

January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021

**SENIOR ASSOCIATE, ASSOCIATES & DIRECTOR NAMED IN  
EXPANSION OF DIAMOND SCHMITT ARCHITECTS' DESIGN &  
MANAGEMENT TEAMS**

BIOGRAPHIES:



**Liviu Budur, Senior Associate**

Liviu Budur is a graduate of the Ion Mincu University of Architecture and Urbanism, Bucharest, Romania. During his past 15 years with DSA he has applied his design experience to a wide range of residential, institutional and healthcare projects with a strong focus on sustainable design and building envelope. He is a LEED Green Associate, accredited by the Canadian Green Building Council. Mr. Budur has taken a lead role in numerous residential projects and high-rise buildings. Recent works on which he was project architect include the 43-storey Pace Condominium in Toronto and the 55-storey Transit City Tower 3 condominium in Vaughn Metropolitan Centre, Vaughan, Ontario. Currently, he is leading the Diamond Schmitt Architects team on King Toronto, a mixed-use development.



**Erin Broda, Associate**

Erin is a licensed architect with the Ontario Association of Architects and is a Passive House Certified Designer. Erin brings a wide range of experience to her architectural practice. She has worked in landscape architecture as well as urban design, in public space planning for campuses, and large-scale infrastructure and municipal projects. Since joining Diamond Schmitt in 2014, her design work includes the Whitchurch-Stouffville Leisure Centre & Library, University of Michigan's Weiser Hall, and the York Woods Library and Theatre in Toronto.



**Jeff Geldart, Associate**

For Jeff Geldart "...If the building does not meet the needs of its occupants, then the rest is superfluous." Jeff believes that this understanding becomes the root of any great piece of architecture. He holds a Master of Architecture, Yale University. Throughout his professional career Jeff has designed for both institutional and private sector clients. Some of his more notable institutional projects have included work with Wentworth County and Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. One Developments, Lifetime Developments and Kylemore Communities are among his residential accomplishments. Since joining Diamond Schmitt in 2019, Jeff has worked as the Senior Architect on the Ottawa Public Library and Library Archives Canada Joint Facility and the Okotoks Arts and Learning Campus in Alberta. Jeff is currently based in Calgary.



**Mehdi Ghiyaei, Associate**

Mehdi Ghiyaei sees design as a research method to push the boundaries of our common spatial experience. He studied philosophy and architecture at SBU in Tehran and Ryerson University in Toronto and received his Master of Architecture degree in 2012. Before joining Diamond Schmitt in 2013, he worked on a wide range of projects in Asia, Europe and South America for five years. His expertise and passion for the design process, computational design, and complex geometries helped him excel in performing art typology and made him a key contributor to many projects such as David Geffen Hall in New York, London Symphony Orchestra competition, Den Bosch Theater competition in the Netherlands, and Buddy Holly Hall for Performing Arts and Science in Texas.



**Stephanie Huss, Associate**

Designing for performing arts groups and educators has influenced Stephanie's approach to planning and project management. Inspired by their visionary ideals, she employs a design methodology based on optioneering and client feedback to create spaces that promote inclusivity, creative expression, and critical thinking. Stephanie Huss studied architecture at McGill University in Montreal where she obtained a Bachelor of Science in Architecture and a Master of Architecture. Since joining Diamond Schmitt in 2013. Her most notable team projects include David Geffen Hall at Lincoln Centre, Memorial Hall at Marlborough College UK, Buddy Holly Hall in Lubbock, Texas, Laurentian University Campus Modernization in Sudbury, and Parkside Student Residence in Toronto.



**Sid Johnson, Associate**

The highlights of Sid Johnson's work at Diamond Schmitt include the Oakridge Civic Centre, University of British Columbia's Undergraduate Life Sciences Teaching Laboratories, the City of Vancouver Archives, the Edmonds Library in Burnaby, and currently, the new Cameron Community Centre and Library. He has dedicated over 30 years to the Vancouver design and construction community. Sid had been a ten year collaborator with the firm prior to joining DSA in 2018. He has assisted on and directed a variety of project types including libraries, schools, public and community projects, office buildings, residential developments and resorts. Sid is involved in all aspects of a project from schematic design and program analysis through to construction administration.



**Helmut Klassen, Associate**

Helmut Klassen has over twenty years of professional experience in architecture. Before joining Diamond Schmitt in 2016, he developed expertise in the typology of museums, galleries, and archives working with Lundholm Associates, the nationally recognized museum planning firm. His project work at Diamond Schmitt includes the Ingenium Collections and Conservation Centre in Ottawa, a new collection facility for Reynolds-Alberta Museum, a strategic action plan for a new art gallery, museum, and performance complex for Vernon, British Columbia, the Ottawa Public Library – Library Archives Canada Joint Facility, the relocation of the City of Vancouver Archives in the iconic Central Library, and currently, the SAM Centre for the Calgary Stampede.



**Persis Lam, Associate**

Persis Lam is a Toronto-based architect, born and raised in Vancouver, BC. Her practice is inspired by collaborative and beautiful design rooted by site and user relationships. Since joining Diamond Schmitt in 2002, Persis has a wide breadth of experience from dense urban developments such as The Hudson condominium, and the Prince Arthur Medical Clinic, to complex labs and programs at the Papadakis Integrated Sciences Building at Drexel University, the Queen's University School of Medicine and the Waterworks Food Hall. Persis also contributes to mentorship and advocacy of the profession in spearheading the Diversity and Inclusion taskforce at Diamond Schmitt Architects and is on the executive committee of BEAT.



**Cameron Turvey, Associate**

Cameron maintains a belief that there is the potential for any project to achieve "Gesamtkunstwerk" or total work of art, regardless of the circumstances under which it was conceived. Since joining Diamond Schmitt in 2008 Cameron has taken the opportunity to participate in a wide range of complex institutional projects from teaching and research laboratories to hospitals and museum facilities. More recently he has been extensively involved with mixed use high rise residential/commercial. Cameron Turvey has a commitment to design integrity through incorporating materials research, environmental considerations, visualization, and surrounding context into daily practice.



**Javier Zeller, Associate**

Javier has taught architectural history and design as a lecturer and adjunct professor at the University of Toronto and is a strong advocate for design culture within the DSA's studios. He is a member of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada, serves on the steering committee for Diamond Schmitt's internal continuing education program and is a frequent contributor to industry publications. Since joining Diamond Schmitt in 2006, he has brought his curiosity, attention to detail and innovative design solutions to a wide variety of projects including the Peter Gilgan Centre for Research & Learning at SickKids Hospital in Toronto, the Queens University School of Medicine, the Lunenburg County Lifestyle Centre in Bridgewater, the KPMG Tower at Vaughan Metro Centre, and the Public Health Ontario laboratories at MaRs.



**Haley Zhou, Associate**

Haley Zhou values the careful balance between rich narratives, thoughtful execution, and a collaborative workflow. Coming from a family of teachers, he has always been interested in exploring the positive impact a learning space can have on its occupants and community. Since first joining Diamond Schmitt in 2010 Haley has contributed to a variety of project types with a focus on academic projects, including Lazaridis Hall at Wilfrid Laurier University and the Innovation Centre at Red River College. The latter included leading an open call for Indigenous artwork that become integrated design elements for feature spaces within the building. Currently, he is working on the New Vic at McGill University. He is also involved in DSA's student recruitment and mentorship with BAIDA and the University of Waterloo.



**Melanie Coates, Communications Director**

Melanie Coates, arrives from DSA's latest hotel project, where she held the position, Executive Director Revenue + Growth for Drake Hotel Properties. She comes with over 20 years of national and international strategic communications experience at several architecturally significant entertainment, hospitality and social enterprises: Livent, Canadian Stage, Fairmont Hotels & Resorts, Drake Hotel Properties and Fogo Island Inn. Melanie will lead all communications for DSA. She is originally from the west coast, was raised near Cultus Lake on Soowahlie and has roots in Canadian cities and rural outposts spanning from Victoria, British Columbia to Fogo Island, Newfoundland.

**Visual assets can be found here:**

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/efpt0z4kgn5kc49/AABLDBOYfVV1iXa26jqaK18Va?dl=0>

**For more information please contact:** Melanie Coates, Communications Director  
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