

BUREAU V ARCHITECTURE

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ABOUT THE STUDIO

CAPABILITY STATEMENT

COMPANY OVERVIEW

Bureau V Architecture provides architectural design services and immersive technology services in markets ranging from nonprofit arts & culture to commercial projects and large scale, mixed-use developments.

A certified LGBTBE led by architect and software engineer, Peter Zuspan, BVA combines research & community-driven design with technological expertise to create dynamic, future-proof, inclusive, sustainable, and game-changing spatial solutions.

CORE SERVICES

- Architectural Design Services
- Masterplanning
- Feasibility Studies
- Community Engagement & Research
- Inclusive Design Consulting
- Event Planning & Permitting
- Sustainable Design

DIFFERENTIATORS

- Technology services + spatial planning expertise
- As an LGBTBE, BVA centers inclusive design

EXPERIENCE

- 12 acre 500,000 SF cultural campus (Atlanta, GA)
- 25,000 SF cultural center (Brooklyn, NY)
- Public art commission (Miami, FL)
- 76 N6th Street Development (Brooklyn, NY)
- National Sawdust Concert Hall (Brooklyn, NY)

CLIENT LIST

- Brooklyn Public Library
- San Francisco Opera
- The Bushwick Starr
- Chapter NY Gallery
- Creative Time
- The Goat Farm Arts Center
- JTT Gallery
- Miami-Dade Art in Public Places
- National Sawdust

TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

- Metaverse Projects
- Spatial Coding & Design
- Custom Immersive Technology Design
- 3D Web Design
- Omnichannel & Phygital Design

HIGHLIGHTS AND AWARDS

- Arnold W. Brunner Grant
- AIA Honor Award
- AIA Merit Award
- Architectural Review Culture Award
- AN Best of Design Award for Adaptive Reuse
- Mies Crown Hall Americas Prize Nominee
- Architectural Digest Innovators
- Ten Best Arts Centers, Architectural Record
- NYC's Best New Architecture, Curbed

CERTIFICATIONS & ASSOCIATIONS

- LGBTBE, SBE, SDB
- Member of the American Institute of Architects
- Registered Architect in NY & GA*
- Morgan Stanley Small Business Academy

* BVA can create projects nationally and internationally through sourcing and partnering with local professionals.

PROJECT LEAD / PRIMARY CONTACT

Peter Zuspan B.A., M.ARCH, AIA, R.A.

Principal



EDUCATION

GSAPP, Columbia University, Masters of Architecture

Columbia College, Columbia University, Bachelors of Arts

Peter Zuspan is the founding principal of Bureau V Architecture (BVA). Trained as an architect and a musician, Peter's work hovers between architecture, design, and performance. His collaborative work has been performed or exhibited at venues such as the Venice Biennale of Art, the Gwangju Biennale, Inhotim, the Cooper Hewitt, the Storefront for Art and Architecture, MoMA PS1, and the Fondation d'Entreprise Galeries Lafayette.

Peter also holds firsthand experience in nonprofit arts leadership. He is a member of National Sawdust's Board of Directors, which he joined after finishing the design of its award-winning building. Peter is also an active member of the LGBTQIA community and the American NGLCC (BVA is a certified LGBTBE). He has extensive experience in inclusive design and his recent research project, entitled "The Performance of Shame: The Desegregation Renovations of Downtown Atlanta," won the AIA Arnold W. Brunner Grant for Architectural Research in 2021. The project seeks to understand how architecture intersects with the history of American racism and mines the failures of history for new ideas to create more inclusive architecture and to establish new models of anti-racist space.

Peter has lectured widely and has taught architecture at Columbia University, Syracuse University, and the University of Pennsylvania.

SUPPORTING PERSONNEL

Stella Lee B.A., M.Arch, R.A., C.P.H.C.

Cofounder & Senior Architect



EDUCATION

GSAPP, Columbia University, Masters of Architecture

Columbia College, Columbia University, Bachelors of Arts

Stella Lee is Senior Architect and co-founder of BVA. She is a registered architect in the State of New York, and a Certified Passive House Consultant through the Passive House Institute US. She has practiced architecture for over 15 years and has led several of BVA's projects. As a designer, she is particularly interested in finding ways to reconnect ideas of use and beauty through strangeness and intimacy. She is well-versed in all phases of a project from concept design through construction administration and brings a wealth of design experience to each project. Through her work as a member of the Board of Trustees at Diversity in Architecture based in Berlin, Germany, she has been an advocate for workplace equity and for the elimination of sexual harassment at the workplace. A long-time collaborator with Peter Zuspan, Stella has delivered high-quality and complex projects to clients over the years.

STUDIO PROFILE

Bureau V Architecture brings together three primary areas of expertise: award-winning design, a proven track record in creating inclusive spaces and fostering a culture of care in our work and practice, and the utilization of technology and custom software to push the boundaries of what design can accomplish. It is this combination of skills that allows us to create dynamic, future-proof, inclusive, game-changing, and award winning spatial solutions for our clients, which have included the Brooklyn Public Library, National Sawdust, the San Francisco Opera, the Bushwick Starr, the Goat Farm Arts Center, and many others.

DESIGN

Our design work is research- and data-driven. For our work on the Brooklyn Public Library's Dweck Cultural Center, we analyzed years worth of event schedules, space reservations, attendance records, and event types to understand where demand did not meet availability. These systematic analyses allow us to uncover hidden potentials in our projects.

We cut our teeth on the design of nonprofit arts projects, which are rooted in community. Every project that we start involves numerous interviews, affinity group meetings, and public events to understand the different communities touched by our projects - from financial stakeholders, to residents, tenants, to artists, to patrons, to office workers, to janitorial staff, and to the larger community. This early engagement strategy not only allows us to find unique spatial solutions, but it provides us the ability to create consensus between disparate stakeholders in support of our projects from the very early days.

TECHNOLOGY

Our deep understanding of software engineering and spatial coding allows us to find new efficiencies in the design process and the ability to grapple with the complexity of architecture in new and innovative ways. For our work on National Sawdust, the nonprofit chamber music hall that opened in 2015, we wrote bespoke software to solve the spatial complexity of the project and created a unique blend of technological infrastructure and acoustic performance.

National Sawdust remains one of BVA's most important projects to date. The studio's unique solution of retooling an 18th century chamber music hall model as a technologically-driven, 21st century incubator for artist

experimentation allowed the project to quickly become “the city’s most vital new-music hall” (The New York Times). The project not only created a “sensitive and versatile” space for the premiere of new works (New York Magazine), but it has also created a community of support and a place of belonging for so many early career musicians and composers, as well as their audiences.

In 2020, when the pandemic closed the doors of so many presenting institutions, BVA’s careful design of National Sawdust’s home allowed the nonprofit to quickly pivot into digital presentations. Within weeks, the technological media infrastructure embedded in the design of the project laid the groundwork for it to become one of the few music-presenting organizations that continued to produce ground-breaking performances, thereby allowing the nonprofit to continue its mission of supporting the music community throughout the pandemic. BVA has a proven track record in the design of technologically future-proofed space, a skill that is vital to the future of cultural building.

Beyond physical architecture, BVA is growing our practice in a number of immersive digital projects. One such space, a commission for an entirely digital performance space will create an online social platform for the future of live music performance. As the pandemic has shown us, digital access is of vital importance in any project in order to support accessibility and the changing landscape of contemporary society. Digital access has also proven game-changing for inclusion, as it has drastically lowered barriers to entry for people living with disabilities and those with financial or geographic impediments.

ESG | CARE

As an LGBTBE studio, we place vital importance on creating inclusive, supportive, and sustainable spaces for ourselves and for our clients. Our projects create spaces that welcome people of different genders, race, sexual orientations, cultural origins, and physical and mental abilities.

Since its founding, BVA has created an infrastructure of care within our studio. We work hard to ensure our hiring practices empower a diverse set of voices with our company. To succeed in creating highly public projects that touch a broad spectrum of people, including different perspectives in the design process is one of the easiest ways to ensure success. Moreover, in 2018, in the wake of the #metoo movement, *The New York Times* published an op-ed by our Co-founder and Senior Designer Stella Lee that foreshadowed a cultural shift in architecture. She calls out the diversity disparities in our practice, which she states are rooted in a system of problematic labor practices in architecture. Our studio was, in part, founded to combat this disciplinary culture, and it has allowed us to prosper—rooted in work-life balance, harassment free space, equitable compensation, and flexible hours, times, and locations for work.

We are also invested in the imperative for sustainable architecture. Our projects have won national awards for their novel reuse of existing buildings and materials, and our first LEED Gold project will be completed in 2023.

PROJECTS

NATIONAL SAWDUST

BROOKLYN PUBLIC LIBRARY

THE BUSHWICK STARR

MINI LIVING

ERGONOMIC FUTURES

76 N 6TH STREET

NATIONAL SAWDUST BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

2008-2015 / 13,000 SF

Architectural Design Services to adaptively reuse existing
warehouse as chamber music hall

"The city's most
vital new-music hall"
- *The New York Times*



Building Exterior / Photography by Floto + Warner

Opening its doors in 2015, National Sawdust is a nonprofit performance space in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. The project is a retooling of the 18th century chamber hall model as an incubator for new music. The design is characterized by the insertion of a highly articulated crystalline form into the rough brick envelope of a former sawdust factory in Brooklyn, New York.



Performance Hall Interior / Photography by Floto + Warner

"a new typology that feels urgent in
an increasingly top-heavy New York
- *Architectural Review*

"Nothing quite like it exists in
New York City, or anywhere else
in the world, and it must be seen
(and heard) to be believed"
- *Village Voice*

Awards:

AIA Honor Award

AIA Merit Award

Architects Newspaper Best Adaptive Reuse

Mies Crown Hall Americas Prize Nominee

Architectural Review Culture Award Commended

Architectural Record's Global List of the Top
10 Arts Centers



Lobby / Photograph by Floto + Warner



Entry from Exterior / Photograph by Floto + Warner

This form is comprised of an acoustically transparent but visually translucent skin, which allows sound to travel through it freely. Creating a seamless, wrap-around enclosure for a wide repertoire of performances, the skin masks the variable sound absorbing, diffusing, and reflecting surfaces, as well as the state-of-the-art performance, recording, broadcast, and box-in-box isolation systems that allow the eponymous nonprofit to achieve its mission: to support new musicians, artists, and composers on their way to viable and sustainable careers.



From Performance Hall to Lobby



Performance Hall / Photography by Floto + Warner

In its first two seasons alone, National Sawdust has held 660 performances, welcomed 52,000 patrons from all 5 boroughs of New York City, as well as from 47 states and 53 countries. These performances have included 47 world premieres of new works, including 12 new operas, and garnered 50 New York Times reviews. The project has helped to launch the careers of countless musicians and composers, giving them the much-needed support to bridge the gap between honing their talent and finding their audience.



BROOKLYN PUBLIC LIBRARY, DR. S. STEVAN DWECK CULTURAL CENTER BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

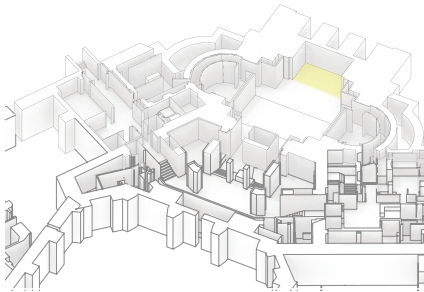
2018-ongoing / 25,000 sf

Master Plan, Architectural Design within existing landmarked building

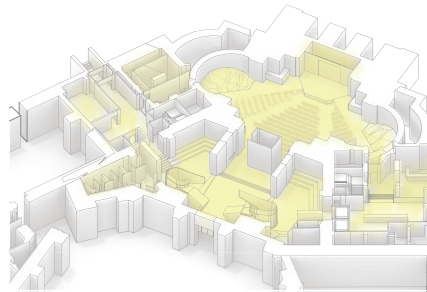
The Brooklyn Public Library commissioned us to create a master plan and multi-phase renovation of the Dr. S. Stevan Dweck Cultural Center in the Library's landmarked central branch at the entrance to Prospect Park in Brooklyn, NY. The Center operates as the cornerstone of BPL Presents, the Library's series of arts and cultural events, all of which are free and open to the public. In order to look forward, we decided to look back - towards the hidden history of the building. The project exposes the partially constructed neoclassical foundation as a primary feature of the interior performance space, and expands the Cultural Center to include 25,000 SF of additional space. The project also connects the Cultural Center to the library building at large through a series of sculptural stairs in the main lobby. The first phase of the project was completed in 2021.



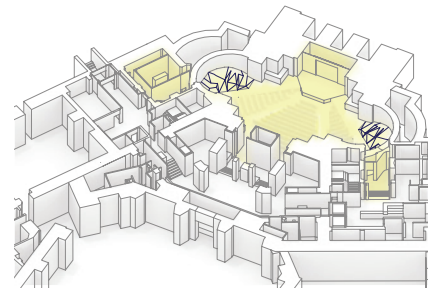
Auditorium



Phase I - STAGE ENLARGEMENT
Removing the stage, expanding it, and replacing it with a temporary stage



Phase III - LOBBY RENOVATION
Lobby renovation and adding new central staircases



Phase II - THEATER EXPANSION
Expanding the stage and auditorium to allow for more seating, and adding ADA Access paths



Lobby



Conceptual Collage showing the new space of the Dweck Cultural Center, hovering between the Modernist Facade and the Beaux Arts Foundation of the Brooklyn Public Library.

BUSHWICK STARR BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

2021-ongoing / 5,000 SF

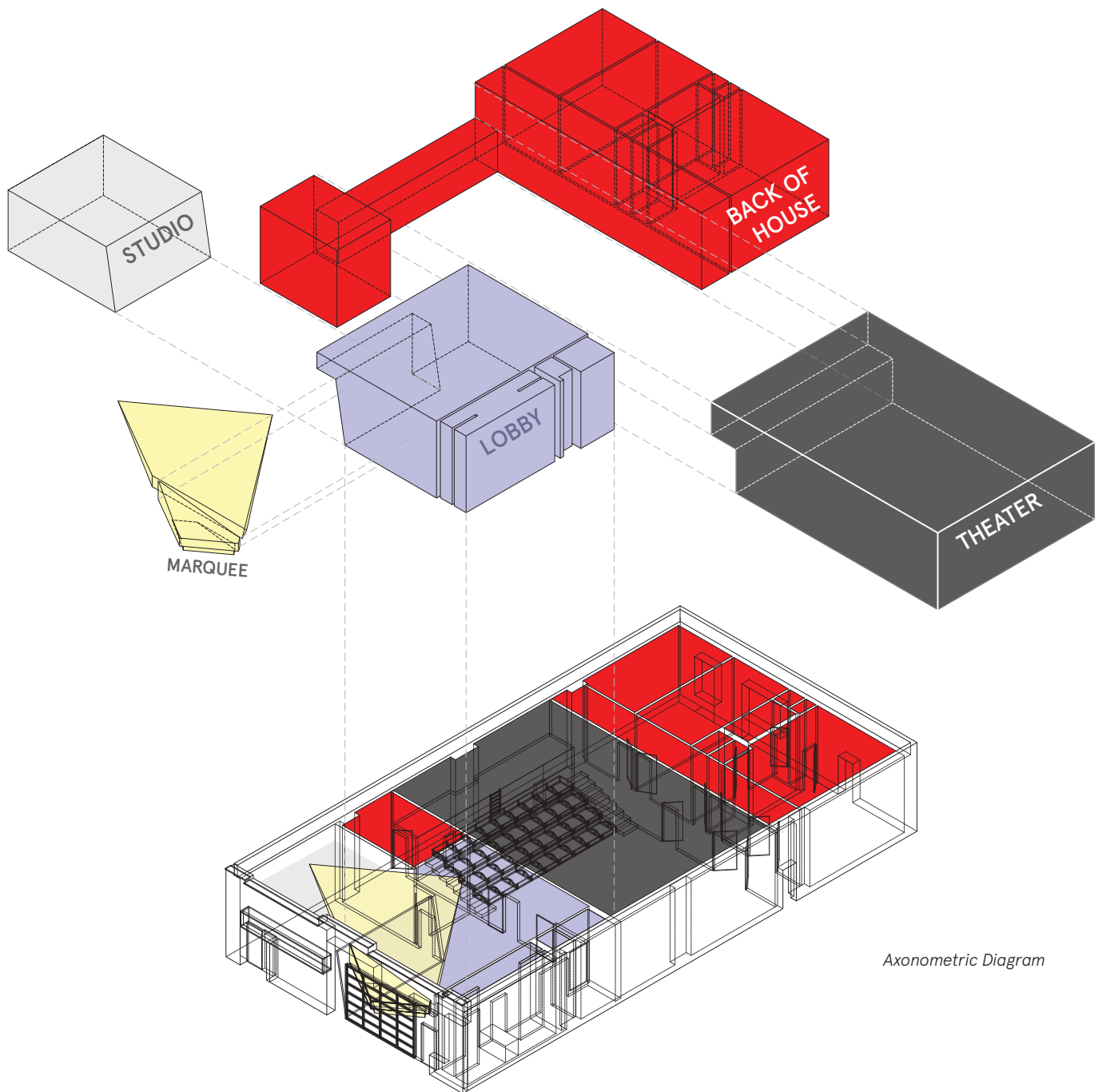
Architectural Design Services to adaptively reuse existing warehouse as a theater

Bureau V Architecture is designing a dynamic and accessible cultural space for the Obie Award-winning nonprofit theater, the Bushwick Starr. The space will create a permanent home for the institution, the community of Bushwick, and for the future of experimental theater. The project will be LEED Gold certified.

The Bushwick Starr is an organization defined by both its artists and its community. Since 2007, it has grown into a thriving theatrical venue, a vital neighborhood arts center, and a destination for exciting and engaging performances. The Bushwick Starr provides a springboard for emerging professional artists to make career-defining leaps, and it is a sanctuary where established artists come to experiment and innovate.



Preliminary Rendering



Axonometric Diagram

MINI LIVING BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

2016 / 70 SF

Single Occupant Dwelling Unit Prototype

The MINI LIVING Urban Cabin, a collaboration with MINI LIVING and Bureau V, operates as a starter kit for the contemporary immigrant and as an absurdist protest against the current America political climate on immigration. Using humor as its primary method, the project seeks to undermine aggression and to provide at least some respite from the trauma of relocation.





ERGONOMIC FUTURES (TYLER COBURN) PARIS, FRANCE / GWANGJU, SOUTH KOREA

2016

Furniture pieces, website (www.ergonomicfutures.com), furniture designed in collaboration with Bureau V Architecture, wood furniture fabricated by Yong Chul Kim

Designed in collaboration with artist Tyler Coburn, Ergonomic Futures is a multi-part project that addresses contemporary “fitness” and body normativity through the lens of speculative evolution. The project takes the form of a series of sculptural seating elements, the first of which was on view in the Gwangju Biennale, Gwangju, South Korea. The second was on view at the Fondation Galeries Lafayette, Paris, France.



Installation View, Gwangju Biennale



Installation View, Fondation Galeries Lafayette

76 N 6th Street BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

2019 / 13,500 SF

Mixed-use development

76 N 6th is a mixed-used development in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, containing three residential units and a large storefront groundfloor space that opens to the street. The project negotiated complex zoning issues and requirements to create a unique project that creates a dynamic streetfront while maintaining residential privacy and opportunity, with each of the 3 units having outdoor space.

