

BUILDINGWORK

architecture design preservation



Matt Aalfs AIA, LEED AP

Principal-In-Charge, BuildingWork

BuildingWork's Founder and Principal Architect, Matt designs innovative and carefully detailed buildings that contribute to the communities and clients they serve. He brings two decades of professional experience to our firm, specializing in the design of civic and community facilities, adaptive reuse projects, and historic preservation. Matt founded BuildingWork in 2016 in order to focus directly on work that supports the health of cities, the environment, and culture. Previously, he served as managing principal at Weinstein AU, where he led the design of public libraries, institutional, and commercial projects.

Since 2000, Matt has served as a visiting lecturer and design studio critic with the University of Washington Department of Architecture. He currently serves on the Board of Directors for Seattle's ACT Theater, and on the King County Library System Foundation Board. Matt earned a Master of Architecture from the University of Washington, and studied architecture in Rome, Italy, and at the California College of Arts. He received his B.A. in Art from the University of California, Santa Cruz and is an alum of the Urban Land Institute's Center for Leadership.

Representative Projects

HISTORIC BUILDING PRESERVATION AND ADAPTIVE REUSE

- **Town Hall Seattle**, Seattle WA | Historic preservation, renovation, adaptive reuse, and seismic retrofit of a Landmark 1916 church into a state-of-the-art performing arts and culture venue
- **Capitol Campus Buildings Restoration**, Olympia WA | Historic preservation, façade restoration, and roof replacement of the NRHP listed Capitol Court, Cherberg, and Insurance Buildings on the historic WA State Capitol Campus
- **Metropole Building**, Seattle WA | Historic preservation, renovation, adaptive reuse, and seismic retrofit of an historic 1890's building into non-for-profit offices, child care center, and community space
- **Seattle Center Armory Exterior**, Seattle, WA | Exterior improvements of historic Landmark Armory building on the Seattle Center campus
- **760 Aloha**, Seattle, WA | Renovation, penthouse addition, and seismic retrofit of an historic 1949 warehouse into small-scale creative office spaces
- **Washington Park**, Seattle WA | Renovation, penthouse addition, and seismic retrofit of a 1896 historic building into office and commercial space
- **Good Shepherd Center**, Seattle, WA | Phased seismic retrofit and structural stabilization of a 1906 URM building and its subsequent additions housing a school, non-profit organizations, and a community center
- **Mukai Fruit Barreling Plant**, Vashon Island, WA | Structural stabilization and seismic improvements of a NRHP listed 1926 building
- **Queen Anne Exchange**, Seattle WA | Historic renovation, addition, adaptive reuse, and seismic retrofit of a Landmark 1920 telephone exchange building into multi-family housing
- **Central Building**, Seattle WA | Certificate of Approval for alterations to the interior lobby of the Landmark 1907 Central Building
- **Union Stables CoA**, Seattle WA | Certificate of Approval for restaurant TI of the ground floor of the Landmark 1909 Union Stables



Licenses and Certifications

- Registered Architect, WA
- LEED Accredited Professional, U.S. Green Building Council

Professional Affiliations

- Member, American Institute of Architects, Local and National Chapters
- Board of Directors, King County Library System Foundation Board, 2018 – present
- Board of Directors, ACT Theater, Seattle, 2015 – present
- Member, Urban Land Institute Center For Sustainable Leadership, 2012 – present
- Board of Directors, AIA, Seattle Chapter, 2013 – 2014
- Co-Chair, AIA Seattle Diversity Committee, 2010 – 2011
- Guest Lecturer, University of Washington Department of Architecture, 2001 – present
- Design Studio Instructor, University of Washington Architecture in Rome Program, Rome, Italy, 2001

Education

- University of Washington, Master of Architecture, 1999
- University of California Santa Cruz, Bachelor of Arts, 1989; post-grad Certificate in Art, 1991

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- **International Apartments**, Seattle WA | Certificate of Approval for seismic retrofit and window replacement of the historic 1910 multi-family building
- **Beverly Bridge**, Central WA | Historic Preservation Consultant for the rehabilitation and adaptive reuse of 1909 steel truss bridge listed on the NRHP into a non-motorized, recreational crossing of the Columbia River
- **J&M Hotel**, Seattle WA | Historic preservation, renovation, adaptive reuse, and seismic retrofit of an historic 1890's building into a boutique hotel
- **Union Stables**, Seattle WA | Historic preservation, renovation, penthouse addition, adaptive reuse, and seismic retrofit of a Landmark 1909 stable into a Class A office building*
- **The Standard**, Seattle WA | Historic preservation, addition, adaptive reuse, and seismic retrofit of a Landmark 1890 building into a creative office*
- **Ainsworth & Dunn**, Seattle WA | Historic preservation, addition, and adaptive reuse of a Landmark 1910 warehouse into a Class A office building*
- **The State Hotel**, Seattle WA | Historic preservation, renovation, addition, adaptive reuse, and seismic strengthening of a Landmark 1915 building into a boutique hotel*
- **1200 Third Avenue**, Seattle WA | Renovation and adaptive reuse of a Landmark 1920 telephone exchange building into a data center and office*
- **Camp Sealth, Rounds Hall**, Vashon Island WA | Historic renovation and seismic retrofit of Landmark 1942 dining hall*

LIBRARIES AND COMMUNITY BUILDINGS

- **La Conner Swinomish Public Library**, La Conner WA | New 5,000 sf library
- **Langley Middle School Gym**, Langley WA | Seismic retrofit and structural stabilization of a 1950's gym on Whidbey Island
- **Rural Library Assessment**, Washington State | Capital needs assessment of 111 public libraries in Washington State's 21 rural, distressed counties
- **Pierce County Library System**, Pierce County WA | On-call services
- **Boulevard Park Library**, Burien WA | Renovation of 6,500 sf public library
- **Library Connection @ Southcenter**, Tukwila WA | Renovation and expansion of 4,500 sf public library
- **Bainbridge Public Library**, Bainbridge Island WA | Renovation and expansion of 12,500 sf public library
- **Skyway Library**, Renton WA | New 8,500 sf public library*
- **Kenmore Library**, Kenmore WA | New 10,000 sf Public Library*
- **Seattle Public Library Montlake Branch**, Seattle WA | New 8,500 sf library*
- **Whitman Sherwood Athletic Center**, Walla Walla WA | 80,000 sf renovation and 10,000 sf addition of a state-of-the-art college athletic facility*
- **Waiohuli Community Center**, Kula, Maui HI | Master plan of Waiohuli Community Center and implementation of the first phase of construction*

Press

- "Saving a building's soul, along with the heart of Town Hall Seattle" by Clay Eals, *Seattle Times*, August 15, 2019
- "Architect says city can keep old buildings even as construction booms" by Lynn Porter, *Seattle Daily Journal of Commerce*, February 24, 2017
- "A matter of preservation: One man bucks Seattle's new-build development spree" by Stacy Kendall, *Gray Magazine* No. 31, January 2017

Awards

PRESERVATION PROJECTS

- Washington State Historic Preservation Office Awards, Outstanding Achievement in Historic Preservation, Union Stables, 2016*
- Historic Seattle Best Rehabilitation Award, Union Stables, 2016*
- NAIOP Commercial Real Estate Development Association Washington State, Redevelopment/Renovation of the Year, Union Stables, 2015*

LIBRARY PROJECTS

- AIA Northwest and Pacific Region Design Awards, Merit Award, Skyway Library, 2018
- AIA Washington Civic Design Awards, Citation Award, Skyway Library, 2018
- AIA Washington Civic Design Awards, Honor Award, Kenmore Library, 2012*
- AIA Northwest and Pacific Region Awards, Citation, Kenmore Library, 2012*
- AIA Seattle Honor Awards for Washington Architecture, Commendation, Kenmore Library, 2011*
- AIA Seattle Honor Awards for Washington Architecture, Honor Award, Seattle Public Library Montlake Branch, 2008*
- AIA Washington Civic Design Awards, Merit Award, Seattle Public Library Montlake Branch, 2008*

**Projects completed under Matt's leadership at Weinstein AU*