

NEWH Annual Expo Breakfast:

The Young Entrepreneurs

Thursday • May 4, 2017 • 9:00 am • Islander Ballroom E

HD's past Wave of the Future honorees talk trends, recent projects, lessons learned, secrets of success, industry challenges and solutions, and what's on the boards in an informal conversation.



Audra Tuskes

Vice President & Creative Director
Lightstone



Jeremy Levitt

Principal
Parts and Labor Design



Teddy Mayer

Vice President of Design & Technical Services
Virgin Hotels



Kevin O'Shea

Founder & Creative Director
Salt Hotels

One of the largest and most diversified privately held real estate companies in the United States, Lightstone is active in 24 states across the country, developing, managing and investing in all sectors of the real estate market, including residential, hospitality, commercial and retail. As Creative Director, Audra heads design and brand experience for Lightstone's emergent statewide development of Marriott's micro-format brand, Moxy. Audra's expertise in the architectural, hospitality and residential development arenas brings a creative edge to Lightstone's top-branded products, across all sectors.

Previously with Commune Hotels and Resorts, Audra led all design-related aspects for the company's growing portfolio of 50 hotels, including Thompson Hotels, Joie de Vivre, tommie (from inception to realization) and the conceptual development of a new 5-star brand collection. With more than 15 years of experience in the field, Audra's past positions include Director of Design for Starwood Hotels, and Associate Design Professor at Pratt Institute. She currently serves on the Editorial Advisory Board for Hospitality Design Magazine. Audra holds a Master of Architecture from Columbia University.

Jeremy is originally from Detroit where his deep-rooted interest in the design and beauty of machinery has been a significant influence in a lot of his work. With a BFA from the College for Creative Studies of Detroit, Jeremy graduated with an interdisciplinary degree; a major he helped to create which is now a fully functioning component of the school's curriculum, combining the most important aspects of Crafts and Industrial Design. His specialty is furniture and lighting design, as well as sculpture and architectural-installation design. From Detroit, where he owned his first business of making custom furniture and lighting for clients, Jeremy moved to New York City to grow as a designer and entrepreneur. He began working for Gaetano Pesce as a designer and fabricator, then became the Senior Industrial Designer/Project Manager for Donghia Furniture. After Donghia he became the Furniture and Lighting Director for the Manhattan based hospitality design firm AvroKO where he developed hundreds of products for use in commercial and residential projects. Now, as one of the Principals of Parts and Labor Design he creates all custom high end furniture and lighting, as well as the surrounding architectural spaces alongside Andrew Cohen.

As Vice President of Design, Teddy will oversee the vision and execution for how the Virgin Hotel brand comes to life in a hospitality environment. Teddy spent seven years as the senior director of design and development at Morgans Hotel Group where he focused on the expansion of the Delano, Mondrian and Hudson Hotel brands. On the agency side he began his design career at Skidmore Owings & Merrill in New York where he focused on hospitality interiors projects for brands such as W Hotels and Resorts, Capella and The James to name a few. Most recently Teddy worked for Gensler in New York as the regional director of hospitality interiors. He was responsible for establish a hospitality interiors studio and developing the regional practice. Teddy has a Masters of Architecture, a Bachelor of Architecture and a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Interior Design from the University of Idaho.

Graduating with his B.F.A. in Interior Architecture from the prestigious Rhode Island School of Design, Kevin pursued a career in corporate hotel design in New York City, working first for Starwood Hotels and Resorts where he helped launch the design initiatives for the newly-acquired Le Meridien brand in 2006. Kevin then went on to join the corporate design team at Morgans Hotel Group where he oversaw various aspects of interior design in the existing portfolio as well as many new projects during his tenure.

Kevin's passion for the Morgans brand and ability to make his own mark on these venerable hotels is evident in such projects as the Sky Terrace at Hudson Hotel in New York City and Agua Spas in Scottsdale, Arizona and Los Angeles, California that he redesigned. After his tenure with Morgans, he went on to create his own firm, Kevin O'Shea Designs, LLC, a full service interior design studio specializing in hospitality and residential projects.

In 2011, Kevin O'Shea and his partner David Bowd purchased a historic 15-bedroom inn located in the heart of Provincetown, Massachusetts. The dated property provided a blank canvas to showcase Kevin's design expertise transforming the outmoded guesthouse into the town's most stylish hostelry with its own original take on traditional colonial aesthetics. Since opening, the property has received numerous accolades.

If you would like to purchase a ticket to the Young Entrepreneurs Breakfast, [click here to purchase a ticket.](#)