

For immediate release
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The Architectural League announces 2021 virtual social event: *This is not a Beaux Arts Ball*



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Please verify all program
information with The
Architectural League
before posting.

NEW YORK, NY, February 23, 2021 — **The Architectural League of New York** will host an unconventional and forward-looking virtual gathering for League members and supporters on Saturday, March 6, 2021. The event builds on the innovative digital platform developed by **SpatialWeb** and **Beneville Studios**. The League is reinventing its annual Beaux Arts Ball, New York's premier party for architects and designers, to accommodate the ongoing necessity of physical distancing during the pandemic. This year's event, titled *This is not a Beaux Arts Ball*, embraces the paradox of meeting together from afar and of sharing an experience in a digital space. Over the course of the evening, attendees will be able to mingle, hold conversations with friends, and explore specially-designed 3D environments.

The League has commissioned architects **Kevin Hirth** of KEVIN HIRTH Co. and **Neyran Turan** of NEMESTUDIO—both former League Prize winners—to design a set of immersive, visually and acoustically rich installations in SpatialWeb that will serve as the stage for the event. Original sound design by composer **Evan Zierk** will layer the environment with cohesive but evolving moods that mark the flow of time. These commissions by the League ask the designers to imagine how non-physical space might open architecture to new forms and new sensations.

Of this year's virtual approach, Event Chair **Paul Lewis** says: "*This is not a Beaux Arts Ball* continues the League's tradition in 2021 despite the remote restrictions demanded by the pandemic. It places an emphasis on bridging physical distance to bring together the League's community of members and supporters through an experimental virtual platform. Similarly, the commissioned designs this year explore how non-physical spaces can elicit new models of social exchange that test how we might inhabit and interact with each other in these new optically and acoustically robust platforms."

This is not a Beaux Arts Ball

Saturday, March 6, 2021
8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Eastern Time
Online

Event Chairs

Paul Lewis and Rachel Judlowe

Virtual Installations

Kevin Hirth of KEVIN HIRTH Co.
Neyran Turan of NEMESTUDIO

Sound Design

Evan Zierk

Virtual Venue

SpatialWeb in partnership with
Beneville Studios

Event Organizer

Daniel Cioffi

The Architectural League would like to thank Eric Pulier, [SpatialWeb](#), Michael Beneville, and [Beneville Studios](#) for providing the platform and services to help make this event possible.

Tickets: All League supporters with an active membership on the event date are invited to attend. Non-members are highly encouraged to join the League and register for the event. The virtual space will host a maximum of 700 attendees.

To RSVP, email BAB21@archleague.org with member name(s). We will respond with your ticket information.

Current Contributing, Supporting, Sustaining, Circle, and Council members may reserve up to their maximum ticket allocation as long as space permits.

[@archleague](https://archleague.org/BAB21)

About the Designers

Kevin Hirth is Assistant Professor at the University of Colorado Denver College of Architecture and Planning. Kevin holds a Master of Architecture with distinction from the Harvard Graduate School of Design and a Bachelor of Science in Architecture from the University of Virginia. Growing up on the rural edge of the suburbs of Richmond, Virginia, Kevin was raised to run in the woods and walk in the city.

KEVIN HIRTH Co. was founded in 2013 in Denver Colorado. In 2017, Kevin was awarded the Architectural League of New York's League Prize. In 2020 he was awarded an Architects Newspaper Best of Design Award

Neyran Turan is an architect and a partner at NEMESTUDIO., and is currently Associate Professor at the Department of Architecture at the University of California-Berkeley. She holds a Doctor of Design from Harvard University Graduate School of Design (GSD), a Master of Environmental Design from Yale University School of Architecture, and a Bachelor of Architecture from Istanbul Technical University. Turan's work focuses on alternative forms of environmental imagination within architecture.

NEMESTUDIO is an architectural practice based in the San Francisco Bay area. The practice has been recognized with several awards, most recently The Architectural League of New York's League Prize for Young Architects, and multiple citations at The Architects' Newspaper Best of Design Awards.

Evan Zierk is a composer and audio system technician with interests in stochasticism in algorithmic music, as well as modes of listening and utilitarian music, particularly in regards to Pauline Oliveros' Deep Listening practice. His work has ranged from chamber music to fixed media, multi-channel system design, installation, and performance. His first published release, *Drifting/Bending*, was released in 2017 by the Washington DC label Atlantic Rhythms. His upcoming LP, *Endless Gesture*, will be released in spring 2021.

About The Architectural League

The Architectural League nurtures excellence in architecture, design and urbanism, and stimulates thinking, debate, and action on the critical design and building issues of our time. League events, digital media, publications, installations, and exhibitions present important work and ideas to inspire and help shape the path to a better future.

About SpatialWeb

SpatialWeb is a next generation web-based platform that provides an engaging and communal online experience. Co-founded by CEO Eric Pulier and Chief Creative Officer Michael Beneville, SpatialWeb's mission is to provide "remote togetherness," the feeling of "being there" together. SpatialWeb offers a rich, highly dynamic environment on phones, tablets, computers and via extended reality (XR), putting the "soul in the machine" and offering a new canvas for human imagination and connection.

About Beneville Studios

Beneville Studios is an Idea Manifestation Machine based in New York City that partners with companies to bring them into the 21st century by creating transformative experiences and reimagining clients' physical spaces as a way of enhancing their core businesses. Beneville Studios is a partner in SpatialWeb.

About the Beaux Arts Ball

The Beaux Arts Ball was first held in New York City in 1913 by the Society of Beaux Arts Architects in what the *Times* described as "the most artistic entertainment of the kind ever given in New York." The Architectural League revived the event in 1990 as an annual benefit for its ongoing programs and exhibitions. The League's Ball has been held at many venues across New York City, including the Synod House of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, the Seagram Building, the Brooklyn Army Terminal, and multiple sites in the Brooklyn Navy Yard. Ball themes have ranged from Paradiso/Inferno, to Transport, to Light Years, to Dot Dot Dot. In recent years, the League has commissioned emerging architects to design playful and provocative environments for the Ball. To see images of past Beaux Arts Balls, click [here](#).

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