

# IKGD

architecture



Transurban Express Lanes Operations Center - *Photography by Ron Blunt Photography*

## Creative Design Culture, Timeless Results

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Developing unique environments tailored to the culture of particular clients seems to be a fundamental understanding of any architectural firm. To take such an understanding from knowledge to fruition is another matter entirely. At KGD Architecture, an award-winning, certified small and minority-owned design, interiors, and planning firm based in the Washington, DC metropolitan area that provides services both nationally and internationally, there is an integrated, creative process providing clients with high quality, goal driven design which serves to enhance their business and culture.

Founded in 1995 as Kishimoto, Gordon, the firm changed to Kishimoto, Gordon, Dalaya in 2003, and rebranded to KGD Architecture in 2011. KGD's commitment to quality has resulted in numerous design awards in recognition of design excellence and environmental stewardship. Their experience includes corporate and commercial office, retail, mixed-use, multi-family residential, institutional, and sustainable design projects.

With the creative design culture and creative energy of the firm, the success of KGD Architecture has always been about good design. "It is our belief that good design brings real value to any project," explains firm principal and founder Ben Kishimoto. "Well thought out,

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Association for Manufacturing Technology



AIA and NAIOP Award-Winning REHAU North American Headquarters – Photography by Boris Feldblyum



NAIOP Office Building of the Future Competition Honorable Mention

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appropriately tailored solutions result in successful spaces. A successful space or building is one that visually communicates the client's values, history and culture while enhancing the performance, purpose and function of the organization. Design should positively influence productivity, effectiveness and the overall sense of well-being."

It is interesting to note that while KGD Architecture is an expert in sustainable design, they do not market themselves as such. "We do not bill ourselves as a sustainable design firm, and that is because our belief is that sustainable design is just part of good design. It is about housing people and businesses based on their environment, and good design

that is market driven," states architecture director Tom Donaghy. "Sustainable design is just common sense. A building designed correctly will not date itself in ten years," adds Ben. "The built environment must meet the standards set forth today and remain an asset throughout its occupancy. Sustainability in its purest sense is about creating a designed environment that will stand up to the test of time, both functionally and aesthetically. In regards to "green" design, we are adept at determining the most appropriate response for each client in order to meet their goals and budget."

KGD Architecture certainly has numerous strengths, and at the forefront is the firm's diversity. This diversity starts with the firm's leadership and extends to their ability to take on numerous project types. The firm's three principals - Tsutomu Ben Kishimoto, Christopher Gordon, and Manoj

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701 Arlington Road Residences

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Dalaya – each have unique strengths that allow KGD to understand and meet client expectations and needs. Having an extensive history of being a corporate campus office specialist, KGD has expanded to several other market segments such as multi-family and local government municipalities.

With each separate project, KGD Architecture ensures a very personalized experience for the client. The principals are always hands-on and client participation is part of the creative process throughout. “Our ability to listen, comprehend and ask the right questions is proven. KGD does not have a

singular design aesthetic,” explains Principal Christopher Gordon. “Design is not a style. Design is a process by which we discover who our clients are and how to convey that message, culture and image through the built environment. A matrix may tell us size, office standards and functions, but the process and our abilities will create a space or building that reflects the client’s identity.”

Each project also has a core team, which is different for each project. “Our team at KGD strives to provide the best possible service to our clients. To this end we form a dedicated team for each project. This team will follow the project from beginning to end,” says Principal Manoj Dalaya. “We

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Arlington Mill Residences



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AIA and NAIOP Award-Winning KGD Architecture Studio – Photography by Jeff Wolfram



AIA and NAIOP Award-Winning Winkler Family Trust Headquarters - Photography by Jeff Wolfram



LEED Platinum, IIDA Award-Winning Tower Companies Headquarters - Photography by Ron Blunt Photography

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utilize BIM (Building Information Modeling) as well as other powerful visualization tools for design decision-making. We are continually evolving innovative ways to integrate time-proven design methodologies with up-to-date technologies. We actually use iPads in the field to work with contractors, which is very efficient. Our comprehensive approach to project design allows for a client's vision to be fully realized."

A major component of such successful project teams are the employees themselves. Taking pride in hiring and retaining the most professional and experienced staff has been a priority of KGD since its inception. It is also very important that all the firm's employees thrive in the open culture that KGD offers to all. "We encourage collaboration. Everything is wide open in the office and everything accessible," explains Tom. "People are encouraged to say anything constructive and be part of the creative process. The way we work is very horizontal. Everybody has good ideas and we rely on these ideas to provide value to each project. This allows us to get to know each other."

Another major strength that KGD Architecture brings to every project is their strong relationships with the industry's most respected contractors. "We work with the people that take pride in their work," affirms Ben. "They need to have shared vision with the client. What is the most

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important thing is that everyone on the design and construction team understands we are not designing monuments to ourselves. We are an extension of the

client and their needs.

Ultimately, that makes every project a success.”

With so many successful projects to reference, it was not hard to get some very positive quotes from some very satisfied clients.

The following are but a handful of the quotes from clients that continue to partner with KGD Architecture time and again:

“We are very happy with KGD’s

interior architecture services and love our new offices. KGD’s forward-thinking and ingenuity led our project to be a success.”

*Sherry K. Hirst, Bureau of Land Management*

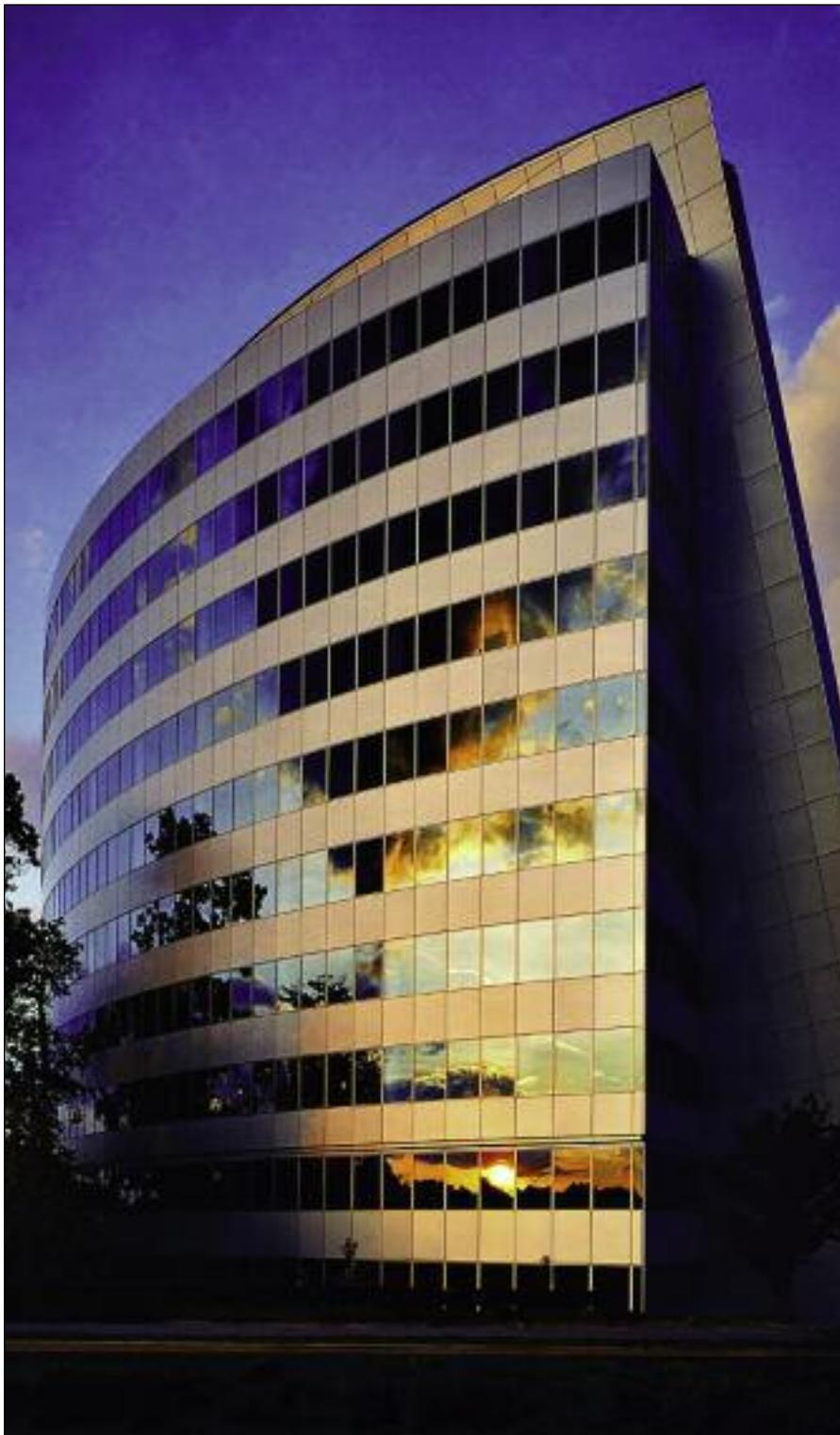
“I can say without reservation that you listened carefully and exceeded our very high expectations.

The building is truly amazing!”

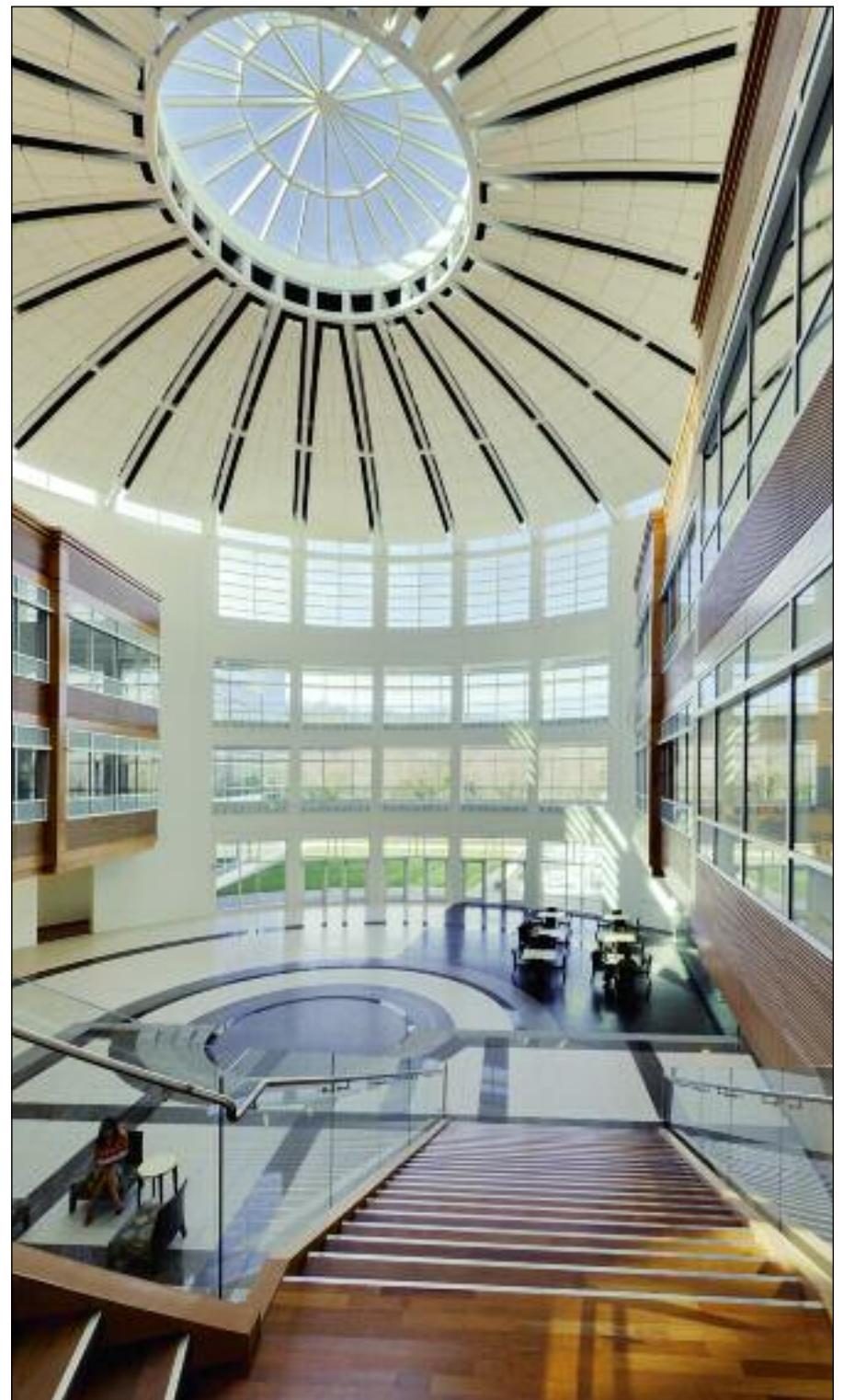
*Joe Siekierski, Past Vice President NRUCFC*

“From the first day I was impressed with KGD’s architect’s ability to sketch a conceptual design capturing exactly what we were envisioning. Throughout the schematic design process KGD absorbed both our requirements and design requests always considering the nuances and program requirements of a medical building. They responded quickly to

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NAIOP Award-Winning The Tower Building - Photography by Sisson Studios



Signatures of Loudon Pace Setter NRUCFC - Photography by John Cole Photography

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changes, making creative adaptations to the master plan as needed.”

*Parag Shah, President Health Prime International, LLC*

Being responsive to clients and contractors alike is something that KGD delivers throughout the project timeline. “We love what we do and have a passion for excellence,” explains Chris. “We are always very hands-on as the leadership team, and that helps us maintain the attention to detail that we demand and our clients and contractors have come to expect and appreciate.” Making

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LEED Platinum, NAIOP Award-Winning 2000 Tower Oaks Boulevard - Photography by Ron Blunt Photography



NAIOP Award-Winning Transurban Express Lanes Operations Center - Photography by Ron Blunt Photography

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the client experience as personalized as possible is of utmost importance to make sure the client feels part of the creative process. “We differentiate ourselves from our competitors by making clear our efficient process, smart design, and effective solutions,” adds Manoj. “KGD design is always meant to be timeless, being durable both in terms of aesthetics and practicality.”

Looking forward, KGD Architecture has a future as bright and exciting as it's past. Seventeen years ago, a fledgling architecture and design firm decided that embracing sustainable design and

innovation, being market responsive with attention to detail, and having a team of the most responsive and knowledgeable leaders in the industry available on every project would meet their client's needs. “We believe in our clients' missions and embrace their challenges as our own. Our collaborative approach enables results that are sustainable, kinetic, and passionate, creating environments that enrich and inspire,” states Ben. By valuing integrity, fairness, respect and accountability KGD Architecture has set a standard in design that continues to make them one of the most respected firms locally, nationally and internationally. Utilizing a creative design culture, KGD Architecture will be enhancing the performance, purpose and function of their client's organizations for a long time to come. Now that's timeless results.

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*Cates Engineering is proud to have partnered on design teams with KGD Architects. We share their passion for excellence and their ability to find innovative ways to meet the client's needs and align with the client's mission to create a successful project. We sincerely appreciate past opportunities, and look forward to working with KGD on future endeavors.*

Cates Engineering provides structural consulting services nationwide, for a wide variety of building types and systems. Our diversified staff utilizes the latest analysis and design methods and software to provide cost-competitive designs that exceed our clients' expectations.



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