02 May 2025

RE: **AIA South Carolina**
Sanders Pace Architecture –Brandon Pace FAIA, Presenter

Past/Present

In a lecture titled "Past/Present," Brandon will share stories of Knoxville's inner-city neighborhoods through a series of projects that illustrate how the social, economic, and cultural circumstances that shaped 20th century development in Knoxville inform the Firm's design process. The talk will focus on recent public, private, and institutional projects and the historic development patterns that shaped each site.

Sanders Pace Architecture

The work of Sanders Pace Architecture stretches across contemporary Appalachian culture, spanning from the city of Knoxville, through the Tennessee Valley to North Carolina, and into the ancient expanse of the Great Smoky Mountains. The office is based at the northern edge of downtown Knoxville in a lively adaptive re-use of a building that sat vacant for more than 30 years. The headquarters embodies an attitude core to the practice: the revitalization of a city can be organically realized one building at a time through preservation, adaptive re-use and sensitive urban infill.

During the past decade, with a strong footing in Knoxville's incremental growth and renewal, the practice has expanded its reach. Today, Sanders Pace Architecture works across scales, typologies and contexts to engage city planning, large-scale public sector projects and higher educational facilities across the region. The practice leverages research and collaboration to create shared environments that are authentically rooted in place, while inspiring a new generation of thought leaders and innovation.

Brandon Pace, FAIA

Brandon Pace is a founding partner of Sanders Pace Architecture, started in Knoxville, Tennessee in 2002 with partner John Sanders. With work that is extensively researched and thoughtfully executed, Brandon has become a critical voice for a region and context often overlooked. In an era of increasing globalization, Brandon approaches architecture with a local mindset, identifying and expanding upon those cultural, physical, and social characteristics and circumstances that define a place and make it unique. By identifying opportunities within these constraints Brandon has established a foundation and framework for a design process that has led his projects to more than 100 local, regional, and national AIA design awards and publication in books and magazines throughout the world.

Brandon holds degrees from Yale University and the University of Tennessee where he has served as an Adjunct Lecturer and invited critic. He is also an active critic and lecturer at colleges of architecture and design across the United States and has become a resource to other AIA chapters across the country through invited lectures and as jury chair for multiple local and state AIA design awards programs. In recognition of his design work and contribution to the profession, Brandon was elevated to the AIA College of Fellows in 2019 and was the co-recipient of the AIA East Tennessee Gold Medal in 2024 with partner John Sanders.

HSW Justification

This course tells the story of how historic, cultural, and economic influences have shaped the Tennessee Valley and how the Firm's work respects and builds upon this important legacy. Work shown will show how the Firm is charting a new course for development with innovative work that is specific and responsive to local conditions which has led to a more sustainable, healthier community.

Objective 1

Illustrate how urban revitalization has a meaningful and lasting impact on the overall health and safety of the local community.

Objective 2

Address how the adaptive reuse and rehabilitation of existing structures can reduce our environmental impact by limiting waste, reducing the effects of urban sprawl.

Objective 3

Recognize the importance of industry to historic development patterns and how these places and stories can be integrated into the design process.

Objective 4

Speak to the importance of permanence as a sustainable design strategy.