

Peter Exley FAIA Director of Architecture

Principal

Peter Exley takes fun seriously. Peter has established an internationally recognized practice of architecture for children, families, and communities, which elevates the standards of design for learning and play environments.

Peter listens to kids, clients, and communities. This multi-disciplinary approach is what distinguishes Architecture Is Fun and helps create safe, engaging projects that immerse children and families in play and exploration. As the firm's co-founder with over 25 years of experience, Peter leads the design effort, from initial concept through project realization. As the direct point of contact for project design and development, he assures that projects meet their pragmatic, quantifiable criteria: accessibility, program, budget, and schedule. Listening to the needs of children, clients, and communities, Peter considers criteria of a qualitative nature, the inspirational and developmental. Using all three criteria to inform design sets Peter's work apart, creating projects in which children are inspired to play and learn.

It is all about looking at the world with child-like wonder and understanding. Peter is an architect, Fellow, professor, artist, author and parent. He uses these forums as a living laboratory vital to the methodology of educative design, sharing passion and practice with clients and communities, students and colleagues. Champion of childhood, Peter creates archetypical learning environments and architecture for children that is recognized for the fun, education, accessibility, play, and family interaction that they provide. Through his practice, Peter nurtures a consciousness of design as a lifelong expectation and pursuit.

EDUCATION

Master of Architecture
University of Pennsylvania

Bachelor of Arts, First Class Honours
in Architecture
University of Newcastle upon Tyne

REGISTRATIONS

Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas,
Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania,
South Carolina, Texas, Wisconsin and
NCARB

CERTIFICATIONS

LEED Accredited Professional
Certified Project Management Associate,
IPMA Level D®: American Society for the
Advancement of Project Management

AWARDS

Young Architects Award, AIA Chicago
Distinguished Service Award, Illinois
Art Education Association
Excellence in Education Award, American
Institute of Architects
AIA Chicago Service Award, 2008, 1995,
and 1993

PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY AFFILIATIONS

Fellow of the American Institute of Architects
President, AIA Chicago, 2013
Design Committee Chair, AIA Chicago, 1995
Adjunct Associate Professor, School of the
Art Institute of Chicago
Youth Education Board, CAF
Co-Host Pecha Kucha Night Chicago



"It's so much
fun to be."

Lowly Worm,
from *The Busy World
of Richard Scarry*