DESIGN FIRM PROFILES

BUILDING AND EXHIBITION DESIGN

GLUCKMAN MAYNER ARCHITECTS

Gluckman Mayner Architects, located in New York City, is the successor firm to Richard Gluckman Architects, established in 1977. The firm’s work is characterized by its clarity, efficiency and integrity, and ranges from careful interventions within historic structures, to ground-up buildings of different types and scales throughout the United States, Europe and Asia. The firm’s early foundations lay in the design of spaces for site-specific works of art, resulting from close collaboration with artists, curators and collectors.

Through the design of cultural facilities, Gluckman Mayner Architects has honed a rigorous spatial sensibility that considers proportion, scale, structure, materiality and light. The firm embraces a collaborative approach internally with staff and with consultants to create fully integrated works of architecture. GMA’s clients include cultural institutions, colleges and universities, houses of worship, resorts and developers, and individuals around the globe. In every case, the firm’s architecture seeks to advance the aspirations of the client, enrich the lives of the users and enhance the project’s surroundings.

The firm’s notable commissions include: Dia Center for the Arts (1987); Andy Warhol Museum (1994); Georgia O’Keeffe Museum (1997); Whitney Museum of American Art renovation and expansion (1997); Mori Arts Center (2003); Museo Picasso Malaga (2004); Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego (2007); Perelman Building, Philadelphia Museum of Art (2007); Georgia Museum of Art (2011); Minhang Museum (2015); and Shanghai Regional Art Museum (2016).

BEYER BLINDER ARCHITECTS & PLANNERS

Founded in 1968, Beyer Blinder Belle Architects & Planners is an award-winning architecture, planning and interiors practice made up of 165 professionals in New York City and Washington, D.C., with a longstanding commitment to design excellence, social integrity and sustainable practices.

The firm’s multi-faceted portfolio encompasses historic preservation, urban design and new construction projects that span a wide spectrum of building typologies and sectors, including cultural, civic, educational, residential and commercial.

Notable projects include the revitalization of some of New York’s most iconic institutions, including Grand Central Terminal, the Empire State Building, New York City Hall, the Morgan Library & Museum, the Rubin Museum of Art and the Beacon Theatre.
DILLER SCOFIDIO + RENFRO

Diller Scofidio + Renfro is an interdisciplinary design studio that integrates architecture, the visual arts, and the performing arts. Based in New York City, the 115-person studio is led by four principals—Elizabeth Diller, Ricardo Scofidio, Charles Renfro, and Benjamin Gilmartin—who work collaboratively on the design of each project. Recent and ongoing projects include: the redevelopment of Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, the expansion of the Museum of Modern Art, the new start-up CultureSHED, and the High Line park, all in New York; the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston; Brown University Creative Arts Center, Providence; the Broad Museum, Los Angeles; UC Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive, Berkeley; and the Museum of Image and Sound, Rio de Janeiro.

DS+R's commitment to integrating multiple disciplines was recognized in 1999–2004 with the MacArthur Foundation’s “Genius” award, the first given in the field of architecture. Recently, the studio was awarded a Centennial Medal of Honor by the American Academy in Rome. Other awards and honors received by DS+R include: the AIA President’s Award; the AIA Medal of Honor; and AIA Design Awards for numerous projects. In 2003, the Whitney Museum of American Art held a retrospective of the studio’s work.

HOOD DESIGN

Founded in 1992 in Oakland, Calif., Hood Design is committed to issues that address the reconstruction of urban landscapes within towns and cities. The firm takes a multi-dimensional approach to projects, exploring the role of specific landscape typologies and topologies that together reinforce and re-make landscapes that are specific to place and people. The firm’s principal, Walter Hood, is a professor and former chair of the Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning program at the University of California, Berkeley.

Committed to the development of environments which reflect their place, time and social uses, Hood Design’s interest in the re-construction of urban landscapes seeks to develop new strategies and spatial forms that also validate their existing context. Its project research includes cultural and environmental histories, as well as physical, social and biological patterns and practices that begin to uncover familiar and untold stories about the site and its context.

Hood Design has received the AIA Award for Collaborative Achievement, USA Character Approved Honor by NBC Universal, and was runner-up in the NCPC’s President Park South Design Competition. In 2010, Walter Hood received the National Design Award for Landscape Design from Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum and served as the Goldman Sachs Design Fellow for the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C. He is also a Fellow at the American Academy in Rome.

THINC

Founded by Tom Hennes in 1995 as an extension of a successful theatrical design practice, Thinc is a leading exhibition design firm located in New York, serving clients across North America and around the globe. With more than 15 years of experience, Thinc
has successfully completed projects for a wide range of institutions, including museums, science centers, aquariums, zoos, theme parks, corporations and governments.

Utilizing each project’s unique context, Thinc conceives and designs exhibitions that generate visitor engagement, social involvement and active participation. Thinc’s holistic approach combines great design and execution with broad insight into the organizational, cultural and physical contexts surrounding a project. Most importantly, Thinc partners with its clients to create and serve new communities while growing the long-term visitorship that sustains their organizations. Thinc has proven strengths in the areas of cultural history, science, natural history and living exhibits, as well as in sustainable design and community development. These are areas that combine Thinc’s greatest design and pedagogical interests with its most important ethical concerns.

In addition to exhibition design, Thinc’s services include master planning, concept creation, content development, habitat design, media and web development and project implementation. Thinc also offers expertise in the emerging areas of web-based communities, social software and interactive technology. In the course of its work, Thinc has created numerous innovative exhibition strategies and media techniques, including patented video, film and theatrical technologies.

**GOPPION S.P.A.**

Founded in 1952, Goppion is an engineering firm whose expertise encompasses planning, design, construction, installation, and management. Its main focus is the manufacture of state-of-the-art display cases for a broad range of international museums and other cultural institutions. Goppion cases do not merely serve to display and protect exhibit objects, but also provide advanced solutions for preserving them. They have collaborated with some of the world’s most prominent museums to display and protect such significant cultural icons as the Mona Lisa, the Crown Jewels of England for the British Royal Family, and, more recently, the collection of the Art of Islam at the Louvre.

Goppion focuses on “engineering-design” as a critical component of the production process. At their research and development center, they advance their engineering design, drawing upon their experience, changes in technology, and the evolving demands of clients to maintain a culture of ongoing innovation. The customization of display cases is closely linked not only to the objects around which the cases are built, but also to the spatial and architectural features of the galleries in which they are located, where the cases can be elegantly integrated into their environment. Goppion’s applied expertise addresses such aspects of performance as structural stability and integrity, material specifications, lighting, ergonometrics, microclimate control, and other areas—all in the service of the client’s aesthetic and curatorial vision.
VISITOR EXPERIENCE

LOCAL PROJECTS

Local Projects is a media design firm for museums, brands and public spaces. It operates at the core of what is both meaningful and innovative, reinventing physical space through media. Local Projects’ goal is to develop new ways for people to interact with art, cities and one another by gathering stories through collaborative storytelling projects. The firm’s notable commissions include Times Square, the Cleveland Museum of Art and the 9/11 Memorial Museum.

Local Projects has been awarded the National Design Award in Interaction Design from Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum; Fast Company Masters of Design; Webby Gold; Muse Gold; D&AD; and AIGA Gold. In 2011, Local Projects was named #2 on Fast Company’s list of most innovative design studios.

GE

GE’s design community is driving design at scale and creating disruptive experiences for the world we live in. As more industrial machines become connected, the way people interact with them is changing and GE is working to shape those experiences through amazing design. Working with leaders like Cooper Hewitt, GE is able to demonstrate expertise to solve these design challenges.

SISTELNETWORKS

Sistelnetworks is a radio frequency identification (RFID) manufacturer, electrical engineering firm, and the manufacturer of the vWand, a stylus that can add near field communications (NFC) capabilities to tablets or smartphones using a Bluetooth connection. Sistelnetworks also develops custom products based on client requirements. Recent projects include the integration of vWand in several hospitals in Madrid; identification solution projects with Serialio, a leader RFID distributor in USA; and projects in the construction sector with RFID4U.

UNDERCURRENT

Undercurrent was founded in 2007 by Aaron Dignan, Josh Spear and Rob Schuham to help influential organizations transform how they connect with customers. Undercurrent helps organizations become more responsive to an ever-changing world. Unlike traditional consulting, the firm believes that the goal of a modern organization is not mere efficiency, but responsiveness—to culture, to consumers, to competition and to the other forces of disruption. Behind this shift, and still at the company’s core, is a fundamental belief in technology to unleash creativity, prosperity and new paradigms. Recent projects/clients include GE, American Express, PepsiCo, Pearson Education, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Ford Motor Company, Sonic Drive-Inn and Hyatt Hotels.
**IDEUM**
Ideum is a creative technology company based in Corrales, New Mexico. The firm develops commercial software, multitouch hardware and offers custom design services to museums, nonprofits and socially responsible companies. Since 1999, Ideum has worked on more than 100 interactive media projects in the fields of art, culture, history, music, science and technology. The firm’s goal is to create visitor-centric exhibits that reflect a balance of compelling design, intuitive user interfaces and dynamic content. Recent clients include Coca-Cola, the Field Museum, George Washington’s Mount Vernon, Intel, New England Aquarium, SFMOMA and the National Museum of the American Indian, among others.

**GRAPHIC IDENTITY**

**PENTAGRAM**
Pentagram is the world’s largest independent design consultancy. For over four decades, the firm has embraced the philosophy of design as a collaborative discipline. The firm was founded in 1972 and is run by 19 partners, a group of friends who are all leaders in their individual creative fields. Working from offices in New York, London, San Francisco, Austin and Berlin, Pentagram specializes in different areas of graphic design, industrial design and architecture, producing identities, publications, environments, products and interactive media for a wide range of international clients, including the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, the Museum of Modern Art, the Studio Museum in Harlem, the Queens Museum, Jazz at Lincoln Center, the Metropolitan Opera, the High Line, the Museum of the City of New York, the Museum of Arts and Design, Sotheby’s, the New York Times, and the Menil Foundation, among others.

**VILLAGE**
Village is a loose co-op of a dozen foundries from around the world, founded in 2004 by Chester Jenkins and Tracy Jenkins. Village types are used around the world in newspapers and magazines, for corporate branding, universities, museums and other cultural institutions. Chester Jenkins, alone and in collaboration with his colleagues, has created bespoke typefaces for Blackberry, Maharam, Avinor and the National Football League, among others.