



## Kelly Alvarez Doran

OAA, MRAIC

Co-Founder & Partner  
Ha/f Climate Design

Adjunct Professor  
University of Toronto John H.  
Daniels Faculty of Architecture,  
Landscape & Design

## Education & Certification

Licensed Architect, Ontario  
Association of Architects (2012)

Master of Architecture,  
University of Toronto (June 2008)

Bachelor of Environmental Design,  
University of Manitoba (June 2003)

Kelly is a father, architect, and educator whose holistic approach to the design of the built environment has been shaped by his experiences working across the world—initially in the resource development sector and later as Senior Director of MASS Design Group’s East African office, where he led the design and implementation of several projects, notably the award-winning Munini District Hospital and the Rwanda Institute for Conservation Agriculture. Working across these contexts fostered a deep understanding of a building’s provenance and the interconnected social and environmental impacts inherent in its construction and maintenance.

In 2020, Kelly established the Half Research Studio at the University of Toronto to catalyse a national conversation around the embodied carbon and life cycle impacts of buildings in Canada. Over the past five years, the master’s studio has engaged more than 30 leading offices, trained 50 students, and published internationally acclaimed research revealing where a building’s upfront impacts truly reside. This research underpinned the embodied carbon policy co-authored by Kelly and enacted by the City of Toronto in the spring of 2023.

In 2022, Kelly co-founded Ha/f Climate Design to extend this work beyond academia, leading research and design collaborations that integrate material provenance, performance, and policy to shape low-carbon futures for the built environment. He is a regular speaker, writer, and advocate for the integration of life cycle assessments into design thinking, a Senior Fellow of Architecture 2030, and a member of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada’s Committee of Regenerative Environments.

## Previous Professional Experience

**Senior Director of Sustainability and Regenerative Design /**  
MASS Design Group / London & Boston, 2022-24

**Project Architect /** White Arkitektur / London, 2021-22

**Senior Principal & East Africa Director /**  
MASS Design Group / Kigali, 2014-2021

**Architect & Planner /** SvN / Toronto & London, 2008 -14

**Project Architect /** Williamson Williamson / Toronto, 2006-08

**Intern Architect /** Eisenman Architects / New York, 2005

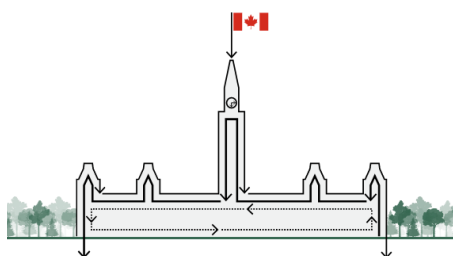
**Intern Architect /** Cibenel Architects / Winnipeg, 2004

**Quantity Surveyor /** Creative Spaces Home Builders / Winnipeg, 2001-03

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## Select Project Experience

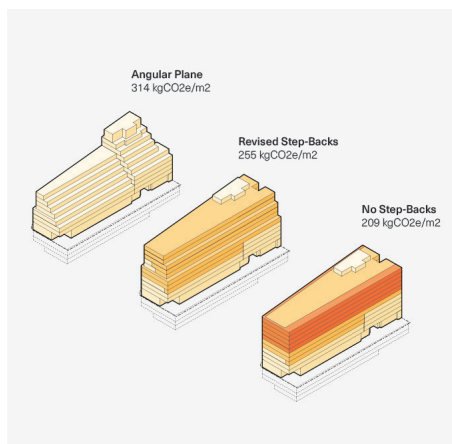
Ha/f Climate Design  
2022 - Present



## Government of Canada / Design Primer for Low Carbon Construction

Working with the Treasury Board Secretariat, Kelly authored the Project Planning & Design Primer for Low-Carbon Construction, guiding Canada's shift to net-zero buildings.

The primer outlines whole-life carbon concepts, introduces mitigation frameworks, and applies strategies across project phases—pre-design, design, construction, and occupancy—emphasizing systems thinking, phased decision-making, and life cycle assessments to reduce embodied carbon emissions.



## The Impact of Urban Design Guidelines / City of Toronto

The Urban Design Guidelines study was undertaken to understand the impacts of the current Guidelines on embodied carbon emissions. Working with the City of Toronto, Ha/f provided life cycle assessment and analysis of ten recently completed projects ranging in scale across the city. These recommendations subsequently informed revisions to the Midrise Guidelines.



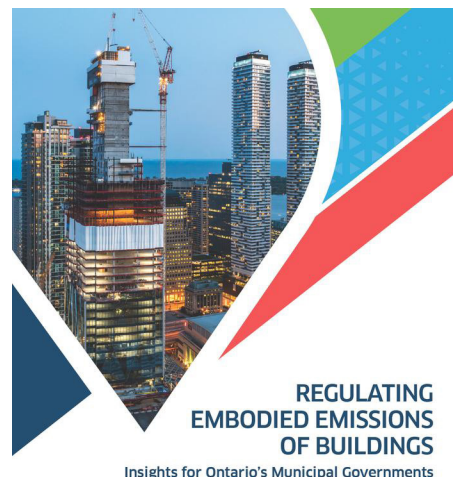
## CMHC Housing Design Catalogue

Working with architects across Canada, Ha/f provided energy modelling, life cycle assessment, and low-carbon material strategy support to the design and delivery of the CMHC Housing Design Catalogue. To support builders and owners, Ha/f created a Climate Risk & Resiliency Guide and Material Guide to help future builders and owners adapt the designs.



## National LCA Training Workshops

In partnership with the National Research Council Canada and Royal Architectural Institute of Canada, Kelly led the design and delivery of nine hands-on workshops across the country, training more than 1,500 architects, engineers, and municipal staff in life cycle assessment (LCA) methods. These sessions provided participants with applied skills, case studies, and tools they could integrate into local policy, permitting, and project design processes.



## City of Toronto Embodied Carbon Policy Primer

Through research and cross-sector collaboration, Ha/f provided critical data, analysis, and design insight to help cities measure and reduce building-related carbon emissions. The Primer informed the City of Toronto incorporating embodied carbon requirements into the Green Standards - North America's first city with absolute targets.



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## Select Project Experience

MASS Design Group  
2014-2022

White Arkitektur  
2021-2022



## Cambridge Children's Hospital

In collaboration with Hawkins\Brown and Ramboll, Kelly served as White Arkitektur's Project Architect for the RIBA Stage 2 design of the UK's first specialist children's hospital to fully integrate physical and mental health services. Throughout the design development, he co-lead engagement with clinicians, researchers, patients, and families to shape a care environment that bridges research, wellbeing, and clinical excellence.



## Rwanda Institute for Conservation Agriculture

In partnership with the Howard G. Buffett Foundation, Kelly led the master planning, architecture, landscape, engineering, and construction of the new campus for the RICA. The campus integrates housing, academic facilities, barns, and processing spaces within a cohesive landscape designed to support regenerative agriculture and ecological stewardship.



## Norrsken House Kigali

As Project Architect, Kelly led the design and adaptive reuse of the Norrsken Kigali House—East Africa's first major entrepreneurship hub. Transforming the historic École Belge campus, the project models inclusive, low-carbon urban development, combining restoration, new construction, and sustainable systems to catalyse equitable economic growth across the region.



## University of Global Health Equity

As Project Architect, Kelly led the master planning, design, and construction of student and faculty housing for the University of Global Health Equity in Butaro, Rwanda. In collaboration with Shepley Bulfinch, the campus fosters community, wellbeing, and collaboration among a new generation of global health leaders.



## Munini & Nyarugenge District Hospitals

As Project Architect, Kelly led the design and implementation of two 300-bed district hospitals piloting Rwanda's new District Hospital Design Standards. The projects establish a replicable model for equitable, climate-responsive healthcare design tailored to the diverse contexts and communities of Rwanda's thirty districts.

## Kelly Alvarez Doran

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### Teaching Experience

2020-25: Adjunct Professor /  
University of Toronto John H.  
Daniels Faculty of Architecture,  
Landscape & Design

2020 - 24: Unit Tutor / The Bartlett  
Faculty of the Built Environment

2017: Visiting Professor /  
Università Iuav di Venezia

2012-14: Visiting Professor /  
Harvard University Graduate  
School of Design

2010: Adjunct Professor /  
University of Waterloo School of  
Architecture

### Select Speaking Engagements

2024: Climate Energy Summit  
Seoul, Climate Change Center of  
South Korea, Seoul

2024: Panellist, Buildings and  
Climate Global Summit, Paris

2023: Buildings Pavillion, COP 28  
Dubai

2022: National Institute of Building  
Science, Washington DC

2020: Carbon Positive 20'  
Architecture 2030, Los Angeles

### Select Juries

2025: AIA Cote Awards  
2024: Dezeen Awards

### Publications & Advocacy

[Parking, Garbage and the Decline of Toronto's Small Businesses.](#) Azure  
Magazine,

[Teaching Carbon Neutral Design in North America: Twenty Award-  
Winning Architectural Design Studio Methodologies.](#)

[Paper or Plastic?](#) Architect Magazine,

[At COP28 conversations on the phasing out of oil felt paradoxical amidst  
the Dubai backdrop,](#) Architects Newspaper

[The Regenerative Materials Movement,](#) Living Future Institute

[Thinking Through Material Flows,](#) Architects Newspaper

[CarbonPositive: Can We Halve Carbon in the Built Environment?](#) Architect  
Magazine

[A Whole Life Carbon Approach to Building Envelope Design,](#) 16th  
Canadian Conference on Building Science and Technology

[Technical: Mass Timber Through a Life Cycle Lens,](#) Canadian Architect  
Magazine

[Why We Need Embodied Carbon Benchmarks and Targets in Building  
Standards and Policies: An Open Letter,](#) Canadian Architect

### Awards

RICA / AIA Award (2025), Veronica Rudge Green Prize (2025), Dezeen  
Project of Year (2024), Dezeen Sustainable Project of the Year (2024),  
Dezeen Education Project of the Year (2024), IStructE Award (2024), ASLA  
Award (2020).

Munini / Canadian Architect Award (2016)

Europen 10 / Winning Entry for Vardo (2010)

Canada Council for the Arts / Prix de Rome for Emerging Practicioners  
(2009)