

Stephi Motal, AIA, LEED BD+C

Managing Partner + Director of Architecture - Black + Motal Architecture and Urban Design

Stephi Motal, AIA, guides Black + Motal Architecture and Urban Design as Managing Partner. She joined what was then Black + Vernooy as a high-school junior in 1996. Stephi quickly familiarized herself with every aspect of the firm, gaining invaluable experience in a variety of skills and becoming the firm's institutional knowledge. She officially joined the firm as a full-time designer after completing her degree at the University of Texas School of Architecture in 2004. She continued taking an ever-increasing role in the firm's design projects and quickly moved into leadership roles. Since achieving licensure in 2013, Stephi has served the profession on a variety of committees and board positions for both the Texas Society of Architects and AIA Austin, including as chapter president in 2021, and as chair for TxA's Government Affairs Steering Committee. Currently, Stephi is the 2026 President-Elect for the Texas Society of Architects.

Jason E. Puchot, AIA, ACHA, EDAC, LEED AP

Architect/Principal Senior Vice President - RVK Architecture

Jason is the 2025 President of the Texas Society of Architects and a Senior Vice President at RVK Architecture's multi-disciplinary design studio. As the firm's Senior Healthcare Planner and a board-certified healthcare architect, he has over 25 years of experience shaping innovative, evidence-based solutions for rural and urban healthcare environments. His thoughtful approach to design has helped elevate the quality of care in medical facilities across Texas. In addition to his healthcare expertise, Jason's portfolio spans higher education and commercial development projects. He holds a Bachelor of Environmental Design degree from Texas A&M University, where he met his wife, Julie. They have two children, William, a music major at Miami University in Ohio, and Haley, a high school senior.

Paulina Lagos, AIA, LEED AP BD+C

Principal - Exigo Architecture

Paulina Lagos is a Principal at Exigo Architecture, where her work focuses primarily on cultural and civic projects such as the El Paso Water Headquarters and La Nube. Paulina received a Bachelor of Architecture from the University of Texas and a Master of Science in Architecture from the University of Pennsylvania. She was the 2019 President of the AIA El Paso Chapter, where she founded the Women in Architecture Committee in 2021. She is currently serving as Chair-Elect for TxA's publication committee and writes for *Texas Architect*. She was named the 2024 Woman of the Year by the Regional Hispanic Contractors Association in El Paso and is teaching architecture at the Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture + Design in El Paso, Texas.

