

1.0 SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS

Julia Hughes champions justice architecture that restores human potential through community-based, socially-resilient solutions. In practice and advocacy, she impacts design and delivery in work that redefines sustainability through innovative strategies that support viable, thriving communities.

Our justice system has long struggled with rigid, inflexible responses to deviation from the social order that undercuts human dignity, often paralyzing entire communities; or nuanced solutions that foster effective rehabilitation—and hope. Since 90% of inmates rejoin their communities after incarceration, research demonstrates that the success of that transition directly impacts recidivism or the ability to become productive and contributing citizens.

Design of the justice facility is critically related to the philosophy of the institution and perhaps of the entire criminal justice system. It is the physical manifestation of a society's goals and approaches for dealing with arrestees and offenders, an opportunity to rehabilitate through programs and influence a different future. The design process can be the fulcrum that forces the system to think through its approach and review, restate or redevelop its philosophy of criminal justice.

Out of the conviction that we can achieve better outcomes with purposeful planning and evidence-based design, Hughes has impacted a critical paradigm shift in the definition of sustainability to include the **human potential**. She has advanced justice design by engaging research to innovate SJ planning and design principles into tools that support control, safety and rehabilitation. In the late 20th Century, a new Direct Supervision model was designed, built and evaluated in studies, surveys and interview data sources from hundreds of officers and administrators and thousands of inmates. The research demonstrates that inmate-staff interactions and behavior are molded by institutional architecture and documents stunning success in reducing tension & violence. Hughes has elevated the profession by leveraging this research to into sustainable results for core facilities that serve a restorative justice system.

In service to the industry, Hughes introduced the Sustainable Justice (SJ) philosophy at the 2006 AIA Academy of Architecture for Justice (AAJ) Conference with an entirely new concept of the value of the individual as a core component of sustainable communities. She produced a SJ video, a seminal educational tool that sparked the birth of the AIA AAJ SJ Committee, which she has chaired for six years and cultivated into the AAJ's most active committee; participation doubled and the SJ advocacy evolved into a central component of the AAJ's curriculum. She co-authored analytic planning and design tools that help architects apply research that has evolved justice facility across the country. Julia leveraged grant funding and spearheaded case studies and educational videos to advance awareness and utility of the SJ Guidelines. Hughes partnered with AIA's Committee on the Environment and Design Data Exchange to develop metrics for the AIA's Justice Facilities Review award criteria. She procured AIA funding to facilitate a two-day Restorative Justice Visioning event with 40+ project leaders, practitioners and community stakeholders.

Through advocacy, Hughes has been recognized as an industry stand out and was invited to share this new definition of sustainability with the pre-eminent green innovators in a special presentation format at GreenBuild 2014, broadening application of social sustainability to other fields. She has explored new frontiers with presentations on national and international stages with invitations to the 13th United Nations Congress of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Qatar, Greenbuilding Brasil 2015, and the 7th Annual Conference of Criminology and Criminal Justice in Hong Kong.

In practice, Hughes has leveraged her perspicacity of the architectural process to advance the profession by working nationwide with clients and teams and as faculty member of the National Institute of Corrections to infuse social sustainability into new project development, thus shaping facilities and operations with long-lasting impacts. Hughes was lead designer of the award-winning Union County Juvenile Detention Center—recognized with the first World Architecture News Effectiveness Award and cited by AIA NJ as “a design that belies the building typology”. Hughes also co-led the award-winning Las Colinas Women's Detention and Re-Entry Facility, a living environment that epitomizes change and opportunity as a national model for adult incarceration and winner of 7 design awards and 12 design-build awards. As an outlier, Julia's work ignites social change across the globe one community, one building and one stakeholder at a time. Through **leadership in building her firm's justice practice**, Hughes guided the firm's studio culture and design management of many projects toward restorative justice philosophies.