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Van Alen Institute is a 126-year-old not-for-profit that helps create equitable cities through inclusive design.

INSTITUTE

ASLA Board of Trustees American Society of Landscape Architects 636 Eye St., NW Washington, DC 20001

Re: Nomination of Mikyoung Kim Design for ASLA Firm of the Year

Dear Trustees:

With great pleasure, I nominate Mikyoung Kim Design for the ASLA Design Firm of the Year Award. If we didn't understand the connection between public health and the public realm already, the pandemic made plain that our very lives depend on design of our shared environment. Since the founding of her studio in 1994, Mikyoung Kim and the gifted team at Mikyoung Kim Design (MYKD) have been designing environments that recognize that human beings and the natural world are one. This audacious prescience, combined with MYKD's joyous, respectful practice of engagement and exacting professional rigor, has led to creation of some of the planet's most forward looking, flat out gorgeous landscapes constructed in recent decades.

I have known Mikyoung and her firm for many years both as a friend and colleague. Currently Mikyoung serves as a Van Alen board member, helping form our vision, centering communities in shaping the places they live. MYKD's work is inspiring to me personally. For example, the firm's work with the Ford Motor Company in Detroit creates a civic landscape to unite two culturally distinct communities. Part of MYKD's strategy for the project included planting workshops with local schools to help students both understand the ecology of micro-forests and to educate the next generation of stewards. This elegant integration of education and ecology results in a typically poetic and beautiful landscape that advances equity by deploying design processes that embed deep respect for local knowledge and culture.

From the studio's beginnings in 1994, MYKD engaged a wide range of scales; two strong examples include the regionally impactful 7-mile Cheonggye River Restoration Project in Seoul, Korea to the poetic, restorative Farrar Pond Garden in Lincoln, Massachusetts. This diversity in scope and scale persists today, and the firm continues to build its iconoclastic identity for agility in crossing traditional boundaries. Current important projects include a 27-acre masterplan building on Olmsted's legacy at Science Hill at Wellesley College, and a new smart city project for the Ford researching how automated vehicles will transform cities.

Notably, inclusion and diversity in both the studio and in its choice of work have been at the core of MYKD from the beginning. Its first projects were done on a pro bono basis in underresourced East Coast neighborhoods, to develop places of respite and play. MYKD's work in Houston at the TMC 3 Innovation Hub tackles issues of resiliency in the face of extreme storm surges the city experienced over the past decade. Houston is the most diverse city in

VAN ALFN

America, and MYKD has worked to create an inclusive neighborhood park there that brings healthful design to the public realm.

The MYKD studio is interdisciplinary, integrating scientific research with cutting edge experimentation in materiality and construction. The entirety of the practice centers community engagement at all scales. In recent decades, the work focused on public health, inclusive of post-construction studies documenting the physiological and psychological impacts of landscape within healthcare institutions through post occupancy studies. Ultimately the compelling work that emerges from this intellectual rigor and depth has set a new standard for human centered placemaking.

The ASLA Design Firm of the Year Award would be a fitting recognition of these accomplishments. The award would also signal to the next generation of women of color that it is possible to create a leading firm that raises the profession's profile more broadly. For the reasons described here, I enthusiastically urge you to recognize MYKD with this year's ASLA Firm of the Year Award.

Sincerely,

Deborah Marton Executive Director

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Selected Work



mikyoung kim design has crafted an exceptional body of work that explores the intersection of human health and environmental stewardship; defining the art of ecology and restorative experiences.

For over two decades, Mikyoung Kim Design has been focused on building equitable experiences in the public landscape. Their work is shaped by healthful and resilient design that transforms our everyday lives. This interdependent ethos brings together health equity with pressing global environmental issues facing cities across the country, from Detroit, to Houston to Miami.

MYKD's work includes internationally recognized built projects, such as Seoul's Chonggye River Restoration Project in Seoul, Korea, the Crown Sky Garden, and the Learning Campus at the Chicago Botanic Garden. While their body of work has grown in scale and impact since these earlier projects, their vision remains rooted in inclusive design that brings restoration and immersive green infrastructure into our daily lives.





Since 1994, Mikyoung Kim, FASLA has been the founding principal of Mikyoung Kim Design, a ground breaking minority woman-owned firm based in Boston. With Design Leader, Bryan Chou and Technical Leader, Ian Downing, the studio has envisioned and built a wide range of cutting-edge work throughout the U.S. and beyond.

The foundation of MYKD's early work was grounded in global issues of urban sustainability and human health at a diversity of scales. From large scale projects such as the Chonggye River in Seoul, Korea which transformed 7 miles of elevated highways into a resilient riverway to the restorative Farrar Pond Garden in Lincoln, Massachusetts, their first projects brought together human and ecological resiliency.

Today, MYKD's work builds on that foundation in projects that have broad urban impact in major cities across the United States. In Detroit, Michigan, the team is developing a 21-acre Michigan Central Park in Detroit with the Ford Motor Company, transforming this historic train station into a resilient and inclusive park that brings the Mexicantown and Corktown neighborhoods together.

Mikyoung Kim Design has been focused on inclusion and diversity in a wide range of project typologies. From their early work with schools in underserved urban communities to clinical institutions with our most fragile patient populations, they have continued to build on that ethos of health and environmental equity in diverse cities such as Houston, Detroit and Miami. MYKD's current projects includes a new healthful 42-acre park in our nation's most diverse city, Houston and the first LGTBQ seniors living campus in Massachusetts. For the past 26 years, MYKD has inhabited the intersection of environmental regeneration and human resiliency to create healthier and more equitable cities.









Chicago Botanic Garden. Regenstein Learning Campus

"Mikyoung Kim Design is one of the finest design firms that I know. A prime example of the genius of their work is the Chicago Botanic Garden Learning Campus, a landscape that is at once engaging and layered while also restorative and confident. Grounded in the 21st century and rooted in tradition, it demonstrates a brilliant use of plants and landform and exemplifies the essence of who we are as landscape designers. Excellence courses through the veins of their marvelous work."

select current work: 2018-2022

Ford's Michigan Central Park Masterplan, Detroit, MI

TMC3 Innovation Masterplan, Houston, TX

Bal Harbour Waterfront Park, Bal Harbour, FL

Long Hill and Sedgwick Gardens Masterplan, Beverly, MA

Botanical Garden of the Piedmont, Charlottesville, VA

Lumpkin's Slave Jail/ Devil's Half Acre Project. Richmond, VA

Boston Children's Hospital Hale Building Gardens, Boston, MA

Children's National at Walter Reed Research Campus, Washington, DC

Northeastern University: Huntington Ave Masterplan, Boston, MA

Charlotte Gateway Transportation Hub

515 West 18th Street Gardens

MD Anderson South Campus

Tanja Waterfront Masterplan, Tangiers, Morocco

Cambridge Foundry for Innovation, Cambridge, MA

Rogers LGBTQ Seniors Housing Campus, Boston, MA

select built work: 1996-2021

Chicago Botanic Garden Learning Campus, Chicago, IL

Cheonggye Seoul River Source Point, Seoul, Korea

140 West Plaza: Exhale, Chapel Hill, NC

The Prudential Exchange, Boston, MA

LG Research Campus Gardens, Daeduk, Korea

Boston University Booth Theater, Boston, MA

University of North Carolina, Charlotte Nexus Project, Charlotte, NC

Rogers Environmental Studies Magnet School, Stamford, CT

University of Chicago, Gordon Parks Arts Hall, Chicago, IL

Salem State University: Learning Commons, Salem, MA

Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital: Crown Sky Garden, Chicago, IL

Boston Children's Hospital Healing Garden, Boston, MA

Miami Jackson Hospital: Healing Garden, Miami, FL

Zoo Miami Entry Plaza, Miami, FL

Providence Civic Center Plaza, Providence, RI

The Alexander Plaza, West Palm Beach, FL

SKYSPACE at Anaheim Transportation Center, Anaheim, CA

100 Pier 4 Plaza, Boston, MA

The Exchange at 100 Federal, Boston, MA

Avalon North Station, Boston, MA

LG Research Campus Gardens, Daeduk, Korea

LG Headquarters Bamboo Gardens, Seoul, Korea

Farrar Pond Garden, Lincoln, MA

Sellwood Bridge Gateway: Stratum, Portland, OR

Pendulum Gateway: Arts-in-Transit, Silver Springs, MD

Dulles Airport: The Pendulum, Dulles International Airport, Chantilly, VA

NJ Environmental Laboratory. Trenton, NJ

U.S. Federal Courthouse: Fluid Light, Wheeling, WV

Brookline Place Park, Brookline, MA



"Ford chose Mikyoung Kim Design because we truly believe MYKD represents the future of landscape architecture with Mikyoung's inspiring blend of artistry, technology and ecology. MYKD has taken extraordinary care to restore the Michigan Central Station site's ecosystem – an urban tree canopy that reflects the entire state of Michigan, creative reuse of stormwater, introduction of pollinator habitat all come together for an immersive natural environment. We were confident when we hired MYKD, we would get a public landscape that was unique and responsive to the community. One that celebrates the site in its first century of history as a train station, and embraces the future of this property as a hub for inventing the future of mobility for the next century."



Recognition & Achievements

Select Firm Awards

Fast Company World's Most Innovative Architects, Top Ten List for Innovative Companies, 2019

Cooper Hewitt Smithsonian Museum Design Award, Landscape Architecture Firm Award, 2018

Architizer Groundbreaker Award, Best Landscape Architects on the Planet, 2017

Fixr, Top 100 Influencer's in the Landscape Architecture and Design, 2018

Architectural Digest Magazine, AD Innovator, 2015

Boston Society of Architects, Women in Design Award of Excellence, Winner, 2015

ASLA National Design Awards

ASLA Honor Award, **Analysis and Planning Award**The Piedmont Botanic Garden

ASLA Honor Award, **General Design,** Chicago Botanic Garden, Regenstein Learning Center

ASLA Honor Award, **General Design** Chicago Crown Sky Garden

ASLA Honor Award, **General Design** Chongae Seoul River Project

ASLA Honor Award, **Residential Design** FlexFENCE Farrar Pond Residence

ASLA Honor Award, **General Design** LG Research Center Garden

American Society of Landscape Architects **ASLA Design Medal**

Select National and International Awards

Fast Company Innovation Awards, World Changing Ideas Award, TMC3 Innovation Campus

Architizer A+ Award, World's Best Urban Design & Masterplan, Boston Children's Green Masterplan

Fast Company's Innovation by Design Award, Innovative Design, Boston Children's Hospital Green Masterplan

Chicago Athenaeum Design Awards, Design Excellence in Environments, The Prudential Plaza at 888 Boylston

Architects Newspaper Best of Design, Landscape Design, Honorable Mention: Chicago Botanic Garden Regenstein Learning Center

LIT Design Award, Honorable Mention: University of North Carolina Nexus Plaza

Chicago Athenaeum Design Awards, Design Excellence in Environments, Winner: Boston Children's Hospital Main Healing Garden

Architects Newspaper, Best of Design Award: Unbuilt Landscape, Winner: Boston Children's Hospital Green Masterplan

AIA Boston Design Award, Design Excellence, Boston University Booth Arts Plaza

CODA Awards, Best of Environmental Design Award, University of North Carolina Nexus Plaza

LIT Design Award, Honor Award for Lighting: The Prudential Plaza at 888 Boylston

A' Design Award, Landscape Planning and Garden Design, Chicago Botanic Garden

American Architecture Prize, Design Award, The Prudential Plaza at 888 Boylston

American Architecture Prize, Design Award, Chicago Botanic Garden, Regenstein Learning Center

Recognition & Achievements

Select National and International Awards

Architizer, A+ Award, Landscape & Planning, Chicago Botanic Garden

American Architecture Prize, Design Award, 100 Pier 4 Plaza

Americans for the Arts, Public Art Network Award of Excellence, Miami Jackson Hospital: Healing Garden

CODA Awards, Best of Healthcare Design Award, Miami Jackson Hospital: Healing Garden

Architizer A+ Award, 140 West Urban Plaza

A+ Design Award, Landscape and Garden Awards, 140 West Urban Plaza Exhale

Urban Waterfront Center Commission, Honor Chongae Seoul River Project

Harvard University, **Veronica Rudge Green Prize** Urban Design: Chongae Seoul River Project

AIA Connecticut Award, Built Project, Rogers Environmental Magnet School

ASLA Boston, Honor Award for Housing and Community Development: Levinson Plaza

select publications + press

Boston Magazine, April 2020, "Six Ways Urban Spaces May Change Because of Coronavirus" by Rachel Kashdan

Architect Magazine, February 2020, "Nine Architectural Lighting Designers Identify Innovations and Ideas for 2020 and Beyond" by Murrye Bernard

Metropolis Magazine, June 2019, "At the Chicago Botanic Garden, a New Space Helps Kids Deeply Engage With Nature" by Anjulie Rao

Fast Company, 2019. "The World's Most Innovative Companies."

INC Magazine 2019. "Here's One Industry where Diversity is Thriving". By Ayse Birsel

CLAD Magazine, 2019, "Interview: Mikyoung Kim" by Kath Hudson

Metropolis Magazine, July 2019 "4 Innovative Urban Landscape Projects From Around The World" by Metropolis Editors

Public Radio Washington DC WAMU: Interview "What's with the Kaleidoscopic Tower in DC?

The Guardian, May 2016, "Story of Cities: The Reclaimed Stream Bringing Life To The Heart of Seoul" by Colin Marshall

National Geographic. April 2016. "Urban Parks: Bringing NAture Closer to Home"

Architectural Digest, September 2015, "AD Innovator: Mikyoung Kim" by Alyssa Bird

ABC News Magazine, October 2015, "Designing Beauty" by Jean Lightman

Timber Press, October 2015, "The Inspired Landscape" by Susan Cohen

Phaidon Press, 2015, "30:30 Landscape Architecture" by Meaghan Kombol

New York Times, March 2014, "Summoning Nature for Healing" by Julie Lasky

Landscape Architecture Magazine, March 2014, "Illuminating Knowledge" by Marty Carlock

The Wall Street Journal, April 2014. "Mikyoung Kim Shares her Favorite Things" By Lindsey Taylor

Surface Magazine, March 2014. "Performance Piece" by Jacqueline Kihu

Architectural Record, March 2014. "Snapshots: A Fence int eh Forest". by Seth Broome

Landscape Architecture Magazine, August 2013, "You Must Engage: An Interview with Mikyoung Kim" by Gary Hilderbrand

Thames & Hudson, August 2011, "Futurescapes: Designers for Tomorrow's Outdoor Spaces" by Tim Richardson

Dwell Magazine, February 2009, "On the Fence" by Michael Grozik

The New York Times, July 2009, "Peeling Back Pavement: Watery Havens" by Andrew Revkin

The Monacelli Press, November 2009, "A Clearing in the Woods: Creating contemporary Gardens by Roger Foley

Recognition & Achievements



Mikyoung Kim Design has shaped a remarkable body of work in a broad range of contexts in the United States, East Asia and the Middle East. The firm is recognized for culturally significant designs that contribute to shaping the public realm in our cities where we face the realities of denser and more chaotic urban landscapes. MYKD has brought the eye and hand of an artist and the insights of a designer to the pressing ecological issues that face every project around the globe. Furthermore, the firm has sustained a community of designers and thinkers who are pushing the boundaries of ordinary practice in design to engage with art, science, and the humanities in extraordinary ways.

Thaisa Way, Director of Garden and Landscape Studies **Dumbarton Oaks**













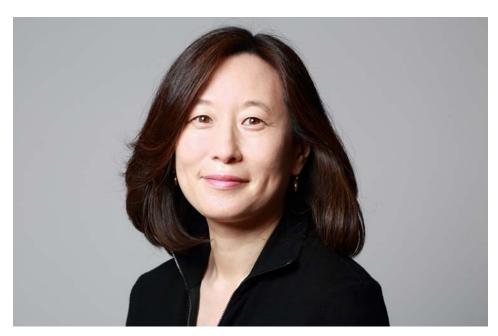
Firm Biographies



Wellesley College Science Hill Masterplan

"I had the pleasure of working with Mikyoung Kim Design on the Crown Sky Garden. This empty space held the hopes, dreams and aspirations for so many different people. What impressed me was how Mikyoung and her team listened to our patients and really heard what was important to them. They grasped how the design of this space could play an important role in the healing of our patients, families and our staff, who do emotionally challenging work every day."

Mikyoung Kim FASLA Founding Principal



Mikyoung Kim is the founder of Mikyoung Kim Design. For over two decades, Mikyoung has crafted an exceptional body of work that explores the intersection of art and science; defining the art of ecology and restorative experience. Her firm functions as an idea lab; a think tank of innovative landscape architects, urban designers, architects, graphic designers, and artists. As a multi-disciplinary office, their ideas emerge through a responsive and collaborative approach that imagines possibilities across disciplines. From the Chongae River Restoration Project to the Crown Sky Garden, her firm's work focuses on creating human habitats that bring about health and well-being.

In 2019, Mikyoung Kim Design was named by Fast Company as one of the most innovative architecture firms in the world. Mikyoung is the recipient of both the Cooper Hewitt Smithsonian Museum National Design Award and the American Society of Landscape Architects National Design Medal. She has been named as an AD Innovator by Architectural Digest, as well as receiving over fifty national and regional design excellence awards from leading organizations such as the ASLA, the Harleston Parker Medal, the American Architecture Prize, and the American Institute of Architects. Her work is part of the Smithsonian Museum's "American Voices Collection." From the Harvard Graduate School of Design, Mikyoung 's work has been a recipient of the Veronica Rudge Green Prize.

From 1994 to 2011 Mikyoung was a full time Landscape Architecture faculty member at the Rhode Island School of Design where she served both as an educator and Department Head. During her tenure as a professor, she worked closely with students bridging the gap between academics and practice with numerous funded initiatives. Her work with the Sol Le Witt Foundation yielded four summer and winter programs in Praiano Italy, developing an art campus along the Amalfi Coast.

Mikyoung has served on numerous juries, including chairing the ASLA student awards in 2006 and serving on the ASLA Design Awards Jury for two years. She has been on the ASLA Fellows jury, the LAF Scholarship Jury, and has been on the committee to select the Rome Prize Fellowship in Design. Mikyoung has lectured extensively throughout the U.S. with speakerships at Yale University, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Stanford University, the Chicago Art Institute and the National Building Museum in Washington D.C.

Bryan Chou ASLA Design Leader



Bryan Chou is the senior design leader at Mikyoung Kim Design. Bryan's design leadership has resulted in numerous awards from the ASLA, AIA, and Architizer. He has extensive experience with custom fabrication and material innovation in landscape architecture and public art. Bryan is a registered Landscape Architect. He has taught at the Harvard Graduate School of Design and has been a guest critic at the Rhode Island School of Design.

Collaborating with Mikyoung, he leads the design for Michigan Central with the Ford Motor Company and the Bal Harbour Waterfront Project. His project experience includes Boston University's Booth Theater, the Brookline Place Park and the Rogers LGBTQ Seniors Housing Campus. Bryan has presented at numerous conferences, including the Greater and Greener Parks Conference and Cooper Hewitt's Design Fair. He has also participated in numerous diversity and inclusion workshops with high schools within the Boston area in Brighton and Roxbury to continue to expand the diversity of students joining the profession.

Bryan is active in the local and national design community and has served as a jury member Philadelphia Airport Image Maker Competition and the Boston Society of Landscape Architects' 2019 awards program.. He is currently serving as a member of the 2018-19 Urban Land Institute (ULI) Pathways to Inclusion Cohort, which is designed to foster connections amongst minority Boston real estate leaders. Bryan is a registered Landscape Architect and holds a masters in landscape architecture from the Rhode Island School of Design and a bachelors in Community and Environmental Planning from the University of Washington.

Ian Downing ASLATechnical Leader



lan Downing is the senior technical leader at Mikyoung Kim Design overseeing all construction and material decisions in the studio. Under lan's leadership, the firm's commitment to innovative and timeless detailing and design begins at conceptual design. For over a decade, lan has been responsible for managing Mikyoung Kim Design's projects throughout the entirety of the process, from the initial visioning and planning through final construction and implementation. He has a deep commitment to reshaping the urban landscape and creating spaces that engage.

lan's interest in understanding new materials and the latest cutting edge processes shapes his evolving technical knowledge. His recently completed work includes the Children's National Research & Innovation Campus, Harvard University Countway Library, and the TMC3 Innovation Campus Masterplan. The studio's work is also shaped by lan's architectural interest, integrating landscape scaled innovative architectural designs. His collaborative process includes the development of teams for our complex projects which integrates local fabricators into the process.

The projects he has led have received numerous awards including national awards from the American Society of Landscape Architects, the American Architecture Prize and the Tucker Design Awards. Ian has extensive experience with LEED projects and with implementation of environmentally responsible and sustainable designs strategies. Ian holds a Bachelors and Master of Architecture from the Wentworth Institute of Technology

Firm Biographies

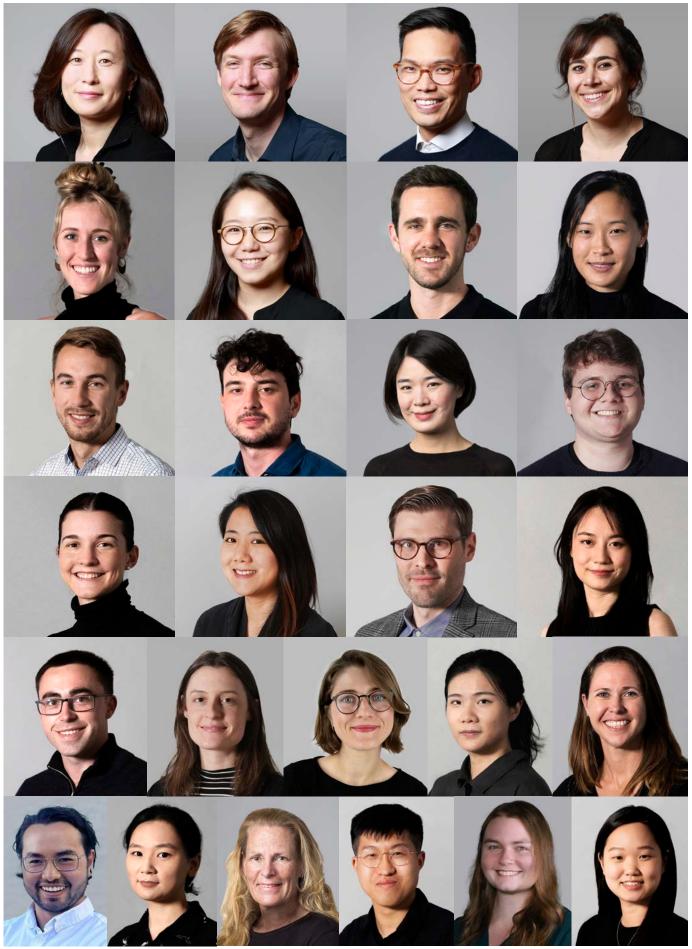


Long Hill and Sedgwick Gardens

"Mikyoung Kim Design used their exceptionally personal creative process to create a master planning vision for three Trustees properties at transformative moments: Stevens Coolidge House and Garden, Long Hill and Sedgwick Gardens, and Armstrong Kelley Park. Each involved dedicated, respectfully sincere, listening sessions with the community, with project staff, and with volunteer committees. Through the process, MYKD blended careful thinking with a creative process that builds artistic innovation out of a groundswell of ideas. This is a team that listens to the smallest details while framing the big picture; respects historic legacy while crafting bold new ideas; and ignites imagination along a clear path for exploration and discovery."

Jocelyn Forbush

Acting President & CEO of The Trustees of Reservations







"Mikyoung Kim Design is known for their healing gardens which harnesses the scientifically proven restorative power of the natural world" The Wall Street Journal



At the Chicago Botanic Garden, the landscape encourages children's sensory discovery of the natural world...and exploration that entices kids with imaginative free play"

Metropolis Magazine



"Spectacular. This is a landmark project with great promise for the future. We love the culture and symbolism. It changes so dramatically at different water levels!"

ASLA National Honor Award. General Design 2009 Urban Waterfront Center Commission, Honor Award 2010



"Cities from Singapore to San Antonio has been resuscitating rivers and turning storm drawings into streams...inspired by Seoul's example"

New York Times "Peeling Back Pavement to Expose Watery Havens"



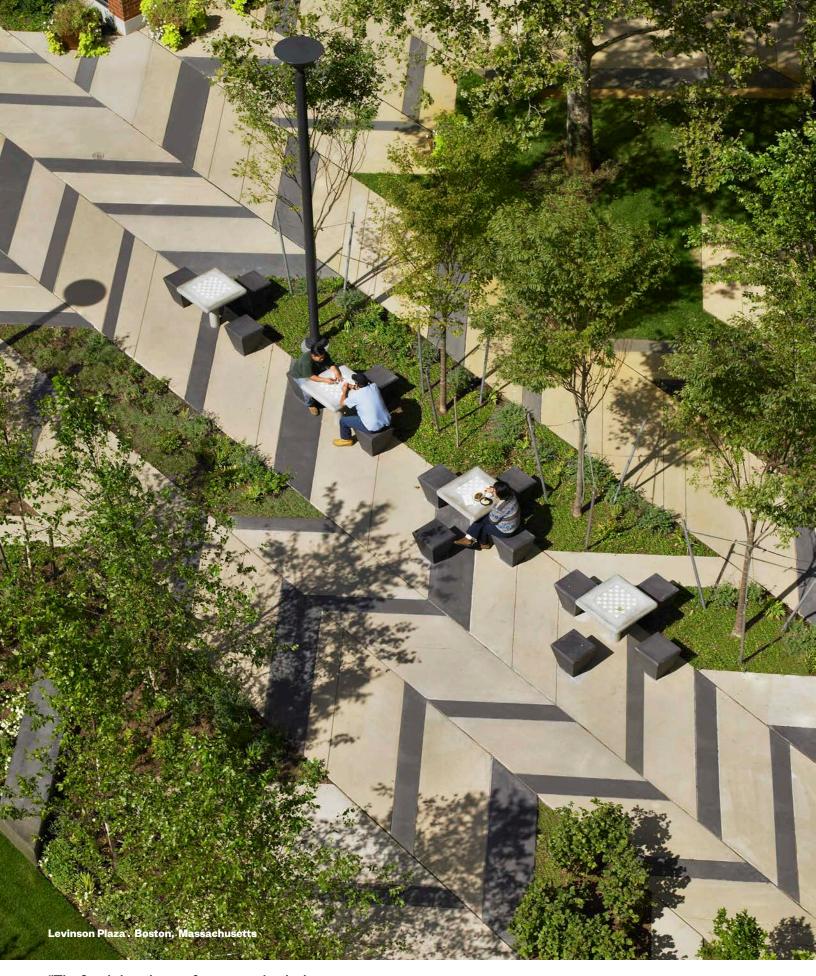
ophe Crown Sky Garden. Chicago Lurie Children's Hospital



"Mikyoung Kim is regarded as an artful weaver of nature and sculpture" New York Times. "Summoning Nature for Healing"



"A celebrity moment for moss...trading grass for the forest groundcover"



"The firm is best known for spaces that invite visitors to reboot"



140 West Plaza. Chapel Hill, North Carolina

LIT Design Award, Honor Award for Lighting Architizer A+ Award. Landscape Design A' Design Award. Landscape and Planning



"Mikyoung Kim Design is known for their healing gardens which harnesses the scientifically proven restorative power of the natural world" The Wall Street Journal