

## ***Yazdani Studio of Cannon Design*** ***Lead Designer: Mehrdad Yazdani***

For most of his design career, Mehrdad Yazdani has practiced at the intersection of the large office and the small studio. Named by Progressive Architecture magazine as one of the world's top emerging architects just three years after earning his Master of Architecture from Harvard's Graduate School of Design, Mehrdad has succeeded in bringing a design sensibility characteristic of boutique firms to a broad portfolio of significant work.

Throughout his career, Mehrdad has maintained a consistent and clear design vision for public and institutional projects, developing a reputation for design excellence within the often challenging realm of public architecture. Today, as a principal of Cannon Design's national practice and Design Director of the west coast-based Yazdani Studio, Mehrdad is a respected member of the international design community. His architecture continues to exhibit the delicate balance between art and function.

Prior to graduating from the GSD in 1987, Mehrdad received his Bachelor of Architecture degree with the highest honors from the University of Texas at Austin in 1984, and was awarded the Henry Adams Certificate for Scholarship and Professional Promise from the American Institute of Architects. He began his professional career at the Los Angeles office of Ellerbe Becket in 1987, and in 1994, he joined Dworsky Associates, which was acquired by Cannon Design in 2000. In support of its Los Angeles office, Cannon Design established the Yazdani Studio as a focused studio to pursue unique design opportunities throughout the world.

Of particular relevance to the Alaska State Capitol project in Juneau is Mehrdad's involvement in the GSA Design Excellence program - both as a designer selected through competition processes, and as an active and ongoing participant on the Peer Review Committee. A member of the Peer Review Committee since 2001, Mehrdad has had the opportunity to be a part of numerous juries and design review discussions regarding U.S. public building projects throughout the country. This experience has provided him with an in-depth knowledge of Design Excellence standards, procedures, and expectations, as well as a forum to share ideas and approaches with other respected and accomplished architects.

Mehrdad's work has received numerous awards and international recognition, with profiles featured in the New York Times, the Los Angeles Times, Architectural Record, Architecture, Progressive Architecture, GA Houses, and Metropolitan Home. He is among a select group of architects included in a current exhibit at the Jewish Historical Museum of Amsterdam, featuring Jewish institutional buildings designed by prominent international architects. His paintings and other work are regularly exhibited regularly in galleries throughout the U.S. and are part of the permanent collections of both the Museum of Modern Art in New York and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. He is frequently invited to speak about his work and was recently a lecturer for the prestigious "Emerging Voices" series in New York. He serves on numerous design juries for universities and organizations, including AIA chapters throughout California and across the country.