



June 1, 2024

Sara Kay, Hon. AIA

Executive Director, Chairperson AIA Nebraska Honors
AIA Nebraska
335 North 8th Street, Suite A
Lincoln, NE 68508

RE: Emily Tetschner, Assoc. AIA – Nominee AIA Associate Award

Sara and reviewing jury members:

It is my distinct pleasure to write this letter sponsoring the nomination of Emily Tetschner, Assoc. AIA for AIA Nebraska's Associate Award.

We hired Emily as an architectural design coordinator almost three years ago, and I have been fortunate enough to have worked closely with her for two of those years entrenched full time in the planning and design of the Henry Ford Hospital in central Detroit – where she supports design leadership. It was here where I recognized her talent as an early career professional. Emily has been deeply involved in every aspect the early phases of the project including pre-design, concept generation, schematics. Now she is fully immersed and embraced by the larger design development production team.

Emily is a stellar design coordinator and much more. She has been my right-hand design architect for almost two years - Plenty of time to witness her skill sets. She has been instrumental in coordinating the floor plans with the Healthcare Planners, interior designers, MEP, site design team, and the Revit production team. Without her effort these disciplines would not have been coordinated. For her work, she has been recognized multiple times by HDR's Global Design Director for the effort and quality she puts into integral client presentations. She is a sought-after coordinator both in our Omaha office and throughout our larger organization. She has been pulled away from her healthcare work to assist on several major pursuits and masterplans, consistently producing high-quality work under tight deadlines.

Emily's contributions extend beyond her day to day. This summer, she co-led the HDR-sponsored Kaneko Architecture Camp, empowering youth in her community with knowledge about ideation, design techniques, drawing, and creating "new" architecture for an ever-changing world. She regularly volunteers around the office and city. She is an active AIA member, participating in national industry events and groups such as last year's Women's Leadership Summit (WLS) and the new AIA LGBTQIA+ Affinity Group. Emily's leadership in our firm and service to the local community make her a highly valued professional and a deserving candidate for the AIA Nebraska's Associate Award.

Sincerely,

Michael P. Hamilton, AIA
Vice President, Design Principal



EMILY TETSCHNER

ASSOC. AIA



Emily Tetschner, Assoc. AIA, is a dedicated young designer actively shaping the architectural landscape in Omaha, Nebraska through leadership and service.

Driven by the belief that inclusive architecture creates more vibrant communities, Emily is a fervent advocate for diversity within the architectural profession. She is one of the first members of the national AIA LGBTQIA+ Affinity Group. Her dedication to uplift women in the discipline was highlighted when she represented HDR at the AIA Women's Leadership Summit. Community engagement is central to Emily's ethos. She co-leads HDR's annual Kaneko Kids Camp, empowering youth in the Omaha community with knowledge about architecture. Her commitment to give back to the local art and design scene is demonstrated through her volunteer work with organizations like the Radial Arts Center, Omaha by Design, the Durham Museum, and the Omaha Public Library.

Motivated by a love of problem solving and desire to enhance the built environment for all, Emily first found her calling during her education at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's College of Architecture. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Design and Master of Architecture degrees from UNL, graduating at the top of her college with highest distinction. Her talent for environmentally friendly and socially responsive design was recognized when she became the runner-up in the International APT Sustainable Design Build Competition. During her time at UNL, she served as a graduate teaching assistant and showcased her work in multiple exhibitions, including the New Attainable House Exhibition with FACT and the Campus of the Easy Parts with WAI Think Tank. She also gained valuable experience as an intern at BCDM and Berggren Architects before graduation.

Currently, Emily is an internally awarded employee at HDR, specializing in healthcare projects. She is passionate about projects that invest time to engage with local voices to better promote overall wellbeing. She has played a crucial role in the design of the new Henry Ford Hospital, which will serve central Detroit. Her innovative approach and unwavering dedication to service make her a true asset to the profession. Emily is excited to further her career and continue giving back to the local Omaha community.

EXPERIENCE

HDR- Omaha, Nebraska
Architectural Coordinator, 2022- present

UNL College of Architecture
G.T.A and Instructor, 2019 - 2021

BCDM Architects- Omaha, Nebraska
Architectural Intern, 2019

Berggren Architects- Lincoln, Nebraska
Architectural Intern, 2018 - 2019



MEMBERSHIPS / REGISTRATIONS

2023 - Present	AIA Associate Member
2023 - Present	AIA LGBTQIA+ Affinity Group Member
2018 - Present	NCARB

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

2023 - Present	Kaneko Kids Architecture Camp Co-Leader
2024	Friend of the Omaha Public Library & Volunteer
2024	Radial Arts Center Volunteer
2024	Durham Museum Volunteer
2023	Omaha By Design Volunteer

EDUCATION

2019 - 2021	University of Nebraska - Lincoln Masters of Architecture (2-Year), Graduate T.A. Architectural Theory & Urbanism
2015 - 2019	University of Nebraska - Lincoln Bachelors of Science in Design - Architecture

HONORS

2024	Team Pathfinder Award Recipient
2023	Individual Gold Pathfinder Nominee
2019	Graduated with Highest Distinction, Top Student in UNL College of Architecture
2015 - 2019	Regent's Scholar - Full Tuition Award
2015 - 2019	Dean's List - College of Architecture Top 10%
2018 - 2019	Tau Sigma Delta Scholar
2015 - 2019	UNL Honors Program Scholar

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS & ACTIVITIES

2022 - Present	Design Bites Lecture Series
2023 - Present	NE/IA Mentorship Program
2024	Omaha Post It Show - Radial Arts Center
2023	AIA Women's Leadership Summit- HDR Representative
2023	TSO 5x5 Exhibition Featured Speaker
2021	New Attainable House Exhibition - FACT (AIA Housing Design Education Honorable Mention)
2021	Graduate Teaching Assistant - Architectural Theory
2020	Instructor of UNL Undergraduate Design Thinking Course
2020	London/Rome 2020 Study Abroad Scholarship Recipient
2020	Work exhibited at Architecture Media Politics and Society (AMPS) Conference
2020	Work featured in "Groundforms: Architectural Constructions of Ground (After the Digital)"
2019	Graduate Teaching Assistant - Urbanism
2018 - 2019	Vice President of UNL Tau Sigma Delta - National Honors Society
2018 - 2019	Director of ASK Student Help Desk
2018	International APT Student Design Build Sustainable Competition - Second Place
2018	Campus of the Easy Parts and After the Campus, Condenser! Exhibitions - WAI Think Tank

May 20, 2024

Dear AIA Selection Committee:

I am writing on behalf of Emily Tetschner's application for the Nebraska AIA Associate Award. Her reasons for applying for this recognition, I believe, are sound and well-conceived. Therefore, in the following letter, I want to offer my unqualified support for her application.

I have known Emily for approximately eight years. During this time, I was fortunate to have her as a student in several history courses, design studio, and she took part in a study abroad program at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. During her studies with me, I have seen many examples of her high academic standards, professionalism, and leadership abilities. In studio, she was easily among the strongest students in the entire cohort. Yet, beyond realizing her own design ideas, she helped others become stronger by offering advice, critique, and encouragement. The latter is a trait I have rarely seen in beginning design students, and it suggests a lot about who Emily is as a young professional.

I experienced more of her exceptional character during our study abroad trip together. During this semester long course in London and Rome, she acted as a leader of the group and someone I could trust to help manage and inform others. She also went out of her way to help the other students feel comfortable and discover more about the places we visited. She was an invaluable person to have on the trip because she made everyone around her better.

Since her graduation in 2021, Emily has used her professional agency to provide support and enact change across a set of important issues. As one of the first members of the national AIA LGBTQIA+ group, she has supported inclusivity and diversity within the architectural profession. Her efforts also include growing women leaders in the field. To better understand this issue, she acted as HDR's representative at the AIA Women's Leadership Summit. She also co-leads HDR's annual Kaneko Kids Camp and dedicates herself to building local art and design culture by working with wonderful organizations like Radial Arts Center, Omaha by Design, Durham Museum, and the Omaha Public Library. These exceptional leadership efforts reveal the fact that she serves others instead of advancing only herself.

Due to my interactions with Emily, I know that she is aware of the effort needed to be a successful professional and an industry leader who can make change. Her early achievements bode well for her and the future of the profession. The generosity of the AIA Associate Award would aid her professional development and encourage her to keep working hard on behalf of others. So, if you are seeking a thoughtful candidate, Emily is the perfect choice. Thus, I want to offer my full support for her Nebraska AIA Associate Award application.

Sincerely,



Peter Olshavsky, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Architecture
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

May 22, 2024

2024 AIA Nebraska Honors & Award Jury
AIA Nebraska
335 North 8th Street, Suite A
Lincoln, NE 68508

RE: Emily Tetschner, Associate AIA
Letter of Reference
Associate Award Nomination

Dear Members of the Jury,

Emily Tetschner is an outstanding young member of our profession. I had the great pleasure of mentoring her during her internship with our firm, 2018 & 2019. Her enthusiasm for our profession was evident from her first day on the job. She worked well with all of the staff and was especially attentive to the senior members, taking every opportunity to learn from them. Emily made a positive impression on the entire staff.

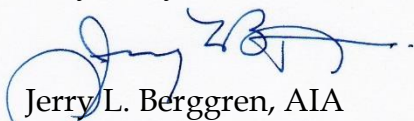
Emily is naturally curious, a lifelong learner. While completing assignments she frequently asked questions wanting to learn more than just how to illustrate the details properly. She was compelled to learn "why" the details were created in a specific way. She puts her knowledge to work by being thorough with the big picture of our projects and super attentive to their details.

Emily eagerly sought new challenges whether it was in design & construction or building relationships with peers, consultants, contractors, and clients. She quickly became a trusted representative of our firm.

I am still amazed by her time management ability. While working parttime for us, and being a full-time student, she also found time to be involved with the UNL engineering team and their successful submission to the 2018 Association for Preservation Technology International preservation engineering competition. The team's project placed second in this international competition. Similarly, she found time to develop measured drawings of the historic Rudge Chapel with a classmate and fellow intern.

Emily is a credit to our profession. I feel she is well deserving of this recognition.

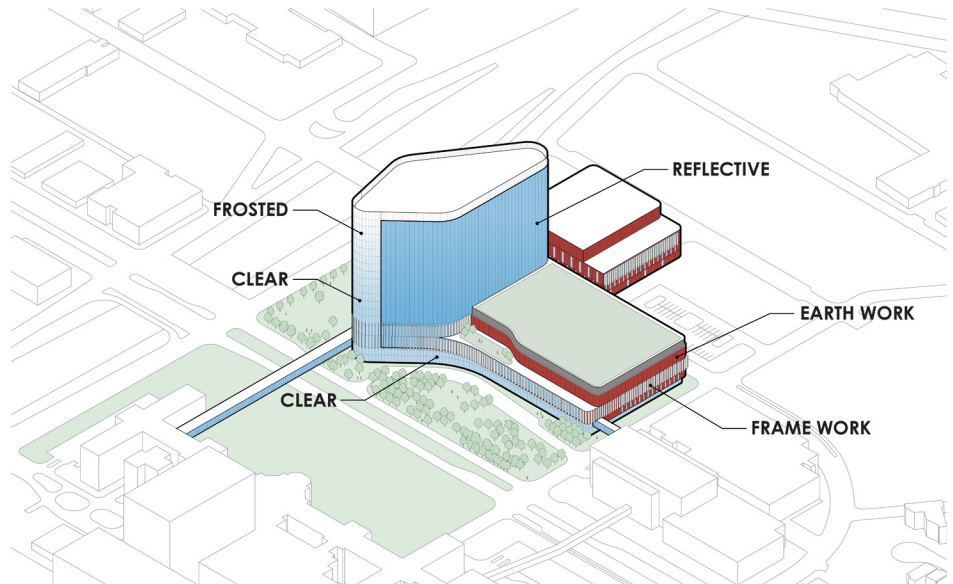
Very Truly Yours,



Jerry L. Berggren, AIA
Principal/Preservation Architect



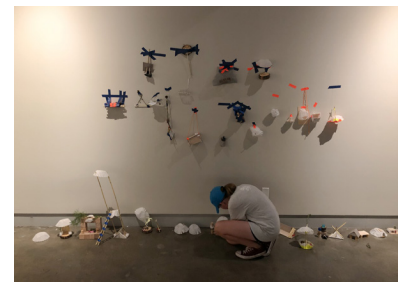
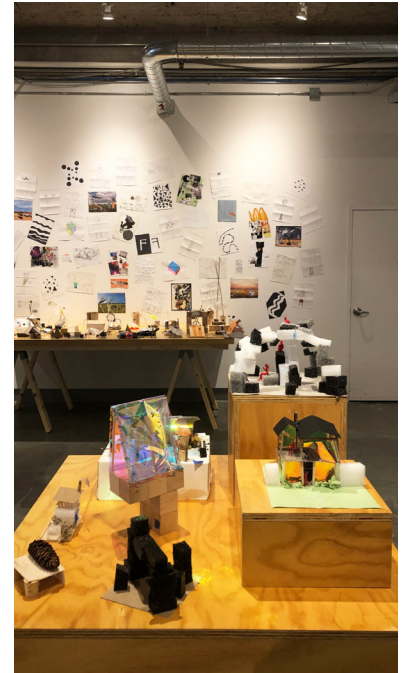
BERGGREN ARCHITECTS PC
1201 "O" Street, Suite 302
Lincoln, NE 68508
402-475-0597



HENRY FORD HOSPITAL

Project Description: The Henry Ford Hospital project is a 1.1 million square foot campus expansion to the Henry Ford Health System serving central Detroit. Located across from a 1915 Albert Kahn legacy hospital, the design combines a masonry podium to complement the historic language and a modern thirteen floor bed tower that looks towards the future of healthcare. The complex multi-year endeavor aims to become a destination for health, research, and innovation. Construction will start late in 2024 with the first patients expected in early 2029.

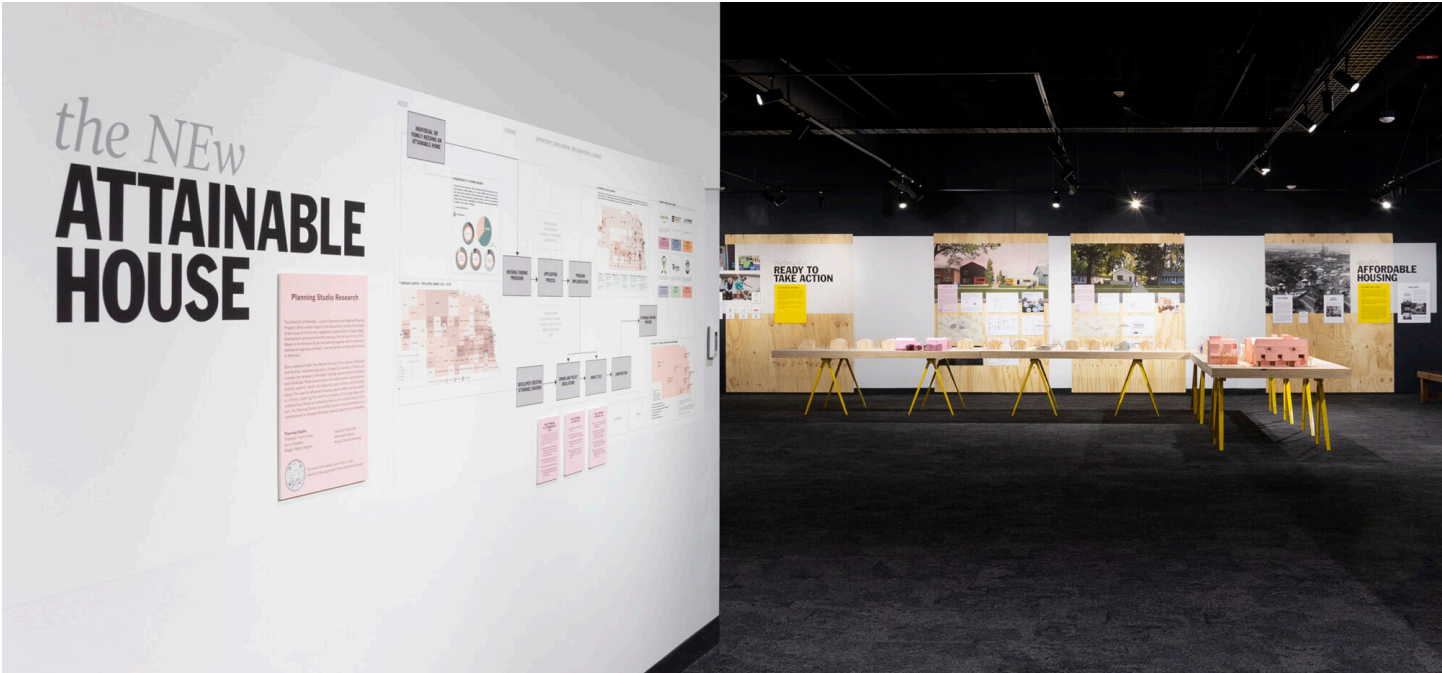
Role: Emily currently serves as HDR's architectural coordinator on the Henry Ford Hospital project. Since October 2022, she has played a key role in coordinating efforts across the architectural, interior, landscape, and structural disciplines, ensuring the project stays on track. Additionally, she co-creates all architecture client presentations with HDR's global design director, contributing significantly to the development and communication of the vision for the new campus.



KANEKO KIDS CAMP

Project Description: Creative Camps at KANEKO partner with professionals to provide immersive sessions in Architecture, Movement, Textiles, and Visual Art for children ranging from elementary to middle school. For over 10 years, HDR has help support and run KANEKO's architecture camp. Campers spend the week on mini projects, site tours, design ambassador visits, and a final exhibition in KANEKO's gallery.

Role: Emily co-led the HDR Kaneko camps in 2022 and 2023 and is slated to lead again in 2024. In 2023, she developed and taught the camp's main project inspired by sculptural artist James Surls, whose work was exhibited at KANEKO at the time, and Zachary Porter's *100 Ways to Touch the Ground*. Campers explored form and tectonics, focusing on Surls's different ground connections. They translated his dynamic compositions and use of natural materials into innovative small residential structures. The final exhibition showcased plans, sections, diagrams, and three-dimensional models.



NEW ATTAINABLE HOUSE (FACT)

Project Description: Partnering with FACT, History Nebraska, and 6 community development organizations, the *NEw Attainable House* exhibition promotes new approaches to the affordable home for communities in Nebraska. Inspired by *Evicted*, a traveling exhibition highlighting the eviction crisis across America, the *NEw Attainable House* joins the locally produced exhibition *Nebraska's Housing Stories* to propose Nebraska-based design solutions to the housing crisis.

Role: Emily's project Common House partnered with nonprofit South of Downtown Community Development Organization in Lincoln. The project, located in the Near South neighborhood, introduces a new housing type where spaces are shared between residents to foster connection and support the community culture. The co-living model hybridizes a group home and single occupancy apartments to create a new kind of missing middle housing. The team worked with Lincoln City Planning to devise a strategy for adding density and collective living with reduced parking requirements, all the while addressing the design guidelines for the historic district.



CAMPUS STORIES (WAI)

Project Description: Exhibited at Maple St. Construct in May of 2018, *Victories over the Sun & Campus Stories* with WAI Think Tank questioned the campus as a territory of strategically organized buildings addressing a common, greater program. The exhibition explored the ways in which buildings with their autonomous, self-contained forms relate to a designated landscape while simultaneously addressing a complex series of spatial and programmatic challenges. It was a combined exhibition of the three previous works *Campus of the Easy Parts*, *After the Campus Condensers!*, and *Victories over the Sun*.

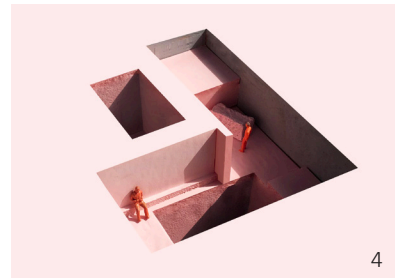
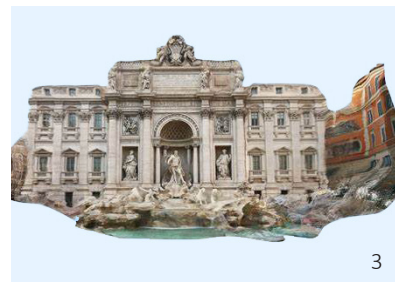
Role: Emily's multi-building project was a museum of voids sited at the heart of the campus. Defined as an intentional absence or lack of presence, rather than empty space in nature, the void inspired a formal exploration into art and film as well as architecture. She documented her research in a book, numerous concrete models, and atmospheric renderings of the envisioned museum, all showcased at *Victories over the Sun & Campus Stories* exhibition.



APT DESIGN BUILD COMPETITION

Project Description: APT’s International Student Design-Build Competition is a hands on challenge to students with an interest in historic buildings and structures. Following other student design competitions, teams work to analyze an existing structure and subsequently design a structure within the specified guidelines. The designs are evaluated and top teams are brought to the APT Annual Conference for on-site building and testing of their design, followed by a final competition phase of unique sustainability focused questions and solutions.

Role: Emily served as the architectural designer on her team’s 2019 APT design build submission. Out of 52 international teams, Emily and her fellow Nebraska teammates qualified to compete at the 2018 APT conference in Buffalo, NY. They placed second with a design referencing a historic timber bridge in Iowa. Their timber project scored the highest in sustainability, details, and the timed on-site building competition.



SELECTED ACTIVITIES

Role (1): In April 2023, Emily was the featured presenter of the TSO 5x5 event. Her presentation on Eva Kail, Austrian Urbanism, and gender inclusive design was internally featured across HDR.

Role (2): Emily was selected to represent HDR at the 2023 AIA Women's Leadership Summit. She assisted with the HDR lead presentation "15 Ideas to Advance a Vibrant and Authentic Career."

Role (3): Emily's photogrammetry work of the Trevi Fountain was presented at the 2020 Architecture Media Politics and Society (AMPS) Conference as part of Brian Kelly's exploration into technology and representation.

Role (4): Emily's models were featured in Zachary Porter's "Groundforms: Architectural Constructions of Ground (After the Digital)." His presentation was part of an ongoing exploration of architectural ground typologies, including slabs, negatives, piles, & platforms.