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RUSSELL SANDERS RETIRES FROM HOFFMANN AFTER 47 YEARS

Sanders was one of the firm's first employees and served as President since 2019

New Haven — 1 August 2025 — Hoffmann Architects + Engineers, a design firm specializing in the rehabilitation of building exteriors, announces the retirement of **Russell M. Sanders, AIA** this month after nearly five decades with the company.

In 1978, Russ Sanders joined Hoffmann after earning a B.S. degree in Architecture from Ohio State University. With just a few employees, the year-old firm was fertile ground for a motivated young architect, and Sanders soon established himself as a standout worker and a quick study in both technical skills and field experience. He rapidly gained promotions and, by 1989, had earned the title of Director, Technical Services, reporting directly to owner John J. Hoffmann, FAIA. When John Hoffmann began transition planning in 2011, he offered Sanders an ownership stake in the company. Eight years later, Hoffmann decided to step down as the firm's President, naming Sanders his successor. Sanders ably led Hoffmann Architects + Engineers through the challenges of the pandemic, overseeing a period of growth and stability that defied the economic downturn to emerge an even more robust and agile company. He will retire at the end of August 2025, 47 years after joining the firm.



Russell M. Sanders, AIA

"Russell has given more to this company than anyone," John Hoffmann reflected. "He is the very embodiment of dedication and loyalty. When, years ago, he set his mind to furthering the firm's values of attention to detail, specialized expertise, and service to the client, he built the standard by which we measure success. His retirement leaves big shoes to fill, even as his legacy for exceptional work carries on."

At the start of 2025, Sanders transitioned to President Emeritus, acting as Senior Advisor to the Board of Directors and gradually handing over leadership responsibilities to Craig Hargrove, AIA, and Avi Kamrat, the firm's incoming Presidents, and to Larry Keenan, AIA, PE, who, as Director, Technical Services, will oversee Quality Assurance / Quality Control in Sanders' stead.

Career Beginnings

Soon after Sanders joined the practice, Hoffmann moved to specialize in building enclosure rehabilitation, which proved a defining decision for the young company. Together with his senior colleagues, Sanders forged connections with manufacturers and contractors, building a reputation in the industry for detail-driven design. For Sanders, this period of rapid growth meant opportunities to spend time in the field, where he learned how to solve problems in real time.

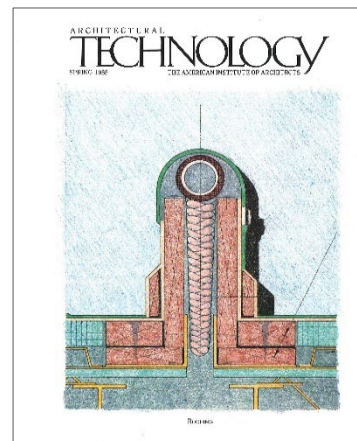


In those early years, Sanders considers himself fortunate to have had mentors with the experience and dedication to offer him a well-rounded education in the practice of architecture. A committed mentor in his own right, Sanders dedicated himself to paying his on-the-job education forward, taking time to tutor junior staff in the rigors Hoffmann's scrupulous drafting standards or bringing trainees along to job sites and guiding them through the process of construction administration.

Memorable Projects

Some projects that have stayed with Sanders are his award-winning work on the restoration of the Chrysler Building and Rockefeller Center in New York, as well as the Opera House at Lincoln Center. Restoration of the Dome of the United States Capitol, among other projects on the Capitol grounds, was unforgettable. As building enclosure consultant for restoration of Yale University's Paul Rudolph Hall (formerly the Art + Architecture Building), Sanders collaborated with other design firms to revive the vision of a legendary architect.

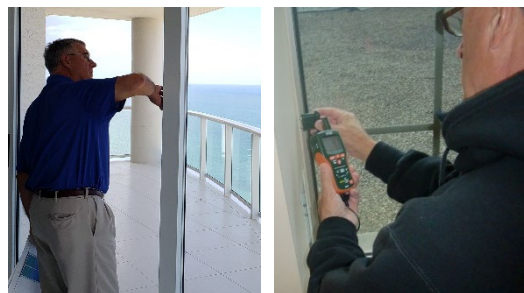
Most challenging was his litigation and claim support work for natural disasters and other catastrophic events. After hurricane Katrina, Sanders went to New Orleans to assess damage at Shell Headquarters, and he was at Ground Zero in Manhattan just after September 11, 2001, while it was still a restricted area. Seeing the impact of these events and helping to determine a path forward was, in Sanders' words, "quite sobering and very gratifying."



Cover of *Architectural Technology* from 1985 featuring a roof expansion joint detail by Russ Sanders.

Leadership at Hoffmann

Since 1989, Sanders has been responsible for Hoffmann's rigorous Quality Assurance / Quality Control program, providing accountability for all deliverables produced by the firm. Under his supervision, every set of drawings and specifications undergoes painstaking review, which serves not only to produce robust and comprehensive documents but also to educate junior staff in the intricacies of building enclosure detailing.



Russ Sanders investigating storm damage.

Beyond project work, Sanders has presented at a variety of industry conferences and published articles in Hoffmann's award-winning periodical, the *JOURNAL*, as well as in national publications, including *Building Design+Construction*, *The Construction Specifier*, *Building*

Operating Management, the Association for Preservation Technology *APT Bulletin*, and the International Concrete Repair Institute *Concrete Repair Bulletin*.

Since its inception in 2020, the Hoffmann Diversity and Inclusion Committee has counted Sanders among its

most dedicated members. With his support, the firm won the inaugural AIA Connecticut Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (J.E.D.I.) Award in 2021, the first of many accolades. He volunteered at the firm's Habitat for Humanity build days and offered guidance to students at career fairs, and he steadfastly supported the committee's most ambitious initiatives, the Hoffmann Diversity Advancement Scholarship and the Hoffmann Employee Student Loan Repayment Program.



Sanders at a career fair, a Habitat for Humanity build day, and the AIA CT J.E.D.I. Awards.



A Legacy of Accountability

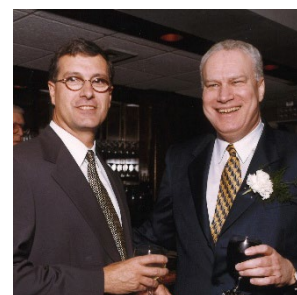
Above all, Sanders has instilled in everyone he mentors that trust and responsibility are central to a successful career. Earning a client's respect and serving their needs has always been central to his work, and this commitment is what built Sanders' strong ties with building owners, property managers, design professionals, insurance companies, attorneys, and others. His authenticity and collegiality also formed close bonds with the architects, engineers, business development, finance, and administration

professionals he worked with over the years.

Aside from the satisfaction of the many projects he has worked on, Sanders feels that being an officer in what has become, over his nearly five-decade-long career, a highly successful practice has been enormously rewarding.

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Founded in 1977, Hoffmann Architects + Engineers specializes in the rehabilitation of the building enclosure. The firm's work focuses on the exteriors of existing structures, diagnosing and resolving deterioration within facades, roofing systems, windows, waterproofing materials, plazas/terraces, parking garages, and historic and landmark structures. We provide consulting services for new building construction, as well as litigation and claim support. Our technical professionals investigate and correct damage resulting from time and weather, substandard or improper construction, design defects, material failures, poor workmanship, structural movement, and stress. To learn more, visit www.hoffarch.com.



Russ Sanders and John Hoffmann in 1999.