

**Christopher McMahan**

ARCHITECT

I N C O R P O R A T E D

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## RESUME

Christopher McMahan, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP

### PROFESSIONAL PROFILE:

Christopher McMahan is a design architect for higher education, mission-driven organizations, and real estate development with over twenty years experience in New England and New York City. Based in Providence, his experience ranges from the planning and design of large-scale commercial development sites to numerous buildings for universities, religious, and arts organizations.

### EMPLOYMENT:

1/2009 - Present: **Christopher McMahan Architect, Inc.** - President

Started architectural design and planning practice based on innovation and sustainable design for new and existing private development and nonprofit clients.

10/2007 - 1/2009: **Steffian Bradley Architects, Boston, MA** - Principal

Responsible for business development in regional markets for higher education and commercial development sectors. Responsible for establishing a studio practice in Providence, RI based on long term past experience in the area. Contributed to strategic planning initiatives by defining actionable and measurable goals for mission/vision and business development objectives.

8/1992 - 7/2007: **Robinson Green Beretta Corp. Providence, RI** - Vice President, '03; Associate, '98; Design Architect, '92.

Extensive client experience with senior owner/managers ranging from business development, marketing, and firm interviews for services to presentations to various management and public groups; programming and feasibility analysis, site selection, and contract negotiation; various facets of interface with construction management companies; and internal budgets, scheduling, and design mentorship. Lead architect for design management and client development: coordinated internal operations with project managers, architects, and interior designers on multiple projects in all phases.

5/1988 - 8/1992: **William Kite Architects, Inc. Providence, RI** - Project Architect

Coordinated residential and institutional projects as Project Architect for: program development; planning and feasibility studies; building design and presentation; client, consultant, and construction management coordination; design/zoning agency review; schematic through construction document team management; and interior design.

9/1987 - 5/1988: **Cannon Boston. Boston, MA** - Project Designer

Project Designer for \$1.3 mil sf RI Convention Center, mixed-use development – Schematic phase; and various projects for Boston University. Tasks included design and presentation to owner, city agencies, and coordination with design team.

2/1987 - 9/1987: **Cannon/Yan. New York, NY** - Project Designer

Project Designer for Hull, MA Town Center, large-scale mixed-use development.

8/1984 - 2/1987: **Buck/Cane Architects. New York, NY** - Design/Drafts

Design studies and details for all phases of high-rise residential fast-track projects, and Uniform Land Use Review Process: ULURP zoning for large-scale mixed-use development in NYC.



### AFFILIATIONS:

- 6/09 - Present: LEED Accredited Professional ID: 0A97F8993C
- 11/07- Present: Urban Land Institute - Boston Council 394074
- 7/00 - Present: Mass Div Professional Licensure Architectural License 10783
- 3/00 - Present: NCARB Registration 52473
- 6/94 - Present: American Institute of Architects member 30089764
- 9/91 - Present: RI Board of Registration Architectural License 1978

### VOLUNTEER:

- 09- : New England Foundation for the Arts, board member
- 02-09: RI State Council on the Arts, board director; Council chairman '04 – May '09
- 2002: RISD Student-life Housing Neighborhood Advisory Committee
- 01-03: Providence Preservation Society, trustee; chairman, Steering Committee, "PPS/AIAri Guide to Providence Architecture"
- 01-09: RI Citizens for the Arts, board director; co-chair, Artist's Space Initiative
- 00-08: RI Philharmonic Orchestra, board director; Executive Committee; Board Resources Committee; chair, Education Committee; 2006: Board of Overseers
- 99-00: Transforming Providence: A Civic Discussion on Design, founder; chairman
- 97-00: The Music School, Inc., board director; board President, '99
- 97-99: AIA/RI Chapter, board director; newsletter editor

### AWARDS/PUBLICATIONS + PRESENTATIONS:

- 5/09: Providence Journal, Commentary page, "Public Art and the State of Rhode Island"
- 1/09: Providence Journal, Commentary page, "Arts Can Help RI Recover"
- 5/08: Rhode Island Historic Preservation + Heritage Commission Award – Rosedale Landing
- 2/06: RI Arts + Business Council 2006 Arts Advocate Award, with U.S. Congressional Citation
- 11/05: National Association of State Arts Agencies, Leadership Conference
- 10/03 "The PPS/AIAri Guide to Providence Architecture", Steering Committee chairman
- 11/03: Providence Preservation Society, President's Award
- 12/03: RI chapter AIA 2003 Executive Committee's Award for Outstanding Service to the Chapter
- 8/02: Masonry Institute, Golden Trowel Award: Courtyard by Marriott, Providence
- 5/02: Providence Journal, editorial page, "A Building that Transmits Meaning"
- 3/02: CEFPI: "The Town/Gown relationship: Where the Edges Are" master plan issues
- 11/00: AIA/RI Citation for Contributions to the Advancement of Architecture in the State

### TEACHING:

- Rhode Island School of Design
- 88-00: Guest Juror, multiple design studios and degree projects
- 99: Part-time faculty, Dept. Interior Architecture, Sophomore Studio
- 93: Co-Critic, Junior/Senior Housing Studio
- 83: Teaching Assistant, Sophomore Studio

### EDUCATION:

- Rhode Island School of Design
- 1984, B. ARCH
- 1983, B.F.A.



## PROJECTS:

### HIGHER EDUCATION:

Brown University - Public Health Department Alterations; Real Estate Acquisitions Analysis  
Community College of Rhode Island - Knight Campus Addition; Liston Campus Additions  
Fairfield University - New Apartment Style Residence Hall  
Johnson + Wales University - Library Alterations; Culinary Arts Facility; Admissions Center  
Providence College - New Apartment Style Dormitory  
Rhode Island School of Design - Mail Room Alterations  
University of Rhode Island - Graduate Student Housing; Keany Gym Rehabilitation  
University of Massachusetts/Boston - Department Offices Build-Out

### INSTITUTIONAL/MUNICIPAL/RELIGIOUS:

LaSalle Academy Science Building, Providence, RI - Master Plan and Building Design  
Rhode Island Hospital Cooperative Care - Interior Build-Out  
Marian Congregation, Stockbridge, MA - Campus Master Plan; Visitor/Center; Recreation Center  
Bethany Home of Rhode Island - Nursing Home Interior Alterations  
Berkshire South Regional Community Center, Great Barrington, MA  
Temple Emanu-El, Providence, RI - Facility Analysis; Masonry Restoration; Alterations/Additions

### MASTER PLAN:

Boston Psychoanalytic Society and Institute – Programming and Feasibility Study  
Greater Providence YMCA - Programming and Site Design; New Recreational/Community Building  
Jewish Federation RI - Providence Hebrew Day School; Jewish Community Day School Master Plan  
Rhode Island Board of Education - MET Career Training Facility, Providence Campus  
T.F. Green Airport, Warwick, RI - International Terminal Design; Intermodal Connector  
Providence College - Feinstein Hall Classroom Re-Use Analysis  
University of Massachusetts/Dartmouth - Library Analysis  
Rhode Island Convention Center - Mixed-Use Master Plan  
Veterans Memorial Auditorium, Providence, RI – New Cultural Center Master Plan  
104 West End Avenue, NYC - Zoning Study (ULURP)

### COMMERCIAL/MIXED USE:

Davol Square, Providence, RI - High Rise Development Residential Towers  
Rosedale Apartments, Cranston, RI - National Register Historic Restoration  
Capital Center Parcel 1: Courtyard Hotel, Providence, RI - 216 Room High Rise  
Capital Center Parcel 9: Water Place, Providence, RI - High Rise Mixed Use Development  
Hull Town Center, Hull, MA - Large-scale Mixed-Use Development  
124 W 60 Street, NYC - High Rise Residential Tower  
109 E 96 Street, NYC - High Rise Residential Tower  
58 W 80 Street, NYC - High Rise Residential Tower

### OFFICE INTERIOR TENANT IMPROVEMENTS:

Adler Pollack & Sheehan - Providence Office  
Office of Attorney General, Eastern District Massachusetts Regional Office - Lynn Office  
US Department of Health and Urban Development - Providence Field Office  
Johnson + Wales University - Administration Executive Offices



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## DESIGN, LEADERSHIP AND ORGANIZATIONAL MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE:

My responsibilities in firm leadership positions and on projects have included overall design direction; client development and relations; implementing strategic goals and standards; employee mentoring; and team coordination. My qualifications include:

Leadership as it relates to design:

I have organized and led projects for inherent design quality and presentation in Pre-Schematic through Design Development as a Principal at Steffian Bradley Architects, and Vice President at Robinson Green Beretta. As a Design Architect, I have led and mentored teams consisting of project architects, job captains, intermediate and intern architects, and interior designers on multiple projects in all phases and types of delivery.

Design experience:

I have extensive experience with numerous renovations and new construction projects that range from \$1 million to \$63 million. I have led numerous projects on large-scale mixed-use facilities, restaurants, office tenant improvements, hotel lobbies, function rooms, health clubs, guest rooms, as well as extensive experience with a variety of educational buildings: libraries, teaching environments, and dormitories. Descriptions of two such projects where I served as the Lead Design Architect are:

### 1. Union Station Plaza Hotel and Garage – Providence, Rhode Island

New high-rise hotel and garage sited on the former railroad siding at Union Station Plaza was carefully designed to meet Rhode Island's historic preservation standards and the master plan design review of the Capitol Center District. The new hotel blends harmoniously with the prevailing tan brick and red masonry of the buildings comprising the historic downtown train terminal complex. An intricate series of approvals and variances obtained during the entitlement period were directly integrated into the design process, pre-construction pricing and value engineering.

### 2. Fairfield University Dormitory – Fairfield, Connecticut

The context on campus to create a collegiate "village" was completed by adding a string of new apartment-style residence halls opposite two low-rise dorms from the 1970s. A cohesive whole was created in texture and scale with an internal landscaped court space, which acts to gather a renewed sense of community and identity to the complex. Brainstorming sessions with campus constituents led to a design that fits the new footprint and parking areas within the wetlands and zoning boundaries. Precise design studies produced four- and six-person apartment plans that meet private and public needs by creating gathering spaces along the connecting corridors and bridges, while also meeting strict budget limits on buildable square footage.

Firm Management:

I have extensive experience in client contact with senior owner/management in scenarios ranging from business development, to presentations to management and public groups; programming, feasibility analysis, site selection, contract negotiation, and contract review; various facets of interface with construction management companies; and internal budgets and scheduling. My experience in firm management has focused on strategic planning and goal implementation.



## VOLUNTEER ACHIEVEMENTS:

6/2002 – 5/2009 - **Rhode Island State Council on the Arts**, Council member, chairman ('04-'09)

Provided leadership advocating for the state arts agency with the Governor, chairman of the House Finance committee, and other government officials as authorizers of the agency's budget; enlisted Council member's participation for various committee initiatives, including re-branding the agency's logo and cultivating legislative support for the Public Art program; represented the agency publicly and in the media; and guided the Executive Director to develop a strategic plan for goals and implementation strategy with consultants, staff, and Council members.

Recognition: 2006 Arts and Business Council (ABC) Arts Advocate Award, with Congressional Citation from Hon. Patrick J. Kennedy.

6/2002 – 9/2003 - **Providence Preservation Society**

Trustee and Steering Committee chairman, *PPS/AIAri Guide to Providence Architecture*

The Guidebook is intended for cultural tourists interested in architecture and the stories of the people who contributed to Providence's cultural legacy. Enlisted volunteers and consultants to self-publish a guidebook of walking tours with a complete series of building photographs by Warren Jagger and original text by architectural historian William Mackenzie Woodward. Contracted the graphic designers and printer for an exceptional, high quality production that perpetuates the mission of the Preservation Society and AIA chapter RI. Led the effort in raising \$52,000 from numerous individuals, corporations, and foundations.

Recognition: PPS 2003 President's Award, reading in part, *"...Immediately upon joining the PPS board in 2002, Kip embarked on a major undertaking – the largest publishing effort PPS has ever undertaken. He brought together a group of individuals as a steering committee who would set a high standard in terms of content and design, to produce a book worthy of its sponsors. And he guided the process carefully from beginning to end. It is no understatement to say that this project would not have been possible without his participation. His hard work and dedication have resulted in a permanent record of our most treasured resources, which will help to educate visitors and residents alike for many years to come."*

9/1999 – 11/2000 - **Transforming Providence: A Civic Discussion on Design**,

Founder and Steering Committee chairman for AIA/RI

Organized a day long conference to examine the role of contemporary design in the context of an historic urban core to, *"...foster a vigorous public discussion to encourage high quality, innovative design in a city known for its architectural character."* Enlisted the steering committee and managed agenda for defining the conference structure and content. Enlisted the advisory committee that aided in fundraising and community support. Contracted consultants for program management, event coordination and public relations. Speakers included: Max Bond, Robert Campbell, Friedrich St. Florian, Hugh Hardy, George Hargreaves, Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk, and Edward Sanderson. Led the effort in raising \$80,000 from government, corporations, foundations, and individuals.

Recognition: RI chapter AIA award for, *"...contribution to the advancement of architecture in the state... for leadership organizing the architectural conference..."*.