



Architecture, Planning & Engineering



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Design for the Urban and Natural Environment

The Greater Seattle area is an international center for professional services in architecture, urban design, regional planning and engineering, with a cluster of firms known worldwide for their highly specialized knowledge and skills. Internationally-active design firms in the Greater Seattle region generate close to \$100 million in annual revenues.

The Greater Seattle area offers special experience and a breadth of expertise in architecture, landscape design and planning for urban and natural spaces, such as:

- Commercial and mixed-use projects, including retail, office, hotel and entertainment facilities
- Health care and medical facilities design
- Convention, conference and multi-use facilities and performing arts centers
- Airport passenger terminal buildings
- University and educational facilities incorporating the most advanced learning technologies
- American-influenced wood-frame housing design, construction and materials for overseas markets
- Master planning and interpretive development of zoos, botanical gardens, national parks and cultural and ecological centers
- Teaching, research and international dissemination on sustainable community and environmental development



Architecture for Special Applications

A number of Greater Seattle architecture firms have developed national and international reputations for highly specialized modern buildings such as high rise structures, retail shopping centers, airports, health care and educational facilities and convention and performing arts centers.

Shopping, Recreation and Entertainment

The United States is clearly viewed as the international leader in sophisticated strategies for consumer-oriented design and marketing of facilities involving mixed-uses of retail, entertainment, arts, sports and recreation—and the Greater Seattle area offers a concentration of firms that are among the best in the world. Our firms have designed major department stores and mixed-use shopping complexes throughout the world. [Callison](#), for example, recently designed retail facilities in Hong Kong, and [MulvaneyG2 Architecture](#) designed Costco Wholesale's facility in Mexico.

High Rise Structures

Whether commercial office buildings, corporate headquarters, hotels or mixed-use facilities, Greater Seattle's architecture and engineering firms have developed a reputation for special expertise in very tall structures. Seattle firms, like [Magnusson Klemencic Associates, Inc.](#), have brought their special engineering skills in seismic design and static and dynamic wind analysis to high rise buildings in several different countries.

Airport Passenger Terminal Buildings

Boeing airplanes are in service around the globe. Passenger terminal buildings designed by local firms, including [Black & Veatch](#), serve airports across the country and throughout the world.

Health Care and Medical Facilities

Greater Seattle firms, like NBBJ, have designed specialty hospitals for cancer treatment, children's medicine and women's health care; biomedical research facilities; and long term care and assisted living centers in locales as diverse as Berlin, Seoul, Shanghai, Hanzou, Taiwan, Washington, Ohio and California.



Advanced Education and Learning Centers

Sophisticated educational facilities incorporating data, voice, audio and visual technologies, in addition to traditional learning environments, have been developed by Greater Seattle design firms in Beijing, American Samoa and throughout the United States.

Convention and Performing Arts Centers

Greater Seattle firms have a thorough understanding of the issues involved in public assembly facilities, including seating systems, multi-use flexibility, conversion capability, acoustics and lighting and special front and back-of-house requirements. Greater Seattle area firms, including Loschky Marquardt & Nesholm, have participated in the design and engineering of convention centers in Brunei, Manila, Dallas, Denver and Baltimore; and performing arts theaters in several major U.S. cities.



Best in the World Design Talent

A number of large Seattle architecture firms are internationally known as the "best in the world" for their expertise in particular areas.

Callison is known for its commercial and mixed-use projects in the retail, office, hotel and entertainment sectors. The firm has designed a number of high rise projects in China including the Xu Jia Hui Grand Gateway in Shanghai, a 3.2 million square foot development in two 50-story towers. The firm is also designing all of the retail and catering portions of the new Hong Kong airport. Callison has built its international practice by leveraging the cachet of its prestigious Northwest clients such as Boeing, Microsoft, Nordstrom and Eddie Bauer.

NBBJ is the second-largest architectural firm in the United States with a 550-person staff. NBBJ's projects are diverse, ranging from retail stores and theaters to office buildings and sports facilities. The firm has an international reputation as one of the foremost designers of health care and hospital facilities. NBBJ is currently active with the design of Kangbuk Hospital in Seoul, the Shanghai Children's Hospital, the Shaw Hospital in Hanzou and a cancer center in Berlin.

Mithun Partners, Inc., initiated the American and Washington state promotion of "value-added" forest products into Japanese "import housing" ten years ago. The sister state and city relationships with the Kobe area resulted in the firm's design of the Seattle Village and the 170 home planned community of Washington Village. The firm's design of housing for public and private clients in Japan has increased over the past decade, now including special needs and affordable housing. This Asian experience is applied to retail, recreational and hospitality projects in China, Korea and Japan for companies such as REI, Eddie Bauer, American Plywood Association and various Asian and American governmental entities.

Black & Veatch, formerly TRA, is continuing with a long tradition of architecture, engineering, planning and interior work. A unique specialty in airports has brought Black & Veatch world-wide attention. Recent projects include terminal planning for the new Denver airport and the Tel Aviv airport.

Jones and Jones and **The Portico Group** are two of the world's premier designers of natural landscape and heritage facilities such as zoos, botanical gardens, national parks, scenic highways and nature and cultural interpretive centers. These firms have been active in Japan, Singapore, Taiwan, Korea, New Zealand, Australia, Vietnam, Mexico and Chile as well as the Middle East and Africa. Recent Jones & Jones projects include the Singapore Botanical Garden, the Dubai Zoo, the Guam Territorial Aquarium, the Jerusalem Zoo Plan and the Green Island (Taiwan) CEO-tourism Master Plan. The Portico Group's projects include a master plan for the Singapore Science Center, a new concept for a nocturnal exhibit for

the During Birdpark in Singapore, exhibits for the Auckland New Zealand Zoo and the master plan for the Papua New Guinea National Museum and Constitution Park.

LMN Architects is best known for its specialty practice in convention and performing arts centers. LMN has completed design studies for convention centers in Kansai and Hara, Japan, as well as completed projects in Honolulu, San Diego, Dallas and Baltimore. The firm is also a leader in the design of retail and commercial facilities including innovative design concepts for mixed-use developments, urban and suburban shopping centers and corporate office buildings in diverse locations like Australia, Saudi Arabia, Chicago, Seattle and Portland.

MulvannyG2 Architecture specializes in retail and acts as a resource for its clients interested in international expansion. The firm has completed projects for American based retailers in Canada, England, Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan, Mexico and the Virgin Islands.

Donald King Architects (DKA) provides services in planning, architecture and interior design with extensive experience in community development planning. The firm has performed design work in Nigeria, Malaysia and the Sudan.



Development of Sustainable Communities

A broad range of players including government, private citizens, university researchers and local design and planning firms have been developing and exporting a regional expertise in planning for sustainable urban life. The notion of the “green” city or “ecopolis” is finding favor at international conferences such as Habitat II, the 1996 Global City Summit in Istanbul in which a number of Greater Seattle representatives were key players. In addition, The University of Washington’s Center for Sustainable Communities works with the United Nations, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and others to broadcast the Greater Seattle region’s experiences and knowledge of developing healthy, whole communities.

Single and Multi-Family Housing

Some of America’s most talented designers of single and multi-family residential structures are located in the Greater Seattle area. Northwest housing styles have been successfully exported outside the region on both a small scale and in larger community developments and resort complexes.

American Wooden Building Systems.

Japan and other Asian countries recently became interested in the American style of efficient, low cost wood-frame design and construction of residential buildings. Working together with the state of Washington and a number of building supply firms in the region, Greater Seattle architecture firms, like Mithun Partners, Inc., have been instrumental in promoting American-influenced housing development and wood-frame construction internationally as a team— providing site assessment, community planning, design, specification, building material supply and construction management as an integrated set of services.



Master Planning and Landscape Design

The Pacific Northwest is rightfully known for its natural beauty and the high value its citizens place on the environment; the area's firms integrate these characteristics into planning and design.

Regional Planning of Natural Environments. Our region's firms have successfully taken natural interpretive park planning, campus and resort master planning, shoreline development and scenic highways to international audiences enthusiastic for new nature experiences. Several firms in the Greater Seattle area are at the forefront of bioregional planning and eco-tourism development strategies in Taiwan, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, the Middle East and Central and South America.

Nature Facilities and Interpretive Centers. A number of Greater Seattle firms, like Jones & Jones, have developed international reputations for their work on zoos, aquariums and botanical gardens. This region has been a pioneer in the design of naturalistic environments for the viewing and interpretive presentation of land and marine animals and plants. Singapore, New Guinea, Guam, Dubai and Jerusalem are just a few of the locales where Seattle firms have played a role.

Airport Planning Local airport planners have shaped designs for many of the nation's leading airports. Among them: Boston, Las Vegas, Houston, San Jose, Oakland, Salt Lake City and Minneapolis.



Related Planning and Technical Services

Greater Seattle is home to numerous specialty technical firms with whom architects, designers and planners often work. Master plans, regional plans and larger scale developments frequently require transportation planning services to analyze and organize the access, movement and circulation of public transit, private vehicles and pedestrians within a project. Several local firms are known for expertise in airport master planning and facilities design, and for the analysis of travel behavior related to resort and recreational projects, shopping centers and tourism facilities.

Area firms frequently work on international projects because of their highly specialized civil and structural engineering knowledge and skills. [Magnusson Klemencic Associates, Inc.](#), has provided its expert engineering services to projects in 24 countries. These services include seismic engineering and static and dynamic wind analyses for high-rise structures such as the 73-story Highcliff Apartment Tower in Hong Kong and the twin 110-story towers of the World Trade Center in New York . The [ABKJ](#) company has expanded its offices to include one in the Philippines and has several multi-million dollar projects in the works internationally within the Philippines and Malaysia. ABKJ's capabilities include bridge/roadway design, civil engineering, structural design, waterfront/marine engineering and specialized experience including skills in seismic analysis/design, and arctic engineering. [Peratrovich, Nottingham and Drage, Inc.](#) is known for its expertise on a variety of transportation engineering projects involving roads, bridges, docks, airports, heavy pile foundation systems and environmental protection systems. The company has conducted work in Canada, Mexico, Malaysia, Morocco and Russia.

Washington state, with over 400 environmental services companies, has one of the most significant concentrations of environmental planning and engineering firms in the world. Greater Seattle firms provide a wide array of environmental services including wetlands delineation, soil fertility, soil erosion control, and geophysical mapping to determine land use applications. Local specialists have pioneered work with innovative aerial imaging and mapping systems to assess the conditions of lakes, rivers, wetlands and forested areas. Other firms in the region have expertise in remediation technologies and chemical spill planning and response, and provide comprehensive pollution prevention training programs.

Contacts

For additional information regarding this industry or to contact companies mentioned, please contact any of the organizations listed below.

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