



Evelyn Lee, FAIA · NOMA

ARCHITECT · ADVISOR · KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Talks that move a room from paralysis to action.

Evelyn Lee is an architect, advisor, and the 101st President of the American Institute of Architects. She founded Practice of Architecture, where she works as a fractional COO on business model transformation, technology, and operations, and she hosts Practice Disrupted, now in its twelfth season with more than 80,000 listeners worldwide. She speaks internationally on transforming how the profession works, AI in the built environment, and the widening definition of what it means to practice architecture.

IOIST

AIA PRESIDENT, 2025

80,000+

PODCAST LISTENERS

12

SEASONS, PRACTICE DISRUPTED

3

BOARD & ADVISORY SEATS

FEATURED BY



Architizer



FORTUNE

What I speak about

SIGNATURE KEYNOTES

Humans AND AI: the AI-first practice

What an AI-first practice actually changes.

Every firm is being told to adopt AI. Almost no one is telling them what for. This talk reframes the conversation from tools to literacy: what changes about judgment, fees, staffing, and client value when the repetitive work moves to machines, and what leaders have to decide now, while the choices are still theirs to make.

BEST FOR Conference mainstage

Build the firm differently

The case against optimizing a broken model.

Architects are paid too little for what they deliver, and the hourly model caps both impact and income. Drawing on work with firms across the country, this talk makes the business case for transformation over optimization: new revenue models, new definitions of value, and the operational moves that let a practice support the life its people actually want.

BEST FOR Conference mainstage, firm leadership

Architecture, And

Careers the degree doesn't predict.

Practicing architect, workplace strategist, fractional COO, AIA President. None of those roles looked like the career the degree trained for, and all of them were architecture. For students, emerging professionals, and firms fighting talent drain: what the profession gains when we widen what counts as practice.

BEST FOR Students, emerging professionals, talent-focused events

ALSO AVAILABLE

A practice is a designed object

Operations and systems, treated with the rigor of the work.

BEST FOR Firm retreats, leadership teams

A practice that can hold a life

Culture, retention, and a business that supports the life you want.

BEST FOR Firm culture events, women-in-leadership stages

Move from paralysis to action

The gap between knowing better and doing differently.

BEST FOR Leadership teams, associations, executive audiences

Where practice goes next

The five-to-ten-year outlook, and what firms do about it today.

BEST FOR Keynote closer, visionary slots

FORMATS

Keynote

Fireside chat

Panel

Moderator

Conversations led with a podcast host's interviewing instincts

Workshop

Half or full day

Conference host

Technology and the future of practice

Virtual



Bring this conversation to your stage.

What your team receives

On booking, your marketing team gets everything needed to promote the session in one place: short and long bios, approved high-resolution headshots, topic titles and abstracts, and A/V requirements.

Fee available on request.

Standard A/V

16:9 projection with HDMI, run from own laptop

Wireless lavalier or handheld microphone

Confidence monitor for longer keynotes

Stage or lectern access, water at podium

APPROVED BIO — LONG

Evelyn Lee, FAIA, NOMA, is an architect, advisor, and the 101st President of the American Institute of Architects, which she led through the arrival of AI in practice. She is the founder of Practice of Architecture, an advisory firm where she works as a fractional COO to firm leaders on business model transformation, technology adoption, and operations, and she hosts Practice Disrupted, a weekly podcast now in its twelfth season with more than 80,000 listeners around the world. Trained as an architect, she went on to earn an MBA and an MPA and to hold strategy and global workplace roles inside leading design and technology companies. She sits on the boards of Shepley Bulfinch and Lockett & Farley and advises Acelab. She speaks internationally on transforming how the profession works, AI in the built environment, and the widening definition of what it means to practice architecture.

Booking & inquiries

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