We believe great design lifts spirits and opens minds, connects people and communities, embraces and protects the environment.

**Smart is Beautiful**

“Beauty is a byproduct of solving problems correctly,” EHDD founder Joe Esherick once said. That principle guides us to this day. We are problem solvers attracted by programmatic and technical complexity. Our designs are enduring expressions of our clients’ unique values.

**Design is Sensory**

Our architecture sets the stage for lives well lived. We create spaces people love — comfortable, healthy, and surprising environments that delight the senses and inspire people to live, work, and learn in more productive and meaningful ways.

**Innovation is a State of Mind**

Sustainability has been at the heart of our work since 1946. For us, design is a vehicle for environmental stewardship, incorporating current technologies to reduce carbon emissions and ultimately reverse climate change.

We know great design is about more than how people use the spaces we create — it’s how they feel inside of them. Measuring occupant satisfaction is a cornerstone of our process. Every project is an opportunity to advance the health and wellness of its occupants, building on lessons learned. We’re all about a higher order of thinking — exploring all the ways and places where people interact with design.

Our focus is always on finding new features to inspire and enlighten people aesthetically, socially, and intellectually. We integrate health and wellness strategies into every project. Fresh air, natural daylight, thermal comfort, acoustic performance and non-toxic materials interact synergistically in the built product and lead to the highest user satisfaction scores in the industry.

We specialize in complex building types with intricate technical requirements, mixed use programs, and diverse stakeholder groups. We’ll help you navigate all aspects of a project, from fundraising and community engagement to post occupancy assessment. We bring a deep understanding of our clients’ unique requirements, from urban development to contemporary office buildings. Our education projects feature cutting-edge science and research facilities, libraries of the future, and student housing. Our portfolio of Aquarium, Zoo, Museum, and Science Centers create engaging visitor experiences while incorporating healthy and sustainable environments for animals and the people who work there.

“One thing EHDD is really good at is ‘getting’ the client. They don’t come with a specific agenda or solution but instead they work really hard to solve the client’s particular problem and find the right aesthetic direction. They are incredibly conscientious and great to work with.”

- John Clawson, Equity Community Builders
EHDD was founded in 1946 in San Francisco – a city known for embracing ideas about the future. This ethos has informed our work since the beginning, resulting in forward-thinking designs that last for generations.

Duncan Ballash  
AIA LEED® APBD+C  
President and Principal

"I see great design as the intersection of practicality, innovation, and inspiration — a way to create high-performance, highly sustainable projects that build community."

Jennifer Devlin-Herbert  
FAIA LEED® APBD+C  
Principal

"The most exciting part of a project is in its early stages - listening deeply and intensely to our clients and stakeholders. It’s what gives room to honor and reflect on our clients’ values, and translate them into places that speak for generations."

Scott Shell  
FAIA LEED® APBD+C CPCH®  
Principal

"I love tackling a complex design problem to create places where people thrive — buildings with great light and thermal comfort that feel good in every sense, every day."

"EHDD as a firm lives the spirit of collaboration it advocates while bringing best in class professionals to find elegant solutions to even the hardest problems. Their communication with the team and clients is always thoughtful and timely. The organization they bring to a project is top rate and consistently ahead of the client’s needs. They make the project work fun and add energy and enthusiasm to every encounter."

-Mike Rothman, Rothman Advisors

Brad Jacobson  
AIA LEED® APBD+C  
Principal

"Sustainability is ultimately about a better quality of life. That’s why we design for the individual’s experience in the space - daylight, comfort, and fit – the most important elements in occupant satisfaction."

Rebecca Sharkey  
AIA LEED® APBD+C  
Principal

"I’m inspired by the uniqueness of every project. Designs informed by my client’s vision and the values we bring to the table —artistry and technical rigor sets us apart."

Denise de Ville  
Vice President, Business Development & Marketing

"I love bringing clients and teams together in service of a common goal and nurturing relationships along the way to realize their vision."

George Powell  
Associate AIA  
Vice President, Operations

“Diversity of experience, perspective, and creativity enrich our collective thinking and serve the greater good.”
We’ve been a national leader in sustainable design since our founding more than 70 years ago – it’s our passion and mission. We pioneered the Net Zero Energy concept over 15 years ago in response to climate change. Today we are leading the industry toward a carbon-neutral future.

Our portfolio is outpacing the AIA 2030 Challenge, seeking a fully carbon-neutral built environment by 2030 with Net Zero Energy, Passive House, Livable Building, and LEED® certified projects. With the teamwork of our clients and partners, we firmly believe we will get there, together.

EHDD’s leadership in sustainable design is exemplified by our 12 LEED® Platinum projects, 10 LEED® Gold projects, and two LEED® Silver projects. EHDD has also designed both the first and the largest Net Zero Energy Certified projects — The David and Lucile Packard Foundation office building and IDeAs Z Design Office in San Jose, California. The Exploratorium at Pier 15 is the largest Net Zero Energy museum in the United States. EHDD has also won six AIA National Committee on the Environment “Top Ten Green Projects” awards and is currently ranked 4th by AIA COTE.

The New Buildings Institute 2018 survey finds EHDD as the architecture firm with the most Zero Energy buildings. View the full survey here.

**300+**

Design Awards, including the AIA National Firm of the Year

**Ø**

11 Net-Zero Certified/Emerging Projects

**35** LEED Certified/Targeted Projects

**AIA 2030 Commitment Performance**

The AIA 2030 Commitment encourages architecture firms to step up the modeled energy performance of their entire portfolio every five years until 2030 when all buildings achieve carbon neutrality. Today only 4% of firms are meeting these targets. EHDD’s performance savings of better than 80% is four years ahead of schedule and is an indicator of our leadership in net zero energy and carbon neutral design.
Market Sectors

- Aquariums & Zoos
- Museums & Science Centers
- K-12
- Higher Education
- Corporate & Commercial
- Civic & Government

“From concept to final punch list, the project was successful at every level. EHDD performed with exceptional attention to detail. We would without hesitation use EHDD again and again. They are an architect worthy of your every consideration.”

- Tony Budrovich, Senior VP of Operations, California Science Center

Project Types

- Student Housing
- Mixed-Use Residential
- Recreation
- Libraries
- Science & Research
- Interiors