

ELENA VASQUEZ

Architect | AIA, LEED AP BD+C

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Education

M.Arch

Columbia University
GSAPP, 2009

B.S. Architecture

University of Texas
Austin, 2007

Core Competencies

- Conceptual Design
- Sustainable Design
- BIM Coordination
- Construction Docs
- Client Relations
- Team Leadership
- Urban Planning
- Material Research

Software

- Revit
- AutoCAD
- Rhino 3D
- Grasshopper
- SketchUp
- V-Ray
- Adobe CC
- Bluebeam

Certifications

- Licensed Architect (AIA)
- LEED AP BD+C
- NCARB Certified
- WELL AP

Languages

- English (Native)
- Spanish (Fluent)
- French (Conversational)

Professional Summary

Award-winning architect with over twelve years of experience in cultural, institutional, and mixed-use projects. Registered architect with demonstrated expertise in sustainable design integration, complex project delivery, and interdisciplinary team leadership. Portfolio spans 45+ built projects across the Western United States with a focus on environmentally responsive, contextually grounded design.

Professional Experience

Senior Architect

2019 – Present

Vertex Architects | San Francisco, CA

- Lead design teams on \$15M–\$80M cultural and institutional projects across California and the Pacific Northwest.
- Spearheaded firm-wide adoption of parametric design workflows, reducing schematic design phase duration by 30%.
- Managed client relationships for seven concurrent projects, maintaining 100% referral rate over four years.
- Mentored a team of eight junior architects and designers through licensure and professional development.

Project Architect

2015 – 2019

Nimbus Design Studio | Portland, OR

- Delivered 12 mixed-use and multi-family residential projects totaling over 600,000 square feet.
- Coordinated multidisciplinary consultant teams including structural, MEP, landscape, and civil engineers.
- Implemented integrated project delivery (IPD) on three major projects, reducing change orders by 22%.

Architectural Designer

2011 – 2015

Apex Collaborative | Austin, TX

- Contributed to design development and construction documentation for higher education and healthcare projects.
- Produced detailed 3D visualizations and physical models for client presentations and public hearings.
- Assisted in securing four major institutional commissions through competition entries and RFP responses.

Selected Projects

Riverside Cultural Center

2020 – 2023

Portland, OR | 45,000 sq ft | \$32M Budget

A contemporary cultural institution situated along the Willamette River featuring a cantilevered glass facade that frames panoramic views of the waterfront. The design integrates a 300-seat performance hall, three gallery spaces, and a public research library within a fluid, interconnected floor plan. Achieved LEED Platinum certification through innovative passive cooling strategies, a living roof system, and locally sourced timber structure. Received the 2023 AIA Design Excellence Award.

The Paragon Tower

2018 – 2022

Seattle, WA | 32 Stories | 380,000 sq ft | \$145M Budget

A 32-story mixed-use high-rise integrating residential, retail, and public amenity spaces in Seattle's South Lake Union district. The tower's distinctive faceted facade responds to solar orientation, reducing thermal gain by 35% while creating dynamic interior light conditions. Vertical gardens at six intermediate levels provide shared outdoor terraces and support the building's net-zero water strategy. The project anchors a three-block master plan developed in collaboration with the City of Seattle's Office of Planning.

Harborview Plaza

2019 – 2021

San Diego, CA | 2.4 acres | Public Realm

Waterfront revitalization project transforming a former industrial pier into an award-winning public plaza and community gathering space. The design features a series of terraced seating platforms, an interactive water feature, and a shade canopy structure inspired by the region's maritime heritage. Native drought-tolerant landscaping and permeable paving systems manage 100% of stormwater on-site. The project has become a catalyst for adjacent private development, generating \$200M+ in follow-on investment.

Stonefield Residences

2016 – 2019

Austin, TX | 24 Units | 52,000 sq ft | \$11M Budget

Boutique residential complex of 24 luxury units organized around a central courtyard garden. The design draws from the regional vernacular of Texas Hill Country limestone construction, reinterpreting traditional massing with contemporary detailing and expansive glazing. Each unit features a private outdoor terrace and cross-ventilated floor plan. The project achieved Austin Energy Green Building 4-Star rating and was published in Dwell and Architect Magazine.

Awards & Recognition

AIA Design Excellence Award, Cultural Category	2023
Architizer A+ Award, Residential Mid-Rise	2022
ENR Northwest Best Project, Mixed-Use	2022
AIA Young Architect Award	2020
Chicago Athenaeum American Architecture Award	2019