

**Peter B. MacKeith**

**Dean and Professor, Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design, University of Arkansas**

**Knight, First Class, Order of the Lion of Finland**

**Biographical Statement / January 2021**

Peter MacKeith is dean and professor of architecture at the Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design at the University of Arkansas. Appointed in July, 2014, he is a nationally recognized design educator and administrator. He also serves as Special Advisor to the Chancellor for Campus Architecture and Design at the University of Arkansas. MacKeith serves as chair of the advisory committee for the Northwest Arkansas Design Excellence Program, a regional initiative of the Walton Family Foundation. He is currently overseeing the completion of a \$75,000,000 capital campaign for the Fay Jones School, and guiding the design and construction of the Anthony Timberlands Center for Design and Materials Innovation, a regional center for research and development of new wood products and new approaches in sustainable construction materials.

A nationally recognized leader in advancing the cause of a forest-centered culture and economy, and the cause of a wood-product centered approach to architecture, engineering and construction, MacKeith lectures and presents frequently on these topics, most recently for The Architect's Newspaper, the Sustainable Forests Initiative, The Nature Conservancy, and the International Living Future Initiative. He is currently working with the Arkansas World Trade Center to organize a state trade and industry delegation to Finland in 2021, to advance the state's interests in environmental and economic development, particularly in its forests, timberlands and wood products industries, and with the production team of the PBS series "America's Forests" on an episode devoted to the Arkansas forests and forest communities. The Fay Jones School's efforts in designing towards Arkansas' forests have benefited from multiple USFS grants, FPL grants, and US Endowment for Forestry and Communities grants, and private timberlands philanthropy.

A liaison between the United States and Finland for more than 30 years, MacKeith served as Honorary Consul for Finland in the state of Missouri from 2012-2014, and serves now as a member of the Finnish Cultural Institute in New York Advisory Board, and as a Senior Advisor to the Fulbright-Finland Foundation. In 2014, he was installed as a Knight, First Class, of the Order of the Lion of Finland in recognition of his contributions to the advancement of Finnish culture.

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