

Citation – Julie Eizenberg

Julie Eizenberg studied architecture at the University of Melbourne, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Architecture in 1977. She left Australia in 1979 and completed a Master of Architecture in 1981 at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). There she studied under significant figures including Charles Moore, George Stiny, and University of Melbourne alumnus Professor William J Mitchell. Eizenberg and her partner Hank Koning, with whom she had studied at the University of Melbourne and at UCLA, established the architectural practice of Koning Eizenberg Architecture in Santa Monica, California immediately upon graduating.

Over the next three decades, Koning Eizenberg developed into a firm of national repute in the United States, gaining a succession of American Institute of Architects (AIA) awards for influential projects like the Simone Hotel (1992), the first new skid row housing built in LA in thirty years; Virginia Avenue Park (2002), the first US Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) accredited park in the United States; the internationally-acclaimed Children's Museum of Pittsburgh (2005); and the LEED Platinum (2014) Pico Branch Library, designed through an interactive public process. The firm designs across a range of project types, establishing a distinctive and humanist approach to buildings at a time when formal considerations have claimed ground. Writing of the work of Koning Eizenberg, William J Mitchell observed that "they determinedly found ways to make thoughtful and intelligent architecture with the most modest of means..."

Eizenberg's expertise lies both in engaging clients and community and in articulating theoretical framing for her work. She has been instrumental in working with local neighbourhoods and urban authorities, not-for-profit social and housing agencies, educational institutions and private developers. Her design vision and leadership within KEA have led to the firm being recognised with over 130 awards, including 45 national, state and local American Institute of Architects (AIA) awards. The firm has been ranked #6 globally in Architect 50's 2015 Design ranking, and recently received the Australian Institute of Architects' Jorn Utzon Award. In 2009, Koning Eizenberg was recognized as the AIA California Council Firm of the Year, and in 2012, Eizenberg and her partner Koning received an AIA Los Angeles Gold Medal in recognition of a lasting influence on the theory and practice of architecture. In 2015, Eizenberg was elevated to the American Institute of Architects College of Fellows, an honour which recognises architects who have made a significant contribution to architecture and society on a national level. Her contributions to theory were established in 1981 with the joint publication (with Hank Koning) of a landmark paper examining the potential of design algorithms using Frank Lloyd Wright's prairie houses as case studies. Her analysis of the work of Koning Eizenberg appears in the 1996 monograph *Koning Eizenberg: Buildings*, and in the 2006 publication *Architecture isn't just for special occasions* she articulates the value of community engagement. In her forthcoming book, Eizenberg leads the firm in evaluating what creates lasting neighbourhood impact.

The firm's ability to leverage invention and multiple stakeholders to produce novel solutions has been recognised not only in the profession, but also by educational institutions. Eizenberg has held many teaching positions, including at Yale University as William Henry Bishop Visiting Professor, at Syracuse University as Seinfeld Visiting Critic, Georgia Institute of Technology as John Portman Visiting Professor and at the University of Virginia as Thomas Jefferson Visiting Professor. She is also a frequent adviser to the U.S. Mayor's Institute on City Design. Together with Koning, she has brought to American architecture a sense of ethical practice. Part of professional practice is keeping faith with a local community, and this is what Eizenberg and Koning have done in Santa Monica where they have lived, worked and served for more than thirty-five years.

Julie Eizenberg has maintained strong connections to the Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning at the University of Melbourne. Since 1993, she has been a guest lecturer and critic in the Master of Architecture program, a Professional Fellow from 2003-2009, as well as program assessor aiding in the international benchmarking of the Melbourne School of Design's graduate programs in Architecture.

With her strong commitment to social equity in the community and in design, her work in engaging theory with practice, and her many contributions to education globally, Eizenberg is a role model in the built environment and an ambassador for the professional Australian overseas.