

John Jacques, AIA – Professor Emeritus

abbreviated bio, 2024

School of Architecture – College of Architecture, Arts + Humanities – Clemson University – Clemson, SC
College of A+AA Portland Center – School of Architecture – University of Oregon – Portland, OR
McMillan Pazdan Smith Architecture – Architecture, Planning, Interior Design – studios in SC, NC + GA

Education

Bachelor of Architecture / School of Architecture / Clemson University, 1970

Master of Philosophy in Urban Design / Faculty of Social Sciences / University of Edinburgh, 1975

Bradley Fellow, Graduate Institute in Liberal Education / St. John's College / Santa Fe, NM (1998 + 2000)

Teaching + Advocacy

John taught architecture + urbanism in the School of Architecture at Clemson for 30 years. He served as school chair, as undergraduate + graduate director and as professor-in-residence in the CE Daniel Center for Building Research + Urban Studies in Genoa, Italy (CAC.G) on two occasions. Over that span he taught community-based planning + design at every year level as well as in cross-disciplinary studios + seminars and served on more than 300 M. Arch thesis committees, 75 as major advisor. As chair he helped establish the Clemson Architecture Center in Charleston (CAC.C). His most recent full-time role as Executive Director of the Clemson Architectural Foundation (CAF) enabled him to serve as an advocate for excellence in the school and help reconnect former students to their alma mater. John continues to teach and recently offered graduate seminars at Clemson in spring 2015 (“design process + technical resolution”) and at the UO A+AA Portland Center from 2016-2019 (“types + typologies of architecture + urbanism”, “comprehensive studio dialogues” and “futures of the city”). At the students’ invitation, he delivered the UO Portland 2017 Commencement Address titled: “Life’s Trajectories.”

Architecture, Urban Design, Campus Planning + Design

Having been invited to join the practice of three former students in 2001, John served for ten years as ‘design facilitator’ with Pazdan-Smith Group (P-SG) later to become McMillan Pazdan Smith Architecture (MPS). MPS is a multi-disciplinary, studio-based firm with offices in Greenville, Spartanburg, Charleston, Columbia, Charlotte, Asheville, Atlanta, and Augusta. A team-oriented teacher + practitioner, John helped facilitate the atmosphere of a ‘teaching office’ and participated in the early stages of the community-based planning + design process, establishing the groundwork for a wide range of projects in each of the five MPS studios: community, K-12, higher education, healthcare, and corporate. Following his time as director of the CAF, John returned to MPS Architecture in 2014 to facilitate campus planning + design studies for three small private institutions: Newberry College (SC), Wofford College (SC) and Pfeiffer University (NC). He remains active with MPS as a thought leadership consultant on design ideas + community outreach.

Works, Workshops + Honors

John played a key role on MPS teams that celebrate a wide variety of completed works including the Lee Hall Restoration, Renovation + Addition at Clemson with NYC-based Thomas Phifer and Partners as lead designers. This “net-zero ready” project for the School of Architecture garnered the 2013 AIA-National Honor Award and the 2014 AIA-South Carolina Honor Award. To explore the teaching + learning potential of the new studio spaces in Lee Hall, he offered a semester-long workshop in the spring of 2014 titled “*a nine-week conversation about the very idea of teaching design*” that faithfully records the attitude and spirit of discovery-based learning. His lectures and workshops on “good design” featuring the “nine-week conversation” have been conducted in a variety of academic and workplace settings across the country including the University of New Mexico’s Mentoring Institute in 2016.

In 2011, John was awarded the AIASC Medal of Distinction for “lifetime achievement and contribution to the profession of architecture.” To honor his commitment to promoting equity, diversity + inclusion in the School of Architecture, his MPS and faculty colleagues established the John Jacques Endowed Scholarship (for women + minorities) in 2005. The endowment has supported twenty-five “John Jacques Scholars.”

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