

Curriculum Vitae

Yewon Ji

Partner at Ji Otterson Studio

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Contact

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USA (permanent resident) / South Korea (citizenship)

About

Yewon Ji is a designer and educator with a distinguished focus on low-carbon design through collaborative, interdisciplinary processes. As a partner at the award-winning firm Ji Otterson Studio based in Seoul, South Korea, with Ryan Otterson, AIA, she has led visionary projects that push the boundaries of climatic design. Working across various scales, she sees architecture as a dynamic practice of spatial composition, material orchestration, and adaptive design, shaping environments that elevate human experience and planetary well-being. Her firm was honored with the inaugural Seoul Biennale of Architecture and Urbanism 2023 Prize by Seoul Metropolitan Government, alongside numerous accolades in international competitions. Her professional work spans public infrastructure projects prioritizing low-carbon strategies in both embodied and operational realms, as well as transformative redevelopment and residential initiatives in Seoul. For eight years at Behnisch Architekten, she played a pivotal role in shaping internationally recognized designs such as Harvard University SEC, University of Pennsylvania VLEST, and Karl Miller Center at PSU. Yewon's academic contributions include teaching urban design and comprehensive design studios and delivering lectures at universities and professional institutions, where she fosters critical discourse on the future of architecture through design research, building technology, urbanism, planning and landscape. Committed to advancing the discipline, she integrates practice and academia to develop design approaches that meaningfully address the urgent climatic challenges of our time.

Education

Master of Science in Architecture Studies Architecture + Urbanism

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Master of Architecture with Distinction (merit scholarship recipient),

The University of Kansas

Study Abroad, University of Stuttgart, Germany

Selected Work Experience

Ji Otterson Studio, Seoul, South Korea | Partner

Confidential Masterplan in South Korea, design consultant, Top Prize tie

Seoul Station Master Plan International Competition, Top Prize tie

Seoul Han River Floating Park International Competition, 2nd Prize

Seoul Biennale of Architecture and Urbanism 2023, Biennale Award Recipient

Anyang Cultural Center for Disabled (Facade Design), completed in 2024

Bandabi Sports Complex International Competition

Garak Fire Station International Competition, 4th Place

House in Kashubia, Poland

YAC Food and Wellness Center Competition, Finalist (known as Atelier 2B)

Next Helsinki Competition, Jury's List (known as Atelier 2B)

Chicago Architecture Biennial 2015, Chidesign Competition Winner held by the Chicago Architecture Foundation (known as Atelier 2B)

Selected Work Experience

Behnisch Architekten, Boston, MA, USA | Designer

Led pursuit of competition design through construction document of mass timber mixed use structure at the University of Toronto.

International competitions with Stuttgart and Munich offices.

Interior design and space planning of the University of Pennsylvania Vagelos Laboratory of Energy Science and Engineering Technology (VLEST).

Led interior design, space planning and coordination of atria, common spaces, laboratories, offices, classrooms, and specialized programs from Design Development through Construction Administration of the Harvard University Science and Engineering Complex (SEC). Led BIM integration for the architects and consultants, and client design reviews.

Led FF&E procurement Harvard University SEC and the University of Pennsylvania VLEST.

Led efforts with Harvard University to meet the Living Building Challenge and Healthier Hospitals Initiative for the Harvard SEC, and supported LEED goals.

Led interior design from design development to construction document of the Karl Miller Center at Portland State University School of Business.

Institute for Lightweight Structures and Conceptual Design (ILEK), Universität Stuttgart, Germany | Research Assistant

Prefabricated low-carbon concrete wind turbine structures in ocean environments. Assisted in the production of course curriculum of an option studio. Exhibition research, publication work of B10 in Weissenhof, Germany.

Selected Exhibitions

Seoul Biennale of Architecture and Urbanism, 2023, 100 Year Master Plan, Seoul Hall of Urbanism & Architecture, Songhyun Park, Seoul, South Korea
Yeoju Renaissance Urban Design Exhibition, Yeoju, South Korea
Chi-Design Winning Competition Exhibition, Chicago Architecture Biennale

Selected Lectures and Guest Critic

Harvard University, Northeastern University, Cornell University, MIT, University of Kansas, Urban Design Institute of Korea, Hanyang University, Gyeonghee University, Kookmin University, Dankook University, etc.

Selected Published Work

Seoul Biennale of Architecture and Urbanism. Land's City, Land's Architecture. Seoul: Ahn Graphics, 2024.
LAK. (2024, August). The Inclusive Passage Museum Park. Landscape Architecture Korea, 436.
Monthly Design. Seoul Biennale of Architecture and Urbanism: Land's City, Land's Architecture: Seoul Design House, 2023.
AIA Design Excellence Awards. <https://www.aia.org/design-excellence/award-winners/harvard-university-science-and-engineering-complex>.

Reference

Upon Request