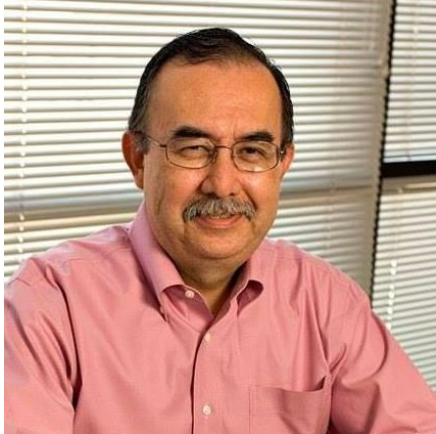


In Memory of John Reese Williams, AIA (1957-2017)



John Reese Williams was a remarkable architect whose passion for his profession began in his early childhood and continued to inspire others throughout his life. From a young age, John's fascination with architecture was evident, and this passion led to a prolific career marked by significant contributions to the field.

John graduated from McClintock High School in Tempe, Arizona in 1975 and earned his degree in Architecture from Arizona State University (ASU) in 1981. His academic excellence was recognized with the prestigious Alpha Rho Chi Medal, awarded by the faculty for his outstanding performance. John's career began with George W. Christensen and Associates, Architects, and spanned several notable firms, including Smith, Hinchman & Grylls, Charles Kober Associates, and Leo A. Daly. His work took him from Phoenix to Los Angeles and back, where he completed major projects such as the Phoenix Convention Center Expansion and the Sheraton Phoenix Downtown Hotel.

One of John's most cherished professional achievements was his role as the Architect of Record for the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels in Los Angeles, completed in 2002. Working with the esteemed Spanish architect Jose Rafael Moneo, John considered this project the highlight of his career.

Beyond his professional achievements, John was deeply committed to mentoring and supporting others in the field of architecture. He was known for his willingness to share his extensive knowledge, professional experience, and unique ability to turn challenges into learning opportunities. His humor and positivity made him a beloved mentor and friend to many entry and mid-career designers.

John's dedication to education and his alma mater was evident through his service on the ASU Alumni Board and his leadership as president of the Architecture School Alumni group. His contributions to the American Institute of Architects and his 12-year presidency of the Rio Salado Architecture Foundation highlighted his commitment to advancing the profession. Additionally, as a member of the Board of Stewards for the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation at Taliesin West, John worked to preserve architectural heritage and promote innovative design.

John's advocacy extended beyond architecture. As a gay Asian American, he faced and overcame numerous challenges, which fueled his support for minority organizations such as the National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA) and the LGBT+ community.

Those who knew John personally would attest to his love for his profession, his family, and his friends. His legacy is one of kindness, mentorship, and a tireless commitment to making the world a better place through architecture and advocacy.

The John Reese Williams Scholarship aims to honor his memory by supporting aspiring architects who share his passion for the profession and his commitment to helping others. Through this scholarship, we hope to continue John's legacy of excellence, mentorship, and advocacy in the field of architecture.