

Carl Elefante FAIA FAPT

Principal Emeritus, Quinn Evans

Senior Fellow, Architecture 2030

2018 President, American Institute of Architects

Known for coining the phrase: *“The greenest building is...one that is already built”*, Carl practiced architecture at the intersection of historic preservation and sustainable design. Serving as Principal and Director of Sustainability with Quinn Evans for more than twenty years, Carl helped formulate the principles of *sustainable stewardship* working at some of the nation’s most beloved and iconic buildings.

Throughout his career with Quinn Evans, Carl’s work focused on the rehabilitation of existing buildings, many designated historic structures, extending their useful service life while adapting them for a new generation of occupants. As a body of work, Carl’s projects illustrate the real-world application of sustainable stewardship principles, leveraging the inherently sustainable qualities of historic structures, employing cutting-edge analytical and design tools, adopting contemporary performance standards, and integrating innovative technologies like renewable energy.

Renovation of the S.T. Dana Building for the University of Michigan School of Natural Resources and Environment, in collaboration with William McDonough + Partners, established a model for sustainable stewardship. The Dana Building was a case study project published by the US Green Building Council (USGBC) and was featured in the American Institute of Architects (AIA) 150th anniversary compendium: *Architecture, Celebrating the Past, Designing the Future*. Other noteworthy heritage building rehabilitations from Carl’s portfolio include the National Academy of Sciences, National Museum of Natural History, and Peabody Institute. Carl also worked to adapt sustainable stewardship practice to modern-era structures, notably for the AIA Headquarters, designed by Walter Gropius’ Architects Collaborative, and the Franklin Court Museum, designed by 2016 AIA Gold Medalists Robert Venturi and Denise Scott Brown.

Throughout his career, Carl has advocated for the relevance of architecture, writing and speaking internationally on historic preservation, sustainable design, climate change, and urban topics. He has served countless leadership roles in both professional and community organizations: co-chair of the Housing and Land Use Working Group of President Clinton’s Council on Sustainable Development; Board of Directors of the Association for Preservation Technology International (APT) and co-chair of APT’s Technical Committee on Sustainable Preservation; Board of Directors and President of AIA Potomac Valley (2009), AIA Maryland (2012), and national President of AIA in 2018. Carl was a founding Board member of the National Capital Region Chapter of USGBC and the Climate Heritage Network (CHN). Carl is a Senior Fellow with Architecture 2030.

Carl was elected to the College of Fellows of both AIA and APT. Carl attended Pratt Institute School of Architecture and earned his architecture degree from the University of Maryland School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation. Carl is an Adjunct Professor at the Catholic University of America and University of Maryland.