

Chicago Showroom Architect and Interior Design Partners



Pella
Crafted
Luxury

JULIE HACKER

Stuart Cohen & Julie Hacker Architects

Renowned Chicago-based residential architects Stuart Cohen and Julie Hacker were inspired by the craftsmanship of Pella and Grabill team members to create the Pella Crafted Luxury Showroom.

Julie Hacker received her Master of Architecture degree from the University of Illinois, Chicago, in 1981. She graduated first in her class and was awarded the Chicago Women in Architecture Award. She then attended Wesleyan University in Connecticut and graduated cum laude, majoring in psychology and modern dance.

Before returning to Chicago, Ms. Hacker worked and studied dance in New York for a year after graduating from Wesleyan University. A piece she choreographed is still being performed by the Corner Store, a New York-based dance group. Along with her interests in architecture, psychology, and dance, Ms. Hacker was interested in archaeology and worked on a dig in the Scottish Hebrides. She has traveled widely in Europe, Scandinavia, Africa, Egypt, Israel and Russia.

Before joining Stuart Cohen and Associates, she worked as a project architect for the Chicago firm of Hammond Beeby and Babka, where she was responsible for the redesign of the outdoor play and animal petting areas at the Lincoln Park Children's Zoo. She was made a partner in the firm Stuart Cohen & Julie Hacker Architects in 1991.

In 2011, Ms. Hacker was elected to Fellowship in the American Institute of Architects in recognition of her contributions in the field of design.

She is the mother of a teenage boy and a triathlete who has competed in sprint, international and half-ironman distances. In 2007 she completed the Ford Ironman Triathlon in Madison, Wisconsin.

STUART COHEN

Stuart Cohen & Julie Hacker Architects

Stuart Cohen holds a bachelor's and a master's degree from Cornell University, where he studied with Colin Rowe. Before returning home to Chicago in 1973 to teach and open his own architectural practice, he worked in New York City for Richard Meier and Associates and for Philip Johnson and John Burgee.

Mr. Cohen's work and the work of his firm have been published and exhibited nationally and internationally, receiving awards for design excellence from *Progressive Architecture* magazine, *Interiors* magazine, the American Institute of Architects and the American Wood Council. He was selected by *Town and Country Magazine* as one of the top 50 residential architects in the country and included in the *Architectural Digest* AD100, their choice of the top 100 residential architects in the world. He was selected for inclusion in 40 under 40, forty architects under the age of forty, in 1979 and he was one of 20 architects chosen to represent the United States at the 1980 Venice Biennale.

Mr. Cohen was a faculty member at the University of Illinois at Chicago from 1973 to 2002 and has been a visiting professor and guest lecturer at universities throughout the country. In 1998, he received the Excellence in Education Award from AIA Illinois. Mr. Cohen is the author of one book and numerous articles on architecture, and was the Chicago correspondent for *Progressive Architecture* magazine in the 1980s and book review editor for the *Journal of Architectural Education*.

In 1985, Mr. Cohen was elected to Fellowship in the American Institute of Architects in recognition of his contributions in the areas of design and education.

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SHELLY HANDMAN

Handman Associates

Shelly Handman served as the lead interior designer for the Pella Crafted Luxury Showroom. He was responsible for the contemporary style vignettes as well as the showroom's conference room, kitchen and overall design.

Mr. Handman holds a Bachelor's degree in Art Education from Northern Illinois University – as well as a Bachelor's degree in Interior Design from Harrington College of Interior Design, where he served on the college's Board of Governors.

His reverence for nature is reflected in his preference for organic materials, his reliance upon classic lines, and his affinity for balance. His rooms are more than just rooms; they are refuges. His clientele spans the globe: from Chicago's premier Gold Coast addresses to its venerated North Shore suburbs; from Atlanta, Miami, Boca Raton, Laguna Beach, Malibu, Palm Springs, and Rancho Mirage to Tel Aviv. Mr. Handman's 30 years as a distinguished member of the design community are characterized by a diverse body of work for both residential and commercial clients. Whether for a private home or office, optical shop or day spa, each of Mr. Handman's designs demonstrates his singular talent for ushering calm into the daily lives of his clients, no matter their preference.

Mr. Handman's work has appeared in *Architectural Digest*, *Luxe*, *Better Homes and Gardens*, *House Beautiful*, *inStyle*, *the Chicago Tribune*, *Chicago Magazine*, *Chicago Social*, *North Shore Magazine*, *Trends Publications*, *Kitchen and Bath Ideas*, *the Atlanta Journal*, and the *Miami Herald*, among others. He operates offices in Chicago, Illinois, and Palm Springs, California.

STEPHANIE WOHLNER

Stephanie Wohlner Design

Stephanie Wohlner led the interior design for the modern and traditional style vignettes within the Pella Crafted Luxury Showroom.

Ms. Wohlner is a graduate of Harrington School of Design and has been designing residential interiors for over 15 years. She is an American Society of Interior Designers Allied Member and her work has appeared in many national publications such as *Decor*, *House Beautiful*, *Better Homes & Gardens*, *Beautiful Baths and Beautiful Kitchens*, *Traditional Home*, *Decorating*, *Renovation Style*, *Remodeling Ideas and Home*. Her projects have been featured in numerous local Chicago publications, including *Luxe Interiors & Design*, *Sheridan Road*, *CS Interiors*, *Modern Luxury NS*, *The Chicago Tribune*, *North Shore Magazine*, *Chicago Sun-Times* and *The Daily Herald*.

In January 1999, she was chosen by *The Chicago Tribune* as one of the best up-and-coming designers in the area. She was also a 2014 Interior Designer of the Year nominee by *Luxe Interiors & Design* magazine. Her style is a mix of traditional and contemporary. She mixes the textures and periods, bringing them together with her unique taste, her broad experience and her strong sense of scale and proportion.

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ELISSA A. MORGANTE

Morgante Wilson Architects

Husband-and-wife team Fred Wilson, architect, and Elissa Morgante, interior designer, led the design of the urban loft vignette within the Pella Crafted Luxury Showroom. Together they maintain a practice with over 20 architects and designers specializing in residential design. Their work receives national and local acclaim in publications ranging from *Traditional Home* to *The Chicago Tribune*. *Chicago Magazine* named MWA among the top 25 firms in the city. Their designs have been featured in books by Sarah Susanka and exhibited at the Art Institute of Chicago.

Elissa Morgante's myriad interests are fueled by a love of design and a belief that good design can improve our quality of life. After almost three decades of scrutinizing the nuances of design, Ms. Morgante continues to be passionate in her pursuit for excellence. Her broad body of work in architecture, interior design and custom furniture design includes a common denominator: thoughtful attention to detail. Her holistic approach places her client's vision at the core of the design process. The result is a one-of-a-kind expression of the client's functional prerequisites and stylistic dreams interwoven with the wisdom of architecture's vast possibilities.

For eight years Ms. Morgante served as an adjunct professor in the School of Architecture at the University of Illinois at Chicago and the School of Interior Architecture at the Art Institute of Chicago. While teaching at UIC, she also founded and served as the first director of the UIC Architectural Extension Program, for which she received the University's Distinguished Service Award.

Dedicated to giving back to the communities in which she works and lives, Ms. Morgante served on the Appearance Review Committee for the Village of Wilmette for 10 years. Upon completion of this tenure the Village President appointed her to the Planning and Advisory Board for the Village Center Master Plan.

Ms. Morgante's philanthropic work also includes serving on the University of Chicago Cancer Research Foundation Women's Board and for many years contributing to the University of Illinois at Chicago Alumni Advisory Board. She earned her Bachelor's in Environmental Design from Hampshire College in 1981 and Master's of Architecture from the University of Illinois at Chicago in 1987.

In 1994, she and her partner in life and business, Fred Wilson, formed Morgante Wilson Architects (MWA).

FREDRICK H. WILSON

Morgante Wilson Architects

When Fredrick Wilson established his Evanston-based practice, he was just two years out of graduate school. Co-principal and partner Elissa Morgante added new dimensions to the firm when she joined him in 1994. With expertise in architecture, interiors and furniture design, and with a respect for landscape design, Morgante Wilson Architects' approach is comprehensive and multifaceted – responsive to clients' needs from start to finish.

As a principal, Mr. Wilson works closely with MWA's architects, nurturing their expertise and interests. Following Mr. Wilson's example, designers at the firm share his commitment to getting every detail right, not to mention his infectious excitement about the work. His sense of humor adds a welcome shot of levity to the serious business of architecture.

Mr. Wilson's many distinctions include being named a national finalist in the "40 Under 40" award, sponsored by The National AIA and The Architectural League of New York, as well as the "Young Architect Award" from the American Institute of Architecture Chicago Chapter in 1998.

Mr. Wilson received his Bachelor of Science in Architecture from The Ohio State University in 1983. He earned his Master of Architecture at the University of Illinois at Chicago in 1985. Upon graduation, Mr. Wilson joined the architectural firm Tigerman, Fugman, McCurry Architects, Ltd., where he was named the firm's first associate.

For Mr. Wilson, being a role model doesn't stop at the office. For more than a decade, he's applied his talents as a leader by coaching youth basketball in his community, building young athletes' character by teaching the spirit of sportsmanship.

Mr. Wilson also serves as President of the Congregation Sukkat Shalom. He is an architectural consultant for the building review commission for the Village of Kenilworth and serves as a board member of the Community Partners Affordable Housing Land Trust. The Land Trust is a not-for-profit organization created to offer permanently affordable housing opportunities for qualified, low-to-moderate income residents of Evanston, Highland Park, and Lake Forest.

He has been a visiting critic at the schools of architecture and design at the University of Illinois at Chicago, Ohio State University and the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Additionally, Mr. Wilson has served as the School of Architecture's constituent liaison for the University of Illinois-Chicago Alumni Association and on the Executive Advisory Board to the director of the School of Architecture.

Recently, he was honored to be included as a board member of the University of Illinois at Chicago Alumni Advisory Board.