

JAYA KADER, AIA

Jaya Kader is the founder and principal of KZ Architecture, a Miami-based full services design studio committed to design excellence and sustainable building practices. Founded in 2003, KZA has been the recipient of numerous AIA Design awards and focuses on a wide range of projects guided by purpose and context.

Born and raised in San Jose, Costa Rica, Jaya has been an advocate for sustainable design throughout her professional tenure. Her leadership yielded the First LEED certified home in Miami in 2010. In 2018, her team was one of the winners of The Resilient Home Challenge, a competition sponsored by the World Bank and the United Nations Habitat for a Better Urban Future. The vision of the project highlights the power of design to help manifest sustainable solutions that address environmental, economic, social and humanistic concerns.

Jaya's latest initiative--Regen Design Lab--services regenerative projects in her native Costa Rica, Miami and worldwide. The vision for RDL is to capitalize on the power of beauty, alternative building methods and design with nature at heart, to create spaces for human habitation that are conducive to healing and a more relational experience with their natural environments. Through this sense of reverence and connection, we can foster a culture where buildings are contributing members of the ecosystems that they are part of. These projects strive to connect interdisciplinary silos to indigenous wisdom and use design as a tool for much needed transformation and healing in the world.

Jaya earned a Master of Architecture in 1988 from The Harvard Graduate School of Design, where she served on its Alumni Council from 2016 to 2022. With a few of her peers, she was instrumental in launching DESIGN IMPACT in 2020, a global design leadership series that aims to bridge design with the needs of the world at the intersection of health, equity, and climate change. Jaya curated several panels on Regenerative Design, including: "Regenerative Design for Radical Sustainability", "Regeneration: Design Strategies for a Resilient Future" and "Regenerative Design: An Eco-systemic Approach to Transformative Development".

A mother of four grown children, Jaya is interested in exploring ways in which feminine energy could enhance the culture within the architectural profession towards a more inclusive, collaborative, empathetic, healing, and natural approach to our design needs. Jaya is a certified yoga teacher, bridging this ancient healing practice as well as the wisdom of the Five Elements of Nature into all of her endeavors.