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Women in the Design World: Work in Progress

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Joan Krevlin, FAIA, LEED AP BD+C / Master of  
Architecture, 1978

Sam Fox School of Design and Visual Arts

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**QUEENS BOTANICAL GARDEN VISITOR & ADMINISTRATION CENTER  
PARTNER-IN-CHARGE  
OPENED**

The Queens Botanical Garden is a nexus of botanical and cultural exploration for the most ethnically diverse neighborhood in the United States – Flushing, Queens. The new Visitor & Administration Center is a built extension of the Garden’s mission: to demonstrate environmental stewardship while celebrating the cultural connections between people and plants. To that end, the Center is LEED® Platinum certified, a first for a public building in New York City. From the inception of the project, principles of sustainability led the design process. Water, a natural element significant to all cultures, is re-introduced throughout the site, unifying building and landscape.

The Center is composed of three interconnected spaces: a 10,000 sf forecourt covered by a floating zinc-clad roof canopy, a 15,800 sf/2-story central reception and administration building, and a board-formed concrete clad auditorium space tucked into the landscape itself, sheltered by a 4,000 sf semi-intensive sloping green roof, blurring the distinction between architecture and landscape. Additional sustainable elements include solar panels, a geothermal system, graywater and stormwater management systems and extensive use of recycled and renewable materials.



Alumnae Biography

**BIOGRAPHY** Joan Krevlin has been involved in all aspects of project design and management since becoming a partner at BSKS Architects in 1992. Through her work as the leader of a number of highly successful projects for the City of New York, Joan has become one of the city’s foremost experts in the creation of iconic public spaces. Her work explores the relationship between form, place, and significance, and her designs take cues from a close reading of program and site, allowing the built form to serve as a tangible expression of institutional mission. The rigors of Leslie Laskey’s studio, participation in Community Design Workshops, and Charlie Brown’s introduction to environmental sustainability have served as touchstones to her practice.

**AWARDS FOR QBG**  
AIA Committee On The Environment, Top Ten Green Project Award, 2008  
AIA NYS, Best in New York State Award, 2008  
AIA NYS, Institutional Design Award, 2008  
AIA New York City, Sustainability Honor, 2008  
Chicago Athenaeum, American Architecture Award, 2008

**PUBLICATIONS ABOUT QBG**  
A+U, 5/2010, “Currents in sustainability in the USA: New York City”  
Greensource, 4/2008, “Case study: Queens Botanical Garden”  
Metropolis, 2/2008, “A garden blooms in Queens”  
NYTimes, 9/2008, “City’s ‘greenest’ building opens”