

**MICHAEL OLEKSAK**

**Professional Experience**

Born in Erie, Pennsylvania, USA, Michael is a founding partner of coestudi. His extensive expertise and prolific skills in architectural and exhibit design and construction management allows a unique and holistic approach to project delivery. In addition, his amicable but strong demeanor is advantageous in providing clients a clear path towards their architectural goals. Having spent many years working in Europe, Michael has become well versed in the art of incorporating the client's objectives within all phases of architectural project completion. In addition, Michael's exceptional ability to see the big picture provides the strong initial surge of ideas and concepts that provide the critical foundation that is important in creating timeless and relevant architectural solutions.

Michael's extensive experience provides the foundation for coestudi's successful roster of projects. He previously worked for International Design for the Environment (IDEA, Inc.), a company that was dedicated to the realization of aquarium projects. IDEA specialized in comprehensive project management and project operations. As design coordinator and project manager, he was responsible for coordinating the design integration, project management and construction of all new projects.

Michael served as Project Manager during the design and construction of the Oceanário de Lisboa. This assignment allowed him to successfully manage and coordinate all phases of architectural and exhibit design (living and non-living exhibits) and to orchestrate the complex process of constructing a world-class aquarium that was delivered on time and on budget. His position involved being the conduit between design, construction, financial viability and project delivery from conceptual design through opening.

In the early 1990's, he worked as the resident architectural designer and project manager in Genova, Italy, coordinating the design and construction of the Acquario di Genova, working closely with the collaborating architect's office of Renzo Piano Building Workshop.

**MICHAEL OLEKSAK** (continued)

**Education**

*Master of Architecture*  
Clemson University  
Graduate School of Architecture  
Clemson, South Carolina, USA (1985)

Daniel Center for Urban and Building Design  
Genoa, Italy (1984)

*Bachelor of Science in Design*  
Clemson University  
College of Architecture  
Clemson, South Carolina, USA (1983)

**Professional History**

*cosestudi (2006-present)*  
Principal

*IDEA, Inc. (1990-2004)*  
Project Manager  
Planning and Architectural Projects

*Cambridge Seven Associates (1985-1990)*  
Planning and Architectural Projects

*Weber Murphy Fox Inc. (1983-1985)*  
Project Designer

**Academic Appointments**

*Architectural Design Critic (2003 to present)*

Roger Williams University,  
School of Architecture,  
Bristol, Rhode Island, USA

Rhode Island School of Design  
Interior Architecture,  
Providence, Rhode Island, USA

*Instructor (1984-1985)*  
Clemson University College of Architecture  
Clemson, South Carolina, USA

**MICHAEL OLEKSAK** (continued)

**Projects** (at IDEA)

*Acquario di Genova*  
Genoa, Italy  
Project Manager

IDEA was contractually responsible for the design of the exhibit components for Acquario di Genova (in collaboration with the office of Renzo Piano Building Workshop), as well as the design and construction of all aquarium specialty work including artificial habitats, graphics, interactive exhibits, and environmental sound systems. Michael was responsible for the coordination of all design and construction issues on site. These tasks included coordination of all IDEA's work and collaboration with the assembled team of building contractors, architects (RPBW), engineers, exhibit fabricators, and animal husbandry specialists.

*Oceanário de Lisboa*  
Lisbon, Portugal  
Project Manager

IDEA completed the Oceanário de Lisboa under a 64 million USD Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) contract that included design, construction (in collaboration with Engil SA of Portugal), and start-up management. In addition to providing assistance to the conceptual design team, Michael was responsible on-site for the project management of all design, engineering, and construction services provided by IDEA, including the fabrication and construction of all of the artificial habitats and interactive exhibits. This work included the intense coordination of an international team of contractors, architects, engineers, exhibit fabricators, and animal husbandry specialists.

*Oceanário de Lisboa Expansion*  
Lisbon, Portugal  
Project Manager

*Parco Le Navi Cape Coast Exhibit*  
Cattolica, Italy  
Project Manager

*Mindeló Aquarium*  
Conceptual Design and Feasibility Study  
Mindelo, Cape Verde  
Project Manager

*Shanghai Aquarium and Water Garden*  
Shanghai, China  
Conceptual Design Study  
Design Consultant

*Hacienda Gardens Water Park and Fitness Center*  
Dorado Beach East, Puerto Rico  
Design Consultant

*NSB Intermodal Transportation Center*  
Kristiansand, Norway  
Urban Planning Competition  
(in collaboration with Narud Stokke Wiig)  
Designer

**MICHAEL OLEKSAK**

**Projects** (at Cambridge Seven Associates)

*Orlando Sports Arena*  
(Professional Basketball Arena)  
Orlando, Florida, USA  
Senior Designer

*Watson Center for Information Technology*  
Brown University  
Providence, Rhode Island, USA  
Senior Designer

*General Cinema Corporation*  
Theater Design Guidelines  
Senior Designer

*Calvert Marine Museum*  
Solomons, Maryland, USA  
Senior Designer

*Franklin Mills Shopping Center*  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA  
Project Architect  
Construction Administration

*L'Occhio del Mare*  
Conceptual Design and Feasibility Study  
(Mixed-use Development including an aquarium)  
Castellemare di Stabia, Italy  
Project Architect

*Museo di Nivola*  
(Art Museum)  
Orani, Sardinia, Italy

*Aquarium of Metropolitan Toronto*  
Conceptual Design and Feasibility Study  
Toronto, Canada  
Project Architect

*Great Lakes Aquarium*  
Conceptual Design and Feasibility Study  
Erie, Pennsylvania, USA  
Project Architect

*Acquario di Genova*  
Conceptual Design Phase  
Genoa, Italy  
Project Architect