



Sharon Exley, MAAE ASID

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### President

### Curriculum Vitae

*Award-winning international design career reflecting over twenty-five years of experience in elevating the standards of design for public space, learning and experience-based environments through the construction of new paradigms in pedagogy, play and participatory experience.*

*Stewardship and advocacy leader, including service to multiple non-profits, including board member of Archi-Treasures.*

*Author of three publications, several forewords, journal articles and a popular trade blog as well as frequent guest author for a multitude of design and family-centric magazines, journals and publications.*

*Mentor to the School of the Art Institute of Chicago community and young design professionals.*

Education: Master of Arts in Arts Education  
School of the Art Institute of Chicago  
Chicago IL

Bachelor of Fine Arts  
School of the Art Institute of Chicago  
Chicago IL

Professional Experience: Co-Founder and President  
Architecture Is Fun, Inc.  
Chicago, IL 1994 - present

As the firm's co-founder with 25 years of experience managing the interiors effort, Sharon developed the firm's trademark philosophy of educative design™, where design is educated through client, team and user participation and in turn design engages through the articulation of space for interaction, experience and brand.

Under Sharon's tutelage, Architecture Is Fun has focused on bringing experience, beauty, and interaction to cultural institutions, public entities, public space, and experiential environments. Consulting across the globe, Sharon and here team create enlightened interiors that are widely published. Her studio is the recipient of multiple interior design accolades and is the winner of the prestigious Benjamin Moore HUE award for the firm's design with color. Exley authors many publications and blogs about how design, creativity and public space matter.

Professional Experience: Founder  
Fun Finders  
Chicago, IL 2010 - present

Under Sharon Exley's leadership, Fun Finders is a certified woman-owned interior design, product design and procurement company that assists clients in finding and collecting distinctive furnishings, art and decor to use in projects or at home or at play. Sharon and her team focus on bringing beauty, experience, and interaction to hospitality, cultural, public space, residential, and health and well-being projects.

Authored Publications:

- Color In Space: Foreword, SendPoints, Beijing, 2014.
- Book of Books: Children, Wildwood Publishing, Illinois: 2013.
- Design For Kids, Images Publishing, Mulgrave: 2007.
- The Best of Everything For Your Baby, Prentice Hall: 1999.

Professional  
Registrations & Designation:

- American Society of Interior Designers (ASID)
- National Art Education Association
- Firm Licenses: Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, New York, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas and Wisconsin.

Service  
& Education Awards:

- **Service Award**, American Society of Interior Designers, Illinois Chapter, 2014.
- **Presidential Citation for PechaKucha**, American Institute of Architects, Chicago Chapter, 2008.
- **Service Award: Gem of the Community Award**, ArchiTreasures Community Development Organization, 2011. Award given in recognition of a founding member and their ability to help transform communities.

*"I believe in creating something beautiful that's worth building a community around. Community is what we do together – It builds confidence in the power to help transform communities. This is why Archi-Treasures works. I celebrate their achievements."*

~ Sharon Exley

Professional  
& Community Affiliations:

- **Extraordinary Playscapes Content Advisory Panel**, Design Museum, 2015-16
- **Producer & Co-Host**, PechaKucha Night Chicago.
- **Educative Design™ Workshops**, ongoing.  
My Museum, School of the Art Institute of Chicago  
Building Architectural Meaning, Art Institute of Chicago  
Mies in America: Cozy Homes, Museum Contemporary Arts Chicago
- **Board Member**, Archi-treasures, 2011-2007.