

# BRUCE K. ARITA, AIA

## Senior Vice President



### Summary

Bruce Arita is a forensic architect in Thornton Tomasetti's Western U.S. Region. He has served as architect-of-record for public and private buildings and project developments of diverse scale and complexity throughout Southern California. His specialized expertise includes exterior envelope diagnostics, damage determination (cause and origin), moisture intrusion analysis, property due diligence evaluations and building repair programs. Bruce has been the lead investigator on numerous assignments where expert investigation, consulting, and sworn testimony have been requested.

### Areas of Technical Expertise

- Forensic Architecture and Complex Investigations
- Standard of Care
- Technical Architecture

### Education

- B.S., Architecture, 1977, California State Polytechnic University

### Registrations

- Registered Architect in CA
- Safety Assessment Program (SAP) Evaluator, Post-Earthquake Evaluation of Buildings, California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA)

### Professional Activities

- Member, American Institute of Architects (AIA)
- Member, International Code Council
- Part-time Instructor, Rancho Santiago College, Architectural Studies, 1983-1993
- Instructor, CAI Education Leadership Training Program, Building Maintenance and Repair, 2004-present

### Honors and Awards

- Educator of the Year, CAI Orange County, 2006
- Committee Member of the Year, CAI, 2005

### Select Project Experience

#### Forensic Architecture and Complex Investigations

**World Trade Center, Towers 2, 3 and 4 - CAT 90-Sandy,** New York, NY. Damage determination and project director for evaluation for three towers in the aftermath of CAT 90-Sandy.

#### Meat Processing Plant, Fire Response and Claim Evaluation,

Cudahy, WI. Detailed structural and architectural evaluation and documentation of fire damage to a 120-year-old, 1.2-million-square-foot meat-processing plant, including material testing and investigation of process equipment and MEP components throughout the facility.

#### Royal Hawaiian Theater, Exterior Finish System (EFS)

**Investigation,** Honolulu, HI. Forensic investigation services for a theater located within a retail center including a site visit and examination of exterior and interior wall conditions, and forensic (invasive) examination of wall assemblies.

#### Standard of Care

**Valley Constr. v. Windsor Creek Apartments,** Walnut Creek, CA. Standard of care evaluation regarding architect-of-record for a multi-family residential project.

**Newport Nat'l v. Nadel-Ventana,** Carlsbad, CA. Expert testimony of architectural standard of care and sufficiency of plans and specifications.

#### Voskanian Constr. v. Alhambra Unified Sch. Dist.,

Alhambra, CA. Expert evaluation of extra work claims presented by general contractor for work performed at a school site and effect of alleged deficient plans and specifications.

#### Technical Architecture

**City of Ontario Fire Stations 6, 7 and 8,** Ontario, CA.\* Architectural design services.

**City of Ontario, Westwind Park Gymnasium and Park Facilities,** Ontario, CA.\* Architectural design services.

\*Denotes work performed with previous employer.

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**Orange County Transportation Agency**, Orange, CA. \* Roof repair project.

### Sworn Testimony

Trial and Deposition, State Restoration, Inc. v. Encino Oaks HOA, et al regarding building code analysis of fire damaged residential structures in Los Angeles, CA. August 2022; July 2022.

Deposition, Sandoval v. HMC Architects, Inc., et al regarding standard of care and performance of architect in connection with design and construction administration of a public works facility in Los Angeles County, CA. September 2021.

Deposition, Northrup Grumman v. AON regarding wind and water damage resulting from Hurricane Katrina. 2016

Deposition, JA Rodeo LLC v. Brackett Constr. regarding architectural details and specifications for a restaurant addition in Beverly Hills, CA. February 2014.

Trial, Valley Constr. v. Windsor Creek Apartments regarding architectural standard of care and sufficiency of plans and details for a multi-story apartment structure in Northern California. August 2013; July 2011.

Deposition, Newport Nat'l v. Nadel-Ventana regarding the standard of care of the architect for two large commercial office buildings in Southern California. September 2010.

Trial and Deposition, Doctors Hospital v. Beazley regarding application of building codes for a hospital facility and extent of damage caused by Hurricane Ike. February 2010; September 2009.

Trial and Deposition, Voskanian Constr. v. Alhambra Unified Sch. Dist. regarding evaluation of extra work claims presented by a general contractor for work performed at a school site and effect of plans and specifications alleged deficient. August 2009; July 2009.

### Select Papers, Lectures and Publications

"2020 ICC 600 Standard for Residential Construction in High Wind Regions," code cycle update as Consensus Committee Member (Code Standard). January 2020 (co-author)

"Slaying the Monster - Earthquake Response: A Strategic Blueprint," Presented to Property Insurance Claims Group (PICG) in London, UK. May 2015 (presenter)

"Substance and Subjectivity: Building Codes in America," Presented to FM Global Insurance, Western U.S. Regional meetings. May 2014 (presenter)

"Building Codes and Property Loss Claims - Substance and Subjectivity: Building Codes in America," Presented to London Market Insurers, London, UK. September 2013 (presenter)

"Building Codes and residential Claims – Code Triggers for residential Claims," Presented to AIG Private Client Group, San Diego, CA. February 2012 (presenter)

"Building Code Requirements for Repairs Post Catastrophe," Worley Catastrophe Response Expo, Baton Rouge, LA, February 2008 (presenter)

"Career Choices in Forensic Engineering," Iranian American Society of Civil Engineers, January 2008 (presenter)

"Building Issues and Decay," Keystone Pacific, 2006 (presenter)

"Architectural Reviews," CAI Member Course, 2005 (presenter)

"Mold Remediation Issues and Buildings," Orange County Community Associations Institute, 2004 (panel speaker)

### CONTACT

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