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Two architects join Rick Sundberg's firm

By [LYNN PORTER](#)
Journal Staff Reporter

Architects Gladys Ly-Au Young and John Kennedy have joined a Seattle architecture firm started in 2010 by Rick Sundberg and his daughter, Mika.

The enterprise is called Sundberg Kennedy Ly-Au Young. It will continue Rick Sundberg's focus on custom homes and institutional projects, such as libraries, college buildings and museums, and also seek other work.

Ly-Au Young was formerly a project manager with Graham Baba Architects, a Seattle firm headed by Jim Graham and Brett Baba.

Kennedy led Kennedy Architects in Seattle. His firm has merged with what was Richard Sundberg|Architect to form the new enterprise.

Rick Sundberg was not available for comment yesterday.

Sundberg Kennedy Ly-Au Young will continue to share office space and some resources with Graham Baba at 1429 12th Ave.

Graham Baba and Sundberg Kennedy Ly-Au Young work together on projects "when it makes sense to overlap our expertise," said John Kennedy.

"We are in a sort of allied collaborative relationship where we share a computer network, staff and ideas ... but we're still two separate financial entities," Kennedy said. "A lot of people don't quite get it, but it's working well for us."

On projects they share, generally one is the firm of record and staff from the other are consultants, he said. For instance, Kennedy said he is helping Jim Graham manage the Center House project at Seattle Center.

Ly-Au Young and Kennedy have worked with Sundberg for more than 20 years, mostly when he was a principal at Olson Sundberg Kundig Allen Architects, now Olson Kundig Architects. Many people at Graham Baba have also worked with Sundberg over the years, Kennedy said.

Kennedy Architects designed the renovation for two Seattle University projects: the Pigott Pavilion for Leadership, and Chardin Hall, a 150-bed dormitory.

Ly-Au Young has a master's degree in sustainable sciences from Carnegie Mellon University, and worked on projects that include The Kolstrand Building and Melrose Square in Seattle, both designed by Graham Baba.

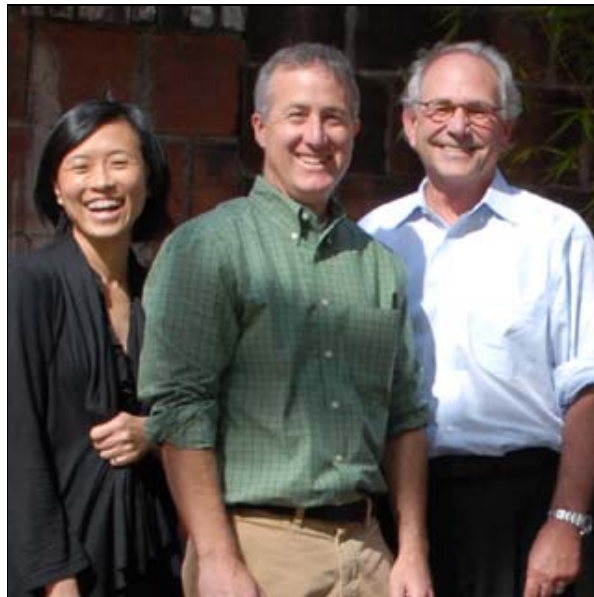


Photo by Noreen Shinohara [\[enlarge\]](#)

Gladys Ly-Au Young, John Kennedy and Rick Sundberg (left to right) are now practicing as Sundberg Kennedy Ly-Au Young.

Last year, Sundberg asked Ly-Au Young and Kennedy to help him in a competition to design a new quad for Exeter College in England. “I think that was just the beginning of the idea to have a firm together,” she said.

Among the firm’s residential projects is a house for an art collector in Houston and another house near San Jose, Calif.

It also recently landed a job to design a retreat center for environmentalists to gather, recharge and talk about big environmental issues. It will be in Oak Flat, Ore., and called Kalmiopsis.

The client is Eric Lemelson, an environmental lawyer and owner of Lemelson Vineyards. Ly-Au Young said some clients think now is a good time to move forward.

“There are certain clients who are taking advantage of the current economy and want to build when there’s a lot of choices in contractors and tradespeople,” she said.

Architecture took a big hit in the recession, but Kennedy said business has picked up recently for the new firm. Mika Sundberg, Hill Pierce and Nicole Lew are designers with the practice, and Andy Brown is an intern.

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