

Dear Members of the Cunningham Gold Medal Selection Committee,

John Sova has been a fixture in the landscape of Nebraska Architecture for nearly 45 years. From his participation in growing a small Nebraska based firm to a nation-wide footprint of over 225 employees to his influence on the communities across the state, John is through and through a Nebraska Architect. While others in RDG Planning & Design took the lead in the national market expansion, John remained steadfastly focused on Nebraska: leading landmark projects including Riverfront Place, one of the first major residential developments in downtown Omaha along the Missouri River, to the many award winning “Places for Worship” that dot the Nebraska landscape.

I have had the honor of working with John for most of his 45 years of practice. Throughout the years John has selflessly given of himself to mentor the next generation of architectural designers and technicians both within RDG as well as his participation in various youth mentoring programs. This year alone RDG had over 600 applications to our internship programs. Of the 17 students selected, the vast majority of the interns either attended Nebraska university programs or were Nebraskans attending programs across the US, with the intent to lure architectural talent to Nebraska.

As well, John’s engagement in Nebraska civic and professional communities is diverse and inclusive. I can’t think of a board related to the State/Local AIA and the University of Nebraska School of Architecture that John has not participated in or given of his time. John’s service started at a young age, recognizing the importance of consistent and sustained personal investment in our communities. For example, John has served in a variety of leadership positions for the Child Savings Institute for over 30 years.

John also has a personal commitment and passion for his faith. Starting in 1989, John and his team built the foundation for a nationally recognized practice in Worship and Religious architecture that continues to this day. Their work has been recognized with numerous awards and accolades including two National AIA Awards for Religious Art and Architecture. Beyond the influence of the built environment, John has served on committees, boards and fundraising leadership for many faith-based organizations including his parish, secondary education such as Creighton Prep and Marian High Schools as well as Creighton University.

John’s Nebraska roots are deep, and he’s had a profound impact on the profession of architecture in Nebraska. It’s hard to imagine another architect with the passion and sustained commitment for the built environment in the State of Nebraska. It is my honor to support John’s nomination for the Harry F. Cunningham Gold Medal Award.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light gray background. The signature is stylized, starting with a large loop and ending with a horizontal flourish.

Joe Lang, AIA



JOHN SOVA

CEO, Managing Principal

Education

BS, Architectural Studies
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Registrations

Registered Architect in Nebraska

Current Affiliations

American Institute of Architects
Design Futures Council
UNL College of Architecture Professional Advisory Council
City of Omaha Downtown Improvement District Board
Child Saving Institute Foundation Board

INTRODUCTION

John Sova, AIA, is a managing principal at RDG with more than 40 years of experience strengthening the firm's commitment to innovative design and thoughtful planning.

Through his advocacy for a culture of trust and collaboration, John fosters an environment where individuals are encouraged to bring innovative ideas forward. His overarching aim is to inspire and support, ensuring each RDG employee feels valued and motivated to realize their potential. Through everyone's growth and participation, RDG becomes a better place that allows the employees to grow the firm, providing more opportunities for those same individuals.

Since joining the firm in 1981, John has assumed diverse roles such as project architect, project director and principal-in-charge, contributing to hundreds of projects. His design portfolio spans multiple markets, including work for RDG's College & University, Commercial, Education, and Worship markets. John has comprehensive experience with all project phases, from master planning to construction administration.

Holding a Bachelor of Science in Architectural Studies from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, John extends his knowledge and passion to aspiring design professionals

as a guest lecturer at UNL's College of Architecture and as a member of the college's Professional Advisory Council. John is an active member of Design Intelligence - Design Futures Council and the Coxe Group's Design Network Roundtable, where he engages in insightful discussions and collaborates with fellow thought leaders across the country to shape the future of the design field.



BIOGRAPHY

John Sova's architectural journey is a testament to the transformative power of passion, perseverance, and mentorship. Growing up amidst the dynamic landscape of Omaha, John's curiosity for architecture was sparked by the bustling construction sites in his neighborhood. Sneaking onto these sites during off-hours, he found himself captivated by the intricate details, materials, and methods used to "build buildings." John was fascinated by the complexity of how these projects came together. The construction documents he found on job site floors inspired a deep-seated desire to become a part of the craft for the stories these buildings would tell.

John's innate passion led him to college, where he unearthed a profound fascination with the technical aspects of architecture and engineering. A year-long stint at a structural engineering firm post-graduation provided invaluable insights into the core elements of architecture, solidifying his conviction that architecture was his true calling.

In 1981, John embarked on a new chapter of his career at Wilscam Mullins Birge Architects. Amidst economic turmoil and uncertainty during the 1980's he found mentorship and guidance in luminaries like Marty Shukert, Charlie Wilscam and John Birge, who not only imparted architectural wisdom but also instilled in him the values of compassion and integrity in life.

"I wake up every morning blessed to be able to do what we do as architects."

A pivotal moment in John's career came in 1989 with the formation of RDG Planning & Design through a strategic merger of two previously highly respected firms in Omaha and Des Moines. Invited to Partnership in 1989 and then named one of twelve firm Principal's in 1997, John became a significant part of the design and management structure of RDG. As the firm has blossomed and evolved, so has John's role, culminating in his appointment as one of two Managing Principals in 2022. Under his leadership, RDG has grown from strength to strength, expanding its footprint across the Midwest and beyond with offices in Omaha, Des Moines, St. Louis, Denver, and Iowa City. From forty-five employees in 1989 to over two hundred and twenty-five employees today, RDG carries a recognized strong national practice.

In 2019, RDG approached a juncture where the existing space at the Greenhouse Building no longer sufficed for the firm's requirements. John reaffirmed RDG's dedication to the urban core and downtown Omaha, emphasizing its significance in representing history, progress, and community. As a testament to this commitment, RDG relocated to 1302 Howard, formerly occupied by the Omaha Chamber of Commerce, investing in the continued community engagement for years to come.

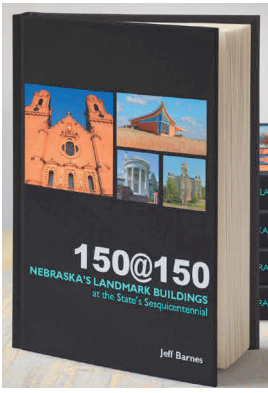


RDG Planning & Design: Committed to support downtown.

Driven by a commitment to excellence and innovation, John has steered RDG towards a focused approach, specializing in market sectors such as sports and recreation, education, worship, and public safety. His visionary leadership has propelled RDG to national prominence, with active projects spanning over twenty-five states and as well as completed work in forty-eight of the fifty states.

Taking a quote from the Design Intelligence community; "Design organizations can have a profound positive impact on clients, communities, and the environment. To do so on a sustainable basis, they must excel not only at design, but also in the business of design. Business effectiveness begins with building strategy on a strong foundation of values, purpose, and vision. It includes having the right leaders in place and a way to select, develop, and transition future generations. An effective organization must be a magnet for top talent and the right clients that allow it to do the great work it aspires to." This is RDG and the organization John has been instrumental in creating. For John, architecture is more than just a profession; it is a way of life—a daily practice of creativity, innovation, and social responsibility. His unwavering commitment to excellence and his profound impact on the architectural landscape make him a deserving recipient of the AIA Career Cunningham Honor. In honoring John Sova, we celebrate not only his remarkable achievements but also the enduring legacy of passion, mentorship, and dedication. ●●●

Design Contributions



John's impact on the architectural landscape extends far beyond the confines of traditional practice. His visionary leadership and unwavering commitment to excellence have reshaped the way we perceive and engage with worship spaces, leaving an indelible mark on communities here at home in Nebraska and across the nation.

Since 1989, John, alongside RDG Principal Joe Lang, spearheaded RDG's focus on worship architecture. Over the years, RDG's portfolio has burgeoned to encompass over one hundred and fifty worship-focused projects, with a primary emphasis on Catholic Church work. This prolific output stands as a testament to John's profound understanding of the spiritual and communal significance of worship spaces. His lasting commitment to the evolution of these projects in the Midwest shaped Nebraskans' memories and personal connections to their faith. At the heart of their approach lies a deep respect for the unique visions and needs of each faith community. Recognizing that no two worship projects are alike, John and his team engage in a rigorous design process that balances function with inspiration, reflecting the spiritual essence and activities of each congregation. Through participatory planning processes, RDG actively involves constituent groups, fostering a sense of ownership, enthusiasm, and accountability.

“From multiple stand points, our relationship with Nebraska is incredibly symbolic” - John Sova, AIA

The results of these collaborations are as diverse as the communities they serve. Rejecting the notion of an “RDG style,” John advocates for designs that are authentic and reflective of each church's distinct character. By integrating artwork, furnishings, and technology, RDG creates spaces that inspire and connect, fostering a sense of belonging and reverence.

John's commitment to excellence has not gone unnoticed. RDG's contributions to worship architecture have garnered national acclaim, including AIA Awards, along with numerous regional, state, and local recognitions. These

accolades stand as a testament to John's unwavering dedication to pushing the boundaries of architectural innovation while honoring the sacred traditions and values of each faith community.

During John's leadership at RDG, the firm was recognized with two projects in the Jeff Barnes book, 150@150 Nebraska's Landmark Buildings at the State's Sesquicentennial. Chapter 14: Entering the New Millenium/The 2000s – RDG's Knight Museum and Sandhills Center – Alliance, NE. Chapter 15: Designing for the next 150/The 2010s – RDG's Atlas Readiness Center – Mead, NE. Both projects that highlight Nebraska work, the diversity of the land, the people, and the traditions through architecture.



Prince of Peace Catholic Church, Kearney NE.
Historic ties to faith and Nebraska

“Worship spaces transcend architectural boundaries, fostering profound spiritual connections and community engagement” - John Sova, AIA





Dana College



Millard West

Development of RDG

1989: John receives invitation to a new ownership level within the firm.

July 1989: Merger between Omaha-based Wilscam Mullins Birge Associates and Des Moines-based Bussard Dikis Associates forms RDG Planning & Design, with two office locations, 45 employees, and 12 new partners.

1990s: RDG shifts focus from a generalist firm to specific market sector work, marking a strategic decision.

1999: RDG expands to 120 employees and 12 managing Principals, including John, through mergers, acquisitions, and market sector growth.

2008: John assumes the role of Vice-President of the Omaha office, and in 2016 becomes President, and elected as Chief Operations Officer for RDG Planning & Design holding company.

2022: John is elected as one of two Managing Principals leading RDG, marking a significant milestone in his career trajectory.

Present: 230 employees across five office locations, serving as a Midwest firm with national reach. Specialized markets allow RDG's portfolio to boasts award winning projects in over twenty-five states and completed work in forty-eight of the fifty states by 2023.

Notable Worship Projects

John's work spans multiple markets including commercial, K-12, and of course Worship. Reflected below are a few of the diverse cross section of worship accross Nebraska and nationally, and projects that respect the past but also look to the future.

Worship Nebraska

Beth Israel Synagogue - Omaha

St Vincent de Paul - Omaha

St. John's Creighton University - Omaha

St. Stephen the Martyr - Omaha

St Michael - Lincoln

Sacred Heart - Omaha

Mary Our Queen - Omaha

Prince of Peace - Kearney

St. Patrick's - Elkhorn

Worship National

New Horizon Presbyterian Church - Council Bluffs, IA

St Therese - Sioux Falls

Jesus Christ Prince of Peace - Clinton

St. Gabriel's - Colorado Springs

Church of the Nativity - Leawood, KS

St. Mary's - Blacksburg, VA

Cathedral of Our Lady of Peace - Honolulu, HI

St. Mary's - Spirit Lake, IA

St. Paul's - Madison WI

St Rose of Lima - Denison, IA



St. Therese - Sioux Falls, AIA National Award

“Our out-of-state work positions us as ambassadors for the work ethic synonymous with Nebraska and the Midwest. We often hear about our level of commitment and diligence, and also how we marry these attributes with real design excellence.”- John Sova, AIA





Child Saving Institute, RDG Planning & Design

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Organization

Omaha Jaycees Membership
 Omaha Jaycees TOYO Committee
 Omaha Jaycees TOYO Committee Chair
 Leadership Omaha participant
 Omaha Public Schools Construction Advisory Council
 University of Nebraska Omaha Construction Review
 Child Saving Institute Board
 Child Saving Institute Board President
 Child Saving Institute Foundation Board
 Creighton Prep Parent Advisory Board
 Creighton University Parent Board
 City of Omaha Downtown Improvement District Board
 UNL College of Architecture Professional Advisory Council
 Cathedral Arts Project Board

Age during term

24 to 30
 27 to 29
 29
 33 and 34
 34 to 38
 35 to 40
 38 to 60
 48 to 50
 57 to 67
 43 to 45 and 51 to 53
 48 to 52
 52 to 67
 54 to 67
 56 to 64

Professional Organizations

AIA Member
 Construction Specification Institute Member
 AIA Omaha Board of Directors
 AIA Omaha Board President
 AIA Nebraska Board of Directors
 AIA Nebraska Board President
 AIA Nebraska RDG Firm of the year 1994
 AIA Central States Regional Conference - Omaha 1987
 AIA Nebraska 2012 State Conference Chair 2012
 Nebraska Architectural Foundation / President (44 to 47)
 Coxe Group Design Network
 Design Futures Council
 Creighton University Energy Tech Industry Advisory Council
 UNL Architecture Professional Practice Class Guest Lecture

27 to 67
 32 to 67
 29 to 33
 33
 33 to 37
 37
 37
 30
 55
 40 to 47
 50 to 64
 60 to 67
 57 to 61
 43 to 57

Church Involvement

St Wenceslaus Parish Facilities Committee
 St Wenceslaus Campaign Committee
 Omaha Archdiocese Campaign Team

33 to 38
 35 to 36
 36 to 38

Major Fundraisers (over \$500k)

Omaha MarianFEST
 Omaha Creighton Prep BASH

49
 53



RIVER FRONT PLACE OMAHA, NE.



Awards

- **1995 AIA NE Firm of the Year Award**
- **1996 St Stephens AIA NE Honor 1999**
 - St Vincent De Paul AIA NE Honor Award
- **2002 AIA NE Honor Award for Extended Use:**
 - RDG - Greenhouse Office
- **2002 AIA National Interfaith Forum on Religion, Art and Architecture; Excellence in Design Award: AIA NE Honor Award, IESNA Great Plains Section Illumination Award;** St. Therese Catholic Church
- **2002 AIA NE Excellence in Design New Construction Honor Award:** Omaha Park Seven
- **2006 Goodwill 156th Maple, AIA NE Excellence in Design 2007 AIA NE Excellence in Design New Construction Citation Award:**
 - Elkhorn Community Recreation Center
- **2009 AIA NE Excellence in Design Extended Use Citation Award:** Child Saving Institute
- **2010 Illuminating Engineering Society Edwin F. Guth Memorial Award for Interior Lighting Design:**
 - St. John's Catholic Church
- **2010 AIA NE Excellence in Design New Construction Honor Award:**
- **2010 AIGA NE Award of Excellence, Bronze - Environmental Graphics:**
 - OPS North High Addition
- **2011 AIGA NE Silver Award for Environmental Design/Signage:** Goodwill Benson Park Plaza
- **2012 IIDA Interior Design Excellence Awards, Gold Award in Educational Environment:** OPS North High Addition
- **2012 IIDA Interior Design Excellence Awards, Best in Show, 2012 AIA NE Excellence in Design New Construction Honor Award:** Goodwill Benson Park Plaza
- **2012 AIA NE Excellence in Design New Construction Honor Award:** Fort Calhoun Elementary School
- **2013 AIA NE Excellence in Design Honor Award:** CO2 Omaha, LLC
- **2013 AIGA NE Award of Excellence, Silver - Environment & Experience:** OPS 42nd and V Streets Elementary School
- **2014 IIDA Silver Award - Education:** OPS 42nd and V Streets Elementary School
- **2017 AIA Central States Region, Honor Award for Excellence in Interior Architecture:** Ervin & Smith
- **2017 Kaneko Play Exhibit -AIA, NE Excellence in Design**

“One way to increase diversity across all disciplines is to generate more interest in design – to talk about what we do and to show students what’s possible in pursuing design as a career.” John Sova, AIA

Leadership and Advocacy

John’s impact extends into the realms of mentorship and community involvement. Through his leadership, he has cultivated a culture of collaboration and excellence, inspiring the next generation of architects to embrace creativity, empathy, and social responsibility. This is evident in his extensive contributions to the AIA, UNL College of Architecture, Creighton University Energy Tech Program, Omaha Public Schools Construction Advisory Council, and particularly at the Child Saving Institute where he has given his guidance for over 30 years.

From John: *“I attended a local AIA Omaha Chapter event in the early 1980’s which solidified my commitment to architecture and the community. Richard Coyle, AIA, a well know architect at the time, spoke to the gathering about participation in the AIA, the design profession and our communities. He stated that these entities are a part of our responsibilities as members of society. His words and encouragement hit me hard, and I have lived with the memory of his call since that day.”*

- **COMMUNITY:** John has been actively involved with the Child Saving Institute (CSI) in Omaha since 1994. Board member, Board president and Foundation Board member are positions John has held for many years at a time. CSI has provided 130 years of quality service and compassionate care across Nebraska. The needs of people and particularly children that CSI serves are driven by the desire to lead with empathy and create safe spaces and environments that meet each person where they are and what is best for each child and family. John was honored in 2007 with the A.W. Clark Award (Founder of CSI in 1892), the highest recognition award given out by the organization.
- **EDUCATION:** Providing opportunities and mentorship for students of all ages is a commitment John has made his entire forty-five year career. John answers the call for involvement with students within the Omaha Public Schools, University of Nebraska system at all campuses, Creighton University, and others whenever the call has come. Spending time with our students provides an opportunity they might not otherwise receive. We never know who the next person is that will choose a career in any of the design professions.
- **PROFESSION:** John has been actively involved at all levels of the AIA and the design profession during his career. Charlie Wilscam (RDG founding Principal) often said to anyone who would listen at RDG: “If you are going to join an organization then join with full commitment. Join because you care. Join as if you intend to be the leader, board president, CEO of that organization someday. Do not join just as a resume builder. Get the most you can out of your experience, and it will take a total commitment on your part for that to happen.”



SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sacred Heart, a venerable structure nearly a century and a decade in age, faced a pressing need for restoration. Its original slate roofing, untouched since inception, had deteriorated, exacerbated by electrical wiring incidents and compromised stained glass, posing safety hazards. Additionally, the integrity of the plaster ceiling was compromised, necessitating urgent attention. John assumed the role of coordinating professional in overseeing the restoration efforts. The endeavor entailed negotiating, contracting, and managing fourteen distinct scopes of work on behalf of the parish and diocese. Over an extended period, approximately eleven months, the church underwent a comprehensive restoration, necessitating its closure for a duration of five months.



CATHEDRAL OF OUR LADY OF PEACE, HONOLULU



ST. JOHN'S CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY



NEW HORIZON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA

The consolidation of two congregations becomes a vision for inspiration and expansiveness. Located at the edge of rural fields of the Loess Hills region in Council Bluffs. A testament to the convergence of light, openness, and unity, symbolizing the amalgamation of two sister congregations in their new spiritual abode. Departing from conventional symmetry, the architectural design embodies asymmetry and dynamic interplay, mirroring the ethos of embracing new vistas. The design team's innovative approach to the entry into the church is marked by traversing through an exterior wall stripped down to its essential structural elements, leading into a welcoming gathering hall characterized by transparency and nostalgia, with salvaged stained glass windows flanking the space. This marks another instance John's influence has left its mark on worship space in the Midwest.

“John lives by the mantra, no one person can truly be successful unless everyone is successful” - Doug Alvine , P.E. LEED AP

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL, OMAHA, NE

Beginning in 1993, RDG has worked with the parish for thirty years. Completing the final phase of six in 2023. This Omaha parish and facility has been visited by national church groups, for inspiration and liturgical meaning. Informed by meticulous research into the life and era of St. Vincent de Paul, the architectural essence and embellishments of the St. Vincent de Paul church evoke a Neo-French Gothic aesthetic, paying homage to St. Lazare, the final residence of St. Vincent de Paul in Paris. John and the RDG team collaborated extensively with the parish, delving into the nuanced concept of embodying the essence of a sacred space. Throughout this collaborative journey, profound discussions ensued, leading to a deeper appreciation of the historical and spiritual significance embedded within the Roman Catholic Church, both architecturally and spiritually.



“Through vision, empathy, and unwavering dedication, we strive to shape spaces that not only inspire but also unite communities, leaving an enduring legacy of reverence and belonging.” - John Sova, AIA



PRINCE OF PEACE - KEARNEY, NE.

Twenty-five years in the making, Prince of Peace church is the new home to Catholics on the west side of Kearney, Neb. Led by John and RDG, the parish participated in the design process, preferring a traditional but simplified romanesque architecture. The plan is a cruciform symbolizing the whole community, the Body of Christ. The artwork, which is integral to the architecture, drew upon the Beuronese style which has historical ties to the faith and to Nebraska as seen in the artwork of the state capitol. From the image of Christ as Pantocrator to the angels which surround the assembly, visual expressions of liturgical truths are found throughout the church.



DETAIL AT PRINCE OF PEACE ENTRY



“John’s ability to coordinate the efforts of the client and design team have brought about the best outcome for our projects” Brother William J. Woeger, FSC



Letter of Recommendation



June 3, 2024

AIA Nebraska
335 N 8th Street, Suite A
Lincoln, NE 68508

Re: **AIA Nebraska 2024 Harry F. Cunningham Gold Medal
Letter of Recommendation for John Sova, AIA**

Selection Committee Members,

It is my honor to support the nomination of John Sova, AIA for the Harry F. Cunningham Gold Medal. Meeting John first as a student at the College of Architecture and through his distinguished career in the practice of Architecture, I have been fortunate to experience an individual who is inspired to provide quality designs through a high regard for professionalism in his community.

John has been a role model for many years not only in the architectural community to countless architects, but as a leader, interacting across the spectrum of individuals and professionals involved in important projects changing the future of the built environment.

His engagement as a member of the Professional Advisory Council for the University of Nebraska College of Architecture, has provided guidance shaping the trajectory for faculty and students well into the future.

John brings the values, talent, and experience, always willing to share with others to improve our profession through the AIA, the Architectural Foundation of Nebraska or in his many interactions carrying out the duties of an Architect at the highest level.

It is with my deepest respect and enthusiasm that I recommend John Sova, understanding well the importance of this high honor and recognition.

With Respect,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bruce Carpenter'. The signature is stylized and fluid.

Bruce Carpenter, AIA
Central Region Civic Director / Senior Vice President at HDR



Letter of Recommendation



May 17, 2024

AIA Nebraska
Cunningham Medal Committee

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am honored to support the nomination of John Sova for the Harry F Cunningham Medal.

I have had the pleasure of working closely with John for nearly thirty years on projects throughout the Omaha community. John's design and project leadership have been key to the success of many of Noddle Companies' developments, such as Omaha Steaks, the Tenaska Headquarters and H&H Premier Automotive Corporate Offices. Our team can always rely on John to navigate the challenge of designing for the future while being respectful of the past.

When I first started working with RDG in the 1980s, it was a small Omaha firm of about 15 people. Over the past 40 years, the firm has grown to over 220 employees distributed across the United States, providing opportunities to extend the influence of RDG's Omaha's design expertise across the country. John has been a major leader and contributor to RDG's growth.

John's passion for contributing to the vitality and quality of life in Nebraska is paramount. From his twelve years of service on the City of Omaha Downtown Improvement Districts Board to his contributions to the Omaha Public Schools Construction Advisory Council, UNL's College of Architecture Professional Advisory Council, and his role as Chair of the Child Saving Institute Board, John recognizes the importance of investment in our community.

I strongly support John's nomination for the Cunningham Medal. He has had a tremendous influence on the quality of life and quality of architecture in Nebraska and our communities.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'JB Noddle', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jay B. Noddle
President & CEO



Letter of Recommendation



May 30, 2024

Attn: Selection Committee – Harry F. Cunningham Gold Metal

Re: Nomination of John Sova

Dear Committee Members:

I am honored to submit this letter in support for the nomination of John Sova for this year's Harry F. Cunningham Gold Medal in Architecture.

I am certain that the Selection Committee has received multiple affirmations of John's significant and notable portfolio of projects and accomplishments. I would like to offer a few insights into the person that is John Sova. These insights have been gained over my 30-plus-year relationship with John.

John has been a client, partner, mentor, and personal friend for me and many others in the architectural industry.

He has been a calming and inspiring influence in the industry in his usual quiet, humble manner. In addition to his specific, visible architectural accomplishments, John has more, undercover, advanced the culture of the architectural industry. John has practiced his profession with a collegial and collaborative approach with his peers and has been an inclusive partner and leader for all members of the teams he has worked with.

John lives by the mantra that no one can truly be successful unless everyone is successful.

The architectural and built environment industry is difficult and imperfect, yet when done collaboratively with a mindset of shared values and shared success, great things are accomplished. I have been with John during the best of times and during the hardest of times. It is during those difficult moments that our souls are laid bare. It has been during those moments that I have witnessed John's ability to come alongside clients and team members to provide support on a professional and personal level. John's empathy and compassion allow very difficult situations to get resolved with positive outcomes for all.

John's legacy represents the highest standards of the architectural profession.

Thank you for considering John Sova's nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Douglas R. Alvine".

Douglas R. Alvine, P.E., LEED AP
President of Alvine and Associates

DRA/bao



Letter of Recommendation



ONE CHURCH
ENCOUNTERING JESUS
EQUIPPING DISCIPLES
LIVING MERCY

May 6, 2024

Selection Committee
Harry F. Cunningham Gold Medal Award

Dear Members of the Selection Committee,

My name is Brother William Woeger. I have been working across the country in the field of liturgical consultation and design for forty years. I have known John for thirty-three of these years. During this time, we have we have worked together on over seventeen projects. This experience has been one of collaboration. As a liturgical consultant and designer, I have been fully integrated into the process due to Mr. Sova's ability to listen and his openness to varying points of view. This has also been the case with his clients. While keeping a close eye on budgets, John's ability to coordinate the efforts of the client and design team have brought about the best outcome for our projects.

It has been a pleasure to observe the growth of John's leadership and management skills over these many years beginning with the mentorship of Charles Wilsam and John Birge. John has made a major contribution to RDG Planning & Design and to the profession of Architecture.

Thus, it is with pleasure that I endorse the nomination of John Sova as a recipient of the Harry F. Cunningham Gold Medal Award.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brother William Woeger, FSC".

Brother William J. Woeger, FSC

