

**Ali C. Höcek, AIA**  
**Principal, AC Höcek Architecture LLC**

**Professional Curriculum Vitae**

Ali C. Höcek is a Turkish-American architect and educator. He founded AC Höcek Architecture LLC (ACHA) in 1997. His firm's work includes many project types, each benefiting from creative and construction processes that are guided by an intensive and continuing exchange among the spectrum of participants typical for any project. For almost thirty years, he has also taught graduate and undergraduate design studios at the City College of New York School of Architecture.

Höcek recognizes each project as unique and understands that a project's success comes from understanding its specific requirements, establishing a strong overriding design concept, and maintaining the focused attention of a dedicated staff and multi-disciplinary professionals who bring their diverse skills, languages, and cultural fluencies to the work of a dedicated staff and a team of inter-disciplinary consultants.

ACHA's diverse portfolio of clients demonstrates a strong, simple and articulate design aesthetic that is developed from conceptual and practical considerations. These projects consist of designs ranging from the display and installation of artworks to high-end residential interiors, and from single and multi-family or mixed-use buildings, to a variety of commercial, non-profit and institutional commissions. Clients include the Museum of the Moving Image, Amann + Estabrook Conservation Associates, the Guggenheim Museum, the Whitney Museum, the Brownsville Community Culinary Center, the Avari Lahore Hotel and Itochu International, as well as residences for a host of private patrons. ACHA has been honored with many repeat clients in the private and public sectors, from developers, corporations, NGOs and institutions to individuals and small businesses.

ACHA's designs have been published in books, newspapers, and magazines, including *Dwell*, *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Hudson Valley Magazine*, and *Elle Décor*.

Over time, his professional practice, academic career and non-profit pursuits have each served to inform the work of the other, providing a unique and evolving foundation supportive of numerous inspired collaborations and inter-disciplinary exchanges.

**Professional**

1997 – Present

AC Höcek Architecture LLC—Principal, New York, NY

Mr. Höcek also co-founded Think Offsite LLC, a firm specializing in prefabricated buildings

1993-1997

Höcek Sweeny Walter Architects—Partner, New York, NY

1992-1994

S. R. Guggenheim Museum – Consultant to the Exhibitions Department and Associate Architect for Zaha Hadid's "The Great Utopia" exhibition, New York, NY

1989-1992

U+A Architects—Partner, New York, NY

**Academic**

1992 – Present

City College of New York, Spitzer School of Architecture - Adjunct Professor

Mr. Höcek teaches design studios in both the Master of Architecture and Undergraduate programs,

with an emphasis on exploratory and experimental pursuits, as well as environmental sustainability and coastal resiliency. Recently, Mr. Höcek's studios have researched the space between governmental and non-governmental medical care in Panama and the cross-territorial flow of migrants at the Mexico-Guatemala border, exploring how constructed, natural and virtual environments are leveraged by peoples to sustain a sense of community within a field of radical displacement. Another studio collaborated with a not-for-profit organization in the design and preparation of construction documents and construction permits for a community garden pavilion in Brownsville, NY.

Mr. Höcek has taught all levels of undergraduate core studios, advanced studios, and graduate second year studios.

In 2015, Mr. Höcek established the student and faculty exchange program between the schools of architecture at City College and Bahçeşehir University in Istanbul, Turkey, and also founded the Bahçeşehir Exchange Program SSA Donor Fund.

## Education

Master of Architecture, Syracuse University, Florence, Italy  
*Studied under Colin Rowe*

Bachelor of Architecture, Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI  
*Studied under Rodolfo Machado*

RIBA Part One, Architectural Association, London, UK  
*Studied under Zaha Hadid and Rem Koolhaas*

## Professional Licenses + Memberships

Architecture License – New York, New Jersey, Nevada, Rhode Island, Massachusetts

American Institute of Architects  
National Council of Architectural Registration Boards

Northeast Chapter of the Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity, Board Member + Clinic Volunteer

## Publications

Misso, Richard. "New Jersey Lake House." *Design Addicts Platform*, featuring Amann-Pashby project in Highland Lakes, February 8, 2022.

"Pashby-Amann Residence in Vernon Township, NJ." *e-architect*, featuring Highland Lakes, New Jersey stone house project, February 4, 2022.

Beretta, Raphael. "This Mid-Century Modern Home in Newburgh is a Live-Work Paradise." *Hudson Valley Magazine*, featuring 100 Third Street, Newburgh, NY project, August 13, 2021.

Dalton, Melissa. "Architects Share Helpful Tips From Their Own Home Renovations." *Dwell*, featuring 100 Third Street, Newburgh, NY project, August 2021.

Dalton, Melissa. "Before & After: A Crumbling 1970s Building Is Revived as a Dual-Unit Home with a Barbershop." *Dwell*, featuring 100 Third Street, Newburgh, NY project, March 25, 2021.

Höcek, Ali. "Fieldwork: The Suchiate River." *Plot*, Volume 9, Spring, 2020.

Höcek, Ali. "Tropiques Houses." *Transient Spaces*, 2019, pp. 179-188. Loukia Tsafoulia, Suzan Wines, and Samantha Ong, editors. The Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture at The

City College of New York, publishers.

Taylor, Candace. "The Luxury Home Redo Giving an Old Home New Soul." *The Wall Street Journal*, August 23, 2018.

Alexis Josic / Studio Research + Interviews. In 2015, Prof. Höcek interviewed Jovan Josic about his father, the architect Alexis Josic, one of the partners of the Paris-based firm, Candilis Josic Woods. This research and written material is ongoing, informing Prof. Höcek's Spring 2021 Advanced Studio, *Dérive et al. II*, and ACHA's proposal for the addition to Josic's Avari Lahore Hotel in Lahore, Pakistan.

Höcek, Ali. "George Maciunas- Prefabricated Building System, A Critical Assessment." *Stendhal Gallery*, New York, 2012.

"Pass the Popcorn." ACHA Museum of the Moving Image (MOMI) work featured in *Interior Design*, No.3, March, 2011.

Rothstein, Edward. "When Pictures Leap to Other Screens." ACHA MOMI work featured in *The New York Times*, January 13, 2011.

AC Höcek Architecture LLC. "The Tristes Tropiques Houses, Nicaragua," *2008 AIANY Design Awards, Oculus*, Summer, 2008.

Lippard, Lucy R. "On Not Having Seen the Bilbao Guggenheim." *Learning from Bilbao Guggenheim*, Conference Papers Series, No.2, 2005. Anna Maria Guasch and Joseba Zulaika, editors, Center for Basque Studies, publisher. Citation to Ali Höcek's September 2003 Letter to the Editor of *Art in America*.

Höcek, Ali. "Site-Specific in Beacon?" Letter to the editor of *Art in America*, September 2003, p. 31.

"Call it Modest Modernism." ACHA work featured in *The East Hampton Star*, Fall 2006.

Descottes, Hervé. *Ultimate Lighting Design*, July 2005. ACHA MOMI work featured at pp. 220-223.

Demachy, Jean. "A Rural Refuge for Two Die-Hard New Yorkers." *Elle Décor: Country Homes*, 2004. Published in French and English.

Kornbluth, Jesse. "Modern Love." *Elle Décor*, August/September 2003.

## **Lectures + Awards**

Co-organizer of the Spring 2021 SSA Lecture Series, *And/Or*. Lectures curated by Prof. Höcek:

- "Visceral Disruptions," with Camille Norment, Okwui Okpokwasili, and Onome Ekeh
- "Geographies of Absence and Loss," with Maram Masarwi, Ahlam Shibli, and Sean Anderson.

"Psychogeography, the Situationist International, and Related Architecture." *39<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the International Psychohistorical Society*, New York University, 2016.

Co-organizer of *The Resilient Souk*, the Spitzer School of Architecture's two-day symposium on coastal resiliency in Lower Manhattan, including speakers from ShoP Architects, James Garrison Architects, Catherine Seavitt Studio, and AECOM, 2015.

"Contributions of Turkish-American Architects and Engineers to the American Skyline." MIM/EAAE Conference, Columbia University, School of Engineering and Applied Science, NY, 2013.

The American Institute of Architects, New York Chapter, "The Tristes Tropiques Houses,"

presentation and exhibit, 2011.

Shelter Island Historical Society House Tour, featuring Slovin/Leites residence project, 2009.

“Prefabricated Buildings.” School of Architecture at Pennsylvania State University, Soho House, NYC, 2007.

NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission, Certificate of Merit. The award was for the design of the exterior signage for the former Guggenheim Museum Soho. The corner signage remains and now bears the name of the current street level tenant, “Prada”

## **Selected Projects**

### **INSTITUTIONAL**

#### *Brownsville Community Culinary Center (BCCC), Brooklyn, New York*

Engaged by a non-profit started by Claus Meyer, the co-founder of the Danish restaurant Noma, ACHA designed this 5,000+ sq ft restaurant, culinary teaching and community center in Brownsville. The BCCC’s mission is to provide education and access to food in an area designated as a food desert and an area of food poverty. The brief called for students to learn culinary skills and how to manage a Michelin-rated restaurant, while serving the local community three healthy meals daily. As a testament to the design, the BCCC transformed itself during the pandemic to provide, with Collective Fare, hundreds of thousands of healthy meals to the Brownsville community.

#### *Museum of the Moving Image, Astoria, New York*

“Behind the Screen, a Traveling Exhibition” is adapted from the permanent exhibition at the Museum, also designed by ACHA, and has traveled in both Europe and the United States.

#### *Museum of the Moving Image, Astoria, New York*

“Behind the Screen” is a 15,000 sq ft permanent exhibition illustrating the history and workings of the film and video industries. The architectural design of “Behind the Screen” is the result of orchestrating the work of numerous consultants, engineers, artists, and designers to create a cohesive and flowing story, both for entertainment and education. Mr. Höcek was a panelist at the American Association of Museums in Atlanta, where he presented this design.

#### *American Museum of the Moving Image, Astoria, New York*

“Hot Circuits” is an exhibition presenting a history of electronic arcade games.

#### *Eyebeam Atelier, New York, NY*

“Halloween Exhibition” was conceived as an exhibition of creepy artworks for Eyebeam’s Chelsea gallery, whose mission includes expanding and informing the critical perception of art, culture and media. Long meandering corridors wrapped in black construction mesh, defined both interior paths and exterior rooms.

#### *Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY*

ACHA was invited by the Whitney Museum to propose the exhibition design for *The American Century*. The design proposal sought to integrate audio/visual media with historic artworks and artifacts.

#### *Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY*

*Mediascape* was one of the first large exhibition of digital artworks in New York City. As a consultant to the Exhibitions Department, much of Mr. Höcek’s design work was in managing cumbersome electronic equipment while maintaining a fluid narrative for the visitors.

#### *Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY*

Mr. Höcek was engaged as Associate Architect for the architectural development, implementation and installation of *The Great Utopia* exhibition designed by London-based architect Zaha Hadid.

*Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY*

As a consultant to the Exhibitions Department, Mr. Höcek advised on the design of *Robert Rauschenberg: The Early 1950s*, bringing together the European formality of enfilade galleries with the neutral and spacious characteristics of a SOHO gallery.

## COMMERCIAL + PUBLIC WORKS

*Amann Estabrook Conservation, New York, NY*

This internationally known art conservation studio, specializing in world-class art of the 20th century, engaged ACHA to coordinate the upgrade of its MEP systems. The unique challenge presented by this project involving priceless works of art was that the studio had to continue operations during the renovation.

*Avari Hotel, Lahore, Pakistan*

Originally designed in the early 1970s by world-renowned architect, Alexis Josic, ACHA was engaged to provide the design of a 200-room addition with new front and back-of-house functions serving both the hotel's guests and the city's residents. The design phase was preceded by an extensive research into the theory and practice of the architectural firm Candilis-Josic-Woods, and included interviews conducted by Mr. Hocek with Alexis Josic's son, the architect Yovan Josic.

*Sakonnet River Replacement Bridge, Sakonnet River, RI*

With the intent of integrating architectural and environmental considerations into the engineering design of a new four-lane bridge, ACHA proposed the addition of a pedestrian walkway separated from the sounds of traffic by mural-like acoustic panels. Because the structure would be exposed to high winds and extended periods of sunlight, the architectural design further proposed the harvesting of these energy sources to provide supplemental power to both townships below the bridge.

## RESIDENTIAL

### **2021**

*Central Park West Rooftop*

Rooftop design for a 3,000 sq ft terrace overlooking Central Park.

*Park Avenue / UES Residence Gut Renovation*

3,000+ sq ft gut renovation of a multi-million dollar apartment owned by a Senior Specialist in the Contemporary Art department at one of NYC's prominent auctions houses and her husband. ACHA's expertise in the showing of artworks and in lighting design has been instrumental to this project.

*Madison Avenue / UES Residence Renovation*

Renovation combining two apartments for a repeat client who is the former director of the Museum of Moving Image. ACHA has designed a vacation home and two previous apartments for this client and also designed the permanent exhibition at MOMI and its renovations over the years.

*Tribeca Vault Remediation, NY, NY*

A building's vault is the portion of the building's cellar that typically extends under the sidewalk. In this instance, the client's vault is unique in that it extends not only under the sidewalk, but to the opposite side of the street at both its cellar and sub-cellar levels. Over the years, water has infiltrated the street, causing extensive damage to the building's structure, pipes, and two large water collection tanks. ACHA is currently engaged with the remediation of water infiltration and renovation of the damaged vaults. New structural steel work, concrete work and waterproofing is necessary to fix existing, and prevent future, damage.

### **Prior to 2021**

*Newburgh, NY Mixed-Use Gut Renovation*

Dwell is publishing this ACHA conversion of an office building to a mixed-use structure, joining others in the revitalization of this economically challenged Hudson Valley city. ACHA renovated the building with a nod to the midcentury ambitions of its original design and a desire to access the cultural, social and economic diversity of this unique city. A two-unit structure emerged – a live/work one-bedroom with a private garden area, and for a commercial tenant, a flexible space opening at street-side (currently rented by the community barbershop, *The Lion's Den*). Upon entering each space, one is at once apart from the world, but never without a sense of the surrounding community.

Attracted by ACHA's design, guests include those making weekend trips to trips (predictably) to destinations such as Dia: Beacon, Storm King Art Center, Magazzino Italian Art, and Manitoga (the estate of iconic American industrial designer Russel Wright). More recently, however, it has also served as a base for those seeking a respite outside of NYC because of the pandemic, but who still desire the feel of an urban environment, including several artists.

#### *Pashby Residence, Highland Lakes, NJ*

Following damages sustained during Hurricane Sandy, ACHA worked with the owner and his insurers to negotiate fair compensation to repair this 1930s house with load bearing stone walls and industrial steel windows set on a hill overlooking Highland Lake. ACHA provided improvements to the building's foundation to redirect storm waters and reinforce its structure against extreme wind loads. In keeping with the character of the building, ACHA also designed two additions for the owners, art conservator Sandra Amann and antiques dealer Michael Pashby, the first being a sitting room overlooking the lake. ACHA raised the line of the existing attic roof to provide a 10-ft ceiling and glazed the lake-facing wall with steel windows and a French door opening to a balcony. The second addition gutted a poorly constructed front porch leaving only its roof and overhang in place, and then laying a stone floor and using steel windows to enclose the three open sides. The room now serves as a study.

ACHA implemented lighting schemes on the exterior and in the sitting room. Concealed lighting at the roof eaves and from the surrounding trees illuminates the rear terrace.

This project was published in the *WSJ*.

#### *Greenwich Village Development, New York, NY*

Located in Manhattan's West Village, the renovation of this long neglected brownstone represents the third project between ACHA and its owner. As this was a substantial restoration, ACHA worked closely with the Landmarks Preservation Commission, presenting the proposed restoration design to both its board of commissioners as well as the local community board. The extent of the work entailed the removal of the front fire escape (requiring a change in egress), parging, and paint to reveal the original brick façade from the early 1840s.

#### *20 Greene Street, New York, NY*

The front and back facades of this 75-foot wide six story building was recently completed. Constructed in the late 1800s, the front façade and stoop are made of cast iron components. Damaged largely by water, ACHA painstakingly documented the façade and worked closely with the Landmarks Preservation Commission in connection with its review of the restoration methods and techniques. The LPC now applies the restoration specifications developed during this project as an example for other architects working on similar projects in the city. Attention to detail and craft were essential to restore the cast iron elements and mitigate distortions in the façade caused by settlement in the building's foundation and years of neglect.

#### *Slovin-Leites Residence, Shelter Island, NY*

ACHA designed this summer residence based on the 1950s experimental Case Study houses. The precedent appears both in the layout of rooms and in the use of industry standard building systems to create an unconventional house flexible in its use, that provides privacy for its NYC owners as well as space for their many guests. This project was published by *Elle Décor* in paperback and hardcover.