

RALPH CUNNINGHAM FAIA

FOUNDING PRINCIPAL

1996 - PRESENT

Ralph Cunningham, FAIA weaves modern architecture into historic fabric that honors the old and illuminates the new with elegant simplicity. His work reflects the unique qualities of place, with distinctive attention to proportion, scale, and craftsmanship.

In his practice in our Nation's Capital, he has designed projects where sustainable solutions have been honed by careful research into the history of the site and the buildings upon them. One theme of his work is the transformation of the modest buildings of the past, whether it be a nineteenth century bank barn, an early twentieth century car dealership, or the mid-century suburban house into twenty-first century architecture. Another is his belief in the equal opportunity for craftsmanship in his work from new construction to preservation. This is shown in the steel fabrication to clearly delineate the new from the old at Caton's Walk, research into terra cotta fabrication for the restoration of the Mather Building, and the way that Park Hill joins the architectural conversation with its distinguished neighbors. His consistent approach has created a body of work that is remarkable for its diversity and consistent attention to detail. His buildings are seamless additions to the urban, suburban or rural landscapes that surround them.

He has often been honored for his work. He has extended his influence nationally and locally. Ralph Cunningham has received 62 AIA awards, twenty-four in the past five years. In addition, he has received over fifteen other national awards. In 2010, he was elevated to the American Institute of Architects' College of Fellows, in the category of Design. His work has also appeared in over twenty national publications. Ralph Cunningham is the 2009 Recipient of the Creative Achievement Award, a national award given by his alma mater Washington University. Carmen Colangelo, Dean of the Sam Fox School of Design and Visual Arts, commented, "It is our honor to recognize [Ralph] as one of our very best and accomplished alumni. [His] outstanding work is inspiring to our students and faculty alike." He has also received three DC Mayor's Awards for Excellence in Historic Preservation, including the 2015 Chairman's Award.

Ralph Cunningham has been a consistent advocate for design excellence in the community, academia, and on design award juries. He has served on numerous design juries, including the Residential Architect and Custom Home national design award programs. Extending his philosophy to teaching and mentoring the next generation of architects, Ralph has taught design studios at Catholic University and Howard University. He has lectured at Cornell University, Catholic University, and The University of Miami. Vytenis Gureckas, AIA of the School of Architecture at Catholic University, writes that "Ralph Cunningham proposed that the studio explore the relationship between the form of Washington, DC and its meaning as an emblem of our democratic system of government. Through his studio, Mr. Cunningham demonstrated that he was deeply knowledgeable, and had strong abilities as a thinker and educator."

The work of Ralph Cunningham does not shout; it speaks with an appropriate voice. In a time when the goals of historic preservation and modern architecture are often in conflict, his work bridges the two worlds to create a compelling whole.

REGISTRATION

District of Columbia
Maryland
Virginia
West Virginia
Vermont
Pennsylvania
New Jersey
NCARB Certification

PRACTICE AREAS

Historic Preservation
Institutional
Infill Development
Commercial / Mixed-Use
Residential - Multi Family
Residential - Single Family

AFFILIATIONS

American Institute of Architects, Fellow
Washington DC AIA (Former Director)
Washington Architectural Foundation (Former Board President)
Georgetown Day School (Former Board President)

ACADEMIC

Adjunct Professor, Urban Design and Architecture, The Catholic University of America, Fall 2008
Critic, Urban Design Studio, Fall 2006, The Catholic University of America
Critic, Howard University, Fall 2004

EDUCATION

Master of Architecture, Columbia University, School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation, 1986
B.A., Architecture, Washington University in St. Louis, 1983

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RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL WORKS

Architecture

- R.I.S.E. Demonstration Center, Washington, DC ~ Adaptive Reuse/Institutional
- Dumbarton Oaks Fellowship House, Washington, DC ~ Institutional/Multi-Family
- Gateway Path, St. Elizabeths East Campus, Washington, DC ~ Urban Landscape Design
- Continuous Treatment Campus Planning, St. Elizabeths East Campus, Washington, DC ~ Historic Preservation/Campus Planning/Multi-Family Residential
- The Mather Building, Washington, DC ~ Mixed-Use/Multi-Family
- Beale Square Townhouses, Washington, DC ~ Multi-Family Residential
- Takoma Theater, Washington, DC ~ Historic Preservation/Adaptive Reuse/Mixed-Use
- Urban Alliance Foundation Headquarters, Washington, DC ~ Institutional/Restoration/Addition
- 22 M Street Condominiums, Washington, DC ~ Mixed-Use/Residential
- 10th & G Street Offices and the First Congregational United Church of Christ, Washington DC ~ Mixed-Use/Commercial
- Mother + Child Residence, Washington, DC ~ Historic Preservation/Single Family Home
- Georgetown Residence, Washington, DC ~ Historic Preservation/Single Family Home
- The Maples, Washington, DC ~ Sustainable Design/Multi-Family
- Wormley Row, Washington, DC ~ Adaptive Reuse/Multi-Family
- Caton's Walk, Washington DC ~ Historic Preservation/Adaptive Reuse/Mixed-Use
- The Residences at Lyon Park, Arlington, VA ~ Sustainable Design/Multi-Family
- The Alta, Washington, DC ~ Sustainable Design/Mixed-Use/Multi-Family
- The Wooster and the Mercer Loft Condominiums, Arlington, VA ~ Multi-Family
- Tenley Hill Condominium, Washington, DC ~ Mixed-Use/Multi-Family
- 4600 Wisconsin Avenue, Washington, DC ~ Mixed-Use/Multi-Family
- Park Hill Condominium, Washington, DC ~ Multi-Family
- 2525 California Street Condos, Washington, DC ~ Multi-Family
- Mount Joy Condominiums, Washington, DC ~ Multi-Family
- Hastings Housing, Washington, DC ~ Multi-Family
- Cibo Restaurant, New York, NY ~ Commercial
- Herndon Fortnightly Neighborhood Master Plan, Herndon, VA ~ Master Plan
- Sugarloaf Mountain Vineyard, Dickerson, MD ~ Commercial/Historic Preservation
- Quarry House, Glen Echo, Maryland ~ Single Family Home
- Holman Hall, Upperville, VA ~ Single Family Home, Site Master Plan
- Pajaro Dunes Beach House, Santa Cruz, CA ~ Single Family Home
- Art Loft, McLean, VA ~ Single Family Home

QUALIFICATIONS

Mr. VanPelt has more than 18 years of experience in a wide range of traffic and transportation projects including: traffic impact studies, site access and circulation planning, multimodal studies, functional parking lot and garage design, parking demand analysis, corridor studies, campus master planning, major data collection efforts, loading dock design, intersection improvement design, signal design, signing and pavement marking design, and expert witness testimony. He has worked for public, private and institutional sector clients throughout the United States and has worked internationally on projects in the United Arab Emirates, China, Venezuela, Brazil and Mexico.



SELECT PROJECT EXPERIENCE

Multi-modal System Design/Planning

- DDOT Post-Construction Study, Washington, DC
- DC2024 Olympic Bid Transportation Planning, Washington, DC
- DC North-South Corridor Streetcar Planning Study, Washington, DC
- DC Multifamily Residential Parking Study, Washington, DC
- DC Circulator Transit Plan Update, Washington, DC
- Millwood Avenue Diversion Study, Winchester, VA
- Potomac Yard State of the Commute ('08-'15), Arlington, VA

CREDENTIALS

Discipline:
Transportation Planning and Engineering

Education:
Master of Science in Civil Engineering,
Washington University in St. Louis
Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering,
Washington University in St. Louis
Bachelor of Science in Physics,
Bethany College

Registrations:
Professional Engineer – District of
Columbia, Virginia, Maryland,
Pennsylvania, and West Virginia

Registered Professional Traffic
Operations Engineer

Mixed-Use Development

- Robinson Terminal North, Alexandria, VA
- Brookland Manor, Washington, DC
- Union Market/Angelika Theater, Washington, DC
- Union Market/1270 4th St NE, Washington, DC
- McMillan Sand Filtration Site, Washington, DC
- Gateway at King and Beauregard, Alexandria, VA
- The Wharf/SW Waterfront Redevelopment, Washington, DC
- The Randall School Redevelopment, Washington, DC
- Waterfront Station, Washington, DC
- Ballpark Square, Washington, DC
- The Yards, Washington, DC
- Crystal Square, Arlington, VA
- 223 23rd Street/Crystal Plaza 5, Arlington, VA

Residential

- 400 Army Navy Drive, Arlington, VA
- Ingleside at Rock Creek, Washington, DC
- WeLive/Crystal Plaza 6, Arlington, VA
- Monroe Street Market Lot A2, Washington, DC
- The Kingsley, Alexandria, VA
- The Fillmore, Alexandria, VA
- Waterfront Station NW Parcel, Washington, DC
- M Street Town Center, Washington, DC
- St. Matthews' Redevelopment, Washington, DC

Office/Commercial

- Old Post Office/Trump Hotel, Washington, DC
- 1900 N Street NW, Washington, DC
- Pinstripes at Georgetown Park, Washington, DC
- 900 16th Street NW, Washington, DC
- 1000 Connecticut Avenue NW, Washington, DC
- 1900 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA
- 1700 K Street NW, Washington, DC
- DC USA, Washington, DC
- The Citadel Harris Teeter, Washington, DC

Colleges, Universities and Institutional Master Planning

- Sylvan Theater at Washington Monument, Washington, DC
- US Capitol Complex Framework Plan, Washington, DC
- National Zoo Lower Entry Plan, Washington, DC
- Georgetown University Campus Plan, Washington, DC
- American University Campus Plan, Washington, DC
- Howard University Campus Plan, Washington, DC
- American University Campus Master Plan, Washington, DC
- Indiana University, Bloomington, IN
- The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH

