

170 Varick Street  
7th floor  
New York NY 10013  
T 212.675.1870  
F 212.675.1645

ARCHITECTURE  
RESEARCH  
OFFICE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **AIA CONFERENCE IS CANCELLED, BUT ARO IS STILL RECIPIENT OF THE 2020 FIRM AWARD**



[www.aro.net](http://www.aro.net)

**AT HOME ACROSS THE COUNTRY**—The American Institute of Architects’ (AIA) annual conference has been cancelled – along with just about everything else – and this was the day that Architecture Research Office (ARO) was scheduled to accept its 2020 Architecture Firm of the Year award.

While there may be no actual ceremony, no celebration, and none of the other trappings of this award, the Firm Award is still the highest honor the AIA bestows on an architecture practice. This award recognizes ARO as a firm whose passion and collaborative practice have consistently produced distinguished architecture.

“For 26 years, we have been creating work that reflects our restless exploration, that always tries to push boundaries, and that continually asks the question ‘What’s Next?’” says the firm’s principals Stephen Cassell, Adam Yarinsky, and Kim Yao. “Even as we live through and try to adjust to the realities of this once-in-a-lifetime crisis, we have redoubled our efforts to make work that is both humanistic and analytical. What we do now feels more important than ever.”

They continued, “It is extremely gratifying to have won this award that honors our body of work and our contribution to the profession. More than anything, knowing that we have the respect of our peers and colleagues is what makes this award meaningful to us.”

Founded in 1993, the firm is led by principals Stephen Cassell, FAIA, Kim Yao, AIA, and Adam Yarinsky, FAIA. With a staff of just 24, the firm's portfolio includes a broad range of work that has been widely celebrated and recognized with six AIA Honor Awards, the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Award for Architecture, and the Academy Award for Architecture from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. In 2018, ARO was named AIA New York State's firm of the year.

ARO's breadth of focus is as varied as it is impressive. The wide array of projects in architecture, urban design, and strategic planning has continued to demonstrate the firm's devotion to understanding architectural problems from a collaborative, research-based perspective.

"The firm's ability to shun the a priori is what it's famous for. Trusting in intellect and acting with thoughtful restraint is ARO's lasting innovation, its mark in trade, the thing that has differentiated these architects from their peers," Philip Nobel wrote of ARO in *Metropolis*. "Theirs is, of course, the right way to practice."

"It takes the tireless efforts of firms like Architecture Research Office to construct a positive working environment within their offices that develop skills, discipline, and deep values to empower every young professional to achieve their own measure of success and purpose towards lifelong contributions to the profession and the broad realm of architecture," wrote Marlon Blackwell, FAIA, in a letter supporting ARO's nomination. "I, too, admire their willingness to admit that they know enough to know what they don't know."

### **About ARO**

Architecture Research Office is the New York City firm led by Stephen Cassell, Kim Yao, and Adam Yarinsky. Since 1993, ARO has earned a reputation for architecture that unites beauty and form with strategy and intelligence. The firm's diverse project portfolio—spanning strategic planning, architecture and urban design—is united by a principled and engaged approach to design, collaborative process, and technical precision, always in an effort to achieve the greatest aesthetic impact with the fewest natural and financial resources. This philosophy has earned the firm over one hundred design awards including the AIA New York State Firm of the Year Award and the Smithsonian Cooper-Hewitt National Design Award for Architecture.

For more information on Architecture Research Office, please visit [www.aro.net](http://www.aro.net).

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### **Contact:**

Elizabeth Kubany, EHKPR  
[elizabeth@ehkpr.com](mailto:elizabeth@ehkpr.com) / 973.761.4117