

# GROUP MEMBERS

## DEBORAH BERKE

[www.dberke.com](http://www.dberke.com)



Deborah Berke's architecture is both bold and subtle; it is poised between the background and foreground. "It's the importance of architecture constantly shifting back and forth with the importance of life that interests me," says the Rhode Island School of Design graduate. The work of Deborah Berke Partners, the New York firm she founded in 1982, has expanded in scale and type from the firm's residential beginnings, but it remains tied to the common thread of building with this subtle elegance.

Recent high-profile commissions include three celebrated 21c Museum Hotel projects, a new Conservatory for Bard College, an award-winning ground-up residential building in Manhattan, and several distinguished residences. In addition to leading an impressive team of designers, Berke is also committed to public service and her role as a mentor and professor. "I have always conducted my life in architecture in three parallel paths: 1. in practice 2. in teaching and 3. in public service as an engaged citizen," Berke says. Over the past two decades, Berke has served as a chair of the Design Trust for Public Space and the Forum for Urban Design in New York, Chair of the Board of Advisors, Buell Center for the Study of American Architecture at Columbia University, Trustee of the Brearley School, Vice President of the AIA New York Chapter, and a Trustee of the National Building Museum. Berke has been the subject of exhibitions and has received several awards, the most recent of which is the Berkeley-Rupp Architecture Prize from the University of California, Berkeley. In conjunction with this honor, Berke was awarded the position of visiting professor at the university's College of Environmental Design. In addition to this teaching position, Berke has been a professor at the Yale School of Architecture since 1987; she has also taught at the University of Maryland, the Rhode Island School of Design, the University of Miami, and the Institute for Architecture and Urban Studies. Always one to engage many disciplines at once, Berke is also currently working on a new arts center for SUNY Fredonia, a project for New York City and the Department of Design and Construction, several hospitality projects, and another ground-up New York residential building. She will certainly use the knowing simplicity that characterizes her work to "create buildings of lasting meaning" because that, to Berke, is what it means to be an architect.