

# BVH ARCHITECTURE

June 1, 2021

American Institute of Architects  
2021 AIA Young Architects Award Jury  
Nomination Letter for Andrew Conzett, AIA

Dear AIA Young Architects Award Jury,

On behalf of BVH Architecture (BVH), I am pleased to nominate Andrew M. Conzett, AIA for the 2021 Young Architects Award. Throughout the early part of his career, Andrew has emerged as a leader on several fronts: as an exceptional design leader within BVH; as an engaged civic leader within his community; and as a passionate advocate for the architecture profession both within the AIA and among non-profit organizations.

### **Accomplishments in design excellence**

Andrew's design leadership and collaborative approach have resulted in several projects receiving local, regional and national awards for design excellence. His completed projects - ranging in scale from small design-build installations to complex buildings and sites - consistently display a refined sense of style, clarity and rigor. Additionally, his unique design-build efforts (many of which were completed collaboratively and pro-bono) have advanced design culture in our community. His design achievements are notable for an architect early in his career.

### **Accomplishments in civic leadership, community engagement and education**

Andrew is a strong civic leader and community advocate. He remains engaged and committed to community advancement through numerous volunteer boards, committees and organizations. His leadership and communication skills extend his influence beyond the profession and into the community.

### **Leadership and advocacy for the profession through the AIA**

Andrew is a dedicated leader within the AIA Nebraska Chapter. He currently serves as a Director on the AIA Omaha section board where he has organized valuable programs and activities for AIA constituents and the community. He also participates statewide as a member of the AIA Nebraska Committee on Design, where he is currently leading an effort to reorganize and improve the AIA Nebraska Design Awards programming.

As you will find in his submission, Andrew has charted an accomplished path as a design leader, a committed civic servant and a passionate advocate for the profession. For these reasons, please accept this letter as BVH's recommendation for Andrew to be recognized with the 2021 AIA Young Architects Award.

Sincerely,



Corey Wieseman, AIA  
Managing Principal  
BVH Architecture



“Through skilled design leadership and inspired collaboration, Andrew M. Conzett, AIA has advanced the profession early in his career by expanding the creative boundaries of architecture while serving as a professional advocate, mentor and volunteer within his community.”

*- Personal summary statement*

### PROFESSIONAL BIOGRAPHY

**Andrew M. Conzett, AIA** is a young architect and designer with a passion for exploring the complex challenges and opportunities that are present within the profession of architecture.

Recognized early in his career as an accomplished designer and architect, Andrew has been responsible for leading and carrying out the design for numerous projects, including several unique design-build projects that have expanded the critical design discourse within his community.

Andrew pairs his design talents and experience with a steadfast commitment to community service through active participation on local and regional boards engaged in issues related to arts, culture, education and professional development.

His unique combination of artistic acumen and tireless commitment to extending the architect's role more effectively into the community are on full display in the following pages, and these extraordinary examples of early career work make Andrew M. Conzett, AIA a worthy candidate for the 2021 AIA Nebraska Young Architect Award.

### HONORS AND AWARDS

**2021, ArchDaily Building of the Year**  
Nominee, Core Bank

**2020, AIA Minnesota**  
Honor Award, Countryside Community Church

**2019, AIA Central States Region**  
Merit Award for Interiors, Countryside Community Church

**2019, AIA Nebraska**  
Merit Award for Interiors, Core Bank

**2018, The Architect's Newspaper**  
Honorable Mention, Public Design, River's Edge Pavilion

**2018, AIA Nebraska**  
Merit Award for Architecture, River's Edge Pavilion

**2017, AIA Nebraska**  
Merit Award for Architecture, Assemblage Art Gallery

**2016, AIA Nebraska**  
Merit Award for Detail, Westwood Park Sign

**2015, AIA Nebraska**  
Merit Award for Detail, Food Station

**2014, AIA Nebraska**  
Merit Award for Detail, Typecast Recast Wall

### PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIALS

**Architect**, Registered in the State of Nebraska (2017-Present), A-4843  
**Member**, American Institute of Architects, #38372420

### EDUCATION

**Bachelor of Architecture (BArch), 2005-2010**  
Iowa State University College of Design, Ames, Iowa

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**BVH Architecture, Associate, 2018-Present**  
Project Architect and Designer, Associate

**Alley Poyner Macchietto Architecture, 2011-2018**  
Project Architect and Designer

### PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP

**American Institute of Architects, Nebraska Chapter**  
Chair, Committee on Design, 2018-Present

**American Institute of Architects, Omaha Section**  
Secretary, Board of Directors, 2015-Present

**American Planning Association, Nebraska Chapter**  
Board Member, 2018-Present

### CIVIC LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERING

**City of Omaha, Landmarks Heritage Preservation Commission**  
Board Member, 3-year Mayoral Appointment, 2019-Present

**City of Omaha, Mayor's Millennial Advisory Council**  
Vice Chair, 3-year Mayoral Appointment, 2018-Present

**Cathedral Arts Project**  
Board Member, 2015-Present

**Omaha By Design Mayoral Forum Candidate Forum**  
Co-chair, Planning Committee, 2017 and 2021

**KANEKO Creative Camp in Architecture and Design**  
Session Leader, 2017

**Omaha Public Schools Making Invisible Histories Visible Workshop**  
Session Leader, 2015

**Iowa State University Young Alumni Council**  
Council Member, 2014-2017

### ADVANCING DESIGN EXCELLENCE THROUGH RESEARCH & PRACTICE

At the core of Andrew Conzett's architectural practice is a commitment to design excellence as realized through his research, design and innovative built work. His design portfolio contains a range of projects spanning a variety of typologies and scales, many of which have been recognized by the AIA and peer-juried publications with awards for design excellence. His work has also been published in local newspapers, national magazines and gallery exhibitions.

While his early career works display a clear sense of verve for professional practice, Conzett's passion for design extends well beyond projects that he has completed within traditional owner-architect-engineer-contractor design relationships. He has augmented his professional work and developed his own definition of practice through design competitions, art and architecture collaborations, community design efforts, and experimental design-build work.



Through partnerships with artists, non-profits, community organizations and city departments, his design work has engaged the broader community and transformed places that are oftentimes overlooked as banal or mundane. By working directly within the public realm, Andrew's projects have instigated curiosity and interaction with the community, and left a lasting impact on the vibrancy and potential for shared civic space. These design methods are best exemplified in the Typecast Recast Wall, Food Station and Westwood Park Sign projects. In each of these works, atypical partnerships were paired with industrious design-build methods to create extraordinary design solutions.

### ADVANCING THE PROFESSION THROUGH CIVIC LEADERSHIP AND VOLUNTEERING

Andrew believes that his responsibilities as an architect and a citizen extend beyond his role within the design process. Therefore, he augments his professional role with direct involvement in civic government and volunteering within his community.



As a member of the Mayor's Millennial Advisory Committee, Andrew serves as the Chair of the Urban Core Subcommittee. He has increased the Mayoral staff's awareness for issues affecting the city's urban core by organizing walking tours, group discussions and social media outreach to various groups and demographics within Omaha's downtown area. The walking tours have succeeded in soliciting feedback from community members.

Andrew also serves on the Mayor-appointed Omaha Landmarks Heritage Preservation Commission, which plays a primary role in preserving Omaha's historic fabric. Within this role, he provides leadership toward the designation of structures and districts of local significance and implementing objectives for preservation within the city. These efforts are critical to ensuring that local landmarks are recognized, preserved and adapted according to Secretary of the Interior's preservation standards.

Andrew has also served as a co-chair for organizing two Mayoral debates. These debates were opportunities for architects and citizens to engage the Mayoral candidates with questions about issues that impact the built environment.

### ADVANCING THE PROFESSION THROUGH PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP AND ADVOCACY

Embedded in Andrew Conzett's early career is a commitment to professional advocacy. He serves in leadership capacities within the AIA at both the local (AIA Omaha Section) and statewide (AIA Nebraska Chapter) levels to promote and advance the mission of the AIA for members and the community at-large.

As the current Chair of the AIA Nebraska Committee on Design, Andrew works to encourage and recognize good design through public outreach, honors and awards, lectures, and programming. Additionally, he has led an effort to reorganize the statewide awards to align with AIA National Honor Award standards.

Within his board member role with AIA Omaha, Andrew co-leads the ongoing organization of the internationally acclaimed AIA Omaha Lecture Series. The series provides a forum for world-renowned architects to share their work with the Omaha community. Notably, the lecture series has hosted representatives from each of the past seven AIA Architecture Firm Award recipients. Andrew also leads the organization of several AIA Omaha-sponsored camps and workshops, providing young students with exposure to the diverse possibilities for careers in architecture and design.

In addition to his leadership roles within the AIA, Conzett serves as a board member with the American Planning Association Nebraska Chapter, advancing its mission by providing cross-disciplinary thought leadership and resources between AIA and APA Nebraska Chapter.



# RIVER'S EDGE PARK PAVILION

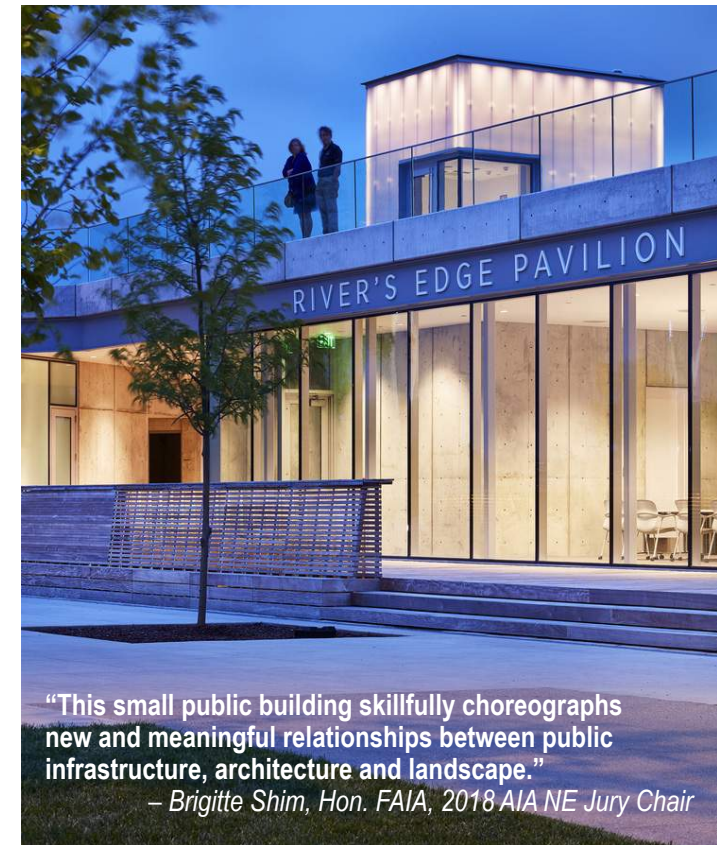
COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA



River's Edge Park Pavilion is a small community pavilion that seeks to blur the edges between infrastructure, landscape and architecture through the sculpting of public space. Conceptualized as a 'front porch' for a revitalizing post-industrial Missouri Riverfront development, the building acts as a continuation of the ribbon of the Bob Kerry pedestrian bridge, part of an inter-state park trail system.

Formally, the pavilion 'unfolds' from the landscape, positioning a monumental concrete stair to lead users up to the roof deck while simultaneously providing an informal seating area for concerts and fireworks shows. In this way, the building itself acts as a transitory experience between active landscape and structured rest.

The Pavilion's 'L'-shaped massing establishes a parenthetical edge that embraces and activates the waterfront during both day and night. The interior contains spaces dedicated to community events, a public-use meeting room, public restrooms and a catering kitchen along with generous outdoor spaces and patios for events and community activities.



**"This small public building skillfully choreographs new and meaningful relationships between public infrastructure, architecture and landscape."**  
 – Brigitte Shim, Hon. FAIA, 2018 AIA NE Jury Chair

## Project Credentials

<b>Project Title</b>	River's Edge Park Pavilion
<b>Firm of Record</b>	Alley Poyner Macchietto Architecture
<b>Completion</b>	Fall 2017
<b>Synopsis</b>	Design of park pavilion providing public amenities
<b>Awards</b>	2018 AIA Nebraska Excellence in Architecture; 2018 Architect's Newspaper Best of Design Hon Mention

## Project Role

As architect and designer, Andrew Conzett, AIA led an interdisciplinary team of designers and engineers in the conceptual design, schematic design and design development for the River's Edge Pavilion project.

## Declaration of Responsibility

I have personal knowledge of the nominee's responsibility for the exhibit listed above. The responsibility included:

- Led the conceptual, schematic and design development of the project
- Led coordination between design and engineering consultants to develop design intent throughout the duration of documents and construction

**Larry Foster** Retired Director, City of Council Bluffs Parks Department  
 Main point of contact for the client/owner partnership

# CORE BANK HEADQUARTERS

OMAHA, NEBRASKA



**Core Bank** is a 60,000 square foot corporate office headquarters that was designed primarily to consolidate executive, management and administrative staff for a regional bank located in Omaha, Nebraska.

Having recently rebranded its graphic brand identity, Core Bank tasked the design team with refreshing an building type that is often seen as traditional, old and stale. As a response to historic bank precedent, the design team sought to provide an architectural language that exhibited forward-thinking and contemporary concepts such as transparency, geometric pattern and light.

The new building also makes use of a prominent concrete building "core." While perhaps an ironic play on words, this central physical feature provides a strong visual backdrop and a structural element that supports the building's key interior feature, a 6 foot cantilevered steel plate stair.

The result of the design process was a structure that successfully melded the bank's inward organizational needs with their desire to rethink their outward identity.



## Project Credentials

<b>Project Title</b>	Core Bank Headquarters
<b>Firm of Record</b>	Alley Poyner Macchietto Architecture
<b>Completion</b>	Winter 2018
<b>Synopsis</b>	Design of corporate headquarters building for regional banking institution
<b>Awards</b>	2019 AIA Nebraska Excellence in Interiors Honor Award

## Project Role

As architect and designer, Andrew Conzett, AIA led an interdisciplinary team of designers and engineers in the conceptual design, schematic design and design development of the Core Bank Headquarters project.

## Declaration of Responsibility

I have personal knowledge of the nominee's responsibility for the exhibit listed above. The responsibility included:

- Led the conceptual, schematic and design development of the project
- Coordination with design team and engineering consultants to maintain design intent throughout the project's duration

**John Sorrell** CEO, Core Bank  
Main point of contact for the client/owner partnership

# FLATIRON MIXED-USE

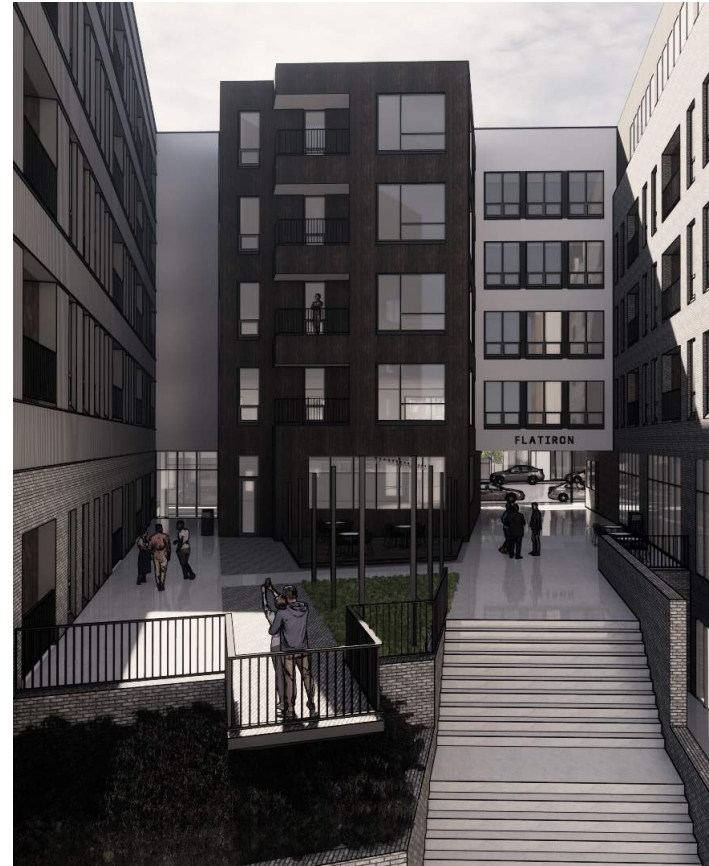
OMAHA, NEBRASKA



Flatiron mixed-use development is planned to span nearly a full block in downtown Omaha, this mixed-use and multi-family project will bring vibrant, new housing and commercial bays to a historic neighborhood that has long been dormant.

In addition to providing much needed urban housing, the Flatiron development will contribute to the revitalization of the neighborhood by re-knitting the site into its surrounding context, creating new activity along street frontages, and improving the quality of the public realm through the creation of outdoor plaza and park spaces.

The project will support a significant need for affordable housing within the Omaha community, as it will be the first newly constructed apartment structure in downtown Omaha to cater to residents of mixed incomes. Nearly 60% of the units will be reserved for income-qualified tenants and financed with low-income housing tax credits. As the developer states, "One of the best ways to combat the stigma associated with affordable housing is by developing mixed-income projects where a variety of people reside."



Project Credentials	
<b>Project Title</b>	Core Bank Headquarters
<b>Firm of Record</b>	BVH Architecture
<b>Completion</b>	Under Construction, Anticipated completion 2022
<b>Synopsis</b>	Design of mixed income, urban infill housing
<b>Awards</b>	Not yet submitted

**Project Role**  
As architect and designer, Andrew Conzett, AIA led an interdisciplinary team of designers and engineers in the conceptual design, schematic design and design development of the Flatiron District mixed-use project.

**Declaration of Responsibility**  
I have personal knowledge of the nominee's responsibility for the exhibit listed above. The responsibility included:

- Led the conceptual, schematic and design development of the project
- Coordination with design team and engineering consultants to maintain design intent throughout the project's duration

**Neeraj Agarwal** Partner, Clarity Development  
Client/developer

# TYPECAST RECAST WALL

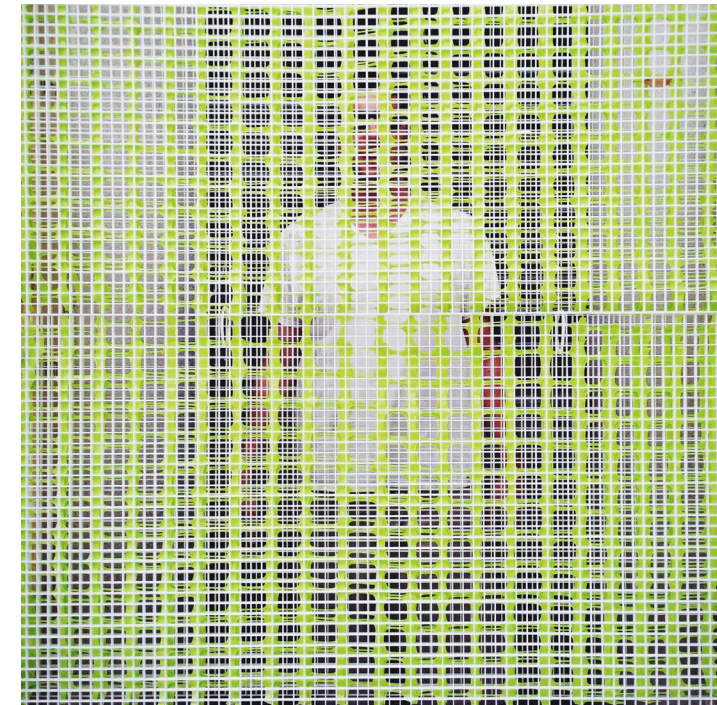
OMAHA, NEBRASKA



**Typecast Recast Wall** is a 1,600 SF architectural intervention, designed and built as a temporary art commission, for a parking garage in downtown Omaha.

Located along a prominent entertainment and infrastructure corridor in downtown Omaha, the installation responds to and engages private building and public space. In a location typically experienced as a busy transportation thoroughfare, the installation challenges the idea of the street as automobile corridor and attempts to re-frame the street, sidewalk and garage wall as a backdrop for contemporary art and social engagement.

By layering commonplace materials such as plastic light diffusers and construction fencing, the multi-layered installation creates a vibrant pattern along the street. A moiré effect continually shifts as pedestrians, cyclists, automobiles and trains pass by at various speeds. This momentary sensory experience invites people to slow down, divert their attention, and re-frame their perspective of an industrial and sometimes unwelcoming public space.



## Project Credentials

<b>Project Title</b>	Typecast Recast Wall
<b>Firm of Record</b>	Andrew Conzett, AIA Freelance design build
<b>Completion</b>	April 2014
<b>Synopsis</b>	Design-build commission resulting in a temporary architectural installation
<b>Awards</b>	2014 AIA Nebraska Excellence in Architecture Detail Award

## Role of Nominee

Andrew Conzett, AIA led the design and construction of this temporary public art installation. The work was awarded to Conzett's team as a result of an open call for artists, of which he led the RFP submittal, interview and concept development.

## Declaration of Responsibility

I have personal knowledge of the nominee's responsibility for the exhibit listed above. The responsibility included:

- Led the design competition response and interview presentation
- Led the design, construction and installation of the work

**Alan Potash** Former Director, Anti-defamation League of Omaha  
Led the non-profit that organized the design commission

**"Simple means transform the whole experience of this façade. Night experience becomes radiant. Simple, controlled – very nice."**

– Mark Cavagnero, FAIA, 2014 AIA NE Jury Chair

# FOOD STATION

OMAHA, NEBRASKA



**Food Station** is an architectural pavilion commissioned by the design collective Emerging Terrain for a unique one day dining event.

Situated on an interstate overpass in Omaha, Nebraska, the event invited designers, chefs, artists, and architects to work together to cultivate a conversation about food and material culture. The emerging architects utilized the commission to both design and fabricate the structure through a true design-build process.

Designed in close collaboration with a local chef, the pavilion was conceptualized as a platform and shelter to showcase and facilitate the social, communal, and creative aspects of cooking, serving, and consuming food.

Through architectural expressions of elegant simplicity, honest materiality, bespoke craftsmanship, and pragmatic construction methods, the pavilion is a direct reflection of the agricultural heritage and history of self-sufficiency often found throughout the Midwest.



**“Simple materials, nice detailing and clean execution for a temporary structure... did much to elevate the public experience and appreciation for design.”**

– John Lynch Sanders, FAIA, 2015 AIA NE Jury Chair

## Project Credentials

<b>Project Title</b>	Food Station
<b>Firm of Record</b>	Andrew Conzett, AIA Freelance design build
<b>Completion</b>	June 2012
<b>Synopsis</b>	Design-build collaboration with a chef to create a community serving platform
<b>Awards</b>	2015 AIA Nebraska Excellence in Architecture Detail Award

## Role of Nominee

Andrew Conzett, AIA led the design, fabrication and installation of this pavilion and food serving station. The work was awarded to Conzett's team as a result of non-profit Emerging Terrain's open call for artists, of which Conzett led the RFP submittal, interview and concept development.

## Declaration of Responsibility

I have personal knowledge of the nominee's responsibility for the exhibit listed above. The responsibility included:

- Led the interview and concept design phase
- Led the design, construction and installation of the work

**Anne Trumble** Director, Emerging Terrain, Inc.  
Led the non-profit that organized the design commission



# WESTWOOD PARK SIGN

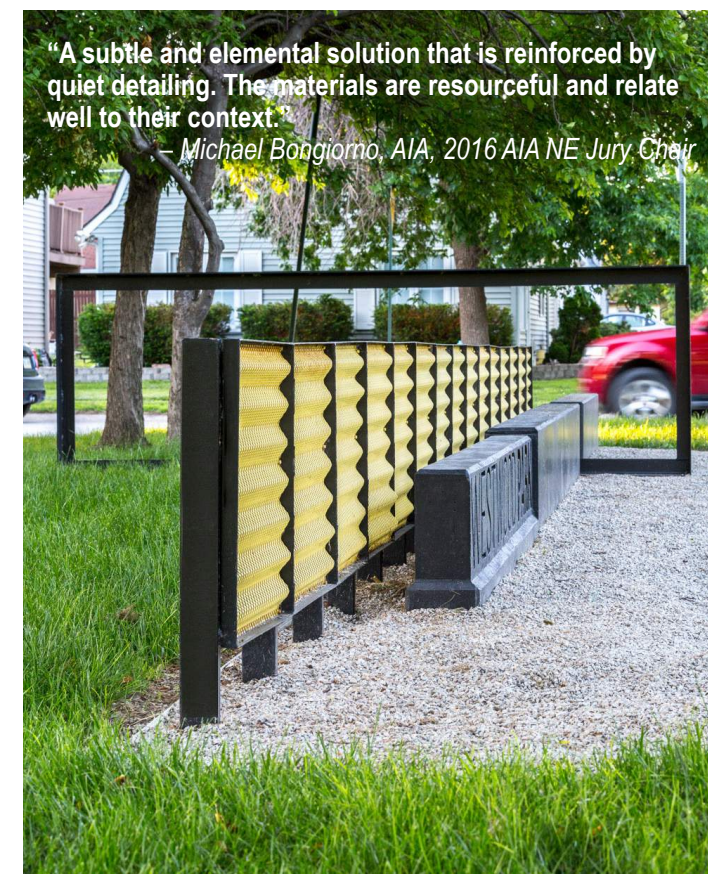
COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA



**Westwood Park Sign** resulted from an open call for artists to develop ideas for new public park signs in Council Bluffs, IA. The competition was organized through a collaborative partnership with the City of Council Bluffs Parks and Recreation Department, Council Bluffs Public Art Commission, and Iowa West Foundation..

The design process began by researching and documenting park signs found throughout the city, state and region. Conzett recognized that the most common and iconic park signs shared characteristics such as the primary use of dark-stained wood, etched or recessed letters, bright yellow paint, basic geometry and common construction methods.

The resultant design takes this classic signage precedent and distills the language one step further, attempting to reinterpret the common park sign's most essential visual form. Making use of a rational structural parti, a dark base material and recessed yellow signage letters, the sign serves as a minimal and abstracted version of iconic wood park signs found throughout the country.



Project Credentials	
<b>Project Title</b>	Westwood Park Sign
<b>Firm of Record</b>	Andrew Conzett, AIA Freelance design
<b>Completion</b>	April 2015
<b>Synopsis</b>	Design competition to create a permanent city park sign
<b>Awards</b>	2016 AIA Nebraska Excellence in Architecture Detail Award

### Role of Nominee

Andrew Conzett, AIA led the competition submittal and design of this permanent public art installation. The work was awarded to Conzett's team as a result of the Council Bluffs Parks Department's open call for artists, which neighborhood residents played a primary role in selecting.

### Declaration of Responsibility

I have personal knowledge of the nominee's responsibility for the exhibit listed above. The responsibility included:

- Led the response to the City's call for artist's proposals
- Led conceptual design development and documentation

**Larry Foster** Director, City of Council Bluffs Parks Department  
Main point of contact for the client/owner partnership

# A

American Institute of Architects / Nebraska Chapter  
2021 Young Architects Award  
Nomination for Andrew Conzett

June 17, 2021

Dear Esteemed Jury,

Andrew Conzett requested a letter of support for his pursuit of recognition for the 2021 Young Architects Award and I am thrilled to oblige.

A word of introduction. I am a landscape architect, former principal at Sasaki and co-founder and owner of Agency Landscape + Planning. I lead public park and riverfront design and planning nationally. For over a decade at Sasaki, I led the design of work along the Missouri River called Hanafan Rivers Edge Park. It was in the second phase of design and construction that I worked alongside Alley Poyner Macchietto Architects and Andrew Conzett as the architectural lead designer. Together, we delivered a levee-top plaza and pavilion that celebrates the landing of the iconic Bob Kerry Pedestrian Bridge. I will share here the reasons why, through that experience, I came to know Andrew as an exceptional young architect and one very worthy of this recognition.

**Design Excellence: Enthusiasm and Drive**

Andrew is a memorable and desirable collaborator first and foremost because of his unending supply of enthusiasm and passion for the work. He is a nimble thinker who pushes himself and the team toward an integrated and excellent design solution.

**Environmental Sustainability: An Integrated Approach**

Andrew drove extensive explorations of the pavilion on Hanafan River's Edge Park. His ethic led to a building that feels like an extension of the landscape and urban fabric, allowing it to become a place more than an object and expressive of deep integration within the vast riverfront floodplain forest.

**Inclusive Collaboration: Curiosity in Spades**

Beyond our project work together, Andrew and I have followed each other on social media and in a kind of long-distance professional relationship. I have watched the same verve and vigor from the professional work extend to his personal explorations of the design world including a memorable walking tour of my newly-finished Riverwalk project. He was taking notes, shooting photographs and asking questions the whole time.

**Civic Engagement: A Community Focused Leader**

In watching Andrew from afar and reviewing his recent portfolio, I see a man who is deeply engaged in his design community. He is pushing his region to recognize and celebrate the power of design while also cultivating a civic-minded and community-focused approach. This kind of practice is much needed in the world and particularly in the evolving design culture of the midwest.

It is for these reasons I am thrilled to offer my support whole-heartedly for Andrew in this pursuit. He will most certainly put the recognition to good use and no doubt continue to be a vibrant designer, a community leader and an extraordinary ambassador for the AIA. I am more than happy to share further thoughts or discuss in more detail.

Sincerely,



Gina Ford, FASLA  
Co-Founder, Principal and Landscape Architect

Agency  
Landscape + Planning

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Unit #2  
Cambridge, MA 02140  
617.512.8702



City of Omaha  
Jean Stothert, Mayor

**Office of the Mayor**  
1819 Farnam Street, Suite 300  
Omaha, Nebraska 68183-0300  
(402) 444-5000  
FAX: (402) 444-6059

June 16, 2021

American Institute of Architects  
Honors and Awards Committee

Committee Members:

It is my pleasure to recommend Andrew Conzett for the 2021 American Institute of Architects Young Architects Award.

Mr. Conzett represents a growing number of young professionals involved in the exciting changes underway in Omaha. His professional work at BVH Architecture provides an important perspective on areas of high interest to the young professionals choosing to live and work in our city. In addition, his volunteer community service illustrates his commitment to participate in the design of our future, to help Omaha build on its excellent reputation as a center for business, education, and family life.

Mr. Conzett recognizes both the opportunity and responsibility to participate in public engagement and advocate for positive community betterment.

He is an active member of the Millennial Advisory Commission I created to provide input about issues of growing importance in our city: multi-modal transit, urban development, public spaces, sustainability, entertainment and recreation. One of the goals of the Commission has been to place young professionals on City of Omaha Boards and Commissions.

I appointed Mr. Conzett to serve on the Landmarks Heritage Preservation Commission, a citizen board created by ordinance in 1977 to review and make recommendations on matters pertaining to the designation of structures or districts of local historical significance.

There is a place for both development and preservation in our city. Mr. Conzett provides valuable professional expertise to this important board.

I appreciate Mr. Conzett's involvement and look forward to his continued service to Omaha.

Sincerely,

Jean Stothert  
Mayor, City of Omaha

