

Bruce K. Arita, AIA

Senior Vice President, PLC Practice Leader



Summary

Mr. 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. Mr. Arita has been the lead investigator for 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, Pomona

Registrations

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

Professional Activities

- American Institute of Architects (AIA)
- International Code Council

Honors and Awards

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

Teaching

- Part-time Instructor, Rancho Santiago College, Architectural Studies, 1983-1993
- Instructor, CAI Education Leadership Training Program, Building Maintenance and Repair, 2004-Present

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 New York 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 Construction vs. Windsor Creek Apartments, Walnut Creek, CA. Standard of care evaluation regarding architect-of-record for a multi-family residential project.

Newport National vs. Nadel-Ventana, Carlsbad, CA. Expert testimony of architectural standard of care and sufficiency of plans and specifications.

Voskian Construction vs. Alhambra Unified School District, 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.*

Orange County Transportation Agency, Roof Repair Project, Orange, CA.*

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Sworn Testimony

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

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

Trial, Valley Construction vs. Windsor Creek Apartments, regarding architectural standard of care and sufficiency of plans. August 2013.

Deposition, Valley Contractors vs. Windsor Creek Apartments, regarding architectural drawings and details for multi-story apartment structure in Northern California. July 2011.

Deposition, Newport National vs. Nadel, regarding the standard of care of the architect for two large commercial office buildings in Southern California. September 2010.

Trial, Doctors Hospital vs. Beazley, regarding application of building codes for a hospital facility damaged by Hurricane Ike. February 2010.

Deposition, Doctor's Hospital vs. Beazley, regarding the extent of damage and requisite code upgrades to a hospital impacted by Hurricane Ike. September 2009.

Trial, Voskanian Construction vs. Alhambra Unified School District, 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.

Deposition, Voskanian Construction vs. Alhambra Unified School District, regarding evaluation of extra work claims presented by a general contractor for work performed at a school site. July 2009.

Papers, Publications and Presentations

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

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

"Building Code Requirements for Repairs Post Catastrophe," Worley Catastrophe Response Expo, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 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)

* Denotes work performed with previous employer.

Contact

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