

# MORPHOSIS

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*Morphosis is a collective practice* committed to rigorous design and research that yields innovative buildings and urban environments. With permanent offices in Los Angeles and New York City, site offices in Paris and Shanghai, and projects worldwide, the firm's work encompasses a wide range of project types and scales including residential, institutional, cultural and civic buildings as well as large urban planning projects.

The firm engages contemporary society and culture through architectural design and education. We begin every project by asking broad questions; guided by the project itself, we query a wide range of cultural, urban, political, and ecological knowledge to discover ideas that stimulate the relevance and creativity of our designs. Resolution emerges as our understanding of the project allows us to synthesize increasingly complex inputs, ideas, and challenges. We seek design choices that optimize the use of natural resources, human comfort, energy conservation, and sustainability to yield high performance buildings and urban environments. Finally, we arrive at a work that is multivalent, layered, and integrative.

Since its founding, Morphosis has received 25 Progressive Architecture awards, over 90 American Institute of Architects (AIA) awards and numerous other honors in recognition of the firm's innovative work. Morphosis has been the subject of group and solo exhibitions around the world, including, *Continuities of the Incomplete*, an exhibition of Morphosis's work at the Centre Pompidou in Paris, France in 2006. Drawings, functional objects, furniture and models produced by Morphosis are in the permanent collections of institutions including MoMA, New York; SF MoMA, San Francisco; the MAK, Vienna; The Israel Museum, Jerusalem; and FRAC Centre, France. Morphosis buildings and projects are published extensively in prominent architectural publications internationally. In collaboration with academic institutions worldwide, the studio has conducted extensive research on contemporary urban issues and has produced a series of publications including *LA Now*, Volumes One through Four. Morphosis has also been the subject of over 20 monographs, including a 2003 monograph from Phaidon, and 5 volumes published by Rizzoli International that span the complete works of the firm.

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## *Biography of Thom Mayne//*

Thom Mayne founded Morphosis in 1972. As design director and thought leader of Morphosis, Mayne provides overall vision, project leadership and direction to the firm.

With Morphosis, Mayne has been the recipient of the 2005 Pritzker Architecture Prize, 25 Progressive Architecture Awards, 75 American Institute of Architecture Awards and numerous other design recognitions. Under Mayne's direction, the firm has been the subject of various group and solo exhibitions throughout the world, including a large solo exhibition at the Centre Pompidou in Paris in 2006. Other notable exhibitions include those at the Contemporary Art Center in Cincinnati, Ohio, the Walker Arts Institute in Minneapolis, the Ministerio de Fomento in Madrid in 1998, and a major retrospective at the Netherlands Architectural Institute (NAI) in 1999. In addition to these solo exhibitions, Morphosis has been included in prestigious group exhibitions in Tokyo, London, Vienna, Buenos Aires, at the Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art, as part of the "End of the Century: 100 Years of Architecture" exhibition, and at the 2002, 2004 and 2006, and 2008 Venice Architecture Biennales. Drawings, furniture, and models produced by Morphosis are included in the permanent collections of such institutions as the MOMA in New York, San Francisco MOMA, the MAK in Vienna, The Israel Museum in Jerusalem, and the FRAC Center in France. Morphosis buildings and projects have been published extensively; the firm has been the subject of 25 monographs, including five by Rizzoli, two by Korean Architect, two by El Croquis (Spain), two by G.A. Japan, and one by Phaidon.

Throughout his career, Mayne has remained active in the academic world. In 1972, he helped to found the Southern California Institute of Architecture. Since then, he has held teaching positions at Columbia, Yale (the Eliel Saarinen Chair in 1991), the Harvard Graduate School of Design (Eliot Noyes Chair in 1998), the Berlage Institute in the Netherlands, the Bartlett School of Architecture in London, and many other institutions around the world. His commitment to the education of young designers has not wavered. Currently, he holds a tenured faculty position at the UCLA School of Arts and Architecture.

### **HONORS AND DISTINCTIONS:**

Edward MacDowell Medal / 2008  
Member, American Academy of Arts and Sciences / 2008  
AIA Los Angeles Presidential Award / 2007  
AIA California Council, The Maybeck Award / 2007  
National Design Award, Cooper-Hewitt  
National Design Museum / 2006  
Alumni Merit Award,  
University of Southern California / 2006  
Pritzker Architecture Prize / 2005  
Fellow, American Institute of Architects (FAIA) / 2004  
Chrysler Design Award of Excellence / 2001  
Gold Medal, Los Angeles  
American Institute of Architects / 2000  
Alumni of the Year, USC / 1995  
Brunner Prize/ Award in Architecture,  
American Academy of Arts and Letters / 1992  
Member Elect, American Academy of Design / 1992

### **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS:**

American Academy in Rome / Trustee  
A+D Architecture and Design Museum Los Angeles /  
Advisory Board  
American Institute of Architects (FAIA)  
Global Green USA / Board  
Architecture League of New York/ Board  
Institute of Urban Design/ Board  
American Academy of Arts and Sciences/ Member  
National Academy of Design/ Member