

THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT'S  
FIRST ANNUAL  
DESIGN EXCELLENCE  
AWARD  
2015

# THE JURY

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**Amy Weinstein, FAIA** | Principal, Esocoff & Associates/Weinstein Studio, Washington, DC

**Amy Weinstein combines architectural practice with teaching and professional peer review for local and federal agencies. Her built projects have been recognized by over 30 design awards and have been published in national and international architectural journals. She has been appointed to distinguished visiting professorships at the University of Virginia, the University of Maryland, and the University of Oklahoma, and she serves as a National Peer Reviewer for federal projects as part of the GSA Design Excellence Program. Ms. Weinstein has guided institutions in the development of their building programs and architect selection, and she has served as an advisor for national design competitions. Her community service has included board membership on both the District of Columbia Historic Preservation Review Board and the Baltimore Architectural Review Board. Ms. Weinstein received both her undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Pennsylvania, and is a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects.**

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**Ed Feiner, FAIA** | Design Leadership Council Director Perkins+Will Washington, DC

**Ed Feiner serves as director of our Design Leadership Council. The Council, which includes all design principals, is chartered to ensure the continuity and furtherance of design excellence throughout the firm. Mr. Feiner is considered to be among the leading experts in the US Public Buildings Design and Planning, most notably for the design of courthouses. In 2009, Ed assumed a leadership position in the Washington, DC office as a firmwide resource. Before joining us, he was the Chief Architect of the US General Services Administration (GSA) from 1996 until 2005 where he led the agency's nationwide design and construction program, which included the development of Federal courthouses, office buildings, national laboratories, border stations and special-use projects. Ed held the most senior professional architectural position in the United States government. While at GSA, he founded the Design Excellence Program, which reinvented the federal procurement process for architecture. The program streamlined the process of commissioning a new building and focused on design quality. He was instrumental in the development and execution of GSA's Green Building Standards, program management and the design of GSA's first LEED certified projects. Ed personally reviewed and approved the concept designs of all Federal courthouses developed by GSA from 1985 through 2005. Mr. Feiner is a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects.**





**Michael Vergason, FASLA** | Michael Vergason Landscape Architects, LTD., Alexandria, Virginia

After growing up in the Washington, D.C. area, Michael Vergason founded Michael Vergason Landscape Architects, LTD. here in 1987. During his career he has demonstrated great skill, passion, and sensitivity as a designer, communicator, collaborator, and practitioner. His design education in both architecture and landscape architecture defines his ability to balance and enhance the intersection between natural and built systems.

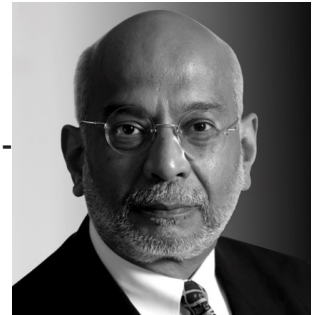
He maintains a small firm in order to retain personal involvement in projects, ensuring each site is designed and executed with care and skill. The firm works on projects locally and internationally, including Petra Archeological Park in Jordan and the American Cemetery in Normandy, France. His sketch work is an essential component of his design process, defining, and enlivening the MVLA studio. He has lectured at numerous institutions, including the University of Virginia, where in 2006 he held the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation Professorship in Architecture; the University of Maryland, where he was the 2007 Kea Distinguished Professor in the School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation; Harvard University; and Dumbarton Oaks. Michael is a Fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) and the American Academy in Rome. Mr. Vergason received both a Bachelor of Science in Architecture and Master of Landscape Architecture from the University of Virginia.

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**Dhiru Thadani, FCNU** | Architect and Urbanist, Washington, DC

Dhiru A. Thadani, AIA is an architect and urbanist who has been in practice since 1980, and has worked in Asia, Europe, North and Central America. He has been involved in the design of new developments, urban retrofits, neighborhood revitalization, and infill densification.

Dhiru was born in Bombay, India and moved to Washington, D.C., in 1972 to study architecture. During his forty years in Washington, D.C. he has taught, practiced, and has strived to place architecture and urbanism in the public eye. Since its formation in 1993, Dhiru has been a charter member of the Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU), and served on the CNU Board from 2005 to 2013. In 2015 he was appointed to the inaugural CNU College of Fellows. He is the recipient of the 2011 Seaside Prize, an award given for significant contributions to the quality and character of communities. In 2001 he was a Knight Foundation Community Builder Fellow.



Dhiru is the author of *The Language of Towns and Cities: A Visual Dictionary*, published by Rizzoli in 2010, and co-editor of *Leon Krier: The Architecture of Community* published by Island Press in 2009. Thadani's latest endeavor, *Visions of Seaside: Foundations / Evolution / Imagination / Built & Unbuilt Architecture*, was published by Rizzoli in September 2013.

