

ARCHITECTURE FIRM AO BOLSTERS LEADERSHIP WITH ELEVATION OF DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND NEW ASSOCIATE

Promotions recognize dedication, leadership and technical expertise in multifamily and mixed-use architecture and planning.

ORANGE, CA, Sept. 14, 2021 – [AO](#), a leading full-service architecture firm with design expertise spanning the full commercial real estate spectrum, today announced the promotions Nakisa Heshmati to director of planning and Nathan McCormick to an associate within the firm’s multifamily studio. These promotions acknowledge the long-serving leadership and commitment to AO’s success exhibited by each team member and supports the firm’s continued expansion in multifamily, mixed-use, and modular development.

“Nakisa has been an asset to AO for nearly two decades. She has contributed to countless multifamily and mixed-use projects and is one of the most talented planners that I’ve had the opportunity to work with,” said RC Alley, managing partner at AO. “She contributes a level of unmatched technical knowledge to our team which consistently results in superior multifamily communities.”

“Since joining AO in 2017, Nathan has demonstrated strong technical skills and has become one of our go-to project architects and BIM specialists,” noted Steve Gaffney, managing partner at AO. “He has earned the trust of both our clients and team members, a testament to his collaborative approach and strong work ethic.”

Recent Promotions

- [Nakisa Heshmati](#), Architect, LEED AP BD+C is a talented architect and planner with 19 years of experience at AO and over two decades of industry experience. As director of planning, she is responsible for managing a wide range of projects, overseeing architectural programming, feasibility studies, and planning of high-density multifamily and mixed-use communities. Her recent work includes Park & Paseo in Santa Ana, CA, an 18-acre mixed-use master plan community comprising 1,221 apartments and 74,000 sf of retail; The Warner, a 15-acre urban mixed-use development featuring a neighborhood of four 5-story wrap buildings, 80,000 sf of retail, and a public plaza also in Santa Ana, CA; and Altana, a pair of contemporary luxury mid-rise buildings comprising 507 apartments located at the gateway to the city of Glendale, CA.
- [Nathan McCormick](#), AIA, LEED AP BD+C, has more than 18 years of experience delivering architectural services for multifamily, commercial, and institutional projects. He is responsible for the specific technical design aspects of major projects, specializing in BIM and overall project management. Nathan is a leader, a mentor of his peers, and knowledgeable of construction methods, materials, building codes. He takes great pride in seeing a project go from paper to permanence. His recent work includes Elion Apartments, a high-density mixed-use community comprising 357 apartments, mid-rise hotel, and grand civic plaza in Milpitas, CA; and a 64-unit high-density affordable apartment community in Los Angeles.

About AO

AO is a relationship-focused, design-driven architectural, interior and planning services firm helping clients create places where people and business flourish. In its 47th year, the firm boasts diverse expertise across multifamily, retail, hospitality, mixed-use, science and technology, data centers, restaurant, healthcare, office, industrial, parking, landscape, interiors, global design, modular and transit-oriented development. AO is known for its ardent collaboration with developers and owners, and deep expertise across various building types. AO operates from offices in the cities of Orange, San Diego and Sunnyvale, CA and Atlanta, GA, where it serves clients across the Americas, Asia and beyond. Visit aoarchitects.com to learn more.