



**RiverFirst**  
INITIATIVE

## RiverFirst Design Team

### Tom Leader Studio

*Tom Leader, Principal*

Tom Leader Studio was formed in March 2001 for the practice of landscape architecture. This nationwide practice seeks to be an active, experimental atelier seeking a liaison between emerging ideas and practices and the concrete need for their realization in physical space. With interest and experience in large-scale work, Leader nevertheless seeks what is personal and original while in pursuit of the pragmatic and has been acknowledged with several ASLA Honor Awards and as a finalist for Cooper Hewitt's National Design Award for Landscape Architecture.

Tom Leader has twenty-seven years of professional experience as a practicing landscape architect. Sixteen of those years were spent as a partner in the firm of Peter Walker and Partners (PWP), designing and building numerous award-winning projects throughout the U.S. and internationally. At PWP, two projects under his direction won national Honor Awards from the American Society of Landscape Architects — Longacres Park in Seattle, Washington, and Asahikawa River Park on the island of Hokkaido, Japan.

In 1996, Leader won the San Francisco Prize in a competition for the design of Philip Burton Federal Plaza and in 1998, he was awarded a year-long Rome Prize Fellowship in Landscape Architecture at the American Academy in Rome. He has been featured in two exhibits at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art including the on-site installation "Coastlines" as head of a collaborative team for the exhibit "Revelatory Landscapes" in 2001. He has served as a panelist for the Mayor's Institute on City Design, an AIA R/UDAT in Springfield Ohio, and the NEA Design Arts & Policy Panel. In 2002, the firm exhibited and created an installation at "Archilab" in Orleans, France and was involved in the LMDC's design competition for the master plan of the World Trade Center site. Leader lectures frequently and has taught at USC in 2006 as well as Ohio State University, where he served as the Glimcher Distinguished Visiting Professor in the spring of 2008.

The project "Shanghai Carpet" was featured in New York exhibits including the 2005 exhibition on international landscape architecture, "Groundswell", at the Museum of Modern Art, New York in 2005 and the 2006 Triennial "Design Life Now" at the Cooper Hewitt Museum. The firm's work is frequently published, with Pool Pavilion Forest — a landscape, art and architecture collaboration — recently featured in the New York Times Magazine. TLS was a finalist for the Shelby Farms Park Competition in Memphis Tennessee and the winner of the international competition for the Minneapolis Waterfront along the Mississippi River. The studio was a finalist for the National Mall Design Competition in Washington D.C and won the St. Petersburg Pier Competition in Tampa Bay, Florida with Michael Maltzan Architecture.

As the practice has grown, it has sought a balance between speculative work and the constructed work that is now being realized. Pool Pavilion Forest was completed in 2007; in 2010 three significant projects were completed, including a 21 acre Railroad Park in downtown Birmingham, Alabama, the Stanford School of Medicine in California and the Stanford Academic Art Walk. In 2009, the firm won an ASLA Honor Award for Pool Pavilion Forest, Stabiae Archaeological Park in the Bay of Naples, Italy, and Park Merced in San Francisco. In 2010, Tom Leader Studio: Three Projects (Source Books in Landscape Architecture), edited by Jason Kentner, was published by Princeton Architectural Press. In 2011, Tom Leader Studio was a Cooper Hewitt Design Awards Finalist. Tom Leader Studio is featured in a documentary film directed by Michele Forman about the trains and community in the context of Railroad Park. Currently, Railroad Park is a finalist for the Urban Land Institute (ULI) 2012 Urban Open Space Award.



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## KVA MATx

Sheila Kennedy, AIA and Juan Frano Violich, FAIA are Principals of Kennedy & Violich Architecture Ltd. (KVA), an interdisciplinary design practice that explores the relationships between architecture, sustainable resources and technologies and emerging public needs. Kennedy is Professor of the Practice of Architecture at MIT and is the first woman to hold this position in the Department of Architecture. Recent projects at KVA include the winning RiverFIRST 21st Century Minneapolis Riverfront Initiative, the first ranked competition entry for the IBA Hamburg SOFT row housing project in Germany, the new Law School of the University of Pennsylvania, the North Bennet Street Crafts School in Boston, the Anthology building at Harvard University and the Public Ferry Terminal Building at East 34th Street in Manhattan. The work of KVA has been recognized by National Design Excellence Awards from the American Institute of Architecture, Progressive Architecture Awards, Industrial Design Excellence Awards, the Prestigious Good Design Award from the Chicago Athenaeum, the Green Council's National Building Innovation Award and the Public Work Award of the National Endowment for the Arts.

KVA's material research division MATx works collaboratively with industry leaders, cultural institutions and public agencies to realize designs that advance the wide spread use of sustainable materials and technologies. MATx has developed designs and technology integration strategies for Dupont, Siemens, Osram, Saint-Gobain, Herman Miller, 3M, The North Face and the United States Department of Energy. The MATx Portable Light Project, a non-profit global initiative to create energy harvesting textiles in the developing world has been recognized with a 2009 US Congressional Award, two Energy Globe Awards and was selected in 2012 by the Geneva Global Journal as one of the top 100 NGO's worldwide.

The work of KVA has been exhibited at the Cooper Hewitt National Design Museum, the International Rotterdam Biennial, the Vitra Design Museum in Germany, the TED conference in California and was featured in the Museum of Modern Art's exhibition "Design & the Elastic Mind" on breakthrough designs. KVA's work has been published in journals of architecture and design culture and has been featured on National Public Radio, BBC World News, CBS News, The Discovery Channel Special on the Future of Energy, CNN Principal Voices, *Wired*, *The Economist*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Business Week* and *The New York Times*.

