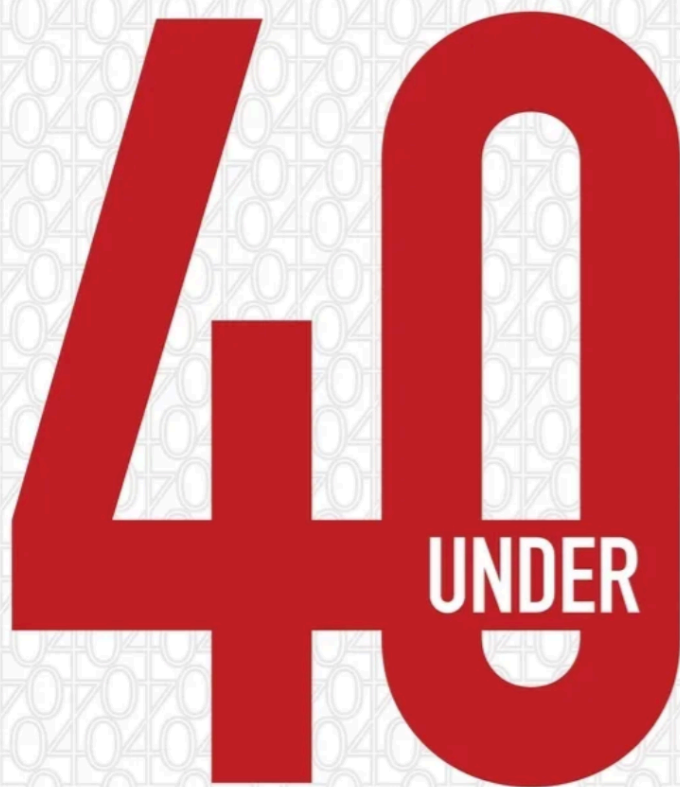
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A Swiss company uses gravity and 35-ton blocks to store energy



2014-2017, 2019-2020, 2024
JESSE H. NEAL
AWARD WINNER

ON THE COVER: Krutika Shah, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP, SEED, COA, Architectural Studio Director with Sheladia Associates, Rockville, Md., is one of 40 AEC rockstars named to *BD+C's* 40 Under 40 Class of 2026 (see page 18).
PHOTO COURTESY SHELADIA ASSOCIATES



40

UNDER

FORTY

THE FUTURE OF
ARCHITECTURE,
ENGINEERING, AND
CONSTRUCTION

**Meet the Building
Design+Construction
40 Under 40 Class**

**of 2026. These emerging leaders from across
the U.S. are shaping the future of architecture,
engineering, and construction.**

BY DAVID BARISTA, Editorial Director
QUINN PURCELL, Managing Editor

**BEATRIZ AROSTEGUI, 35**

Senior Associate, Structural Engineer
Magnusson Klemencic Associates
Seattle, Wash.

TYLER BALDRIDGE, 35

Project Executive and Member
BELL Construction
Brentwood, Tenn.

VICTORIA BRINEMUGHA, 31

Sr. Global Engineering Manager
Amazon
Arlington, Va.

NEIL CAUDLE, 38

Vice President and Division Manager
Brasfield & Gorrie
Dallas, Texas

KATHERINE CHAN, 35

Principal, Project Manager,
Structures Group
Walter P Moore
New York, N.Y.

MARK CHEN, 33

National Carbon Manager
Skanska USA Building
Seattle, Wash.

ANNIE CHIANG, 37

Project Lead, Associate
SmithGroup
San Diego, Calif.

DREW DISILVESTRO, 39

Chief Executive Officer
AmeriTech Contracting
Meriden, Conn.

ALLA ELMAHADI, 35

Europe Architect, Design Manager
Procter & Gamble
Sutton, England

NASLHA ESPINAL, 34

Chief Marketing Officer,
Executive Director—Interior Design
BASE4
Tarpon Springs, Fla.

GARRETT GONZALO, 38

Client Executive
IMEG
Ann Arbor, Mich.

MARK HILDRETH, 36

Vice President—CM At Risk
McKissack & McKissack
New York, N.Y.

JOËLLE JAHN, 33

Director, New England Leader of Deep Carbon Reduction
Jaros, Baum & Bolles (JB&B)
Boston, Mass.

KYLE KISER, 39

Higher Education Market Leader
LS3P Associates
Greenville, S.C.

CHAITANYA KORRA, 35

Senior Design Manager,
Infrastructure Engineering
Redwood Materials
Sparks, Nev.

TRAVIS KRIMMEL, 37

Project Manager, Architect,
Associate
SS&A Design Collective
Opelika, Ala.

FLORIM KUKAJ, 38

Associate Principal
E4H Environments for Health Architecture
New York, N.Y.

WENTING LI, 32

Associate, Senior Sustainable Design Specialist
HOK
New York, N.Y.

KERRY LORTS, 37

Illinois Market Executive
S. M. Wilson & Co.
Edwardsville, Ill.

ALISON MARTIN, 35

Senior Associate
CO Architects
Los Angeles, Calif.

MILAN MENDAPARA, 31

Development Manager
Thakkar Developers
Allen, Texas

STEVEN MONTONI, 37

Associate Director of Engineering
JT Magen
New York, N.Y.

BRUNA MONZILLO, 39

Principal
The Beck Group
Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

ARVIND NASIT, 31

Program Manager
Haydan Consultants
East Rutherford, N.J.

CRAIG O'HALLORAN, 39

Global Professional Services Leader, Studio Director, Senior Associate
Gensler
Chicago, Ill.

MEGAN OCTAVIANI, 34

Project Leader, Senior Designer
Bjarke Ingels Group (BIG)
Brooklyn, N.Y.

JESSICA ORLANDO, 39

Higher Education Practice Leader, Associate Principal
Perkins&Will
Pasadena, Calif.

STEPHEN PARKER, 37

Mental+Behavioral Health Design Leader
Sage
Arlington, Va.

EMIR A. PEKDEMIR, 39

Associate
Atelier Ten
Brooklyn, N.Y.

CAITLIN POTTER, 36

Senior Medical Planner, Vice President
HKS
Heartland, Texas

VIVEK PRASAD**VELAYUTHAM KANDASAMY, 34**

Portfolio Estimating Lead,
Datacenter Construction
Microsoft
North Liberty, Iowa

DEVANSHI PUROHIT, 38

Principal, Urban Design
CBT
East Boston, Mass.

JARID SCARAFIOTTI, 37

President, Service Division
Cummings Electrical
Fort Worth, Texas

SONAM SHAH, 39

Associate Principal, Energy Strategy, Climate and Sustainability
Introba
Oakland, Calif.

KRUTIKA SHAH, 38

Architectural Studio Director
Sheladia Associates
Rockville, Md.

CAROLINE SOUZA, 39

Principal
David Baker Architects
Oakland, Calif.

JAMES TAYLOR, 39

Co-Founder, CEO, Principal
ACS Group
Las Vegas, Nev.

MATT TODDY, 37

Founder, Principal
Elevation Studio
Columbus, Ohio

KATE TRIPLETT, 39

Civil Engineer, Senior Vice President
Kimley-Horn
Atlanta, Ga.

CHRIS ZOELLER, 36

Superintendent
Flintco
Austin, Texas

Florin Kukaj, AIA, EDAC



Associate Principal, E4H Environments for Health Architecture, New York, N.Y.

AGE: 38

EDUCATION

Bachelor's, Technology in Architecture, CUNY City Tech

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

► Advanced from intern to Associate Principal over 15 years, including 13 years focused exclusively on healthcare architecture, leading more than \$550

million across 120+ healthcare capital projects for major health systems, including NYU Langone, NewYork-Presbyterian, Memorial Sloan Kettering, and Mount Sinai

- Helped secure five Master Service Agreements with healthcare systems throughout the Northeast
- Passed all six divisions of the Architect Registration Examination on the first attempt, completing the entire sequence in just nine days after 10 weeks of preparation
- Immigrated to the U.S. independently from Kosovo at age 17 and became the first member of his family to earn a college degree

WHAT IS THE BEST CAREER OR BUSINESS ADVICE YOU HAVE EVER RECEIVED?

"Just ask.' It was advice from a mentor that sounded almost too simple at the time, but it has opened more doors for me than almost anything else."

Wenting Li, Assoc. AIA, LEED AP BD+C



Associate, Senior Sustainable Design Specialist, HOK, New York, N.Y.

AGE: 32

EDUCATION

Master's, Design Studies, Harvard University
Bachelor's, Architecture, Chongqing University

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

► Rose from Senior Specialist to Associate (HOK's corporate equivalent to Partner) within

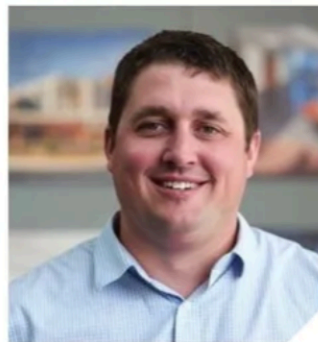
three years of joining the firm in 2023, becoming one of the youngest officers in the company while leading sustainability across HOK's Northeast practice

- Served as sole sustainability lead on the 1.3 million-sf LaGuardia Airport Terminal B, helping it become the world's first LEED v4 Gold certified airport terminal
- Leads sustainable design for the \$1.7 billion Wadsworth Center Laboratory in Albany, N.Y.—the largest, most diverse state public health laboratory in the nation—and innovative solar-responsive façade analysis for the million-sf Brooklyn Borough-Based Jail, a community-centered replacement for Rikers Island
- Serves on the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED Technical Advisory Group contributing to LEED v5 development

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR SINGLE BIGGEST PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT SO FAR?

"Completing the LEED certification of LaGuardia Airport Terminal B remains my proudest professional achievement. As the first project I worked on after joining HOK and being introduced to LEED, it played a defining role in my career."

Kerry Lorts



Illinois Market Executive, S. M. Wilson & Co., Edwardsville, Ill.

AGE: 37

EDUCATION

Bachelor's, Construction Management, Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

► Joined S. M. Wilson as a college intern in 2011 and rose through four promotions over 15 years—launching the firm's Illinois office and growing it into

a \$50+ million division

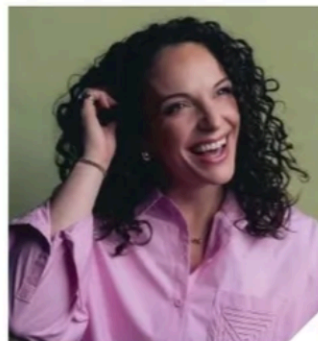
► Served as project manager on City Foundry STL, a transformational, internationally recognized redevelopment featured on HGTV's "America by Design," and worked on the \$567 million BJC HealthCare/Washington University Medical Center Campus Renewal, one of the largest healthcare construction programs in the St. Louis region

► Leads multi-campus construction programs for numerous Illinois school districts, including the \$72 million Edwardsville Lincoln Middle School renovation and \$70 million Blessing Hospital patient tower in Quincy

WHAT IS THE BEST CAREER OR BUSINESS ADVICE YOU HAVE EVER RECEIVED?

"You can't work all day unless you start in the morning.' Make sure that the people you work with are set up and empowered to make decisions and be efficient. This means not being the bottleneck or constraint and providing direction to others before they need it."

Alison Martin, AIA, NCARB



Senior Associate, CO Architects, Los Angeles, Calif.

AGE: 35

EDUCATION

Master's and Bachelor's, Architecture, Clemson University

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

► Promoted to Senior Associate at CO Architects by 2022, six years after joining the firm out of graduate school; leads large-scale healthcare and institutional projects including the 288,000-

sf Kaiser Permanente Riverside Medical Center expansion

► Co-founded the Foothill Catalog Foundation in the immediate aftermath of the 2025 Los Angeles wildfires, growing it from a small volunteer group into an organization with 20 full-time staff and 40+ pre-approved, code-compliant home designs; the Foundation has helped permit more than 50 rebuild homes

► Co-leads CO University, the firm's internal leadership development program for roughly 12 upwardly mobile staff members annually

WHAT IS THE BEST CAREER OR BUSINESS ADVICE YOU HAVE EVER RECEIVED?

"Never be afraid to ask for help. As a lifelong perfectionist, this has never come naturally to me. One of my career mentors, Tom Chesum, FAIA, taught me that being a leader doesn't mean having all the answers or carrying every burden yourself. He gave me the space and confidence to come into my own as a leader while always knowing when to step in, remind me that he was on my side, and offer without hesitation to help carry whatever had become too much."