



AIA Nevada Distinguished Service Awards

2024 Young Architect Award Application

Wellbe Bartsma AIA, NCARB, LEED AP BD+C



WELLBE J. BARTSMA AIA, NCARB, LEED AP BD+C

Wellbe Bartsma is a licensed architect and project designer at Gensler's Las Vegas office, where he shapes spaces that foster connection, engagement, and sustainability. His journey into architecture began on a small farm in rural Washington state, where the isolation nurtured a fascination with structures and their relationship to nature. This early curiosity evolved into a passion for exploring cities, traveling, and immersing himself in the built environment. Today, Wellbe brings his diverse experiences to a wide range of projects, including hospitality, office buildings, retail, education, mixed-use, residential, and urban design. His strong relationships with various Gensler offices have deepened his expertise in different markets, while his role as a core member of the design team ensures he is actively involved from initial visualization through to construction and serves as a key figure in maintaining client relationships.

Growing up on a farm miles outside the nearest town, Wellbe developed a passion for architecture and a desire to explore the world beyond. This curiosity drove him to travel to cities, eager to understand their structures and the relationship between the built and natural environments. He attended Washington State University, earning a Bachelor of Science in Architectural Studies with a Minor in Construction Management in May 2011. Fueled by a strong interest in urban design and tall buildings, he moved to Chicago, where he earned a Master of Architecture from the Illinois Institute of Technology in May 2013. During his time at IIT, he studied under Professor Peter Land, focusing on wide-span and tall-building design, exploring how wind shapes buildings and how structures can harness this natural energy. His move from Washington state to cities like Chicago has always been driven by a deeper pursuit of understanding how architecture can transform the interaction between nature and urban life, refining principles of connection, urban flow, and the elegance of engineering.

Following graduation from IIT, Wellbe moved to Las Vegas, drawn by his passion for hospitality design and the city's ability to reinvent itself. He began his career as an Architectural Project Coordinator at Steelman Partners, where he focused on blending architecture with the immersive aspects of hospitality design, working there from September 2013 until August 2017. He then joined Gensler's Las Vegas office as a Technical Designer in August 2017. At Gensler, his passion for urban integration, user experience, and sustainability truly came to life. In Fall 2019, Wellbe was promoted to Associate, allowing him to participate in leadership discussions and mentor junior designers, deepening his understanding of architecture's impact on creating environments that shape lives.

Wellbe sees his work not only as a response to existing conditions but as an opportunity to reshape how we interact with cities and spaces. This mindset is not confined to the projects he leads but extends into his work with the AIA. As the Emerging Professionals Director for AIA Las Vegas, he fostered a culture of inclusivity and mentorship. Leading initiatives like the Firm Crawl series, he connected students and young professionals with established architects, opening doors and creating a network that supports professional growth. He launched programs that introduced students to real-world projects, providing valuable site visits and networking opportunities to effectively prepare them for their future careers.

As the Young Architect Representative for AIA Nevada, Wellbe continued fostering a culture of inclusivity and mentorship. He spearheaded the launch of the now ongoing Emerging Professional Friendly Firm Recognition Survey, just one example of his commitment to ensuring that firms in Nevada foster environments where young professionals can thrive. His leadership extends beyond formal mentorship, embracing a holistic approach where the goal is not only to impart technical skills but to inspire confidence, creativity, and a commitment to making a positive social impact.

Wellbe became a Registered Architect in Nevada in June 2019 after passing all his Architecture Registration Exams and earning his NCARB certification. His commitment to sustainability is central to his practice, and he actively works towards the Gensler Cities Climate Challenge (GC3), aiming to eliminate all net emissions associated with Gensler's projects by 2030. To further his environmental impact, he obtained his LEED AP BD+C accreditation in July 2020, integrating sustainable strategies into every phase of his work, from concept to completion. He believes that sustainability is not just a design principle but a crucial responsibility in shaping a better future.

Beyond the technical aspects of architecture, Wellbe is dedicated to fostering community engagement and well-being. At Gensler, he quickly volunteered to chair the gFit committee, promoting health and wellness in the workplace through initiatives like Wellbeing Awareness Week, which includes events and educational webinars focused on healthy living and connecting with the outdoors. Wellbe has been entrusted with leading recruitment and onboarding initiatives at Gensler, effectively attracting top talent and coordinating strategic marketing efforts to secure new projects for the firm. Outside of his professional role, Wellbe has mentored high school students through the AIA High School Design Competition and introduced students at a local urban high school to architecture by presenting design projects and answering questions about the field. He also volunteered with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southern Nevada, partnering with a seventh grader interested in architecture and design.

Wellbe's passion for community development extends to his involvement with the Downtown Vegas Alliance, an idea he introduced to Gensler's leadership to deepen the firm's engagement with the growth of Las Vegas. As Gensler's liaison, he connected with industry professionals, helping to shape the city's future while fostering new relationships. His work with the Downtown Vegas Alliance aligns Gensler's projects with the broader goals of urban renewal, ensuring that designs contribute to Las Vegas's economic and social vitality.

I am honored to be considered for the AIA Nevada Young Architect Award and view it as a continuation of my commitment to architecture as a force for good. I look forward to furthering my contributions to both the profession and the community, ensuring that architecture continues to evolve, adapt, and inspire.

EDUCATION



Illinois Institute of Technology Chicago, IL
Master of Architecture
May 2013



Washington State University Pullman, WA
Bachelor of Science in Architectural Studies
Minor in Construction Management
May 2011

CERTIFICATIONS

Nevada State Board of Architecture, Interior Design and Residential Design
Licensed Architect - 8138

National Council of Architectural Registration Boards
Registered Architect

United States Green Building Council
LEED AP BD+C

AFFILIATIONS

American Institute of Architects - Architect Member
AIA Las Vegas - Emerging Professionals Director, 2023-2024
AIA Nevada - Secretary, 2025-2026
AIA Nevada - Strategic Council, 2024-2026
AIA Nevada - Young Architect Representative, 2023

Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat - Member

Downtown Vegas Alliance - Member, 2021-2023

Alpha Rho Chi Fraternity for Architecture and the Allied Arts
Chapter founder, Vice-President, Secretary, 2008-2011
Alumni Director, 2015-2017

The International Fraternity of Phi Gamma Delta
President and Secretary, 2009-2011

VOLUNTEER EFFORTS

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southern Nevada

Volunteered as a mentor to a middle school student in 2014 and 2015. During this time I also volunteered at the organizations STEM Summer Program to speak about the architecture profession to youth within the program.

AIA High School Design Mentor

Volunteered as a mentor to students at West Career and Technical Academy in 2018, and served as a juror for the competition in 2018, 2019, 2022, and 2023.

Cheyenne High School Career Mentor

Presented about the architecture and design profession to promote STEM at an urban Las Vegas high school from 2016-2018.

Gensler gServe

Actively take part in philanthropic events to raise donations for multiple organizations within Las Vegas such as Three Square, Dress for Success, and Ronald McDonald House.

AIA Emerging Professionals Committee

Served as chair of the committee during my time as the Emerging Professionals Director for AIA Las Vegas, 2023-2024.

AWARDS

AIA Nevada Distinguished Service Award, Emerging Professional Leadership Award, 2023

NAIOP Southern Nevada Spotlight Award, Office Building
Narrative, 2024

National Australian Hotels Association Awards for Excellence, Best Deluxe Accommodation
The Darling at The Star Gold Coast, 2018

ADVOCATING FOR AND
ADVANCING THE PRACTICE
OF ARCHITECTURE AND
DESIGN IN SOUTHERN NEVADA

FORUM

January 2023

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Member Spotlight
Wellbe Bartsma, AIA

2 I AM AIA LAS VEGAS MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

I Am A Member Of The American Institute Of Architects (AIA) Because... I want to connect with like-minded professionals who share related goals and interests in our community and beyond! AIA gives us the common ground to come together and learn from one another. I see so much potential for Las Vegas and I want to do my part to help further improve the city, helping it become a staple sustainable community in the desert.

I attended Washington State University (Go Cougs!) to obtain my undergraduate degree, but then having a strong passion for urban design and tall buildings, I moved to Chicago and obtained my Master of Architecture from the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT). Having been in Las Vegas for over nine years, it's now the city I'm proud to call home. Being a part of Gensler for over five years, and as an Associate, I get the chance to collaborate with great talent every day in not only our Las Vegas office but offices worldwide.

I am very excited to be taking on the role of the AIA Las Vegas Emerging Professionals Director for the upcoming term. I have always had a strong interest in the architectural community and love meeting new people in the city. I look forward to further promote our profession among the community, make connections as well as connecting others in our industry. Next year, EPYAF will be focusing on increasing career development, including project tours, firm crawls, network events and more. We also plan to coincide some of these events with the local AIAS chapter at UNLV, where we can encourage leadership not only among young architects, but emerging and future architects currently working on their degrees or licensure. I want to help connect young architects in Las Vegas through our common goal of achieving design excellence.

As with many people, I'd like to think my past has helped mold me into who I am today. Being brought up on a farm in central Washington state, I learned the value of good work ethic, teamwork, and how important it is to meet deadlines at an early age. When the crops are ready, they're READY and you better be quick to get everything harvested by the time that thundercloud approaches. I knew I wanted to be an architect from an early age and always had a wanderlust to travel to any city and explore. Coming from the wide-open fields and walking into a dense urban environment was a whole other world for me, and I wanted to be a part of it! Now that I'm a licensed architect, I enjoy coming into work every day and collaborating with amazing talent to help better our built environment. I now work on amazing projects inside and outside of Las Vegas, focusing on urban and tall building design, master planning, and hospitality design. When I'm not working away, one of my favorite things to do is do yardwork and landscaping in my backyard. As my dad likes to say, 'You can take the boy out of the farm, but you can't take the farm out of the boy.'

What is the most important thing you've learned? Be Confident! A little confidence goes a long way when you are creating, presenting to clients, or really anything in life! I'll be honest when I say I have times of self-doubt when a certain task gets too hard. I've learned to step away, go for a walk and take a breather to try and clear my mind. Upon approaching the task again, I almost always have a clear direction or path ahead. Confidence helps us keep going if things don't quite work out the first time, and it helps us move forward with new opportunities. Always believe in yourself and you'll be surprised at what you can achieve!

What is your favorite piece of architecture? Why? The John Hancock Center in Chicago. The way the structure of the tower is expressed on the perimeter and the tapering of the tower that help brace the tower against the wind loads is fascinating to me. It's such a powerful building when you're in its presence, and to think how revolutionary it was during its construction in the 1960's, yet still such a great statement today shows how timeless it is.

What person, living or dead, would you most like to talk with? Relating to our industry, I would have to say my thesis professor from IIT, Peter Land. He really challenged me, and I believe I learned some of the most valuable insights to design from him. His studio focused on sustainable long-span and high-rise architecture, believing that architects need to address renewable resources and energy conservation in a world where fossil fuels are diminishing. He would always gladly take the time to sit and have conversations about design, his experiences and we would explore methods in which our studio projects could harvest energy to be self-sufficient. I was saddened to hear of his passing in 2020.

How do you think the profession will evolve in the next 5-10 years? Resiliency in design and construction will be more important in the next few years. We all keep hearing about renewable energy and finding sustainable ways to power our buildings, but it will become more important to find ways to achieve carbon neutrality. We can only truly achieve this if we remove the embodied carbon used in constructing buildings, as well as the emissions related to using buildings.

WELLBE BARTSMA, AIA

AIA Nevada Emerging Professionals Leadership Award

The AIA Nevada Emerging Professionals Leadership Award was established to recognize AIA emerging professional members who are committed to advancing the profession and their chapter and whose actions have helped to elevate and improve their communities.



Wellbe Bartsma, AIA

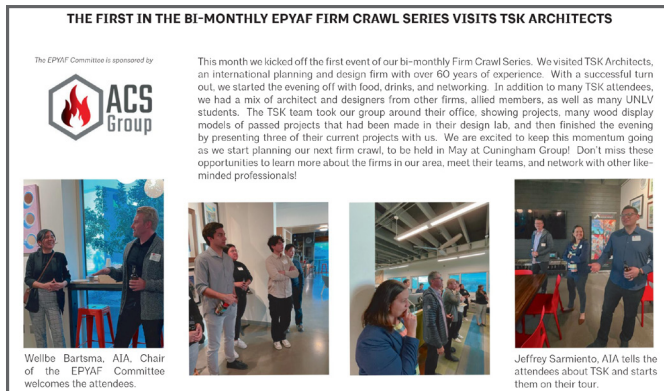
Wellbe Bartsma is recognized for his mentorship and advocacy in architecture, notably as Nevada's Emerging Professionals/Young Architect representative and his recent national AIA Strategic Council appointment. His work at Gensler and 'Big Brothers Big Sisters' volunteering, coupled with his leadership potential, mark him as a talented and valuable architect. His application demonstrates his impressive early career achievements.

Connecting the Community through the Firm Crawl Series

As chair of the Emerging Professionals Committee, I initiated the firm crawl series. These events have quickly become a vibrant platform for connecting our architectural community. Each event has drawn an enthusiastic mix of architects, emerging professionals, allied members, and students with growing attendance and dynamic discussions at every stop. The series showcases unique workspaces and fosters valuable connections, uniting emerging and established professionals across the industry.

Firm Crawl Events to Date

TSK Architects
Cunningham Group
Carpenter Sellers del Gatto
Knit
Novus
Moser
Steelman Partners



Building community, one firm at a time

Architects Descend on Capitol Hill for Key Legislative Efforts

Over 800 AIA leaders from all across the globe descended upon Capitol Hill February 28th, 2024 to communicate three bills that are very important to the architecture profession. They went on behalf of all architects in their respective states and regions to represent and make their voices heard. The more involved architects are advocating at the federal level, the greater the positive impact on architecture firms, the communities in which architects live, work and play, and the profession at large.

The Nevada Delegation met with both **Senator Cortez Masto** and **Senator Rosen**, as well as representatives from the offices of **Rep. Mark Amodei, Rep. Susie Lee, Rep. Steven Horsford, and Rep. Dina Titus**.



Nevada Delegation with representative of Steven Horsford



Nevada Delegation with Senator Catherine Cortez Masto



Nevada Delegation with Senator Jacky Rosen



When attending AIA Leadership Summit lands on your Birthday!
Wellbe Bartsma AIA, NCARB, LEED AP BD+C

Project Site Tours

As Emerging Professional Director for AIA Las Vegas, I organized project tours to provide architects, students, and allied members with insights into key city developments. These tours fostered collaboration and enhanced understanding of our built environment.

EMERGING PROFESSIONALS & YOUNG ARCHITECTS FORUM



In partnership with A4LE, the EPYAF took a tour of the newly built Northeast Career & Technical Academy on 9/21.

Thank you to CCSD and TSK for hosting us! We are also looking forward to the next installment of our Firm Crawl series at NOVUS Architecture + Interiors on Thursday, October 5th! This is a great opportunity for the EPYAF community, as well as other members who are interested in meeting their team, viewing their portfolio, and meeting other design professionals in a casual setting.

EPYAF UFC TOUR

June 21, 2024

On June 21st, the AIA Las Vegas Emerging Professionals Young Architects Forum (EPYAF) hosted an exclusive tour of the UFC Performance Institute, offering design professionals a behind-the-scenes look at one of the world's most advanced athletic facilities.

The tour showcased how innovative design and cutting-edge technology combine to create an optimal training environment for UFC athletes. Participants explored various

areas, including the iconic octagon, recovery zones with ice baths and hot tubs, and the expansive weight room. The group also visited the dining area, where personalized meals are prepared for athletes based on their specific nutritional needs.

Throughout the tour, attendees gained insights into the unique design challenges and solutions that shaped the facility's exceptional layout and functionality. This exclusive experience provided

valuable perspective on how architecture and technology can be leveraged to foster peak athletic performance in professional sports.



Downtown Las Vegas Civic Center Tour

OCTOBER 24, 2024

EPYAF hosted an exclusive tour of the Downtown Las Vegas Civic Center construction site on Thursday, October 24, offering attendees an up-close look at this ambitious project. Participants explored the development's key features, including the mixed-use office towers, innovative outdoor plaza, and performance spaces designed to celebrate the Mojave Desert environment. The tour provided an insider's perspective of what will become the future heart of downtown Las Vegas, designed by LGA, BNIM, and OJB.

Attendees learned about this transformative project's goal to consolidate City of Las Vegas employees into a central campus, fostering collaboration and efficiency. The tour showcased the integration of public and private spaces, including an art gallery, meeting rooms, and a versatile outdoor area designed to host up to 2,500 people for community events.

We extend our sincere thanks to all who joined us for this informative site tour. Your enthusiasm and engagement made the event a great success. We look forward to seeing you at future EPYAF events as we continue to explore and celebrate the development of our city!



PAST EVENTS





In spring of 2023, I was accepted into the Gensler Southwest Regional Design Leadership Course. This was an interactive course targeted to emerging design leaders, that empowers the next generation of design talent with the leadership skills needed to deliver transformational design work. Those of us accepted participated in workshops and lessons geared at professional development of design leadership over two separate weekends in Gensler's Los Angeles office.



Group photo of the 2023 class with instructors



Panel discussion with Gensler design leadership

CONGRATULATIONS ONE AND ALL!



Randy Lavigne, Hon. AIA, Executive Director of AIA Las Vegas (center) congratulates the State's newest Licensed Design Professionals. The Architects are Kristine Wentworth, Assoc. AIA, Wellbe Bartsma, Assoc. AIA, Sean Clark Harry, Matthew Clay Ivie and Justin Warner. Lisa Chapman was sworn in as a Registered Interior Designer. Good Luck in your careers!



Reviewing students work at the UNLV School of Architecture Career Fair



2023 Gensler Las Vegas Internship Program Coordinator



During the 2024 ULI Conference in Las Vegas, I had the privilege of co-leading an in-depth tour of the Las Vegas Arts District. This experience allowed me to guide participants through the district's unique spaces and showcase its vibrant contributions to the city's cultural and creative landscape.



Discussing the proposed Midtown Plaza project



Talking about the importance of The English Hotel in the Arts District



Presenting on the historical significance of the Arts District

SKYPOINTE Reno, Nevada

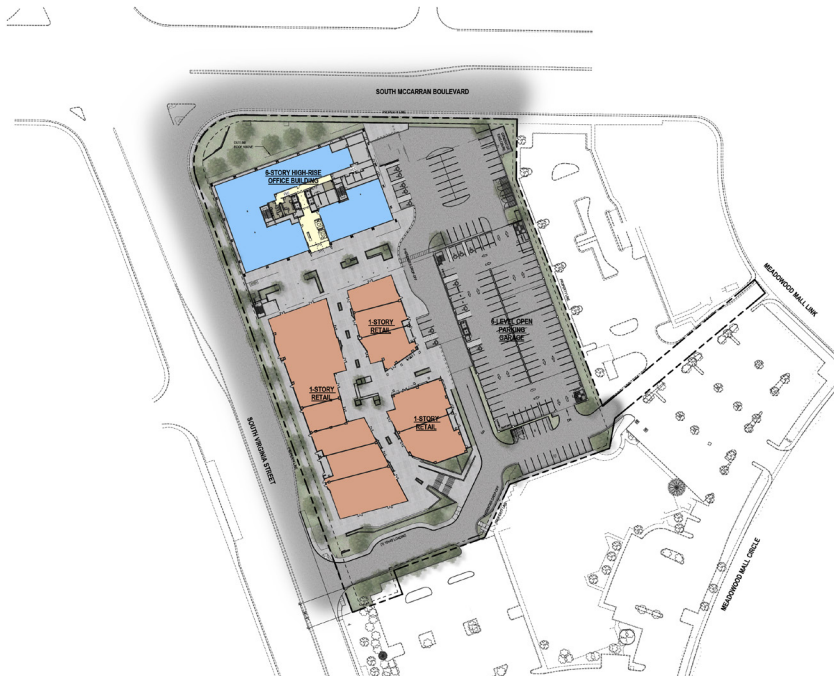


RETAIL COURTYARD

Client: McKenzie Properties

Project Status: Permit Received

A six story 180,000sf office building and 50,000sf of retail and restaurants. The first contemporary ground up mixed use urban development in an effort to elevate the available Class A office space in the Reno market. The new work, retail and dining destination optimizes indoor/outdoor connectivity with opportunities to create a community through workplace mobility and a sense of belonging, with a focus on human connection at the ground level.



SITE PLAN

Companies Role in Project: Design and Project Architect

Role in Project: Project Designer and Project Architect

- Assisted in design and coordinated presentations as well as held client meetings to present design updates
- Prepare documents from schematic design through construction documents
- Pursue energy modeling studies and consult with sustainability consultants in order to achieve Three Green Globes Building Certification
- Led design on the interior lobby and public spaces. Part of design team for office tower, retail podium, and parking garage.
- Run weekly coordination calls between the consultants, contractor, and owner to ensure all trades stayed on schedule for project deliverables.

OFFICE TOWER LOBBY



“During the design phase, Wellbe started as one of the many associates working with Gensler on the project, and throughout the design, Wellbe has established himself as truly the lead designer and my main contact on this complex project.”

- Client Brien McKenzie

CONFIDENTIAL OFFICE Las Vegas, Nevada



Client: Confidential Client

MAIN OFFICE ENTRY

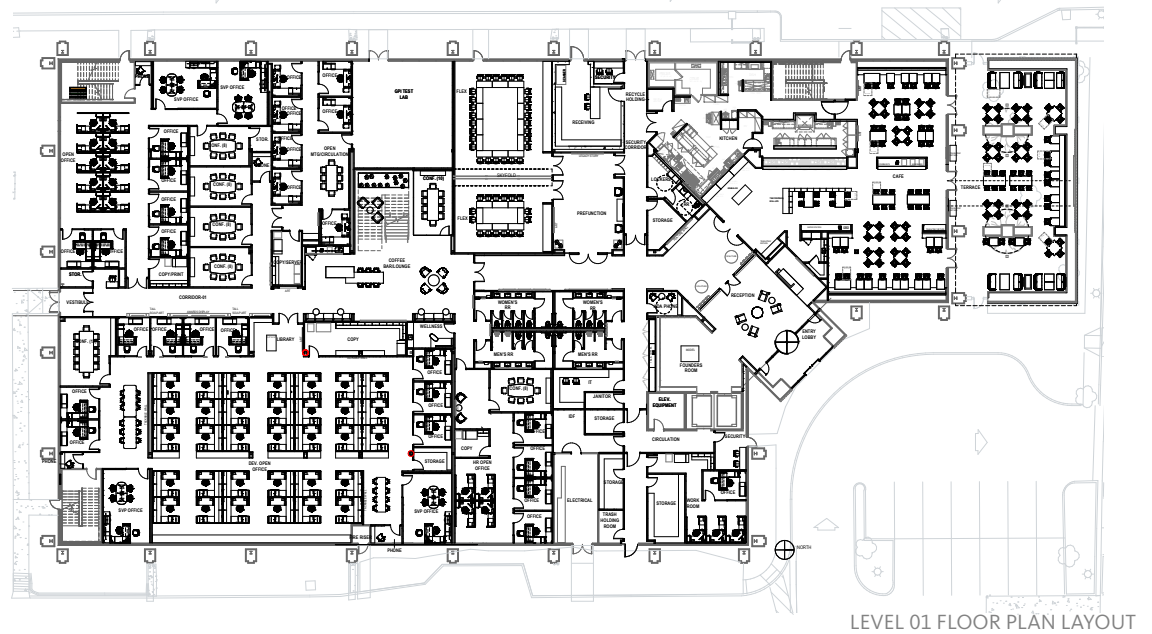
Project Status: Realized

Project Description: Renovation of an existing 2 level office building and parking garage for a new company headquarters.

Companies Role: Design Architect and Architect of Record

Role in Project: Project Architect

- Existing two story office building interiors renovation including core and shell updates, tenant improvement of interior spaces, outdoor terrace addition, and parking garage updates.
- Performed numerous space planning and test fit studies to fit required amount of desks and offices in departments, ultimately resulting in the most efficient layout given the existing conditions of the building.
- Selected and detailed skylight system to fit within and align with existing structural elements.
- Took part in client meetings, coordinated with consultants, and managed internal team to meet project deliverables.
- Assisted in selection of colors and finishes for exterior refresh and detailed new office entry facade.



EXECUTIVE OFFICE



“Wellbe was a key team member for an important project to our company. He worked with us through all design phases from space planning to detail design and construction documents using his talents to truly uplift the experience through design.”

- Client Testimonial

THE DARLING Gold Coast, Australia



PORTE COCHERE

Client: Star Entertainment Group

National Australian Hotels Association Awards for Excellence, Best Deluxe Accommodation, 2018

Project Status: Realized

Project Description: A new ground up, luxury all-suite hotel tower with architectural core and shell design in addition to design of suites. Hotel includes podium level of casino and hotel amenities with a rooftop lounge and infinity pool overlooking the Pacific Ocean.

Wellbe Bartsma AIA, NCARB, LEED AP BD+C

Design Work | 13



AERIAL VIEW

Companies Role: Design Architect

Role in Project: Project Designer and Job Captain

- Coordinated design presentations and presented ideas in client meetings for a 20 story, 6 star hotel.
- Led design on hotel porte cochere, skylight, entry drive, green wall signage, and rooftop infinity edge pool.
- Assisted in design on all aspects of the project from concept through design development.
- Selected architectural finishes and materials.
- Assisted in millwork design for hotel rooms as well as room layouts and architectural details.
- Managed a team and assigned tasks in order to reach design development deliverables for handoff to the Architect of Record in Australia.

KING SUITE

"I was fortunate to meet Wellbe close to the beginning of his professional career. At the time, Wellbe was part of my team, focusing on a remodel and new-build project in Australia. It was refreshing to work with a talented individual with a passion for env and exciting development, but one who was eager to not only share his knowledge with all team members, but to also absorb any direction and wisdom I could impart. Although much of what I focused on was interiors based, Wellbe approached my requests with interest, respect and diligence."

-Former Colleague, Darla Real



Wellbe Bartsma AIA, NCARB, LEED AP BD+C

Design Work | 14

NARRATIVE Las Vegas, Nevada



AMENITY LOUNGE AND TENANT ENTRY

Client: G2 Capital Development / LaPour Partners

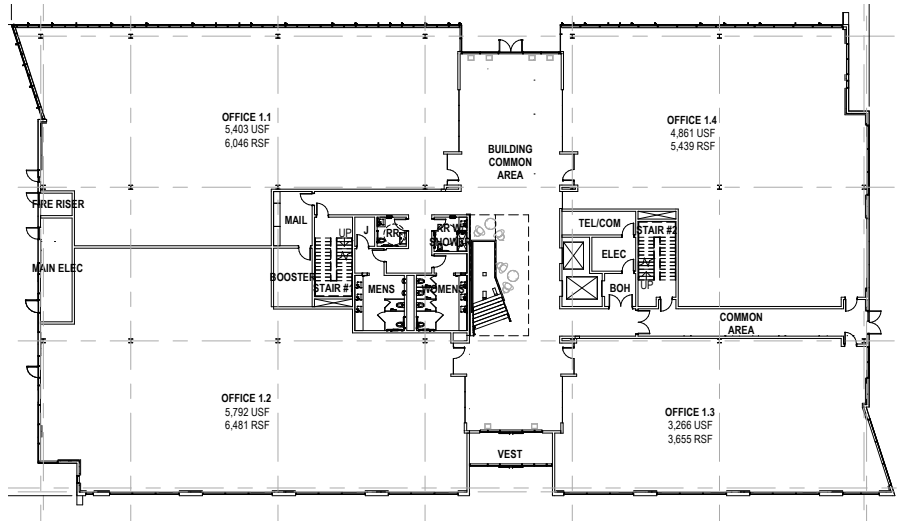
NAIOP Southern Nevada Spotlight Award, Office Building, 2024

Project Status: Realized

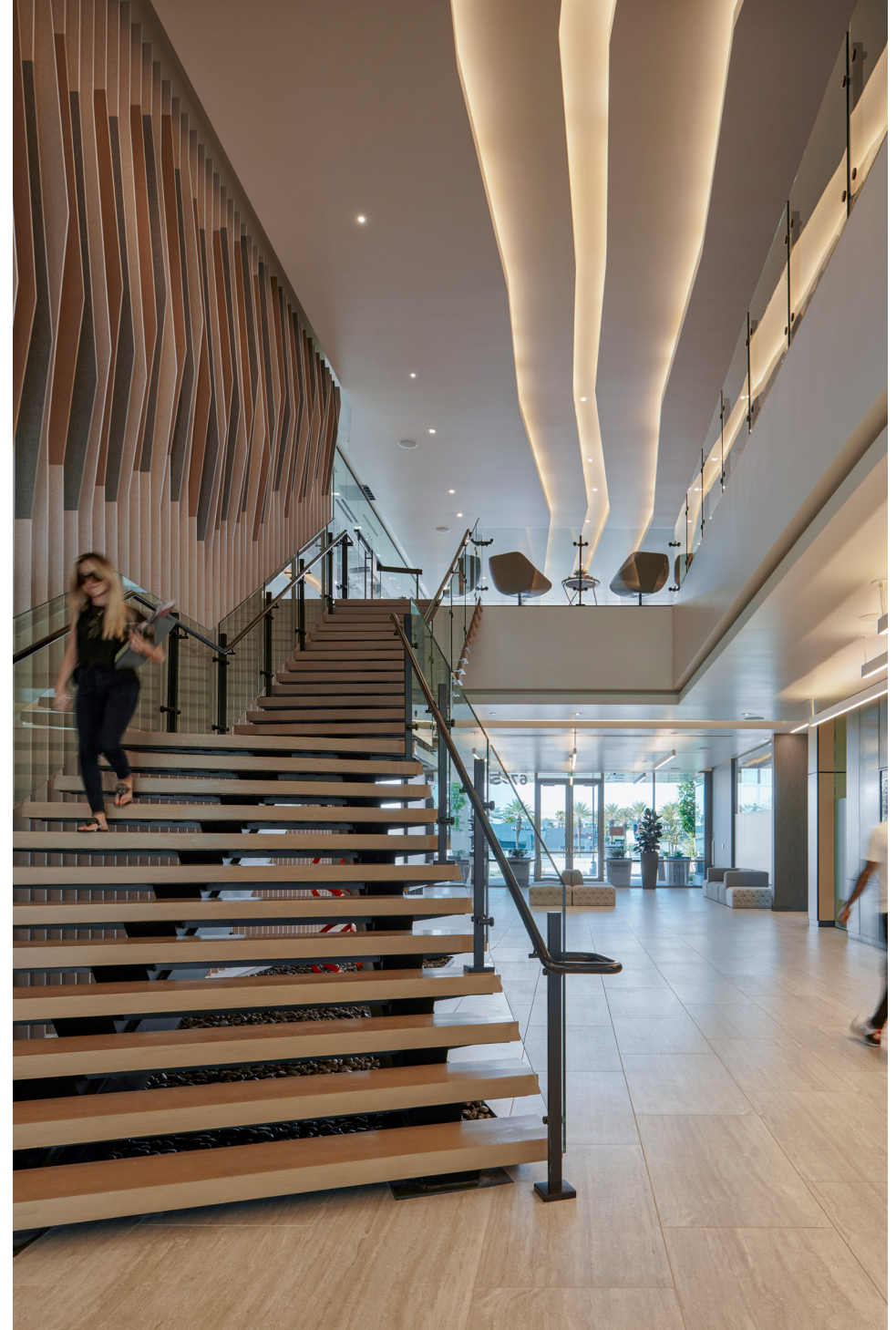
Project Description: The Narrative includes design of the building core for each floor, including entry lobbies and vestibules, elevators, restrooms, stairs, mailroom, mech/elec rooms, IDF rooms, and other accessory spaces as required to accommodate the building infrastructure. A feature stair provides lobby access from the first floor to the second floor. The second floor includes a public amenity lounge with balcony access.

Wellbe Bartsma AIA, NCARB, LEED AP BD+C

Design Work | 15



LEVEL 01 FLOOR PLAN



FEATURE STAIR

Companies Role: Design Architect of Core and Public Spaces

Role in Project: Project Designer

- Design lead on core and public spaces of a new four story office building in the southwest Las Vegas Valley.
- Designed and detailed second level ceiling, inspired by slot canyons of the southwest region as well as feature stair element.
- Presented designs in client meetings to come to final design and mentored a junior designer to meet project deliverables.
- Performed project site analysis and provided recommendations to the client for the project to receive Fitwel certification.

STARBUCKS Las Vegas, Nevada



Client: Silverton Hotel and Casino

Project Status: Realized

Project Description: Full design and construction of a new ground up Starbucks property at the new Silverton Village retail center.

Wellbe Bartsma AIA, NCARB, LEED AP BD+C

STARBUCKS

Design Work | 17



STARBUCKS PLAN

Companies Role: Design Architect and Architect of Record

Role in Project: Project Designer and Project Manager

- Aided in design, coordinated presentations, as well as assist in generating 3D renderings.
- Conduct meeting between the client, contractor, Starbucks Coffee Company, and consultants.
- Prepare documents from schematic design, design development, and construction documents.
- Developed the conceptual design for Blaze Pizza and Firehouse Subs retail buildings.
- Select materials and finishes for exterior and interior applications.

STARBUCKS INTERIORS





Josh Flowers, FAIA

Legal Counsel, Gresham Smith

AIA National
2025-2026 Elected Secretary

AIA National Strategic Council
2024 Vice Moderator

AIA National Strategic Council
2022-2024 Tennessee Representative

AIA Tennessee
2019 President

AIA National Contract Documents Committee
2018-2027

AIA National Young Architects Forum
2016 Chair



Genuine Ingenuity

222 Second Avenue South
Suite 1400
Nashville, TN 37201
615.770.8100
GreshamSmith.com

November 1, 2024

AIA Nevada
1131 S. Casino Center Blvd.
Las Vegas, NV. 89104

Subject: Wellbe Bartsma, AIA – AIA Nevada Young Architect Award

Dear Distinguished Members of the Jury,

I am honored to recommend Wellbe Bartsma for the AIA Nevada Young Architect Award. My association with Wellbe began through his involvement with the Young Architects Forum (YAF), and this year, I have had the privilege of working alongside him as he represents Nevada on the AIA Strategic Council. Wellbe's commitment to advancing the architectural profession, especially at the intersection of design and technology, along with his dedication to service and community engagement, make him exceptionally deserving of this award.

Wellbe's contributions to the Strategic Council are exemplary of his commitment to the future of architecture. This year, he has provided insightful leadership through the Strategic Council AI Study Group and spearheaded research, aligning closely with AIA's goals of leveraging technological advancements for the profession's growth. His thoughtful approach ensures that design principles are upheld and prioritized as we navigate these complex, emerging fields. This foresight and dedication to the responsible integration of technology are impactful, both for current Council initiatives and for the architectural profession at large.

Furthermore, Wellbe is deeply committed to fostering community and collaboration within the Council. As a young architect, he has proven himself as a natural leader, engaging his fellow councilors and nurturing a sense of camaraderie that enhances our shared goals. His ability to transcend areas of expertise, inspire his peers, and create connections among councilors embodies the spirit of this award, which values leadership that is forward-thinking at an early career stage.

In light of Wellbe's leadership, his contributions to both the present and future of architecture, and his dedication to building a stronger community within AIA, I offer my strongest recommendation for his consideration for the AIA Nevada Young Architect Award. His work has already had a cumulative and lasting effect on the profession, and he will undoubtedly continue to be an influential leader for years to come.

Yours,

Josh Flowers, FAIA
2024 Strategic Council Vice Moderator
Elected 2025-26 AIA Secretary
2022-2024 AIA National Strategic Council – Tennessee Representative
2019 President, AIA Tennessee
2018-2027 AIA National Contract Documents Committee
2016 Chair, AIA National Young Architects Forum



Gensler

October 23, 2024

Dear Distinguished Service Awards Jury,

I am honored to write this letter in strong support of Wellbe Bartsma's candidacy for the AIA Nevada Young Architect Award. Through my engagement with the Las Vegas office, I have had the privilege of getting to know Wellbe over the years during my tenure as the Co-Regional Managing Principal at Gensler. Wellbe has consistently demonstrated an exceptional commitment to advancing the architecture profession while actively contributing to the community and his peers.

In his role as an Architect at Gensler, Wellbe has made significant contributions to the architectural community. His leadership and distinctive design sensibility have been pivotal to the success of numerous projects, not only in Las Vegas but across the firm. Wellbe's expertise spans all aspects of design, enabling him to lead and manage every phase of projects with proficiency. This makes him a valuable, multi-faceted asset to the Las Vegas office. He is equally dedicated to the growth of our office, having led various initiatives such as recruitment efforts and strategic marketing campaigns—areas where I have personally witnessed his unwavering dedication. Additionally, as the office's Design Experience Leader, Wellbe has played a vital role in fostering a culture of innovation and encouraging design experimentation across the firm.

Throughout his career, Wellbe has demonstrated a cumulative impact on the architecture profession through his commitment to mentorship, community service, and professional development. He actively engages with local organizations, reflecting a genuine dedication to nurturing the growth of future architects and contributing to the broader community within and beyond Gensler. As the Emerging Professionals Director at AIA, he launched a firm crawl series to connect architects, designers, and emerging professionals with the Las Vegas community. This initiative successfully bridged gaps between various market sectors within the design field and provided valuable exposure to students and young professionals, fostering connections between firms and the local community. Through efforts like this, Wellbe consistently creates essential learning opportunities for the next generation of designers. Furthermore, his role as the AIA Strategic Council representative for Nevada underscores his vision and commitment to shaping the future of the profession.

What truly distinguishes Wellbe is not only his technical expertise and leadership skills but also his ability to integrate and connect different areas of practice. His contributions extend beyond specific project areas, reinforcing the interdisciplinary nature of architecture and its impact on our communities.

Wellbe Bartsma is widely respected for his work and commitment by his peers and the broader design community. His efforts embody the values of the AIA Nevada Young Architect Award, and I am confident that Wellbe will continue to make a profound and lasting impact on the field of architecture in the years to come.

Thank you for your time and consideration of Wellbe Bartsma's nomination. I wholeheartedly endorse his candidacy and look forward to witnessing the positive influence he will continue to have on our profession.

Sincerely,

John Adams, AIA, LEED AP
Co-Regional Managing Principal

John Adams, AIA

Regional Managing Principal, Gensler

Los Angeles Chamber
Board Member

Junior Achievement of Southern California
Board Member



Troy Moser, AIA

Principal, Moser Architecture Studio

AIA Las Vegas
2024 President

AIA Nevada
2025 President Elect

Discovery Children's Museum
Trustee and Development Committee Chairman



November 7, 2024

TO: AIA Nevada 2004 Service Award Committee

Re: Wellbe Bartsma, AIA Recommendation for Young Architect Award

To Whom it May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to offer my recommendation of Wellbe Bartsma for the 2024 AIA Nevada Young Architect Award. I have come to know Wellbe and his commitment to the profession through our work together on the AIA Las Vegas Board of Directors and while traveling for AIA Conferences.

Wellbe has demonstrated his dedication to the organization through his involvement at various levels including his service on the AIA LV Board of Directors, and more recently at the national level as the AIA Nevada representative to the Strategic Council. His work in the advancement of the young architect's forum and the firm crawl series has provided valuable exposure to young professionals such as the exploration of different opportunities and experiences in the field of architecture, engineering and construction.

Wellbe is committed to the success of his firm and advancing their efforts in design and client service. His involvement in other professional organizations and knowledge communities undoubtedly contributes to his studio's success.

Commitment to our local community is evidenced through his involvement in organizations such as Three Square and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southern Nevada. We share a passion for helping young people find their paths to success through various mentoring programs.

In summary, I am proud to serve with Wellbe and inspired by his commitment to the profession and our community. I sincerely encourage you to consider him for the honor of the Young Architect Award.

Regards,
MOSER architecture studio, LLC

Troy D. Moser, AIA