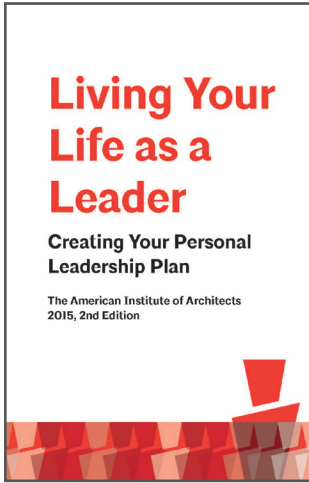




Living Your Life as a Leader – Order Form



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Legacy of Leadership
Helene Combs Dreiling, FAIA

Helene is Executive Director of The Branch Museum of Architecture and Design as well as the Executive Vice President of AIA Virginia. In 2004 she served as National President of the American Institute of Architects, following 10 years of service.

Leadership Focus:
Lifelong Engagement
AIA Component:
Virginia
Location:
Roanoke, Virginia
Years of Practice:
24

Top 6 Attributes:
Vision
Communication
Imaginational
Integrity
Strength
Character

Career Leadership:
Alternative Career Path
Professional Society
Leadership
Nonprofit Leadership
Volunteer/Community Service
Citizen Architect

What does leadership mean to you?
Leadership is a personal attribute that has been part of my life – and a huge aspect of my life for as long as I can remember. For me, it hasn't changed. It has always been about giving, setting others to make their lives easier and for the world around them better.

What role does leadership play in architecture as a business?
The qualities of leadership are often well-aligned with those of architects. We enter this profession to try to make the world a better place. Leaders often enter that arena because they believe they can help. Architects are problem-solvers, an attribute that is crucial to successful leadership. By virtue of their work, they have to be consensus builders. This is another aspect of leadership that involves bringing others together on a shared idea of the future.

What role does leadership play in architecture as a design-oriented professional practice?
Architects are able to envision a future that does not exist, and can articulate that dream to others in a way that inspires them to desire that same future. It is exactly the same for leaders. Only the "place" changes; sometimes it is physical and sometimes it is cultural.

Do you recall leadership as an item of discussion in your education?
All of my leadership exposure in college came from and through my extracurricular activities, and it was through these experiences that I learned the most about leadership. These collegiate clubs and organizations also introduced me to a host of other students in other disciplines and majors, which was crucial to my learning to communicate beyond the classroom.

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Surveying Your Environment

The environment in which you labor, practice, or serve will affect the formation and execution of your leadership plan. Assess to consider include your awareness of management of yourself, discipline, and level of engagement within your firm and peer group or civic organizations that you belong to. How do your expectations compare to reality with the expectations of those around you? Take a moment to consider your environment.

What are your assets and resources? Who are your advocates as a leader? If you have anyone who serves as a sponsor, mentor, or champion for you. What is their role, their level of support of you, the reason for their interest in you and your leadership development? How best can you leverage this support? In 1 or 2 years I, as a Leader? If you don't have this kind of support, where might you acquire that support? What kind of mentor would be a wild foundation for your leadership plan? Write your thoughts here:

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