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Susi Marzuola, AIA, LEED AP BD+C / Bachelor of Art, Architecture, 1982

Sam Fox School of Design and Visual Arts

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Recommended Citation

Sam Fox School of Design and Visual Arts, "Susi Marzuola, AIA, LEED AP BD+C / Bachelor of Art, Architecture, 1982" (2014).
Women in the Design World: Work in Progress. 15.
https://openscholarship.wustl.edu/wia_profiles/15

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PORTOLA VALLEY TOWN CENTER
PROJECT PRINCIPAL
2008

The Portola Valley Town Center, nestled at the base of the Santa Cruz Mountains on the San Francisco Peninsula west of Stanford University, was designed to embody what mattered most to the people it serves – the natural environment, strong community, self governance and reliance. Our design goal was to complement and defer to the surrounding natural beauty in the most sustainable way possible while creating a place that was indigenous to site, culture and need. This mutual respect between the unbuilt and the built, the informal and the formal is central to the ideals of the Town of Portola Valley and shaped a design response that is simple and unique, rooted and inspiring. Our inclusive and open design process engaged residents in a dialogue throughout the project. The Town Center truly reflects their collective aspirations and exemplifies the highest of the Town’s stewardship and conservation ideals.

Photography: César Rubio



Alumnae Biography

BIOGRAPHY

Since graduating from Washington University in 1982, Susi Marzuola has enjoyed collaborating with numerous educational, community-serving, mission-based organizations and consultant teams designing places that matter and that strive for excellence in sustainable design. Throughout her career from Washington University to University

of California, Berkeley, from the offices of Donlyn Lyndon and William Turnbull to Principal at Siegel & Strain Architects in the San Francisco Bay Area, Susi has honed the skills first encountered at Givens Hall, skills which are now considered the hallmark of 21st century education: critical thinking and problem-solving; communication and collaboration; creativity and innovation.

PROJECT AWARDS (PARTIAL LIST)

- National AIA/COTE Top Ten Green Award
- Good Green Design Award
- AIA California Council & Savings by Design Award of Honor
- AIA San Francisco Merit Award for Energy & Sustainability
- North American Wood Design Merit Award

PUBLICATIONS (PARTIAL LIST)

“Portola Valley Town Center,” by Vernon Mays, *Architect* magazine, 03/09
“Town Center Gets Top-Ten Treatment,” *World Architecture News*, 04/09
“Award-winning firm champions sustainability...,” by Zipporah Porton, *Green Business Quarterly*, 11/11