

James R. Merritt FAIA

Principal

Overview



“In 1979, a young architect and partner bought a dilapidated historical building in a run-down neighborhood of the Central Business District in his hometown, Tacoma, WA. He was filled with idyllic dreams and inspirations of what that part of his beloved city could and would someday become. The building would house his newly formed architectural firm. He was going to invest financially where his hopes were and to be an example to the community and potential clients. He committed his talents and energies to his neighborhood.” (From October 10, 2001 letter written by James Harris FAIA.)

Jim has been a visionary in the revitalization of the urban setting. He has contributed to the success of community events, has offered services for community organizations, designed numerous facilities, and has brought consensus and action to many civic initiatives.



Jim has continually recognized the needs and opportunities for improving his downtown neighborhood, as well as other areas, and has led numerous efforts to implement exciting and permanent improvements. He has sought to enhance the city while preserving its historic fabric. Many of his ideas have come to fruition following skillful consensus building. Jim has gained a reputation as the catalyst to bring stakeholders together on an issue.

One of Jim’s professional goals was to commit to the renewal of the core city, particularly the south area of the CBD around the historic Union Station. With the revitalization of the Historic Union Station District, Jim’s commitment has grown to encompass the entire City and region.

Qualities

Jim’s qualities include:

- He knows the community.
- He has collaborated with the City and Community on many initiatives and projects for the betterment of the area.
- He has over 30 years for experience working with the city, state, community groups, and clients.
- He is an inspirational speaker and talented facilitator.
- He has the ability to shape and direct vision.
- He has been in many leadership positions: owner of businesses, principal architect, chairman of boards, President of local AIA Chapter, and chairman of various events.
- He works for the benefit of all, with no conflicts of interest.
- He has worked with major developers on public and private projects.
- He works well with community groups.
- He was a co-owner of a retail business in Tacoma (Techline-Tacoma)
- He is a local home owner and land owner.
- He knows the business community – has been a member of Rotary for 30+ years.
- He knows neighboring communities.
- He is a patient listener.

EDUCATION

Fife High School, 1965
Bachelor of Architecture, 1970
University of Washington, College
of Architecture & Urban Planning

EDUCATION HONORS

School Medal, 1970 (First in Class)
Magna Cum Laude
Tau Sigma Delta
Phi Beta Kappa
Charles Winthrop Lea III
Scholarship
National Endowment of Arts Study
Scholarship

REGISTRATION

Registered Architect, 1973
State of Washington

FIRMS

Jim has served as a Principal of his firm since 1975, joining others with mutual interests for varying periods of time.

Merritt Arch	2001-present
Merritt + Pardini/PMX	1998-2001
Merritt + Pardini	1984-1998
Merritt Associates	1984
Tsang-Merritt	1979-1984
Glassie-Merritt	1975-1979
NKZ	1967-1975

Jim demonstrated strong leadership...working with the community to come up with a design to renovate the facility in a way that preserved the existing architecture while modernizing it for its current use as a federal courthouse.

-Congressmen Norm Dicks
On the Tacoma Union Station



- He helped establish policies used today by the Landmarks Preservation Commission of Tacoma.
- He is creative.
- He has a good working relationship with many staff members in the City.
- He has a real genuine interest in Tacoma and its citizens.
- He has a minimal learning curve for most projects - can step right in and accelerate momentum.
- He is an encourager.
- He has managed staffs, or has part of the management team, of two to three hundred.
- He has been “in the trenches” as well as in the boardroom.

Professional Affiliations & Civic Service

Jim has always felt that it was of great importance to participate in community activities, volunteering because of a desire to contribute to the betterment of the community. The following is a representative list of community efforts and professional affiliations:

Hillside Development Council 2007

AIA 150 Sounder Train, 2006

American Institute of Architects, Southwest Washington Chapter

Member, 1975 to present

Chapter President, 2002

Board of Directors, 1978-1981, 1997-2003

Numerous Committees (Honor Awards, Scholarship, and Community Issues)

Co-Chairman of the Regional AIA Conference: A02: Urban Adventure, Remaking a City

Fellow of the American Institute of Architects (FAIA), 2002

AIA/RUDAT, 1977-1979

Tacoma- Pierce County Chamber of Commerce

Member, 1979 to present

Board of Directors, 1992-1995

City of Tacoma “A Walk on the Mountain” Design Advisory Committee, 1993-1994

Boy Scouts Facilities Assessment and Search Committee, 1995-1999

Pride Auction Committee, Bellarmine Preparatory School, 1996-1997

Washington Trust for Historic Preservation, 1982 to present

National Trust for Historic Preservation, 1982 to present

Landmarks Preservation Board, City of Tacoma

Member, 1979-1985

Chairman, 1983-1984

The Association for Preservation Technology, 1989 to present

Construction Specification Institute, 1979 to present

Downtown Tacoma Association

Member, 1979-1991 (Now part of the Tacoma/Pierce County Chamber of Commerce)

Board of Directors, 1989-1991

Executive Board, Development Chairman, 1988-1989

Security Task Force, 1986-1987

Security & Clean-Up Committee

Member, 1985-1992

Chairman, 1986-1987

I-705 Spur Review committee, 1979-1985

SR-509 Bridge Design Alternatives Committee, 1991-1992



Fife-Milton Rotary
 Member, 1975-1987
 Board of Directors, 1985-1986
 Tacoma Rotary #8, 1987 to present
 Paul Harris Fellow
 Downtown Area Revitalization Task Force (DART), 1982 to 1992
 Union Station Historic District Association
 Member, 1983 to 1993
 Executive Committee
 Chairman, 1986-1987
 Local Development Council (BIA) (Security and Clean-Up Committee)
 Member, 1989-1999
 Vice President, 1989-1999
 Pacific Avenue Development Plan Advisory Council, 1986 - 1987
 Pacific Avenue Parking Committee, 1990 - 1992
 Allied Arts Board of Directors, 1982 - 1984
 Save of Station (SOS), 1984 - present
 University of Washington Alumni Association Life Member, 1997 to present
 Friends of the Humanities
 St. Patrick Church, 1973 - 1984
 First Presbyterian Church
 Member, 1984 to 1994
 Nehemiah Committee (Building Committee), 1986
 Life Center, 1994 to present
 Men's lunchgroup Friday
 Zoobilee (Pt. Defiance Zoo & Aquarium)
 Chairman of the First Annual Event, 1991
 Physical Arrangements, 1991-1995
 Festival of Trees
 Space Planner, 1988-1992
 Tacoma Country & Golf Club
 Member, 1998 to present
 Long Range Planning Committee, 2003 - 2005
 Haddaway Hall Board of Directors, 2002-2003
 American Leadership Forum, 1989 to present
 University of Washington Tacoma / Location Proposal (DTA Committee), 1992-1993
 Pacific Gateway Block Committee, 1990-1993
 Marine Daffodil Parade Judge, 2003
 Stadium High School Band Fundraising Chairman (Student Trip to Australia) 1996 - 1997
 Showboat Theatre Proposal (to move to Foss Waterway), 1992
 "VITA Tacoma" – Development Committee, 1992 - 1994
 TAG proposal to move to Rialto Theatre
 Pierce County Office Proposal to Remain Downtown (for Executive Council for a Greater Tacoma)
 WTEC – Proposal for Trade Center of Foss Waterway (for Executive Council for a Greater Tacoma)
 Community Summit, 1988 - 1990
 Pacific Block Committee (Business Owners of General area of 13th to 17th Street,
 Downtown Tacoma)
 Save the Bridge (SOB) Murray Morgan/11th Street Bridge
 US Green Building Council, Member 2003 to present
 Basketball Coach (Assistant and/or head coach)
 Bellarmine, 1999 - 2007
 Al Davies Boys & Girls Club, 1990 - 1996
 Life Center, 1998 - 1999



Metropolitan Parks

Co-chair of Bond Issue Campaign

Citizens Board Issue Advisory Board, 2004-2005

Tacoma Dome

Citizens Bond Advisory Committee, 2005



Accomplishment Descriptions:

AIA AND R/UDAT (1975-1977)

Jim Merritt joined the AIA as a student and intern in the 60's and in 1975 as the principal of a new firm in the community, became more actively involved. With the 1977 R/UDAT study of the downtown core, Jim began focusing on revitalization, linking the core to I-5, which bypassed the core in the mid-60's, and turning the prevalent attitude around. The four-day R/UDAT event widened Jim's appreciation for the challenges of gathering information and citizen interviews from throughout the community. The experience set the stage for further involvement, action and accomplishments.



I-705 FREEWAY SPUR FROM I-5 TO THE CITY CORE (1977-1979)

Jim's activism had its start in the city core with the debate of the extension of the freeway from I-5 to the CBD of the city. Jim, through the AIA, led the group of architects as the spokesperson to present an alternative to the massive, extremely intrusive State option. Under extreme pressure from the Downtown business groups that "just wanted a connection," desperate after the exodus of the prior 20 years, Jim led the discussion, turning the tide, gathering support of the alternative which was graphically presented by the group of AIA architects to the State and many community groups. What became known as the "AIA architects' alternative" became adopted and built. This option provided the opportunities for future development that even today are just being realized—from the arrival through the city to the cable-stay bridge over Thea Foss Waterway, the re-use of the Union Station to the History Museum, a landscaped ravine and the view of Mount Rainier to the Chihuly Bridge of Glass across I-705.

TEAMSTER HIRING HALL BECOMES MERRITT'S ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE (1979)

In 1979, Jim and a partner brought his new firm into the neighborhood by acquiring the abandoned Teamster Hiring Hall, a 90-year-old historic structure, on the site of the original train station. It took three years to complete the restoration. The firm became the "outpost" four blocks removed from the traditional business core.



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE STUDY/DESIGNATION OF HISTORIC DISTRICT (1979-1980)

During this period, the preservation community was taking root, a study was performed to define the historic character of the Union Station area to determine if designation potential existed for individual buildings as well as possible historic district status. Jim interviewed with the "national assessment team", providing background information and discussing the history of the area. The resultant study recommended designating the area as a historic district with the Union Station as the primary building. Jim testified at the hearings to promote the designation, which in 1980 became known as the "Union Station/Warehouse Historic District."

LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION MEMBER (1979-1985)

Jim felt that he could help his Historic District neighborhood and the City as a member of Tacoma's Landmarks Preservation Commission. Spending six years on the commission, with two years as the chair, he set up procedures and sub-committees that are still used. Jim's involvement has increased the interest and understating of preservation in Tacoma.

TACOMA DOME SITE SELECTION (1981)

Tacoma was promoting the construction of a domed stadium and multi-purposed arena. One of two site finalists was adjacent to the Union Station Historic District. Jim got involved to define the impacts of this site and to illustrate that such a facility could become an impediment to growth of the traditional CBD and historic district. The debate was intense, but on a close vote, a Hawthorne neighborhood adjacent to I-5 was selected, preserving the scale and fabric of the Historic District Neighborhood.



THE UNION STATION HISTORIC DISTRICT STUDY (1982)

Interest in the Union Station neighborhood was increasing. SOM, a national design firm, was commissioned to look at the design opportunities of the District. Jim was involved with the SOM study to define opportunities, constraints, and potential of the District. Alternatives were developed to visualize the potential of the neighborhood.

THE PINKERTON BUILDING (1982)

For years Jim had no “office” neighbors in the Historic District. That changed in 1982. Jim encouraged the manager of a local accounting firm to look at the Pinkerton Building, an abandoned 100-year-old building in the Historic District. Jim convinced the accounting manager of the opportunity of the Pinkerton restoration, and planning began. During planning, a devastating fire gutted the building. Jim convinced the City Building Department to rescind an order to demolish the burned shell. Restoration work was done to save the building, which became the home of the accounting firm. Recently, the University of Washington Tacoma converted the Pinkerton to house the Institute of Technology under Jim’s guidance and design lead.

UNION STATION HISTORIC DISTRICT OWNERS ASSOCIATION (1983-1993)

Jim invited a number of area owners and tenants to his office to talk about common concerns and to discuss issues beneficial to the area. This ad hoc group formalized the Association to address numerous initiatives. The district ultimately became the University of Washington Tacoma Campus. The success of the University of Washington Tacoma campus location was due in part to the support of the Association.

PIERCE TRANSIT BUS TURNAROUND (1983)

The transit system owned an undeveloped site in the historic district. Jim worked with the transit authority to develop and aesthetically integrate a bus turnaround facility that was built to be compatible with the neighborhood.

CONSOLIDATION OF SKID ROW OWNERSHIP (1984)

The area between the historic district and the traditional downtown, known as “skid row” had a wide range of ownership. Jim encouraged local businessmen to work to consolidate ownership of this two-block area to allow a coordinated redevelopment strategy. The effort was successful. The consolidated block was sold to the Weyerhaeuser Company, who traded the site for timber land. Jim joined downtown citizens to promote Pierce County Government’s development of an Administrative Center on the site. The site endorsed by the County Council, but funding problems slowed the project. Pierce County, with Tacoma’s backing, solicited development proposals with Opus, a national real estate development firm, securing development rights. Recently, Rainier Pacific Bank built their headquarters on the site.

“SOS”- SAVE OUR STATION: AMTRACK MOVES OUT OF UNION STATION (1984 to present)

Use of the Tacoma Union Station by the railroad was minimal since its heyday in the 40’s. Numerous ideas for redevelopment were proposed over the years, but none proved feasible. In 1984, Amtrack announced it was closing the station and turning off the utilities. The urgency to salvage the “western terminus” of the continental railroad mounted. Jim, with a group of active citizens, formed SOS “Save Our Station” to focus the community’s attention on this challenge. Jim developed images to promote the station. The activity spurred the City and State of Washington into action. Jim assisted with a feasibility study to determine needed funding to make the project economically feasible. The state legislature funded the project shortfall to get the project underway. Jim was asked to volunteer a sketch of the station that was used by

Congressman Norm Dicks to promote conversion of the station into a Federal Courthouse. The effort was successful and along with the State's funding, the saving of the station was underway. Jim successfully put together a team of local and national experts to complete the restoration project.

SNOQUALMIE SUBSTATION (1984)

The Snoqualmie Substation was a significant historic structure in the area. The owner was considering converting the building for his office use. Jim completed an analysis of the building. The owner was contemplating his next step when the University of Washington Tacoma started to consider the area for its campus. Subsequently, the building became part of the campus and phase one of implementation, as the main library reading room.



CITY PARK AT 17TH (1984)

A triangular site on the edge of the Historic District seemed like a perfect opportunity to introduce a "green" space in the District. Jim suggested ideas for the park to the city leaders. He provided sketches of alternatives for consideration. With a modest budget available, the park was installed, providing the first open park space in the neighborhood.

NEEDLE EXCHANGE PROGRAM (1985)

The "needle exchange program" started by a local social service advocate, became a national program. The program exchanged used needles for clean ones. This was to help prevent disease among drug users. This program started near Jim's office in the Union Station neighborhood. Jim mobilized the community and became instrumental in raising awareness of the program. After the group testified before the Health Department and Health Board, the Health department changed the policies of the program to become a much more responsible program for the community.

"DART" – DOWNTOWN AREA REVITALIZATION TASKFORCE (1982-1992)

Jim, along with fellow AIA architects, joined with the Downtown Tacoma Association and the Chamber of Commerce to coordinate development initiatives in the downtown area. The prime success of this effort was the Weyerhaeuser Company's development of the Sheraton Hotel, new YMCA, and other office facilities on the north end of the Union Station neighborhood.

BREWERY AS A GASOHOL PLANT (1986)

Energy was an issue in the 80's. An opportunity arose to convert a closed brewery near the Union Station Historic District into a gasohol plant. The Union Station Historic District Owners Association, with Jim as the chair, reviewed this initiative. After research and discussion, the Association, facing strong support for the initiative by the business community, took a position against the gasohol plant. Considerable debate ensued, but momentum and support was reversed. The gasohol plant idea was abandoned. At the time, the business community felt this was a loss of economic opportunity, however, the effort mounted by Jim and the Association preserved the area for a far greater opportunity. Without this resistance, the gasohol plant would have turned the area into an industrial backwater. The opportunity for the University of Washington Tacoma Campus, the Washington State Historical Museum, the Federal Courts at Union Station, the Tacoma Art Museum, and the Glass Museum was realized. These may have been lost without the stand of Merritt and the Association.

PACIFIC AVENUE DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE (1986)

Jim participated on a City of Tacoma committee along with other local citizens to recommend design guidelines for Pacific Avenue, the "main street" of Tacoma's downtown. A number of guidelines were recommended, including one suggested by Jim, to extend the historic street lights that ran from 7th to 17th Streets through the Union Station Historic District to 24th Street. This extension was implemented and symbolically extended the downtown.



CITY VISITS FOR THE DOWNTOWN TACOMA ASSOCIATION (1987-1991)

As a member of the Downtown Tacoma Association Board of Directors and the Development Committee representing the Union Station Neighborhood, Jim participated on visits to communities around the western United States to study and bring back ideas to benefit the neighborhood. Four visits occurred to Vancouver, BC; Portland, Oregon; San Diego, California; and San Antonio, Texas. Many ideas were brought back to the community and implemented such as the security and clean-up program for the downtown.



TACOMA UNION STATION RESTORATION AND FEDERAL COURTS ADDITION (1987-1992)

Jim, with his activism and ten years in the neighborhood, successfully assembled a team of local and national experts to secure the commission to save and restore Union Station. The prime tenant became the Federal District Courts and related departments; however, the Washington State History Museum was also key participant in the development of the project. The project resulted in the restoration of the historic station and a sensitive addition that was respectful of

the historic station. The project won numerous awards including a nation award from the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

ARCHITECTURE AND CHILDREN PROGRAM (1987)

The Tacoma School District initiated an architecture awareness program in the elementary schools. Jim introduced the students of a local 5th grade class to the Tacoma Union Station. He led the class on a tour through the building and spent sessions with the class talking about the design process. The culmination of the program was a display by the 5th grade class at the Tacoma Art Museum to exhibit the students' ideas on Union Station and the neighborhood

MACK BUILDING (1988)

The Mack Building, a one story triangular structure, was originally built in 1890 across from the Union Station. Jim worked with the owner to convert and restore the building to house a retail shop and restaurant. The University of Washington purchased the renovated structure as part of the historic buildings that comprise the east edge of the campus along Pacific Avenue.

SECURITY AND CLEAN UP: BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT AREA (BIA) (1989-1999)

Through the Downtown Tacoma Association, Jim set up a security and clean up committee to meet regularly to discuss and solve these challenges in downtown. This effort grew into an initiative, establishing a "business improvement area" or BIA to provide security and clean up of the area. Jim worked to get the south boundary extended to include the Union Station area in the service. Jim championed putting the police and private security force on bicycles to patrol the area. The clean up includes sweeping and power washing on a regular basis. This effort has resulted in a significant improvement in safety, image, and investment incentive for the neighborhood.

TRADE EXPOSITION CENTER FOR TACOMA (1989)

Jim was part of a citizens group to study the opportunity of staging an event similar to a modest sized world's fair for the area. The goal was to increase the investment of Tacoma and bring others to the area. A study and fact finding mission to Germany occurred to determine if the Trade Fair model of Frankfurt, Düsseldorf, and Munich would be successful in Tacoma.

ARTIST LOFT HOUSING/MACDONALD-SMITH BUILDING (1989)

With Jim's involvement, the historic Mac-Donald-Smith building, a masonry warehouse originally constructed in 1893 was rehabilitated to house the first artist loft-downtown housing in the neighborhood. The 21 artist lofts each have a work and living space taking advantage of the heavy timber construction and exposed masonry walls.

THE CARLTON HOTEL RESTORATION AND RE-USE (1990)

The Carlton Hotel sat vacant for years on the north edge of the Union Station historic District. Jim was invited to join the Downtown Association for a lunch meeting to debate the appropriate reuse of the building. Jim gained the backing of the downtown business group to support the adaptive restoration of the hotel into a 7-story office facility, which Jim subsequently completed.



CABLE-STAY BRIDGE (1991)

The State of Washington was proposing a typical freeway bridge over the Foss Waterway. Jim asked the Mayor Vialle, of Tacoma to consider an alternative. The Mayor encouraged Jim to bring forward an alternative that would be worthy of the place at the arrival of the City. Jim mobilized a committee of community organizations to discuss and study alternatives for the bridge design. With research of cable-stay bridges and guidance by renowned engineer, Arvid Grant, Jim developed a sketch of a bridge for Tacoma. Armed with the concept and the support of a wide range of community organizations, Jim and community members made presentations to the City

Council, Congressman Norm Dicks, and the State of Washington. The ideas gained momentum quickly and the design was accepted by the State and now frames the arrival to the City of Tacoma.

CHIHULY BRIDGE OF GLASS

When the AIA architects proposed their alternative to the I-705 freeway, a key element was a future pedestrian bridge from Pacific Avenue to the Foss Waterway. Activity in the neighborhood mounted and interest for this link grew. Jim was asked by the City to lead a volunteer group to establish the limits and goals of such a project. Jim gathered AIA members and community activists to explore alternatives. The preferred direction was defined and designs proceeded. With the completion of the Union Station and the successful Chihuly exhibit in the Union Station, a follow-up proposal included Chihuly glass incorporation in the bridge. This evolved into the pedestrian bridge that now links the Union Station and the Glass Museum.

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON TACOMA CAMPUS LOCATION (1992)

Site selection for a new branch campus was eminent. Jim joined AIA and downtown representatives to identify, evaluate, and propose an urban site for the new branch campus. The brainstorming effort resulted in the recommendation of a campus location in the Union Station/Warehouse Historic District. The committee assessed the demographics, site acquisition challenges, infrastructure availability, access patterns, and other critical issues. Armed with the data and drawings, the committee invited representatives from the University of Washington to review the concept. This general site is not the location of the University of Washington Tacoma.



PACIFIC GATEWAY COMMITTEE (1992)

Jim participated with a neighborhood group of owners north of the Union Station to discuss revitalization opportunities. This effort was precursor of the 1998 R/UDAT study, which identified opportunity for Tacoma to consider, including a hotel and convention center.

VISUALIZE TACOMA COMMITTEE (1992)

Jim participated with a Tacoma Planning Development Committee to set a long-range vision to expand the defined boundaries of the CBD. The planning department understood the momentum caused by the activity in the Union Station area was enlarging the size of the CBD. This effort opened the City's thinking to include the Tacoma Dome area in the greater downtown.

SHOWBOAT THEATRE ON FOSS WATERWAY (1992)

The Showboat Theatre had been a fixture adjacent to the University of Washington Seattle. It needed to be moved and refurbished or demolished. Jim provided sketches for a proposed location on the Foss Waterway. Funding and timing were the enemies and the theatre did not survive.

NORTHWEST WATERS AQUARIUM AND MARINE SCIENCE CENTER (1992)

The Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium was exploring opportunities for a new aquarium for the urban center. Jim was asked to participate on the study committee to brainstorm ideas for the facility. Invited guests included directors and designers of the Monterey Bay Aquarium south of San Francisco. Jim provided sketches to envision this aquarium on the Foss.

CHIHULY GLASS EXHIBIT IN TACOMA UNION STATION (1993)

A local group promoted an exhibit of glass by Dale Chihuly for the Union Station. Jim worked with Dale Chihuly to integrate the exhibit into the rotunda of the Station with details, attachments, and lighting. The exhibit was the beginning of the Glass Museum project and the Bridge of Glass.



WASHINGTON STATE HISTORY MUSEUM (1993)

The site planning for the Union Station included the new Washington State History Museum. Jim was involved in planning the site to accommodate the museum. He was involved with the State to set the budget and provided the background information for a national design competition. The finalists included Arthur Erickson, Michael Graves and Charles Moore, with Moore's design being selected. Jim collaborated with Moore to integrate the Museum with the work at the Union Station.

SAVE ALBERS MILL (1994)

Jim looked at the brick warehouse remaining on the water's edge. It had sat vacant for a number of years. He gathered information to develop a re-use concept. When Tacoma began to purchase parcels of land on the west side of the Thea Foss Waterway, Jim encouraged them to include the Albers Mill in their building plans. The opportunity sat as the environmental clean up of the waterway proceeded. With the start of the adjacent Glass Museum, the community wanted to save the Albers. A local activist, who learned of the building from Jim, led the effort. Jim participated and encouraged Tacoma to put on a temporary roof to stabilize the building. With the building stabilized, an invitation for redevelopment proposals went out. Jim provided information to the development team.



THE TACOMA ART MUSEUM AND VISION 2010 (1996)

Jim was part of the downtown art and architecture community that discussed and set a course for the arts in the core for the next 20 years. A significant outcome was the endorsement of a new Tacoma Art Museum in the Union Station neighborhood. Jim was a member of the effort to get the museum location north of the Federal Courts.

TACOMA RESCUE MISSION COMMUNITY MEETINGS (1995-2001)

Jim's neighborhood has been home to social agencies for years. Through neighborhood contacts, he became involved with these agencies. Jim became involved in monthly neighborhood meetings to discuss issues of concern and share ideas. This became a positive venue to share information.

AIA R/UDAT STUDY (1998)

Jim joined his fellow architects to bring a second R/UDAT study back to Tacoma. The focus was a look at the "hole in the donut" between the downtown traditional core and the Union Station area. The main recommendation for this area became a new convention center, an Asian Museum, and hotel space.

CONVENTION CENTER AND HOTEL EXPANSION (1998-2001)

Jim led a series of studies that defined a concept and site for the new convention center for Tacoma. This concept fulfills the goals of the 1998 R/UDAT study. Jim was part of the design team on the convention center. The opportunity for hotels and convention center expansion are accommodated in the plan. Jim was also the lead designer on alternatives for expanding the Sheraton Hotel. (now the Hotel Murano)

THEA FOSS WATERWAY PLANNING (2001)

Jim led the overall master planning and programmatic EIS for redevelopment (1995) and in 2001 facilitated "in-water" planning workshops with the stakeholders to assist in moving redevelopment permitting forward.

Representative Project Experience

The following are project achievements during his architectural career in his various firm relationships:

Planning/Facilitation

Washington State History Museum Feasibility Study
Canterwood Golf and Country Club Clubhouse Facilitation and Master Planning
City of Lakewood, Lakefront Street Ends Facilitation and Feasibility Studies
North/West/Central Pool Facilitation and Workshops
Historic Elks Temple Planning
Colonial Fruit and Produce Planning
Community Facilitation for Coeur d'Alene River Basin Clean-up
Fort Steilacoom Park Community Discussions
Steilacoom Lake Community Meetings
Jefferson County Facility Study
ASARCO Tacoma Smelter Property Master Planning and Implementation Planning
Thea Foss Waterway Master Plan / EIS / In-water Planning
Northwest Landing Commercial Development Design Review (i.e. State Farm, Intel)
Puyallup Public Facilities Master Planning
Sedro-Woolley Downtown Beautification Plan
Bellarmine Preparatory School Master Plan
Portland Avenue Revitalization Plan
Kelso Urban Design/Allen St. Bridge
Greater Tacoma Convention Center, Master Plan
Pierce County Administration Office Planning
Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium, Master Plan
Fife Civic Center and Park Master Plan
St. Charles Borromeo Master Plan and Updates

Transit and Vehicle Maintenance

Gerber Auto Collision
C-TRAN Maintenance/Operations/Administration Facility Expansion Study
Clallam Transit Maintenance/Operations/Administration Base
Ben Franklin Transit
Maintenance/Operations/Administration Base





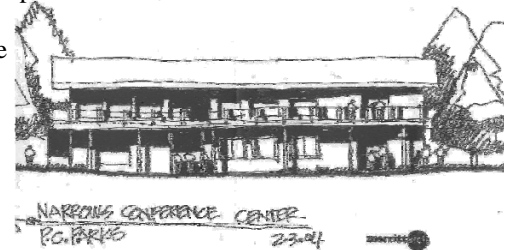
Programming for Addition to Headquarters
Intercity Transit Maintenance/Operations/Administration Base
Fare Box Room Remodel
Dial-a-Lift Addition
OTC Customer Service Remodel
ADA Site Access
Pierce Transit Headquarters Renovation & Addition and New Bus Turnaround/Layover Facility
Kelso Multi-Modal Transit Center, Restoration of Burlington Northern Train Depot
Port of Tacoma New Maintenance Facility
M.A.T.E.S. (Maintenance and Training Equipment Site), Army National Guard, Yakima Training Center
U.T.E.S. (Unit Training Equipment Site), Army National Guard, Ft. Lewis
Sound Transit Park & Ride Planning
Whatcom Transit MOA Base
Kitsap Transit MOA Base
Fairhaven Station, Bellingham
Oak Harbor Transit Center
Morton Train Depot

Community Centers

Fife Senior/Community Center
Puyallup Senior/Community Center (Four Phases)
Lighthouse Senior/Community Center (Rehabilitation), City of Tacoma
Hoquiam Station/Community Center
Kelso Station/Community Center
South Park Community Center Renovation & Addition, Metro Parks, City of Tacoma
Portland Avenue Community Center, Metro Parks, City of Tacoma
Jane Clark Fieldhouse Renovation, City of Tacoma

Parks and Recreation

Metropolitan Parks Headquarters and Park Planning
Fife Civic Center, Community Swimming Pool and Park Space
ASARCO Master Plan/Parks and Development Space
Foss Waterway Master Plan/Parks & Development Space
Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium, Master Plan
Fife Community Civic Center Master Plan
Tacoma Country & Golf Club
Master Plan/Facilitation
Pool/Support Space
Pierce County Parks & Recreation
Regional Park Partners (Buckley/Bonney Lake, Fife/Milton, Gig Harbor)
Frontier Park Home Economics Building
Narrows Park Conference Center
Ashford Park Cultural Community Center and Mountaineering Museum
Buckley-Bonney Lake Community Center and Sheriff Sub-Station
City of Lakewood – Fort Steilacoom Park Public Process



Non-Profit Organizations/Community Facilities

Eastside Boys & Girls Club Addition
Boy Scouts of America Regional Headquarters (19th St. & S.R. 16)
Red Cross Headquarters/Administration Offices
Jefferson Square, Tacoma Rescue Mission
Tyler Square Transitional Housing, Tacoma Rescue Mission
Colonial Square, Tacoma Rescue Mission

Municipal/Government

Pacific County Courthouse

Historic Wood Windows and Doors Restoration

Historic Copper Roof Replacement

Cowlitz County Courthouse

Historic Wood Windows and Doors Restoration Study

City of Kent

Municipal Facilities Needs Assessment

City of Bonney Lake

Public Safety Building, Police & Fire Station

Bonney Lake Library

Sumner Fire Station, City of Sumner

City of Orting Public Safety Building (police and fire) Study

Mill Creek Capital Facilities Plan

City of Tacoma

Convention Center Expansion Concept Design/Master Plan

Tacoma Union Station Restoration and Addition of Federal Courthouse

Thea Foss Waterway Master Plan, EIS, and In-water Planning

Metropolitan Park District Headquarters

I-705 Pedestrian Overpass

South Park Community Center Renovation & Addition

Lighthouse Senior Center Retrofit & Remodel

Portland Avenue Community Center

Tacoma Fire Station #12 Relocation/Training Center Study

St. Helens Neighborhood Study/Facilitation

Clyde Hill Police and Town Hall Needs Assessment

Town of Fircrest

New Town Hall

Civic Center and Town Hall Planning

DuPont City Hall & Community Center

Enumclaw Public Safety Facilities Needs Assessment

Grandview Public Safety Facilities Planning and Fire Station Design

East Wenatchee City Hall

City of Olympia

Olympia City Hall Space Needs Assessment

Olympia Conference Center Planning

Capital Campus Visitor Information Center

Edmonds Public Safety Building (Police, courts, & fire)

City of Fife

City Hall & Civic Center Master Planning

Senior Center

Swimming Pool

Fife Fire Station

Fife Historical Museum

Carnation City Hall Remodel Planning Study

Lake Forest Park City Hall Planning Study

Spokane Conference Center Planning Study

Auburn City Hall Space Needs Assessment

Jefferson County Facilities Space Needs Assessment

City of Puyallup

Public Facilities Master Planning (Library, Senior Center, Recreation Center,
Teen Center/Memorial Building, Park Maintenance Facility)

Library Remodel

Senior Center Retrofit & Remodel

Lake Tapps Fire Stations (Two New Stations, One Remodel)



Port of Tacoma Visitors' Center & Observation Tower
 Pierce County
 County-City Building Stair Tower Addition
 Concept Design & Site Studies for New Downtown Offices
 University Place
 The Village (private developer proposal)

Schools

DSHS – JRA South Campus Projects
 Green Hill School Gym Floor Replacement and Electrical Improvements
 Maple Lane School Acoustical Upgrades and Electrical Improvements
 Naselle Youth Camp Storm Water and Vehicle Wash Addition and Smoke
 Detector Upgrades

Bellarmino Preparatory
 Booster and Names Gyms Renovation Planning
 Athletic Fields Upgrade Planning
 Facilities Master Plan (Original and 10 year update)
 Campus Courtyard
 Father Weber Hall (Religion and Community Service Building)
 Snyder Hall Remodel and Addition (SD – DD)
 West Campus Gateway

Tacoma School District
 Jefferson Elementary Window Replacement/Upgrades
 Truman Middle School Shop/Voc. Remodel/Addition
 Wilson High School Pool Rehabilitation
 Jason Lee Middle School (2 Phases)

Fife School District
 Master Plan/Concept Design (2 sites)
 Fife High School Campus Master Plan
 Discovery Elementary/Surprise Lake Middle School Master Planning
 Recreation/Athletic Facilities Upgrades
 Surprise Lake Middle School (Remodel/Upgrades)

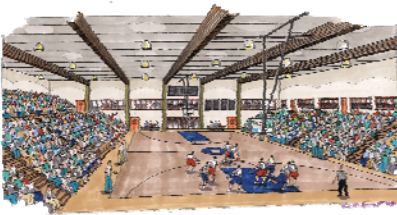
North Beach Junior/Senior High School Campus (New)

Montesano School District
 Junior/Senior High School Campus (New)
 Remodel of High School Gymnasium
 Beacon Elementary School Renovation
 Simpson Elementary School Renovation

First Presbyterian Church, Primary School Master Plan

Sedro Woolley School District (9 campus rehabilitations)
 Service Center Upgrades
 Sedro Woolley High School Upgrades
 Sedro Woolley High School Gym Upgrades
 Cascade Middle School Upgrades/Roof Restructure
 Evergreen Elementary Upgrades
 Mary Purcell Elementary Upgrades/Roof Restructure
 Clear Lake Elementary Upgrades
 Lyman Elementary Addition and Upgrades
 Samish Elementary Addition and Upgrades
 Big Lake Elementary Addition and Upgrades
 Central Elementary Historic Renovation

Bainbridge Island School District
 Ordway Elementary School Modernization
 Blakely elementary School Modernization
 Wilkes Elementary School Modernization
 Commodore Middle School Modernization



Bainbridge Island High School Upgrades
 Peninsula School District, Evergreen Elementary Addition and Modernization
 Port Townsend School District Renovations
 Port Townsend High School
 Grant Elementary
 Port Townsend Middle School
 Central Office and Elementary
 St. Charles Borromeo Parish Master Plan and Modernization Program for Parish and K-8 School
 Orting School District Roofing Inspection
 Issaquah School District Roofing Inspection
 Toppenish School District Long Range Facility Planning Study
 Darrington School District Long Range Facility Planning Study
 Brewster School District Long Range Facility Planning Study

Higher Education

University of Washington, Tacoma
 Institute of Technology, Pinkerton Building
 McLaren Building Feasibility Study and Cost Estimate
 Howe Building Feasibility Study and Cost Estimate
 Old Spaghetti Factory Building Code Analysis
 Jet Tool Building Space Plan Concepts
 McDonald Smith Building Media Center relocations
 University of Washington, Seattle
 Denny Hall Roof
 Denny Hall Foundation and Landscape Improvements
 Bryant Building EOC Study
 University of Puget Sound (with NKZ)
 80,000 Sq. Ft. Addition to Library
 Howarth Hall Remodel (3 projects)
 Thompson Hall (Construction Review of Science Building)
 Kitteredje Hall Remodel
 Field House and Recreation Center Conceptual Design
 School of Law Concept & Schematic Design
 Baker Stadium Remodeling
 Ceramics Building (Addition & Remodel)
 Campus Master Planning
 Commencement Bay Campus Planning
 President's Office Remodeling (as M+P)
 High-Rise Dormitory Conceptual Design
 Student Center (Remodel)
 South Dormitory (New)
 Jones Hall Remodel (Administration Building)
 South Puget Sound Community College Science Lab Remodel
 Tacoma Community College Baseball Field Seating
 Columbia Basin Community College Auto/Voc. Remodel



Religious

St. Andrew Parish, New Church, Sumner
 Church of the Nazarene Remodel, Tacoma
 St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Tacoma
 Master Plan
 Master Plan Update and Implementation
 Unity Center and Parish Walk
 First Presbyterian Church, Tacoma
 Long Range Strategy Planning
 Exterior Courtyard and Security Fence

ADA Handicapped Access
 Primary School Master Plan
 Saint Mary's Episcopal Church Remodel, Lakewood
 Eastside Baptist Church, Tacoma
 Trinity Lutheran Church, Enumclaw
 Whitney Memorial Church, Tacoma
 Church of Christ, Tacoma
 Fife Presbyterian Church, Fife
 Puyallup Baptist Church, Puyallup
 First Assembly of God, Tacoma (NKZ)
 Cathedral of Fellowship Revival, Tacoma (NKZ)
 Tacoma Bible Presbyterian Church, Tacoma (NKZ)
 The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (NKZ)
 Auburn Ward Addition
 Tacoma Seventh Ward
 Buckley Ward
 Kent Ward
 Luther Memorial Church, Tacoma (NKZ)
 Saint Mark's Lutheran Church, Rochester (NKZ)
 Tacoma Baptist Day School, Tacoma (NKZ)
 Faith Lutheran Church, Tacoma (NKZ)
 First Presbyterian Church, Kent (NKZ)
 South Side Tabernacle Pentecostal Church, Tacoma (NKZ)
 Saint Paul's Baptist Church, Tacoma (NKZ)
 Central Bible Church, Tacoma (NKZ)
 St. John's Baptist, Covington
 St. Joseph, Yakima
 St. Brendan's, Bothell
 Cathedral of Fellowship Revival, Tacoma (NKZ)
 First Assembly of God, Tacoma (NKZ)
 St. Leo's Parish Remodel, Tacoma
 Holy Cross Social Hall Addition, Tacoma



Healthcare

Cardiothoracic Surgeons Office, Tacoma
 S.C.O.R.E. (Sports Center for Orthopedic Rehabilitation & Exercise) Clinics
 Lakewood Clinic Remodel
 New Tacoma Clinic
 Tacoma-Pierce County Blood Bank Remodel
 MultiCare Medical Center Interior Design Services
 Harbor Park Medical Complex, Gig Harbor
 100th & Bridgeport
 Mary Bridge Recovery Hospital
 Waiting Room renovation

Commercial

Emerald Queen Casino Gaming Addition and Twin Parking Garages
 The News Tribune Office Expansion and Remodel, Tacoma
 Key Bank Space Planning, Tacoma
 Telco Credit Union
 Gig Harbor Branch
 Tacoma Branch Remodeling
 Puget Sound Bank
 Federal Way Branch Drive-up Banking Revisions
 Fife Branch Case Machine Additions and Fire Rehabilitation

Freighthouse Square Retail Concepts for Tacoma Dome Station (Pierce Transit and developer)
 Proctor Square Mixed-Use Office/Retail Building, Tacoma
 Fircrest Golf & Country Club Renovation & Addition
 Old Town Professional Building
 Nalleys Staffing Space Needs Analysis
 Western Beer Warehouse Addition & Remodel
 GMC/Mack Truck Dealership, Fife
 Olympia Country Club Clubhouse, Renovation
 Oakbrook Country Club Clubhouse, Renovation
 Allenmore Golf Course Clubhouse
 Sheraton Hotel Expansion
 GSA Northwest Regional Training Center, Social Security Administration, Auburn

Restoration

Pacific County Courthouse, Windows, Doors and Copper Roof Restoration
 Historic Elks Study and Mixed-Use Upgrades
 755 Broadway – Historic Mecca Theatre Restoration and Mixed-Use
 State Legislative Building Systems Renovation Predesign
 Tacoma Union Station Restoration & addition of Federal Courts
 Rialto Theatre Restoration
 Washington State Historical Society Museum Remodel
 Kelso Historic Train Depot Restoration for use as Multi-Modal Transportation Center
 University of Washington, Tacoma
 Institute of Technology, Pinkerton Building
 McLaren Building Feasibility Study and Cost Estimate
 Howe Building Feasibility Study and Cost Estimate
 Old Spaghetti Factory Building Code Analysis
 Jet Tool Building Space Plan Concepts
 Colonial Square Restoration and Adaptive Re-use as Low-Income Apartments
 Jefferson Square Restoration and Adaptive Re-use as Low-Income Apartments
 Carlton Center Office Building Restoration & Adaptive Re-use
 728 Pacific Avenue Building Restoration
 734 Pacific Avenue Building Restoration
 Mack Building Renovation & Adaptive Re-use
 Merit Hotel Renovation
 Snoqualmie Power Station Renovation & Adaptive Re-use Study
 1701 Commerce

Residential

3915 North 32nd Street, Tacoma
 3201 North Madison, Tacoma
 Northeast Tacoma Property Development
 Rushforth House, Gig Harbor
 Kvinsland House, Gig Harbor
 Wilcox Mansion, Gig Harbor
 Manza House, Browns Point
 Boitano House, Milton
 Lunceford Home, Tacoma



Design Awards (Firm Affiliations)

- Tacoma Country & Golf Club Swimming Pool Complex
Construction Excellence: New Building under \$5 Million, Associated General Contractors of WA, 2006
- Kelso Multi-Modal Transportation Center
Award of Merit for the Kelso Station Restoration, 1998. From: Washington Trust of Historic Preservation
AIA Southwest Washington Special Citation in the Design of the Kelso Depot Project of Historical Significance, American Public Works Association, Washington State Chapter, 1996
- Fairhaven Station, Bellingham
1996 Project of the Year: Fairhaven Station, Port of Bellingham
Merit Award 1996: Fairhaven Station
Letter of Commendation for the historic design of Fairhaven Station, 1996
- Oak Harbor Transit
AIA Southwest Washington Honor Award for Design, Oak Harbor
- Lakewood Fire Station
AIA Southwest Washington Honor Award for Design, Lakewood Fire Station
- Metropolitan Park District Headquarters
AIA Honor Award, Southwest Washington Chapter, 1993
Honor Award, Masonry Institute of Washington, 1995
- Tacoma Union Station Restoration
Honor Award, National Trust for Historic Preservation, 1994
AIA Commendation, Northwest & Pacific Region, 1994
AIA Special Citation, Southwest Washington Chapter, 1993
Project of the Year, NW Wall & Ceiling Bureau, 1993
Award of Merit, Washington Trust for Historic Preservation, 1992
Award of Merit, Washington Trust for Historic Preservation, 1988
- Rialto Theatre
Award of Merit, Washington Trust for Historic Preservation, 1992
AIA Special Citation, Southwest Washington Chapter, 1991
Project of the Year "Renovation/Restoration," Associated Builders & Contractors, 1991
National Award of Merit, Historic Preservation Category, Associate Builders & Contractors, 1991
- McDonald-Smith Artisan Housing
Washington Trust for Historic Preservation Award of Merit for the McDonald-Smith Artists Loft Housing Project, 1991
- North Beach Junior/Senior High School, Ocean Shores
Excellence in Construction Award, Associated General Contractors, 1990
- Tacoma Telco Credit Union
AIA Special Citation, Southwest Washington Chapter, 1990
Excellence in Construction Award, Associated General Contractors, 1990
- Carlton Center
Award of Merit, Washington Trust for Historic Preservation, 1988
- S.C.O.R.E. Sports Clinic for Orthopedic Rehabilitation
AIA special Citation, Southwest Washington Chapter, 1987
- Intercity Transit Headquarters, Olympia
AIA Honor Award, Southwest Washington Chapter, 1985
- Fife Community Pool
AIA Special Citation, Southwest Washington Chapter, 1985
- 1701 Commerce Building
AIA Special Citation, Southwest Washington Chapter, 1984
- Bonney Lake Library
AIA Honor Award, Southwest Washington Chapter, 1983

Capital Campus Information Center
AIA Honor Award, Southwest Washington Chapter, 1979
ASARCO Tacoma Smelter Property Master Plan
Honor Award, American Planning Association, 1998
Certificate of Appreciation, ASARCO, 1996

Personal Awards

City Center Council, T/PC Chamber of Commerce Union Station Award. Recognizing leadership in Building or Sustaining Revitalization, 2007

New Tacoma Award; Special recognition for adding significantly to the economic and civil well being of Tacoma – Pierce County. 2004

Honored by the City of Tacoma, on behalf of the City Council, Mayor Bill Baarsma on June 3rd 2003 names Mr. Merritt as a **Tacoma Hometown Hero** for long-term dedication to making Tacoma an excellent place to live.

AIA Southwest Chapter Commendation for Outstanding Leadership and undaunted dedication as co-chair of the 2002 Northwest & Pacific Regional Conference: A02 Urban Adventure, Remaking a City.

AIA Southwest Washington Chapter Commendation for Outstanding Service as President , 2002

AIA Southwest Washington Chapter Commendation for outstanding service as Vice President, 2000.

AIA Washington Commendation for **Contribution of Time, Talent, and Energy while on the Board of Directors** AIA Washington, 2003.

AIA, Elevation to FAIA (Fellowship in the American Institute of Architects), 2002
“With passion and vision, he has fostered collaboration among his colleagues and neighbors to help bring back to life the central business district of Tacoma, WA.”

Charles Pearson FAIA Community Service Award, 1998
“Presented to an individual who has shown dedication to building community through service to the community, utilizing the skills and qualities of an architect....”

AIA Commendations, Southwest Washington Chapter
Board of Directors 1998-2003

New Tacoma Awards Special Recognition for exemplary service and dedication, 2004
Appreciation for Commitment of professional service for the redevelopment of downtown Tacoma, Downtown Tacoma Association, 1990.

Paul Harris Fellow, Rotary #8
“Furtherance of better understanding and friendly relations between people of the world.”

Certification of Appreciation, Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber
Director, 1994

American Leadership Forum
Executive Ventures Group, 1989
Senior Fellow, 1989 to present

AIA Scholastic Award, 1969

AIA School Medal and Certificate of Merit, 1970

Certificate of Appreciation, Optimist Club of West Tacoma
Certificate of Appreciation, Kiwanis Club of Tacoma, 2000 & 2004.

Certificate of Appreciation, National Recreation and Park Association, 1997
For contributing to the success of the 1997 NRPA Annual Congress.

Certificate of Appreciation, for vision and lending expertise, Dome District Association, 2008.

Papers & Presentations

“Historic Roofing: The Repair and Maintenance of Historic Roofs”, Panel Presentation,
The Association for Preservation Technology International Conference, 1989,
Chicago, Illinois

“Tacoma Union Station: Progress Report,” Washington Trust for Historic Preservation,
1988

“The Rialto Theatre and Union Station: Design + Construction Teamwork,” Associated
Builders & Contractors of Western Washington, 1992

“An Update on the Union Station and Its Environs,” The Building Owners & Managers
Association of Tacoma-Pierce County, 1992

“Everything That Can Go Wrong,” Architecture, 1989. Authored by Valerie Sivinski and
James R. Merritt AIA

“Planning Sustainable Re-Use”, Brownfield’s Conference, June 2007

National Park Conference



End of Resume