

2017 RI Design Hall of Fame Inductees:



Lifetime Achievement: Chris Bardt

Chris has practiced and taught and researched architecture for over 28 years, after earning a Bachelor of Architecture from the Rhode Island School of Design in 1983 and a Masters of Architecture II from Harvard University Graduate School of Design in 1988. His professional practice, 3six0 Architecture co-founded in 1995 has been recognized for outstanding design achievements with numerous awards, publications, and worldwide press. Chris has been a member of the architecture faculty at the Rhode Island School of Design since 1998 and has served in a professional capacity on several boards including the Capital Center Design Review Committee (current) and the Quonset Development Corporation Design Review Committee.

Over his career, Chris' research has influenced exploration in his field of design. He has extensively investigated the geometry of sunlight and developed an internationally recognized large scale public installation translating the sun's movement into architectonic construction. Chris co-authored research on computer modelling of structural ribbed surfaces, the work being featured at the international Design Modeling Symposium Berlin. In 2007, his research on the design of masonry units was published and presented at the National Concrete Masonry Association conference. Over the past two decades Chris has researched the impact materials have on culture and the imagination; his forthcoming book "Material and Mind" examines how physical material influences design and thought.

Chris's work has been exhibited at the Cranbrook Academy, the ETH Swiss Technical University, The Architectural Association in London, The Institute of Contemporary Art, San Francisco, and the RISD Museum. Publications featuring Chris's research include, AA Files, ViA arquitectura, Installations by Architects and Expanded Fields.

A dedicated pedagogue, Chris has influenced generations of students, developing and leading core and upper level studio curricula and most recently designing a new drawing curriculum bringing digital tools into a meaningful relationship with manual and empirical processes of drawing. Chris has lectured widely on the education of designers including Chinese University, Hong Kong, Washington University, St. Louis, the Swiss Technical University, Chur, Switzerland and the China Academy of Art, Hangzhou, China.



Lifetime Achievement: Kyna Leski

Kyna Leski is a designer, an artist, a teacher, and a writer who seeks creative discovery or, as she puts it, “realizing you do not know what you thought you knew, while expanding what you do.”

As a founding principal of 3six0 Architecture, Leski commits to creative discovery as an efficient and effective approach. Here Leski redefines problems that set in motion the strategy for solutions tailored to the specific needs, limits and situation of each project. The results have been recognized by Rhode Island and Boston AIA and the Boston Society of Architects numerous times. Architectural Record named 3SIXØ one of ten “vanguard” architecture firms emerging worldwide and subsequently recognized 3SIXØ for “Record Interiors.”

As the author of the first semester architecture curriculum at The Rhode Island School of Design, Professor Leski crafts problems which direct students back to their own inquiry as the source for generating ideas. Leski's pedagogy is the basis of *The Making of Design Principles*,

a book she authored in 2007. Leski served as the Head of the Department of Architecture, Graduate Director and Chief Critic of the RISD European Honors Program in Rome. She was a Visiting Professor, China Academy of Art in Hangzhou, China.

Leski's house of visual shadows, called Dream House, won first place out of 480 entries in the Shinken-chiku Residential Design Competition. Architect Shin Takamatsu called her design “outstanding” and said of it, “Light undergoes variations and dislocations and becomes architecture.” In 1997 the Architectural League of New York selected Leski as a winner of its annual Young Architects Competition and in 2000 she was nominated for a Chrysler Design Award.

In 2015, The MIT Press published, Leski's book *The Storm of Creativity*. It is being translated into Russian, Turkish, Korean and Chinese. The illustrations made by Leski for this book are the basis for her animation, “Storm's-eye View.” Leski has given over 30 talks on creativity across the country—from POP!Tech in Camden, Maine to the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach, California.

Lifetime Achievement: Rosanne Somerson

Rosanne Somerson is a woodworker, furniture designer, maker, educator and current President of Rhode Island School of Design. Long known as a leader in the studio furniture field, Rosanne Somerson has also earned a growing reputation as an agile, adept and visionary leader in art and design education.



A consummate designer, Somerson maintains her design studio in Fall River, MA, where she designs and makes furniture on commission and furthers her own creative practice. Her work is featured in numerous books and publications, and has been exhibited throughout the US and internationally, including at the Louvre in Paris. Somerson's furniture is represented in private, corporate and museum collections, most notably at the

Smithsonian American Art Museum, the Fuller Craft Museum, the Huntsville [AL] Museum of Art, the RISD Museum, the Smith College Museum of Art, Yale University Art Gallery and the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

An eloquent writer, thought leader and presenter, Somerson is frequently invited to speak at museums, conferences, corporations and colleges around the world. She has served on numerous panels and juries, and appeared in several television segments and videos, including an interview with her in the Smithsonian's Archives of American Art. Throughout her careers, she has earned recognition for her work as a designer, artist and teacher, including two fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the James Renwick Alliance's Distinguished Crafts Educator Award.

Established in 2014, the RI Design Hall of Fame recognizes proven leaders in the Rhode Island design community for their contributions to the industry on local, national and international levels. It is presented by DESIGNxRI, an organization working to maximize the assets of the RI design community, highlight the breadth of talent in the state, and nurture growth in the sector. Honorees are inducted and celebrated during the annual [DESIGN WEEK RI](#).

DESIGNxRI is a non-profit organization with a mission to create a vibrant and opportunity-driven environment for RI designers, design businesses and the design sector to thrive. Through education, economic development and community development, we coalesce designers, elevate awareness of the RI design sector, spotlight the diverse talent base located in the state, and invest in strengthening and growing RI design-driven businesses. Learn more at www.designxri.com.