Kostow Greenwood Architects
Names Two New Principals

September 19, 2023 (New York City) – Kostow Greenwood Architects (KGA) names two new Principals and establishes equity ownership across the leadership team as they expand their practice, building on core proficiencies and successes.

In announcing the promotions, Michael Kostow says, “Lena and Gary step into their new roles prepared to continue the evolution and growth of our firm. They have proven themselves as architects and as leaders and together we’re shaping and creating a business to meet our clients’ evolving aspirations and to expand on our successes.”

The two new Principals bring extensive project and client experience to their new roles having worked closely with Kostow and having benefited from the culture of design excellence and learning embodied in the firm. Fan and Li each have considerable tenure with the firm and have expanded their responsibilities with proven successes.

Lena Dau-Ping Fan, AIA, joined KGA (Kostow Greenwood Architects) in 2012. Lena received a Bachelors in Architecture from Columbia University. She graduated Summa Cum Laude from the University of Florida, Gainesville with a Bachelor of Design with a minor in Business. Her recent speaking engagements include being invited to present the James Earl Jones Theatre Annex project at the American Institute of Architects’ annual conference in San Francisco and the League of Historic American Theatres National Conference in Kansas City. Fan, age 39, resides in Brooklyn, Queens with her husband and young daughter.

Gary Li, AIA, LEED Green Associate, NCARB joined KGA (Kostow Greenwood Architects) in 2017. Gary received his Bachelor of Architecture from Carnegie Mellon University. He is a juror for the international WAN Awards and a volunteer on NCARB’s Examination Committee. His recent speaking engagements include being invited to present the James Earl Jones Theatre Annex project at the League of Historic American Theatres National Conference in Kansas City. Gary, age 29, resides in Astoria, Queens with her husband and young daughter.

An additional sign of the firm’s evolution is the leaning in to the more familiar acronym KGA, as many long-term clients and design partners have taken to referring to the studio. The firm continues to operate under the legal name of Kostow Greenwood Architects, now working as a minority-owned business.

Following an entrepreneurial path, Michael Kostow made a decision to create an architecture studio. In May 1987, a new kind of firm was born to bring design experience and technical rigor to complex challenges. Design leadership and an architecture studio. In May 1987, a new kind of firm was born to bring design experience and technical rigor to complex challenges. Design leadership and an architecture studio. In May 1987, a new kind of firm was born to bring design experience and technical rigor to complex challenges. Design leadership and an architecture studio.

About KGA (Kostow Greenwood Architects)
KGA (Kostow Greenwood Architects) is an award-winning firm recognized for a creative design-driven approach to architecture, interiors, historic preservation and urban planning. The firm focuses on performing arts, broadcast-media and creative workplace projects. The firm’s design approach is centered on people, enhancing their experiences, optimizing their environments, supporting and inspiring them to excel in their creative endeavors.

KGA’s (Kostow Greenwood Architects’) pulse is to push design ideas forward to serve their clients’ diverse communities with architectural solutions that reach both aesthetic and technological excellence. Michael’s 35-year career continues and extends to the Leadership Team of Lena Dau-Ping Fan and Gary Li. Nimble and flexible, the team thrives on exploring and experimenting with the possible.

Notable performing arts projects include the award-winning James Earl Jones Theatre Annex and the completed renovation of the Longacre Theatre, both for The Shubert Organization. Also forthcoming is the transformation of The Apollo Theater’s legendary Victoria Theater into the Victoria Theater Redevelopment Project. Notable completed performing arts projects include the re-envisioned adaptation of the historic Lyric Theatre into the Lyric Theatre at the New York University Tisch School of the Arts, and the restoration of the Centennial Memorial Temple for the Salvation Army.

Several of these projects have received the coveted Lucy Moses Preservation Award from the New York City Landmarks Conservancy. Notable media broadcast and creative workplace projects include the CHN New York Broadcast Center, which occupied six floors and 250,000 sq. ft. within the previously named Time Warner Center; MTV’s New York Operations Center dedicated to its office building; Verizon Media, a new headquarters for Smart Design in the Brooklyn Navy Yard and The Shop East at VSP Global which was named one of the “5 Coolest Offices” by Crain’s New York Business.