



2017 AIAVC DESIGN AWARDS – JURORS



Ric Abramson Architect, FAIA

Principal, Workplays studio*architecture
Key Note Speaker for 2017 AIAVC Design Awards

In professional practice as a licensed practitioner for 28 years, Ric Abramson, FAIA established his small firm, Workplays studio*architecture, in 2003. A graduate of Cal Poly S.L.O. (BArch) and UCLA (MArch), Ric also studied architecture as a Fulbright scholar in Italy and as a visiting artist at the American Academy in Rome in 1995–96. Ric has taught for over 18 years on the faculty at SCI-Arc and USC School of Architecture and has produced educational workshops and seminars at National AIA Conventions in San Diego, Chicago, Atlanta, Philadelphia, and Orlando.

His professional service includes terms on the AIA|California Council, AIA|Los Angeles, and Center for Architecture and Urban Design Board of Directors. Ric recently completed a four-year term as the State of California's representative on the AIA National Small Firm Exchange and is currently serving as a California Regional Representative on the AIA National Strategic Council in Washington DC. Within his community, he has served as a Public Facilities Commissioner and chaired an affordable housing non-profit Board of Directors.

An active small firm advocate, Ric spearheaded new California legislation signed into law by Governor Brown that protects the architect's creative work. He is also a recognized leader in housing issues, sustainable design, and innovative infill solutions. As a result of his leadership and advocacy, Ric Abramson was elevated into the AIA College of Fellows for his transcendent achievements in professional practice, design, education, built environment policy advocacy, and community service.



Paul R. Neel, FAIA

Principal, Paul R. Neel, FAIA
State Architect 1989–1991
San Luis Obispo, CA

Aside from being a Professor, Director and Dean of the School of Architecture and Environmental Design, Paul served as the State Architect.

His professional involvement includes President of the California Board of Examiners, AIA Regional Director, President of the AIA California Council, as well as the Architectural Consultant to the Legislative Commission on the Governor's Permanent Residence.

Awards include the Kemper Award, Educator of the Year Award (AIA's highest honor bestowed on a California educator by the AIA California Council), Man of the Year Award by the National Engineering News Record for his contribution to the construction industry, as well as the George J. Hasslein Medal, lifetime achievement award in Cal Poly architectural education, among many other awards. Paul graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Architectural Engineering from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, a Bachelor of Architecture from the University of Southern California and a Master of Architecture (Building Science) from the University of Sheffield, England.



AIA
Ventura County



Idelfonso Fantone, AIA (Jojo)

Senior Associate Vice President
Callison RTKL

Jojo is responsible for guiding projects through all phases of the design process from conceptual design to design development and planning.

His expertise and leadership have contributed to the creation of an award-winning portfolio of mixed-use, retail, and entertainment projects both domestically and internationally.

In addition to an extensive body of work in Australia, Canada, and Brazil, Jojo specializes in the design and planning of mixed-use retail projects in the Pacific Rim and China. Jojo graduated with a Bachelor of Architecture from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.

