

SECTION 1 SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS

SUMMARY

Driven by the belief that architecture fosters healing and renewal, Mike attained leadership in the politically and emotionally charged World Trade Center redevelopment demonstrating how and why architects can, and should, spearhead major public commissions.

For more than a decade, Mike has been at the center of decision making and planning for the redevelopment of Ground Zero. As the Architect of Record and Design Manager for the World Trade Center Transportation Hub (HUB), he effectively maintained the integrity of the project's architectural design amidst the never-ending political, economic, and social challenges posed by such a technically complex and emotionally evocative project.

Mike's decades long career delivering complex, public urban redevelopment and transportation projects provided the unique combination of technical and managerial qualifications needed for his pivotal role at the WTC. His work on Norfolk's Waterside and Town Point Park, directing and coordinating professional services to a public agency and a non-profit developer, activated Norfolk's downtown waterfront. Achieving consensus amongst multiple stakeholders was key to completing Richmond's 6th Street Marketplace on time and budget. Skillfully managing a joint venture and the seemingly dissimilar agendas and programs of multiple transit agencies, a convention center operating authority and the public redevelopment agency assured their fusion in the design of the Atlantic City Convention Center/Rail Terminal.

Mike's history with the HUB is as long and complex as the project itself. He was summoned to the project in March 2004 from STV's Philadelphia area office to join the Downtown Design Partnership (DDP), the joint venture of STV and DMJM/Harris (now AECOM). DDP in association with Santiago Calatrava as design architect was engaged by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PANYNJ) to design the HUB. Mike, the 4th architect to assume the role as Architect of Record, managed to transcend conflicts among countless agendas and to empower the DDP team to create a world-class project that will not only host 250,000 users each day, but will also honor the memory of those lost on 9/11.

The HUB, as the primary transportation node in Lower Manhattan, is the only freely accessible public building at the World Trade Center (WTC) and the one that interfaces with all other projects at the site. The need for physical integration among the projects compelled Mike to step forward as an essential facilitator, propelling collaboration among the numerous design teams working on the high-profile office towers (including the one formerly known as the Freedom Tower) and the 9/11 Memorial/Museum/Pavilion. Given the number and diversity of the stakeholders involved, elected officials, developers, municipal and federal agencies, contractors, and 9/11 family and survivor organizations, Mike also had to serve as negotiator and steadfast advocate of design. He took on these roles, while artfully guiding the intricacies of mitigating on-site natural and human risks and coordinating the logistics of constructing a structure of unprecedented complexity, simultaneously maintaining uninterrupted train service at the site.

Mike is proud of his work of this past decade, and since the beginning has been drawn to the task of publicly sharing the story of this historic, complex and unprecedented redevelopment in Lower Manhattan. He has willingly shared his time and experience with design and building practitioners through presentations to AIA chapters and related professional organizations, while also telling the story to the general public through his role in the nationally televised documentary, ***Rising: Rebuilding Ground Zero.***

The HUB at Ground Zero will be recognized as a key public space and site of renewal for generations to come, and though Mike's name will be unknown to most visitors, the impact of his work – as an ambassador, design advocate, risk manager, facilitator, construction coordinator and public historian for the project – will be experienced by all.

