

**Dawn R. Schuette, AIA**  
Principal

For Dawn, an unattended piano has always been an open invitation, and the grooves of the family-favorite LPs were worn smooth from heavy use. She sang in middle school and church choirs, but latent, and very subtle, leadership abilities led her to the pipe organ, which she played for church services and choral performances until leaving Lincoln, Nebraska for Chicago to study architecture. Somewhere in the interim, on a school tour, conversation audibly creeping along the vaulted stone ceiling of the Nebraska State Capitol left its mark. At Illinois Institute of Technology, her interests turned toward City and Regional Planning for its comprehensive view of the built environment and the place of people within it, but the lifelong interest in music reasserted itself shortly after college when she joined Kirkegaard Associates to focus on acoustics. Fifteen years and many profoundly successful projects later, she joined Threshold as a principal.

Dawn has recently been engaged by the Illinois Institute of Technology as an Adjunct Professor in the College of Architecture and has authored an invited chapter for the new Wiley & Sons publication, *Building Type Basics for Performing Arts Facilities*. She is a Director of the Chicago AIA Chapter and holds a position on the National AIA advisory group for the Interfaith Forum on Religion, Art, and Architecture (IFRAA). Dawn has contributed articles to *Faith and Form*, *Architecture*, *Fabric Architecture*, and *Auditoria* magazines and has presented her work at national conventions for the American Institute of Organbuilders, the AIA, and the Acoustical Society of America, including the ASA's 1999 international meeting in Berlin and the upcoming 2008 meeting in Paris.

Her work at Threshold includes:

- Ford Calumet Environmental Center, Chicago, Illinois, new open-plan education, exhibit, and office center located on a redeveloped parcel of park district property
- Media Production Center for Columbia College Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, a venue for teaching and producing film, video, and interactive gaming
- The Inspiring Body of Christ Church in Dallas, Texas, a 4000-seat space for a growing, dynamic worship community
- Lied Center for Performing Arts in Lincoln, Nebraska, evaluation of room performance for amplified events
- Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration in Dallas, Texas, renovation of a 1960s sanctuary for the addition of a new Richards & Fowkes organ and addition to the facility including offices, music rehearsal spaces, a multipurpose room, and chapel
- University of South Dakota, Slagle Auditorium, in Vermillion, South Dakota, renovation of 1920s performance facility to better serve campus and community performance needs as well as the anticipated renovation of the E.M. Skinner Opus 548 organ
- Harpo Studios in Chicago, Illinois, continued work for facility renovation and expansion

Prior to joining Threshold Acoustics, Dawn led the design and management of the following Kirkegaard projects:

- Holland Performing Arts Center for the Omaha Symphony Orchestra and the Omaha Performing Arts Society, a 2000-seat dedicated concert hall and 450-seat flexible music and drama space
- Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre, a 2750-seat multipurpose space designed primarily for touring musical theatre, opera, and popular music performances in Atlanta
- ETA Creative Arts theater facility expansion in Chicago, a new 500-seat drama and musical theater space in Chicago
- Benedict Music Tent at the Aspen Music Festival for the Aspen Music Festival and School, a 2000-seat covered outdoor venue
- Schwartz Center for the Performing Arts at Emory University, a multi-venue facility for performance and rehearsal used by the Music, Theater, and Dance Departments
- Audio and video recording studios including Harpo Studios, Pressure Point Studios, and WBEZ Public Radio in Chicago.
- Encore Park in Alpharetta, Georgia, an outdoor pavilion, with seats under roof and on the lawn, designed for use by the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra as well as popular music artists
- Aronoff Center for the Performing Arts in Cincinnati, Ohio, which houses a 2700-seat lyric theater for touring musical theatre and popular music, a 430-seat theater, a 150-seat studio theater, and various rehearsal and meeting/event spaces

Dawn Schuette  
Principal (continued)

- Masterplan design for The Academy – A Program of Carnegie Hall, The Juilliard School, and The Weill Music Institute, planning for facility renovation to include new large and small rehearsal rooms to accommodate the new Program
- Renaissance Center, a center for technology-intensive visual and performance arts education and presentation in Dickson, Tennessee, which includes a 400-seat theatre, intimate dinner theatre, recording facilities for video and audio production, educational and rehearsal spaces, a planetarium, a visual arts gallery, and multimedia learning lab
- Studies and renovations for the Woodruff Arts Center in Atlanta, including isolation of relocated sculpture studio as part of the Atlanta College of Art expansion, feasibility work for a new lyric theater, site studies for a new Atlanta Symphony Orchestra concert venue, renovation studies for Symphony Hall and the Alliance Theatre, and renovation of the Atlanta Playhouse
- Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Symphony Center, design for a new dynamically-variable 2000-seat concert hall, 500-seat recital space, and education and rehearsal facilities
- Redevelopment of Orchestra Hall and new Symphony Center for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Chicago, Illinois
- City of Charleston Arts Venue Study, a review of the city's existing venues to determine their highest and best uses and to establish a master plan for improvements
- Memorial Chapel and '92 Theater renovation, Wesleyan University, Middletown, Connecticut
- New Wallace M. Alston Campus Center and renovation/addition of McCain Library at Agnes Scott College, Decatur, Georgia.
- McCormick-Tribune Campus Center, Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago, Illinois, one of the first new buildings on the campus since the time of Mies Van der Rohe
- Church renovations including Redeemer Lutheran Church in Atlanta, St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Burlingame, California, and St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Chattanooga, Tennessee
- New worship spaces including Church of the Transfiguration for the Community of Jesus in Orleans, Massachusetts, Temple Israel in Longwood, Florida, and Snowmass Chapel in Snowmass, Colorado