

2027 LEADERSHIP ELECTION

Candidate Profile



Ian Merker, AIA

Candidate for Vice President

Term: 2027-2028

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Ian Merker AIA, LEED AP BD+C, DBIA, is a Sacramento-based Architect and Associate Vice President at CannonDesign. He holds a B.Arch with a minor in Regenerative Studies from Cal Poly Pomona and study at the University of Strathclyde. His distinguished career includes leading complex and high-performance projects like the historic Gregory Bateson Building Renovation. A dedicated citizen architect, Ian has served as AIA California VP of Communications, on NCARB and AIA National committees, and on Sacramento's Preservation Commission, and is a past recipient of the AIA California Young Architect Award.

PHILOSOPHY, GOALS & OBJECTIVES

My leadership philosophy has been shaped by more than two decades of project delivery experience, sustained AIA service, and a deep commitment to mentorship, climate action, and design excellence. That experience is not something that distances me from emerging challenges, but is a benefit: it gives me perspective, empathy, and a practical understanding of how our ideas and plans become action. As AIA California Vice President, my goal is to be a catalyst and enabler within the new governance model. I want to help others lead, remove barriers where I can, and support champions across the organization as we address workforce shortages, emerging technologies, shifting practice demands, and the need for stronger member value. My priorities include testing governance structures that make decision making more agile, advancing advocacy and education for environmental stewardship and high performance, supporting leadership pipelines for emerging professionals, and strengthening collaboration between architects, builders, and allied organizations. I believe AIA California is strongest when it values both new energy and seasoned perspective. My experience allows me to listen carefully, connect people and ideas, and help members feel informed, supported, and empowered to navigate the future of architecture in California.