

**PRINCIPAL BIOS****Sheila Kennedy, AIA**

Sheila Kennedy received her Bachelor's Degree in history, philosophy and literature from the College of Letters at Wesleyan University. Kennedy studied architecture at the Ecole National Supérieure des Beaux Arts in Paris and received the Masters of Architecture from the Graduate School of Design at Harvard University where she was graduated with *Distinction*, the School's highest academic honor. As an Associate Professor at the Harvard Graduate School of Design, Kennedy was Director of the M Arch II Program from 1991-1995 and is currently Professor of the Practice of Architecture at MIT. She is the first woman to hold this position in the MIT Department of Architecture.

As a founding Principal of Kennedy & Violich Architecture Ltd. (KVA), Sheila Kennedy has established a new model for an interdisciplinary design practice that explores architecture, digital technology and emerging public needs. Designated as one of Fast Company's emerging Masters of Design, Kennedy is described as an "insightful and original thinker who is designing new ways of working, leading and innovating". In 2000, Kennedy established MATx, the pioneering materials research unit at KVA. MATx engages applied creative production across the fields of design, digital electronics, architecture, and material science. The MATx Portable Light Project, a non-profit global initiative to provide adaptable solar textile kits in the developing world has been recognized with a 2009 US Congressional Award, a 2009 Energy Globe Award and a 2008 Tech Museum Laureate Award for technology that benefits humanity.

Kennedy has served as an advisor to the United States Department of Energy, the National Academy of Sciences' Government-Industry Partnerships and the Vision 2020 National Technology Roadmap. She is the author of multiple patents for the integration of digital technologies into architecture, building materials and textiles. Kennedy's research and work in architecture have been recognized by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Academy of Sciences.

**Juan Frano Violich, FAIA**

Violich received his Bachelor's degree in Architecture at the University of California at Berkeley, and received the Masters of Architecture from the Graduate School of Design at Harvard University where he was graduated with *Distinction*, the School's highest academic honor. Frano Violich received Harvard University's Julia Appleton Travelling Fellowship Award and studied the fusion of traditional construction and contemporary design in Japan. In 1990, he founded Kennedy & Violich Architecture (KVA Matx) in partnership with Sheila Kennedy.

As an artist, Violich has had solo exhibitions at MassMoca in North Adams, MA, the Max Protech Gallery in New York City, NY, and the Phillip Bonafont Gallery in San Francisco, CA, and his work is in the permanent collection of the Museo de Arte Contemporanea in Merida, Mexico. Violich lectures and has given keynote talks at international conferences on design and the creative economy including the 2010 Design & Innovations Conference in Sao Paulo, Brazil, the 2009 Centro Metropolitana de Diseno Conference in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and the 2008 World Sustainability Conference in Melbourne, Australia, the 2008 Conference of the Royal Australian Institute of Architecture and the 2007 Society for College & University Planners in Montreal, Canada.

Violich has been on the visiting Faculty at the Rhode Island School of Design, and has held the Saarinen Distinguished Professorship at the University of Michigan, the Freidman Guest Professorship at UC Berkeley, and Shur Visiting Professorship at the University of Virginia. Frano Violich has served as Design Commissioner of the Boston Society of Architects and is Chair of the Executive Committee for the Design and Industry Group of Massachusetts (DIGMA) working with leaders in government, business, and education to advance design as an integral part of the Massachusetts innovation economy. Elevated to the American Institute of Architects National College of Fellows in 2008, Violich is a registered Architect of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the State of New York, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the State of Rhode Island.