

# Illya Azaroff, FAIA

## Director of Resilient Design and Regenerative Planning

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### Education:

MArch, Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, New York, 1997

BArch, Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, New York, 1996

BSAS, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, 1992

BA, Geography, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, 1991

### Membership:

American Institute of Architects

Sigma Xi Scientific Research Honor Society

### Registrations:

Registered Architect, New York

ULI - Certified Instructor Urban Land Institute Urban Plan

Certified Trainer CalEMA SAP safety assessment program

**FEMA IS100 and IS700 Certificates,**  
incident command training

### Contact:

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Illya Azaroff, founding principal of +LAB architect PLLC, is a leader in disaster mitigation, resilient planning and regenerative design strategies. Currently, he is working on the New York State Climate Impact Assessment, as well on the 2024 Hazard Mitigation Plans for New York City and US Virgin Islands. He is working with ICC/ANRC piloting community resilience benchmarks and the US State Department has engaged him to help develop the national resilience plan for the Kyrgyz Republic. His studio is advancing community resilience hubs in Hawaii, Dominica and New York. In the state of North Carolina he is leading the LC2Prepare program, building resilient capacity in long-term care facilities. He is a COP-27 Delegate for the AIA and is leading the COP-28 delegation in Dubai in 2023. Previously, Illya served as a Technical Advisor to the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) in Washington, developing the National Disaster Recovery Framework (NDRF). He regularly works with government agencies, professional societies, not-for-profits, community groups, and foreign governments to build resilient capacity, and has worked in the field for over 30 years.

Mr. Azaroff is a contributor to and editor of many publications including the New York City Department of City Planning's *Retrofitting Buildings for Flood Risk*, and the Federal Alliance for Safe Homes (FLASH) *Resilient Housing Guidelines*, both published in 2014. He worked with Enterprise Community Partners on *Keep Safe Puerto Rico (2019) Ready to Respond: Strategies for Multi-Family Building Resilience (2015)*. In 2022 he contributed to *Climate Adaptation and Resilience Across Scales: From Buildings to Cities*, Routledge.

He served as a subject matter expert with the Rockefeller Foundation's 100 Resilient Cities, and Founding Co-chair of the Design for Risk and Reconstruction (DfRR) committee at the AIA New York Chapter. The committee produces training and information programs for architects and engineers regarding new codes, zoning, and best practices. The committee has worked with city agencies on code and zoning amendments pre- and post-Hurricane Sandy, generating the *Post-Sandy: Designing a Resilient New York* and *Extreme Heat* reports.

Mr. Azaroff is a tenured Professor at the New York City College of Technology (CUNY), where he leads sustainability and resilient activities across the curriculum. In 2016 he received a CUNY service award; his lectures/articles include TEDxNYIT, *We are not alone*; *Connections Magazine* June 2015, *Ahead of the Surge*; *ArchNewsNow*, *What Does Recovery Look Like?*; the AIA's *Reframing Resilience* publication in 2016; and the fourth edition of the *AIA Disaster Assistance Handbook* in 2021.

With the National Disaster Training Preparedness Center (NDTPC) he teaches *Hurriplan: Building Resilient Coastal Communities*, and is a certified trainer of SAP-Safety Assessment Program through CalEMA. Since 2013 he has trained more than 4,000 design professionals, community leaders and government officials. He is the founder of the AIA Unified Task Force City and State responding to the pandemic as well as the founder of New York State Regional Recovery Working Group (AIARRWG), a four-state coalition that worked across sectors including HUD, DHS, Army Corps, MTA, NYSEDA, and government authorities. AIARRWG and Unified Taskforce were recognized in 2015 and 2022 respectively with National Component Excellence Awards. Illya served as co-chair of AIANY DfRR for ten years (2011-21) and is thrilled to be serving on the AIA National Board of Directors 2023-2025.

# +LAB architect PLLC

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### Work Experience

2009-PR

+LAB Architect PLLC NYC

1999-09

Design Collective PC. NYC

1997-99

Carol Marion Architect NYC

1993-95

Buro Pechtold PRSSR, Berlin, Germany

1993

Studio Carlo Bellini Milan, Italy.

1992-93

Wilke und Partner, Hanover, Germany

### Teaching Experience

2008-present

Professor, NYCCT - CUNY New York  
City College of Technology.

2008-2014

Adjunct, SVA School of Visual Arts  
Interior Design

2005-2007

Adjunct, NYIT New York Institute of  
Technology

### Honors, Awards and Speaking

Mr. Azaroff has spoken nationally and internationally at over 250 events including Key Note addresses and TEDx.

His office has won a number of awards for design and service to the profession and public.

A brief selection of his accomplishments is listed to the right.

- 2023 Named a Star of Oceana - Award
- 2023-25 Elected AIA National Board of Directors Director at Large
- 2022 AIA National Collaborative Achievement Award, AIA Unified Task Force City and State.
- 2022 Power of A Gold Award ASAE, AIA Unified Task Force
- 2020-22 Founding Chair AIA Unified Task force
- 2021 Elevated to College of Fellows American Institute of Architect
- 2021 Elected AIA New York State President
- 2021 Nominated to Sigma Xi Scientific Research Honor Society
- 2021-23 Appointed New York State Climate Impact Assessment team
- 2021 AIANY Vice President Citation for public outreach DfRR
- Key Note Speaker, *SPACE: Adapting to a new normal*, AIA Continental Europe, November 20, 2021
- 2020 Awarded Citizen Architect, AIA National
- 2020 AIA New York Special Citation AIA Unified Taskforce
- Key Note, *4D! Building Resilient capacity through leadership, advocacy & community*, Honolulu HI. June 2019
- Key Note, *Responding to Long Term Change Through Positive Adaption*, Omaha NE. Aug. 2019
- Keynote, *Adapting Buildings for a Changing Climate Symposium*, Albany, NY, October 2018
- Keynote, "Living By the Numbers," *Convergence Singapore*, Nov. 2018
- 2018 Louis Blanchard Bethune Fellowship
- 2018 Matthew Del Gaudio Award
- 2017 AIA New York State President's Citation
- 2016 CUNY Faculty Service Award
- 2016 AIA National Honor Awards Chair
- 2015 AIA National Component Excellent Award, AIA Regional Recovery Working Group
- 2014 AIA New York State Presidents Citation
- 2014 AIA National Young Architects Award
- 2014 AIA National Collaborative Achievement award for *Post-Sandy: Designing a Resilient New York*, co-author
- 2014 AIANY Vice President's Citation for Public Outreach
- SHADE Institute Board of Directors 2016-pr
- AIA New York Board of Directors 2013-18
- AIA New York State Board of Directors 2012-14
- Regional Director Young Architects Forum AIA 2011-14
- "How architects are creating the next generation of green design," [AIA.org](http://AIA.org) March 2018
- Keynote, AIAS Quad Conference, Reach, April 2018
- Grassroots San Diego, "My Story and Disaster Assistance Handbook Live," March 2018
- Keynote, AIA South Carolina Resilience Conference November 2016
- Speaker, SCUP Conference, Boston, MA, October 2016
- Speaker, Triangulate, AIA International, Toronto, Canada, Oct. 2016
- Enterprise's Resilience Speakers Series, Multifamily Housing, April 29, 2014, New York, NY
- Speaker, National Hurricane Conference, Resilience Revolution, FLASH, Orlando, FL 2014
- AIA Regional Recovery Working Group Conference Organizer July 7, 2014 Farleigh Dickenson College, Madison, NJ

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