

Haril A. Pandya, AIA AIA Young Architects Award Nominee



Members of the Young Architects Award Jury

re: Nomination of Haril Pandya AIA

Haril Pandya is a force of nature.

Several years ago, as a very young professional, Pandya brought to our local AIA chapter a level of leadership and enthusiasm that energized Boston-area young professionals. He was the driving force behind the creation of our chapter's first Young Professionals Advisory Council (YPAC), which Pandya led as chair for two years before other young designers were prepared to assume significant leadership roles. Pandya's work led to the creation of a seat for YPAC's chair on our chapter's board of directors, a seat Pandya held for two years. Of special practical significance was Pandya's leadership of a YPAC design competition focusing on affordable housing that benefited Habitat for Humanity and was honored by that organization's visionary leader, Millard Fuller. Following on that success, Pandya organized a model charrette process that brought over two dozen architects, engineers and other industry professionals together at our annual convention to address/solve critical civic design challenges.

All of this, of course, represents Pandya's spare-time, volunteer initiatives. He also founded and for eight years led his own architecture firm before joining CBT, one of Boston's premier firms. Recognized as a superior project manager/designer, Pandya's work at CBT has included major projects in Boston, New York, Washington DC and other major U.S. cities. He has been profiled in Boston's leading weekly business newspaper and has been honored among the prestigious "40 under 40" designers identified by *Building Design and Construction* nationally.

Pandya is among those few extraordinary pioneers who are reinvigorating our profession by redefining the roles of our younger colleagues. His work is enlivened by a joyful spirit, a deep and broad commitment to architecture and architects, and an intellectual palette of interests and passions that define leadership.

It is a privilege to forward this nomination; thank you for your consideration.



Diane Georgopoulos FAIA
President

“Architecture is the aesthetic balance between art, science, and psychology, defining who we are and how we exist” – Haril A. Pandya, AIA NCARB

Haril A. Pandya, AIA is currently a Senior Associate and Senior Project Manager/Designer at CBT Architects in Boston. While at CBT, he has managed several significant projects and project types. Among them are Columbus Center in Boston, a \$500 million mixed-use urban redevelopment project, and several office repositioning projects totaling \$135 million for The Blackstone Group in New York, Boston, Boca Raton, Pittsburgh, Detroit and Washington, DC. He is an esteemed leader amongst his project teams and the firm. In January 2008, Haril was nominated and awarded the prestigious top “40 under 40” recognition by *Building Design + Construction* from among 275 national nominees. This award honors 40 outstanding young design and construction mavericks described by the editors as “the next generation of leadership.”

With deep interests and global success in music, filmmaking, art and photography, Haril is able to take all these strengths and passions and channel them into his profession. The lens through which he is viewed is a focused and balanced orchestration of these skills that directly contributes to his unique management style, leadership and success.

Prior to joining CBT, Haril spent eight years as Principal/Owner of Studio: Pandya Architects LLC, a certified SOMWBA and minority owned firm. He served as principal-in-charge on a number of projects allowing him to develop strong business marketing techniques through consulting with other firms, strategic alliances with developers and real estate agents, as well as self-initiated property development. Dealing mainly with high-end residential, institutional, corporate, and hospitality projects, Haril gained significant experience in team management, construction coordination, and technology implementation enabling him to hone his leadership skills and develop strong rapport with clients and contractors. The experience of managing his practice served as a spring board to larger scale projects.

Before starting his own firm, Haril was employed by several prominent firms in the Boston area including Elkus Manfredi Architects and Solomon+Bauer Architects, and Stein, Doshi & Bhalla Architects in India. He worked on high profile award winning projects for notable clients such as Disney, Tiffany’s, Pottery Barn, Putnam Investments in addition to working on projects for the Philadelphia Airport and the Albany Institute of History and Art.

Haril has a strong commitment towards the architectural community and the greater community at large. As part of his professional experience he recently served as the youngest elected member on the Board of the Boston Society of Architects and as President and Chair of YPAC, the Young Professional Advisory Council. Under Haril’s leadership YPAC organized a state-wide design competition for young designers and assisted South Shore Habitat for Humanity in coming up with a winning entry to redefine how affordable housing can be both aesthetic and economically responsible. This winning entry was presented to the founder and President of Habitat for Humanity, Millard Fuller, and recognized throughout the organization and in its publications.

As an active member of the Indian-American community, Haril has donated time, design services and fiscal support to fund two start-up schools in India for the Ekal Vidyalaya Foundation and has assisted in designing a shelter for battered women in Assam, India. He has been invited as a speaker and delegate at many Indian-American youth camps and national conferences where he participated in panel discussions focusing on the breaking down of cultural barriers. Additionally, Haril has delivered a number of university level talks on the role of cultural stereotypes at Harvard University, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Northeastern University, and Rutgers University.

Haril is an advocate of learning and sharing his knowledge with others. He has served as an architectural critic at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, locally at the Boston Architectural College, and as thesis advisor at the New England School of Art and Design at Suffolk University.

Haril's own educational background includes a Bachelor of Architecture and Bachelor of Science from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York. In addition to his academic pursuits, he was co-captain and rowed for the crew team, hosted an ongoing comedy/improv radio show, and had a short-lived, yet very successful stand-up comedy career. Yet the highlight of Haril's education was time spent in India both learning and practicing architecture. There he studied at one of the country's top architectural universities, Centre for Environmental Planning and Technology (CEPT) in the state of Gujarat, and worked with several internationally renowned architects including B.V. Doshi and Joseph Stein. Through these cross-cultural experiences Haril developed a sensitivity to cultural identity which has enabled him to embrace diversity in his practice and ultimately in his career.

When Haril is not designing or traveling, he enjoys a number of hobbies and activities. He is an avid painter and photographer, however, his main interest lies in music and film. Haril has toured the U.S. as the lead guitarist in an indo-jazz fusion group called Karyshma, produced the band's first album, and designed the band's website and marketing materials. He has been featured in numerous articles in the *Boston Globe*, *News India*, *India Today*, and has made several TV appearances for his musical accomplishments. Haril's musical audiences have included such notables as Senator Hillary Clinton, Dr. Deepak Chopra and the Hon. Prime Minister of India. His guitar playing has been considered so unique that he is showcased on the prominent Parker Guitar website as a featured artist. At the local level, Haril can often be seen and heard playing in the rock cover band Red Square at many Boston clubs. Moreover, Haril has used his musical talents for charitable causes. In 2006, Haril, his family and his band worked with Children's Hospital Boston to raise over \$6,000 for the Pediatric Cardiology Research Department in a benefit concert.

In addition to his musical performances, Haril has also co-written the score for several independent films. Most recently, Haril has co-written and produced his first 30 minute short film which will release internationally in late 2008.

Haril A. Pandya, AIA brings a fresh spirit and original creative talent to all of his professional and personal endeavors. He is the bright future of architecture and raises the level of the profession in the eyes of his colleagues, mentors, clients, and the global community. Haril has proved to be successful in every aspect of the profession from design to marketing to community relations. His positive outlook, energy and engaging personality inspires others to strive for the same levels of success.

Global Designer: *Dedication*

Haril possesses a personal design philosophy based on cultural perspective and experience. His exploration of worldwide cultures has heightened his sensitivity to and concern for the user and community in the architectural process. Haril puts forth the same level of dedication in his volunteer work with Habitat for Humanity and his various housing and educational projects in India as he does with high profile clients. He believes that through helping organizations develop sustainable and affordable prototype projects, his work will have a lasting effect beyond the single project and will positively shape communities in the future.

Effects of a Creative Lifestyle: *Balance*

Haril’s creativity is not limited to his architectural design work; in fact, it is his personal artistic endeavors that inspire him professionally. Painting, photography, and music are defining elements in Haril’s life. He approaches each with a new outlook, searching for imaginative ways of capturing or conveying his perspective.

Haril’s biggest passion is music. With over 20 years of guitar experience, he has been playing live on some of the biggest stages in major cities across the U.S. since 1995. Haril pulls his inspiration from classical Indian music and musical legends like Jimi Hendrix, Stevie Ray Vaughn and countless others. He blends Eastern rhythm and Western blues as well as a heavy dose of rock in his playing style – bringing together the intricacies of India’s musical traditions, with the improvisation of jazz, and the intensity of rock. Music has given Haril the ability to draw motivation from a wealth of sources and create something completely unique and personal.

Through the Viewfinder of an Architect: *Director*

It is always interesting to see things through the eyes of someone else. Haril’s films and movies bring together creativity, story telling, leadership and art. He has something to say and an artful and unique way to say it. Whether it’s a film about how a firm’s work can inspire others or a movie that simply inspires the viewer, Haril’s skill is visible in everything he does. His approach in film and movie making is directly linked to how he leads and manages a team. Humor, creativity, passion and leadership are all frames of a storyboard that when combined, tells a story of an individual that is truly the next generation.

Leader in Incorporating Art and Technology: *Creating Vision*

Haril is an important contributor not only to CBT’s design direction, but also to the management and future direction of the firm. He recognized the opportunity for architectural firms to utilize more of the creative talents of its employees to improve and augment the visuals currently produced. Haril is spearheading CBT’s effort to develop a Visualization Group to further enhance CBT’s graphic and motion design capabilities, thus creating a learning and discussion platform for the partners and staff. As a mentor to younger architects and fresh voice to industry veterans, Haril uses this group to educate and inspire employees to look beyond traditional visual capabilities and to look for modern solutions. Haril possesses the creative passion, design knowledge, and management skills to make this innovative group a success.

Haril is continually creating ways of successfully linking his profession, interests, and culture in all he embarks upon. Everything crosses paths and learns from the path it just crossed. Every previous aspect of Haril’s experience has cause and effect for the future. This dynamic quality makes Haril multi-dimensional and a visionary for the future of architecture and design.

Blackstone Office Repositioning: 1 Post Office Square Boston



The reinvented office market provides an opportunity for building owners to create a new design agenda for properties once coveted for their cool, iconic image. Today, with the focus on the two-story experience of the building, lobbies are being redesigned as public rooms – at a human scale – that extend toward the street to capture and contribute to the streetscape.

Blackstone Office Repositioning : 225 Franklin Street & 1 Memorial Drive

Boston

Cambridge



Office repositioning has ancillary benefits and can improve an entire district. Building re-designs that engage neighbors and offer new amenities play a major role, both financially and physically, in the health of urban centers.

Blackstone Office Repositioning: 100 High Street Boston



In big-city markets where building rooflines and profiles can provide a distinctive identity for high-rises towers, innovative lighting designs are being used to bring new visibility to old buildings.

Columbus Center



To increase livability in the City of Boston, Columbus Center is a 1.4 million square foot project in the Back Bay and South End neighborhoods that will transform air rights over the Mass Turnpike into an extension of these neighborhoods, thus creating a continuous urban fabric. The project is the result of hard work and collaboration among the development community, architects and designers, public agencies and an engaged citizenry.

The project responds to the existing development patterns with scale and massing that relates to the variety of building typologies at its edges. From the 36-story glass tower to the collection of mid-rise buildings to the four- and five-story residences, each component has a distinct identity and a recognizable referent in the neighborhoods adjacent to each building.

Columbus Center



Habitat for Humanity



The Habitat House is about building a smart, green future with an affordable home that is setting a new standard that incorporates sustainable building practices now and for future developments.

“Haril’s design has us rethinking our approach on how we build going forward. By helping us to understand that a green house can be affordable, we will be more prepared to do the right thing for the communities where we build and for the environment.”

Jerry McDermott, Executive Director,
South Shore Habitat for Humanity

BOCA



Existing facade

Marcel Breuer's 1972 vision of a corporate campus is maintained and updated to serve a new clientele and reemerge as a dramatic piece of modern architecture. A new glassy entry pavilion connects the two ends of the pre-cast building and forms a memorable new addition to this very solid structure. Other entries include glass walls with glass and stainless steel canopies to contrast with Breuer's bold forms.



CBT Movie



CBT commissioned Haril to create a multi-media solution of what makes the office fun, energetic, and collaborative. Through this multi-platform tool (DVD, web, iPod), CBT created a hip and cutting edge movie to tell the story behind the design. The film showcases the process of how CBT gets the work done and explores the unique culture of the firm, its people, diversity and work environment.

Private Residence



This 8,000-square-foot home depicts a contemporary adaptation to the Arts and Crafts movement. With a high attention to detail this Shingle style home embodies luxurious appointments and conscious design. With high ceilings and an open floor plan, this home is nestled on a three-acre site in the woods of northern New Jersey with views to Manhattan.



Albany Institute of History and Art



A regional museum housing an outstanding art collection and a major historical document archive, the Albany Institute selected Solomon+Bauer to develop a design program that would manifest with its vision for the twenty-first century. Haril worked alongside the team to develop a design solution that links the Institute's two adjacent historic landmark structures with a three-level glass lobby – a thoroughly modern element to contrast with the classically detailed buildings. The existing structures were fully restored and made accessible to the physically challenged. Additionally, to better serve the collection and non-collection uses, the interior space was reorganized and collection areas equipped with new environmental control systems.



The World of Disney



As part of the design team at Elkus Manfredi, Haril helped create the 20,000+ square-foot retail headquarters for the Disney Store located on the banks of Lake Buena Vista in amazing Downtown Disney in the Village Marketplace. Beautiful and larger than life movie icons adorn the ceilings, while millwork and custom light fixtures create a magical experience for the consumer. An Arts and Crafts style building has a beautiful Shingle style quality to the exterior with ample natural light and views to the lake. With nearby restaurants and other conveniences this centrally located store is the hub of activity for Disney retail.

Pottery Barn



Located on the famous Magnificent Mile in downtown Chicago, Haril and the project team at Elkus Manfredi designed this city block with high end luxurious retail conveniently located along North Michigan Avenue. With future expansion possibilities of a full movie theatre complex, this block offers its shoppers one stop shopping and entertainment.



Grateful to Children's for saving their son's life, a local couple throws a party, raising \$6,000 for the hospital's Pediatric Cardiology Unit.

"Tetralogy of Fallot," the doctor said. "Your baby has tetralogy of Fallot." Those strange words were scary enough to Haril and Seema Pandya, the baby's parents. Then the doctor said it was a life-threatening heart condition and things got really scary. He explained that "tetralogy" refers to four related conditions that hamper bloodflow in a newborn's heart and that Nirvan, their son, needed help right away. Within hours, Nirvan was in an operating room at Children's Hospital Boston having open-heart surgery.

The operation went well. Children's was amazing, Haril says. Everyone, especially Nirvan's cardiologist, Peter Lang, MD, were so attentive and everything was well managed. The Pandyas were especially impressed by how many families they met from all over the world, some with kids who had been at the hospital for many months. It made them realize how lucky they were to have such a world-renowned pediatric hospital only six miles from their home in Needham.

Six months later, with Nirvan doing fine, the Pandyas decided to thank Children's. Haril, an architect by trade, moonlights as lead guitarist for a local rock band, Red Square, so the solution was obvious:

throw a party at Hurricane O'Reilly's, near North Station, make it a fundraiser, charge an admission fee, ask for cash donations, hold a raffle with great prizes.

A few days later they had set up an account at a party-planning website and emailed about 200 invitations to friends, family and co-workers. Many forwarded it to friends. Haril guesses about 400 people eventually got it. The Pandyas then followed up with phone calls and hand-written invitations with an endorsement letter from Children's. They asked everyone they knew to donate raffle prizes.

The night of event they put up Children's banners and balloons at O'Reilly's and hung posters in the neighborhood. All food was donated. Guests paid for their own drinks at the bar. Their only cost was paying Red Square's sound engineer—and he accepted a lower rate to support Children's.

More than 200 friends, family members and co-workers showed up. Another 30 folks who happened to be at O'Reilly's joined the fun. "The dance was a blast," Haril says. The raffle prizes—everything from a football autographed by the New England Patriots to custom jewelry and a catered dinner for 20—were hits. Total raised for the Pediatric Cardiology Unit at Children's: \$6,000.

The Pandyas are already looking forward to next year's Red Square Winter Charity Party. They plan to make it an annual event, like another birthday for Nirvan, because Children's saved his life.

Children's Hospital

January 2007

Nirvan's Other Birthday



January of 2006, Haril, his family and his band raised over \$6000 for Children's Hospital Boston's Pediatric Cardiology at a benefit concert and charity raffle.

The Boston Globe

The Boston Globe

Haril Pandya's first description of his band, Karyshma, doesn't really do it justice.

"A lot of people have told me that we're like the Blue Man Group," he says. "You can't really describe us; you just have to go see us. Are we jazz? Well, kind of. Are we folk and rock? Yeah, you could say that, too. Nearly every rhythm you can think of you're probably going to hear in our songs."

One of the more unexpected rhythms you'll hear from Karyshma is traditional Indian music. Karyshma is a band of seven musicians, almost all of whom live in the Boston area, who play a stirring hybrid of rock, jazz, and Indian styles. Karyshma is the Urdu word for "coincidence," a reference to how two of the band members met on a blind date.

Perhaps a better way to describe Karyshma is an indie-Hindi rock band, though Pandya, who plays guitar, says he would emphasize the indie aspect more than the Hindi. "Otherwise, you get all these Bollywood associations that don't really apply to us."

Don't call it fusion, either, says Pandya. "Fusion is more like putting two styles together," he says, "whereas we're trying to create something new."

The band's debut album, "Nearly Home" (available through Amazon), makes a valiant effort to do just that. Much of the songs begin like any rock song would, with shuffling electronics and strumming guitars and laidback drumming. But then there's tabla (Indian percussion) overtures and soaring solos sung in Hindi by Falu, a classically trained Indian singer with 20 years of experience.

In the 11 years since Karyshma formed by college friends who enjoyed playing music as a hobby the band has gone from interpreting classic Indian and Bollywood styles to a more college-rock-oriented sound. Originally, they played private parties, clubs, and colleges, and almost always to a "culturally different audience," says Pandya, who lives in Needham.

In 1998, the band realized it wanted to take its music in a new

direction, "sort of an East meets West sound," Pandya says. They began composing their own songs with original lyrics, and Pandya is fond of mentioning that his bandmates have "bought into this concept that the band is a melting pot for different ideas."

"We were playing music that was from our parents' and grandparents' generation, and people just couldn't get enough of it. It had a very Indian texture to it, like a layer in a fabric that was already familiar," he says. "When we started breaking away from that and writing our own songs, we started playing to our own generation."

Pandya points out that Karyshma's new aesthetic coincided with a moment when mainstream pop acts were using South Asian musical influences. Madonna chanted up a storm in Hindi on her acclaimed 1998 album, "Ray of Light," and Indian music had also been a staple of London's underground music scene for years. So the idea of melding Indian music and American rock wasn't entirely novel, Pandya says.

In addition to Falu, Pandya's bandmates include Gaurav Shah on keyboards, flute, and vocals; Soumya Chatterjee on violin, guitar, and vocals; Sandeep Swadia on tabla; Kenwood Dennard on drum kit; and Louis Cato on bass. It's one of the most educated bands you'll find. They count among them a neurosurgeon, an architect, a Berklee College of Music professor, and two of the members are Harvard graduates.

Everyone but Cato and Dennard was born in India, and members came to the United States as recently as a few years ago, while others arrived early in their childhoods. Pandya's family moved to New Jersey when he was 10 months old. The common denominator, Pandya says, is that everyone grew up with a strong sense of Indian identity.

Pandya says the cross-pollination of cultures has never raised an eyebrow with traditionalists. His grandparents own Karyshma's album, he says. "My family doesn't have a problem with any of this," he says. "They're just glad I'm hanging on to my roots."

April 21, 2005

Indie Meets India



Haril's band, Karyshma, transcends the boundaries of music with its indo-folk-jazz-rock styles. With a CD released in 2003, *The Boston Globe* featured the group in an article on bands and music that cross cultures.

Banker & Tradesman

August 12, 2002

Young Architects Trying Hand at Affordable Housing Design

BANKER & TRADESMAN

Young architects don't always get to do a lot of designing in the early years of their professional

lives. That's why many of them take advantage of various design competitions where they can be more creative.

Now, young architects can participate in a contest that showcases their design skills and gives them a chance to help the community as well. The Young Professional Advisory Council of the Boston Society of Architects is seeking entries for its competition for modern affordable homes.

Participants are being asked to design a home for South Shore Habitat for Humanity. YPAC is seeking entries that demonstrate overall design excellence with environmentally friendly features and designs that use sustainable and cost-effective materials.

"The designer would have to be pretty sensitive and understand that this is a Habitat for Humanity project," said Haril Pandya, a YPAC member who works for Signature Design in Belmont. The design would have to "exude affordability," he said.

The competition is open to young architects in Massachusetts who graduated up to 10 years ago. The deadline for all entries is Sept. 6 and winners will be chosen in October and announced at Build Boston, the annual BSA convention and trade show.

The competition is the brainchild of members of YPAC, a BSA group that was started last September to address the concerns of young professionals in the field.

Andrew Wagner, who was YPAC's professional development administrator, wanted to do a project for the continued development of young designers and considered whether to organize a series of educational courses or create a program where "young architects were giving back to the community."

'Build Boston' Forum

Late last year, Wagner met with South Shore Habitat for Humanity and pitched his idea for a competition for modern affordable homes. At first, the nonprofit group expressed some reservations about the competition because a similar endeavor by another organization had yielded a very expensive design that was unfeasible to build given Habitat for Humanity's tight budget.

"I think they were tentative about the idea," acknowledged Wagner, who has since moved to Maine and is working for SMRT Inc. in Portland.

"With this competition, we're really addressing an area that architects have steered away from," said Jessica Zlotogura, explaining that architects typically don't focus on single residence design.

A YPAC member who works for Tsoi/Kobus & Assoc. in Cambridge, Zlotogura said that different teams within architectural offices have already mobilized to enter the competition. In fact, competitions such as this one often open the door for designers to join together and form their own partnerships, according to Zlotogura.

In late June, YPAC sent posters advertising the competition to all the design schools in New England and architectural firms in Greater Boston. The group is currently trying to recruit a panel of judges to review the entries, which will be displayed online. YPAC is hoping that the winning entry can actually be assigned as a pro bono project to a local firm and constructed.

In addition to the competition, YPAC is planning to run a live charrette at Build Boston and to conduct a survey of young architects by the end of the year.

Haril's work on the BSA's board is featured in an article on building affordable housing in Massachusetts. His association with the BSA and Habitat for Humanity was the inspiration that brought the two together to create the synergy for a new style of affordable homes.

October 8, 2008

The American Institute of Architects
 1735 New York Avenue, NW
 Washington, DC 20006

Dear Esteemed Members of the AIA Board:

We highly recommend Haril A. Pandya, AIA for the Young Architects Award. Haril brings an incredible energy to the practice of architecture which is infectious and admirable. Tomorrow's leaders will have to face unknown challenges in our profession. Haril brings to the table an excitement for the profession and passion for design, music and film which allows him to envision a future with many more interests than purely design. He has a deep understanding of ways to energize and excite clients, consultants and staff about the problems we face. The evidence of his success lies in his motivational style of management. Haril is not only a natural leader and mentor at CBT, he inspires everyone around him. Haril has recently won the *Building Design + Construction's* top "40 under 40" award.

We first met Haril as a new member of the Boston Society of Architects' Young Professional Advisory Council (YPAC). His spirit quickly was tapped to represent the group on the BSA's Board, where with wit and thoughtful discourse helped the Board better understand his generation of architect—which resulted in a broader youthful approach by the society.

Fortunately, our paths crossed again as he sought to broaden his architectural experience and joined our firm, CBT. Through his experience, drive and rapport, he quickly gained the respect of the partners, fellow staff and clients and was made Senior Associate. As a designer and project manager he brings his confident and energetic approach to solving complex problems for our most challenging development clients while managing some of the largest projects in the office. He masterfully brings people together both young and experienced to form a team to tackle each of our assignments. In addition to his management, CBT has greatly benefited from Haril's talents in music and filmmaking. He has created an innovative short film for the office describing the value of CBT's culture and people widely used for recruiting, public relations and viral internet marketing. His film skills were further used to make several short narrative films for clients to use as leasing and marketing tools. Needless to say, we have also enjoyed Haril's band at several office parties and events.

His latest addition to the success of CBT has been the creation of the Visualization Group – a group committed to broadening CBT's vision in graphics, rendering, and motion visualization techniques. In a highly competitive world of design expression and communication, CBT is grateful to have Haril increase our creative value proposition.

The Young Architects Award should highlight those who have made an imprint on the landscape but I would add that they should be individuals who will change our thinking in the years to come. I look forward to Haril's coming decades and his ability to energize our profession; he is one person our community should watch.

Sincerely,



Richard Bertman, FAIA
 Principal



Charles Tseckares, FAIA
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*Building
houses,
building
hope*

October 6, 2008

Dear Members of the AIA Board,

I am writing this letter of recommendation in support of Haril Pandya's nomination for the AIA's Young Architects Award. As Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity, South Shore Massachusetts, I am responsible for the budgeting, fundraising and the selection process of eligible families. One of my most important roles is working with corporations in an effort to build more homes for deserving families in need.

I met Haril while working with CBT Architects for a design competition for Habitat for Humanity in early 2007. Habitat was looking to reinvent the notion of affordable home design and had approached CBT Architects to help us in our efforts. CBT had engaged their staff in an in house design competition in which Haril and his team had the leading concept. The new home challenged the preconceived notions of a typical Habitat home and allowed Habitat to not only keep the home affordable but also be sustainable. The need for a prospective family to belong to a community and not be perceived as an outsider is critical to our families and this home is a welcome change to the previous Habitat model.

Since completing the design and documents for the home, Haril has remained fully integrated in the process of construction and completion. As the lead architect on this project, we rely on his skill, experience, and expertise to guide the project to success. His compassion for community service and drive to give this new home owner a chance to live their dream is evident in his work. But most of all the sense of building bonds in a community through projects like this is the cornerstone of Habitat's values, something Haril has been able to directly help deliver.

We believe that it is important for individuals and companies to remain active participants within the local community. Creating affordable housing can make a real difference in the quality of life for a community, and is essential to building stronger, healthier communities for the future. Habitat for Humanity is honored to be partnering with CBT through Haril. With Haril's leadership and passion, we will leave a lasting memory for one family, as well as help bring the local community one step closer to ensuring a viable community for the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jerry McDermott".

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Jerry McDermott
Executive Director
South Shore Habitat for Humanity

