

Curriculum Vitae

## **Chad Floyd, FAIA**

Born Miami Beach, Florida,  
November 11, 1944

### **Centerbrook Architects and Planners**

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### **Summary**

Chad Floyd grew up in Washington, D.C., where a memorable childhood was highlighted by his service as a Senate Page for the likes of Lyndon B. Johnson and John F. Kennedy.

Later, as a college student at Yale, Floyd caught the theater bug. It would prove life-changing. Acting instilled confidence, poise, and stage presence, and he also took advantage of offerings in scenery and lighting design at the Yale School of Drama. In 1966, Floyd's senior year, he began building discotheques in the dreary basements of Yale's residential colleges. His first, the Grotto at Calhoun College, was a smashing success, and others soon followed. His interest in architecture was kindled.

After graduating in 1966 with a Bachelor of Arts, Floyd went off to Marine Corps OCS and shipped out in the summer of 1967 to Vietnam, where he served for thirteen months as an infantry platoon commander and company commander. His nascent architectural interest was rekindled in the aftermath of the Tet Offensive by the experience of re-building a Vietnamese school that had been damaged in combat.

Floyd returned to civilian life in early 1970 and entered the Yale School of Architecture. Graduating in 1973, he was awarded a Winchester Traveling Fellowship that made possible a journey to India. Floyd was impressed by the way India's urban spaces nurture religious ceremonies and events. He became fascinated by Pushkar, a town in the desert state of Rajasthan holy to the Hindu god Brahma. Floyd recalls that "its main street was organized as a path of unfolding mystery for the hundreds of thousands who make the annual pilgrimage to honor Brahma on the night of the full moon in October."

Back home, Floyd received an Individual Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, enabling him to explore American celebration spaces. While traveling from state to state for two years, he found that despite cultural differences India and America are not so different in their underlying celebratory patterns. He determined that there must be a universal procession and gathering instinct common to diverse cultures and speculated on how it could be nurtured by specific configurations of urban space. His research was published in journals and books such as *Architectural Record* in 1976, *Process Architecture* in 1986, and *The Enthusiasms of Centerbrook* in 2001. Floyd would go on to become an urban designer sought after for his understanding of public celebration dynamics.

Floyd's background in acting and theater production equipped him for making a breakthrough in urban design approaches during the 1970's, a time when funding for urban development was robust. He realized that for the willing architect television could be harnessed as an interactive medium that could free the architect from the confinement and contentiousness of public meetings. He developed the concept of a "Design-a-thon" --a fast-paced, hour-long television show he would produce and anchor for urban design studies in Virginia, Ohio, Massachusetts, and New York.

On the air Floyd chatted live with consultants, politicians, and home viewers and worked with partners Mark Simon, Jeff Riley, and Charles Moore to bring ideas alive with two- and three-dimensional drawings and visualizations. He produced and appeared in 22 hours of televised workshops, building remarkable consensus among citizens of numerous cities for public projects that were conceived and shaped on television.

With such a strong background in urban design, Floyd's architecture has been informed by a certain contextual sensitivity. He has been in demand for complex projects around the country in academia, the arts, and civic architecture. Most recently, he was collaborating designer of Liberty Memorial which honors those who lost their lives on 9/11 in Washington, New York, and Pennsylvania. Liberty Memorial is located in Prince William County, Virginia, where a large number of the Pentagon's victims lived.

Floyd's background in ceremony and celebration has helped him address through civic architecture and urban design some of the fundamental human needs he believes are overlooked in today's fast-paced world.

## **Philosophy**

"My formative experience was exposure at a young age to the theater," recalls Floyd. "It got me started on inclinations and ideas that fed me over the years. It equipped me to communicate effectively; it gave me a sense of empathy for the motivations of people moving through a particular space; and it helped me understand how to satisfy pragmatic needs. Mostly, it ingrained in me what a director seeks from his designer: a stage set that has just the right look, just the right sight-lines, just the right steps, and just the right doorways to accommodate the action called for by the script."

This unusual background has transferred well to the architectural world, which to date has bestowed on Floyd 96 awards for houses, institutional buildings, and designs of large urban areas. He approaches each project like a scene designer working out a set tailored to the needs of the play. Floyd points out that just as people seldom go to the theater with the intention of admiring the scene designer's imprimatur, so, too, do very few people inhabit buildings with the architect's aesthetic predilection in the forefront of their minds. Buildings have to speak for themselves, and what matters most, he thinks, are qualities that make a building special --qualities that, in the right combination, are able to form something unique.

"My kind of design requires humility more than it does ego," Floyd stresses. "Ego is something I try to subordinate in order that I can bring forth the uniqueness inherent in an idea behind a particular building. This uniqueness derives first from the needs and desires of the client, and it gains strength through the course of the design phases --but only so long as I continue to hold up the client as my Muse. Whenever I put myself first, I get off track."

## Reviews

### Nessel Wing, The Norton Museum of Art, West Palm Beach, Florida

*Access to the new galleries is through an oval atrium around whose walls a cantilevered staircase rises in a gently scalloped spiral. The cool-blue terrazzo floor mimics an abstract, classic Chinese pattern that represents cracked ice. But you need not catch the allusion to sense the subliminal submarine atmosphere. Neptune himself might choose a state entryway like this.*

***The Wall Street Journal***, Matthew Gurewitsch

### Kriebel Art Gallery, The Florence Griswold Museum, Old Lyme, CT

*Bridging an architectural gap of 185 years, Floyd has created a subtle symbiosis between a yellow 1817 Federal mansion and his decidedly contemporary, stark white Kriebel Art Gallery, just completed on the grounds.*

***The New York Times***, Eleanor Charles

### Aerie, Western Massachusetts

*Chad Floyd's... buildings are intentionally so relaxed in concept and permissive in aesthetic tolerance, they easily absorb...the tchotchkes of a lifetime. Floyd is not a member of the design police; he never said no to that last bit of antiquity or to any cherished piece of eccentricity. He simply provided a specific place for each thing in a plainspoken style with strong architectural gestures that tie it all together.*

***Architectural Digest***, Joseph Giovannini

## Education

1970–1973      Yale University, Master of Architecture  
1963–1966      Yale University, BA  
1962–1963      Georgetown University

## Military

1966–1969      US Marine Corps

## Member Organizations

1991–present    Fellow, American Institute of Architects  
1988 –present    Fellow, Institute for Urban Design  
1997–present    Member, League of Historic American Theaters  
1991–1987      Director, Connecticut Society of Architects  
1986–present    Member, Society of the Cincinnati, State of Virginia

## **Accolades**

- 100 national and regional design awards spanning a 36-year career  
Recipient, National Endowment for the Arts Individual Grant, 1975  
Recipient, William Wirt Winchester Fellowship, Yale University, 1973  
1998 American Institute of Architects Firm Award for Centerbrook Architects  
1986 AIA Honor Award, Hood Museum of Art  
1987 AIA Honor Award, Pier Pavilion, Watkins Glen, NY  
1988 AIA Honor Award, Schuyler County Redevelopment Plan, NY  
1993 AIA Honor Award, Hargraves House Interior Design

## **Awards, 1966 to Present**

- 2009 Arts Center, Trinity-Pawling School, Brick in Architecture, Bronze Award  
2009 Floren Varsity House, Dartmouth College , Environmental Design +  
Construction Magazine, Honorable Mention, Education Category  
2008 Centerbrook Architects, American Institute of Architects Intern  
Development Program (IDP) Award, 2008-2011  
2008 Floren Varsity House, Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire,  
Society of American Registered Architects, Design Award of Honor  
2007 Maud Gatewood Studio Arts Building, University of North Carolina at Greensboro,  
Society of American Registered Architects, Design Award of Honor  
2007 Maud Gatewood Studio Arts Building, University of North  
Carolina at Greensboro, Brick South, Honor Award  
2007 Floyd House, Connecticut River, Connecticut, Merit Award , AIA New England  
2007 Floyd House, Connecticut River, Connecticut, Honorable  
Mention Award, AIA Connecticut  
2007 Almetris Duren Residence Hall, University of Texas at Austin, First Place, Texas  
Branch of the Associated General Contractors of America Awards Program  
2006 Maud Gatewood Studio Arts Building, University of North Carolina at  
Greensboro, American School & University, Citation for Specialized Facility  
2006 Floyd House, Society of American Registered Architects, Design Award of Honor  
2006 Floyd House, Builder's Choice, Grand Award  
2006 Floyd House, Connecticut Magazine/AIA Connecticut, Alice Washburn Award  
2006 Floyd House, Residential Architect Design Awards, Grand Award  
2005 Arts Center, Trinity-Pawling School, Society of American  
Registered Architects, Design Award of Merit  
2004 Architectural Achievement Award, AIA Long Island  
2004 Palmer Events Center, Texas Society of Architects, Design Award  
2004 Nessel Wing, Norton Museum of Art, Glass Magazine, 25 Innovative Glass Designers  
2004 Palmer Events Center, Society of American Registered  
Architects, Design Award of Honor  
2004 Palmer Events Center, AIA Austin, Citation of Honor  
2003 Palmer Events Center, Metal Construction Association  
President's Design Award, Winner for Metal Roofing

- 2003 Little Hall, Art and Art History Building, Colgate University, Society of American Registered Architects, Design Award for Excellence
- 2003 Manchester Community College, Society of American Registered Architects, Design Award of Merit
- 2003 Kriebler Gallery, Florence Griswold Museum, Society of American Registered Architects, Design Award of Merit
- 2003 Nessel Wing, Norton Museum of Art, Southeast Construction, Best Private Building Award
- 2003 Palmer Events Center, Downtown Austin Alliance Design IMPACT Award
- 2003 Palmer Events Center, AIA/CT Architecture in the Community Design Award
- 2003 Palmer Events Center, Metal Architecture Magazine Design Awards, First Place for Metal Roofing
- 2003 Kriebler Gallery, Florence Griswold Museum, Metal Architecture Magazine Design Awards, Honorable Mention for Metal Roofing
- 2003 Learning Resource Center, Manchester Community College, Connecticut Real Estate Award
- 2002 Campus Center, Brooks School, American School & University Award
- 2002 Steele Hall, Dartmouth College, R&D Renovated Laboratory of the Year Special Mention
- 2002 Manchester Community College, National Terrazzo & Mosaic Association Honor Award
- 2001 Art & Art History Building, Colgate University, Silver Award, Excellence in Concrete Design and Installation, American Concrete, Central New York Chapter
- 2001 Art & Art History Building, Colgate University, Bronze Award, Excellence in Masonry Design and Installation, American Concrete, Central New York Chapter
- 2001 Learning Resource Center, Manchester Community College, Excellence in Construction Award, Associated Builders & Contractors, Massachusetts Chapter
- 2000 Garde Arts Center, AIA Connecticut Design Award
- 2000 Athletic Center, Simon's Rock College of Bard, AIA Connecticut Design Award
- 2000 Palmer Events Center, Society of American Registered Architects Projects in Design Award
- 2000 Athletic Center, Simon's Rock College of Bard, American School & University Award
- 1999 Information Cafe, Babbidge Library, Univ. of CT, Storrs, AIA/CT Design Award
- 1998 American Institute of Architects (AIA), Architecture Firm Award
- 1998 Pfizer Plant Master Plan, Pfizer U.S. Pharmaceutical Group, American Society of Landscape Architects, Connecticut Chapter
- 1997 Pfizer Plant Master Plan, Pfizer U.S. Pharm. Group, AIA New England Design Award
- 1997 Central Lakes College, American School & University Award
- 1997 Pfizer Plant Master Plan, Pfizer U.S. Pharmaceutical Group, AIA CT Design Award
- 1995 Main Gate, Pfizer U. S. Pharmaceutical Group, Groton, CT, AIA CT Honor Award
- 1995 Main Gate, Pfizer U. S. Pharm. Group, Groton, CT, AIA New England Design Award
- 1994 Nauticus - The National Maritime Center, Virginia AIA Design Award
- 1993 Honors Housing and Academic Center, University of Toledo, AIA Ohio Merit Award
- 1993 Honors Housing/Academic Center, Univ. of Toledo, Ohio Brick Institute Design Award
- 1993 Honors Housing and Academic Center, University of Toledo, CT AIA Design Award

1993 Hargraves Residence, AIA New England Design Award  
1993 Hargraves Residence, AIA Honor Award in Interiors  
1993 House by the Connecticut Seashore, SARA Professional Design Award  
1993 Hargraves Residence, CSA/Hartford Monthly Residential Design Award  
1992 Hargraves Residence, CSA/AIA Design Award  
1992 Jaffe House, CSA/AIA Design Award  
1992 Roanoke Market Square, CSA/AIA Public Space Award  
1992 Burke Poolhouse, CSA/Hartford Monthly Residential Design Award  
1991 Pershing Point, Atlanta, Georgia, CSA/AIA Design Award  
1991 ARCHITECTURAL DIGEST, AD 100 List of Top U.S. Architects  
1991 Domino's 30 Award for Excellence in Architecture  
1991 Jaffe House, Builder's Choice Merit Award  
1991 Jaffe House, Cedar Shake and Shingle Bureau Honor Award  
1991 Watkins Glen Waterfront, Honor Award, Excellence on the Waterfront  
1990 Burke House, Renaissance/Remodeling Merit Design Award  
1990 Burke Poolhouse, New England Regional Council/AIA Design Award  
1990 Burke Poolhouse, Builder's Choice Grand Award  
1990 Stamford Center for the Arts, CSA/AIA Unbuilt Projects Award  
1989 Burke Poolhouse, Renaissance/Remodeling Award  
1989 Burke Poolhouse, American Wood Council Award  
1989 Burke Poolhouse, CSA/AIA Honor Award  
1989 Hood Museum of Art, Brick Institute of America, Brick in Architecture Award  
1989 Watkins Glen Pier Pavilion, AIA Honor Award in Architecture  
1988 Watkins Glen Pier Pavilion, CSA/AIA Honor Award  
1988 Watkins Glen Pier Pavilion, American Wood Council Award  
1988 Dayton Waterfront, Honor Award, Excellence on the Waterfront  
1988 Watkins Glen Waterfront, AIA Honor Award in Urban Design  
1987 Cape Cod Cottage, Renaissance/Remodeling Design Award  
1987 Watkins Glen Pavilion, Red Cedar Shingle & Shake Bureau/AIA Design Award  
1987 Hood Museum of Art, AIA Honor Award in Architecture  
1986 Hood Museum of Art, New England Regional Council/AIA Design Award  
1985 Watkins Glen Tomorrow, New York Historic Conservation Award of Merit  
1984 Nussbaum Pool, National Spa and Pool Institute Design Award  
1983 Parc de la Villette, Paris, International Competition, Credit Award  
1981 Key Plaza, Roanoke, Virginia, Merit Award in Design, ASLA  
1981 River's Edge, Dayton, Ohio, Design Award, Architect's Society of Ohio  
1980 Dayton Art Center, National Endowment for the Arts Design Award  
1980 Riverdesign Springfield, Emmy Award Nomination  
1979 Roanoke Design 79, National Headliners Media Award  
1979 Riverdesign Dayton, Urban Design Award  
1977 Riverdesign Dayton, Progressive Architecture Citation for Urban Design  
1974 Individual Grant, National Endowment for the Arts  
1973 William Wirt Winchester Yale Travelling Fellowship, India  
1966 Cogswell Award, Yale College

## **Practice Geographic Areas**

Floyd is NCARB certified and a licensed architect in the following states:

Alabama  
Connecticut  
Florida  
Georgia  
New Hampshire  
Maryland  
Massachusetts  
Ohio  
Virginia  
Washington, D.C.  
New York  
Pennsylvania  
Texas

## **Practice**

1978 - present Centerbrook Architects and Planners, Partner, Centerbrook Connecticut  
1975 - 1978 Moore Grover Harper, Project Manger, Director, Partner  
1974 - 1975 NEA Grant researching role of Architecture in Pubic Celebration  
1973 - 1974 UDA Architects, Pittsburgh, Pa  
1966 - 1969 U.S. Marine Corps

## **Lectures**

2008 Lecturer, AIA Convention Boston, Inventing with a Reluctant Community  
2002 Lecturer, AIA Indianapolis Convention  
2001 Lecturer, AIA Connecticut, Visions  
2001 Lecturer, New York University, Museum Architecture: New Buildings and Addition  
Lecturer, AIA Long Island Chapter, Design Dialogue  
2001 Lecturer, Charles Moore Center, Austin Texas,  
Palmer Events Center, Jewel in the Crown  
2000 Lecturer, Parrish Art Museum, George Soros Distinguished Lecturer  
Phillips Academy, Old Buildings, New Needs: Preservation and Growth On Campus  
Lecturer, Connecticut, AIA, Accent on Design  
1998 Lecturer Florida AIA Convention  
Lecturer Ohio, AIA, Convention  
Lecturer Vermont, AIA Convention  
Lecturer, Manchester Community College, Commencement Address  
Lecturer, Brandeis University, New College Art Musuems  
1987 Dickey Fellow, St. Paul's School, Concord, NH  
1994 Lecturer, University of Virginia, Virginia  
Lecturer, Yale University,

- 1980 Lecturer, Cornell University  
Lecturer, Southeastern Region AIA Convention  
1979 Lecturer, Virginia Polytechnic Institute  
1978 Lecturer, Carnegie-Mellon Institute

## **Teaching**

- 1978 Carnegie-Mellon Institute School of Architecture

## **Juror**

- 1998 Juror, AIA Design Awards, Minnesota  
Juror, AIA Design Awards, Ohio  
1995 Juror, Society of Architects, Boston  
1994 Juror, AIA Design Awards, New York State  
1993 Juror, AIA Design Awards, Maine  
Juror, Design Awards, New York State  
Juror, Design Awards, Chesapeake Bay Chapter, Virginia  
1992 Juror, American Wood Council

## **Exhibitions**

- 2001 Exhibit, Follies: Fantasy in the Landscape, Parrish  
Art Museum, Southampton, New York  
2000 Exhibit, The Enthusiasms of Centerbrook at the Lamont Gallery,  
Phillips Exeter Academy, Exeter, New Hampshire  
1998 Exhibit, One Man Show, St. Paul's School, Concord, New Hampshire  
1988 Exhibit, New Museums, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, New York

## **Author**

- 2001 Author, Ratio Architects, Innovation and Contextualism Introduction,  
l'Arca Edizioni, Milan  
Author, The Enthusiasms of Centerbrook, Images Publishing Group  
1990 Author, "Co-Design" book review, Architecture Magazine  
1989 Author, "Best Addresses" Book Review, Architecture Magazine

## **Community**

- 2009-present Trustee, Florence Griswold Museum,  
2004-present Trustee, Connecticut River Museum  
2003 Designer, War Memorial, Essex, CT  
1993-2000 Member, Essex Parks and Recreation Commission