

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 19, 2026

MKA SENIOR PRINCIPAL JOHN HOOPER NAMED 2026 ASCE OPAL AWARD RECIPIENT FOR DESIGN

SEATTLE—Magnusson Klemencic Associates (MKA) Senior Principal and Director of Earthquake Engineering (Retired) John D. Hooper, PE, SE, NAC, NAE, F.SEI, Dist. M. ASCE, has been named the 2026 recipient of the American Society of Civil Engineers' (ASCE) Outstanding Projects And Leaders (OPAL) Award for Design. ASCE selected John for important contributions to structural engineering design through seismic resilience advancements. He was recognized at the 2026 OPAL Gala on October 15 at the Hyatt Regency Reston in Reston, Virginia.

A nationally and internationally recognized leader in seismic design, John has devoted more than four decades to improving buildings performance and seismic safety design requirements. Since joining MKA in 1997, he has set seismic design standards for the firm's structural engineering designs and played an important role in nearly every major MKA project in a seismic zone. As a leading advocate and practitioner of Performance-Based Seismic Design (PBSD), his pioneering work has helped advance performance-based methods into mainstream practice for tall buildings and other complex structures, for both seismic safety and design innovation.



John's portfolio spans more than 500 projects and includes PBSD, renovation, structural analysis, and earthquake engineering across diverse markets. Notable projects include Amazon Blocks 14, 19, and 20 in Seattle; Salesforce Tower in San Francisco; Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara; Lumen Field and Rainier Square in Seattle; and SJC Mineta International Airport in San Jose. These projects reflect his ability to translate advanced seismic research and innovative design solutions into practical, award-winning structures.

"Whenever there is a difficult seismic design challenge to solve, everyone turns to John," said MKA Chairman and CEO Ron Klemencic. "John exemplifies the very best of our profession and is well-deserving of this award."

John's impact extends far beyond individual projects. He was Chair of the ASCE 7 Seismic Subcommittee for more than a decade—a committee that provides seismic provisions adopted into building codes throughout most of the country—which is arguably the most influential group directing the future of seismic design in the United States. He also chairs the Building Seismic Safety Council's Provisions Update Committee for NEHRP 2026 and has contributed to initiatives led by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Applied Technology Council, Earthquake Engineering Research Institute, American Institute of Steel Construction, and Pacific Earthquake Engineering Research Center. As a lead writer of the Pacific Earthquake Engineering Research Center's Guidelines for Performance-Based Seismic Design of Tall Buildings, John helped establish methods used for tall-building design in California, Washington, Oregon, and other seismic regions worldwide.

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John has translated lessons from research into practice throughout his career. He has conducted post-earthquake field investigations following major earthquakes in California, Chile, Japan, Mexico, and Taiwan, using those observations to help develop practical, cost-effective approaches to seismic risk mitigation.

He is equally committed to teaching and mentorship. John has delivered more than 130 lectures, written more than 50 papers, participated in more than 60 conferences, and contributed decades of service to technical committees. Within MKA and across the profession, he is known for guiding students and young engineers while actively collaborating to develop practical, forward-looking solutions.

John earned a Bachelor of Civil Engineering, summa cum laude, from Seattle University and a Master of Science from the University of California, Berkeley. His previous honors include election to the National Academy of Engineering in 2022 and the National Academy of Construction in 2023; induction into UC Berkeley's Civil and Environmental Engineering Academy of Distinguished Alumni in 2020; recognition as a Distinguished Member of ASCE in 2023; the Structural Engineering Institute's Walter P. Moore Jr. Award in 2016; and the American Council of Engineering Companies of Washington Engineer of the Year award in 2019.

The ASCE OPAL Awards recognize civil engineering leaders whose lifetime accomplishments, leadership, and long-term commitment to excellence have made significant differences in design, construction, government, education, or management. Design recipients are senior professionals recognized for overseeing significant civil engineering projects or developing and incorporating innovative design solutions.

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ABOUT MKA

Magnusson Klemencic Associates (MKA) is an award-winning structural and civil engineering firm founded in 1920 with offices in Seattle, Washington, and Chicago, Illinois. Serving clients worldwide, MKA has worked on projects in 48 states and 62 countries. MKA's passion is creating structural systems for buildings of all shapes, sizes, and complexities, and civil site and infrastructure designs for architectural projects.

Learn more at www.mka.com.

