Ken Oshima is both one of the leading scholars, critics, and curators of his generation and one of the most engaged and devoted former officers and board member of SAH. In all these roles his energy is boundless, his commitment unfaltering, and his lack of pretention unarming. Recognized internationally for expertise in 20th- and 21st-century Japanese architecture, one is as likely to hear Ken speaking, or see an exhibition he has curated in Europe as in North America or in Japan. In the two decades since completing his doctoral dissertation at Columbia on the relationship of tradition and modernity in Japanese architecture, he has become one of the most recognized scholars of that country’s outsized contributions to modern architecture, but he has equally given us insights into broader cross-currents between Asia and the “West,” notably in an exquisite team exhibition project on Antonin Raymond and with his contribution to the 2017 Museum of Modern Art exhibition Frank Lloyd Wright at 150: Unpacking the Archive.

Sharing his knowledge and insights—and his infectious enthusiasm—is as much a part of Ken’s very being as his rigorous commitment to scholarship. Touring students, colleagues, and friends around Japan is a favorite activity. Not only his students, but SAH members have benefited from his study tours and also embraced Ken’s unique ways of seeing the landscape of the built environment at all scales, attentive to larger patterns but also to the strata of time, of high and popular culture. He effortlessly teaches all of us without pretention or pedantry. Ken Oshima is one of the most optimistic, generous, and devoted scholars of our field. He brings those qualities to everything that he does. He is a natural to join the fellowship of Fellows of SAH.

Barry Bergdoll, Columbia University