

Speakers



Joanne Chan | Principal, SDI Design

Joanne's practice of Interior Design is built on the foundation of a Fine Arts education. This background uniquely positions her to bring a critical eye to everyday experiences, and to provide design solutions that both stimulate and delight. As principal of SDI, a design firm with an expertise in workplace strategy and design, Joanne has been able to combine creative thinking, market knowledge and detailed documentation expertise to provide our clients with fully integrated design solutions that extend throughout the entire life cycle of a project and beyond. An adventurous design philosophy paired with her advanced planning and design skills, knowledge of design trends, construction methodology, and material application enables Joanne to create impactful interiors within sometime challenging constraints. Joanne's takes an approach beyond the aesthetic, one that creates and an engaging experience for the user.

Joanne is an avid observer of global affairs who has traveled extensively and always imbues her creative ideas with real-world relevance. When she is not immersed in design Joanne enjoys developing new ideas for disruptive businesses.



Lisa Chan | Vice President, Global
Portfolio Management, RBC Royal Bank

Lisa joined RBC's Corporate Real Estate team in 2013 and has held several different roles from Portfolio Strategy and Transactions, Design and Relationship Management.

Her current role focuses on portfolio management, with a mandate to ensure consistent, integrated service delivery across all regions specific to Project & Program Management, Facilities, Lease Administration, Supplier Management, Hospitality and Energy & Environment. In addition to managing global operations, Lisa is accountable for the real estate portfolio in Canada and the Caribbean.

With more than 20 years of real estate experience, Lisa has worked at some of Canada's largest corporations including Rogers Communications, BMO Financial Group, CIBC, and Canadian Tire.

Lisa holds an MBA from the Schulich School of Business with a BAA from Ryerson University in Applied Geography.

Lisa has participated as a panelist at the Toronto Board of Trade discussing “The GTA Office Market in 2020 from a tenant perspective”. In addition, she has participated as a speaker at conferences such as the Ascend Newcomers Conference and on a number of industry panels that include Cushman & Wakefield, the Women in Leadership program, Toronto Real Estate Strategy Forum and NAIOP.

Lisa was recently invited to speak at “Beyond Real Estate: The Occupier’s View” by the British Council for Offices at their annual conference in Toronto.

She has been an active member of the CAO/CFO Advancing Women in Leadership committee at RBC and has participated in several round table mentoring opportunities over the past five years. Lisa has also co-led RBC’s CAO Employee Giving campaign in support of United Way for the past two years and remains actively involved in various outreach initiatives that include chairing RBC’s Run for the Kids Real Estate Challenge.



Sunita Mahant | Senior Director, Legal
Affairs, Ivanhoé Cambridge

Sunita is head of the legal affairs team - Toronto office, at Ivanhoé Cambridge Inc., a global real estate company active in investment, development, asset management, operations and leasing within the office, retail, industrial and multi-residential sectors.

With over 15 years of experience, Sunita leads a team of legal professionals and provides strategic advice to Ivanhoé Cambridge’s business teams in the areas of development, operations and leasing for the office, retail and industrial assets in Canada and the US.

She is lead counsel for Ivanhoé Cambridge in the development/leasing of CIBC Square including the lease transaction with CIBC of approx. 1.75M sf. (one of the largest office leases in the history of Canada and the recipient of the 2018 REX Award for office lease of the year) as well many others including Microsoft, Boston Consulting Group and AGF.

As a passionate and driven professional. Sunita has an expertise in commercial real estate, adds value and finds creative solutions for her clients while forging and maintaining good relationships within the industry. She was recognized by Lexpert Rising Stars (2015) as one of Canada’s leading lawyers under 40.

Sunita is a frequent speaker at industry events and conferences as well as an active member of Women in Governance, Toronto Gala planning committee and Ivanhoé Cambridge Women’s Forum Committee.
Sunita



Tom Powers | Co-President/CEO,
IA Interior Architects

With over 33 years of interior and architectural design experience, Tom Powers has developed and successfully executed high volume projects, built national and global client relationships, and provided exceptional leadership for talented teams of professionals.

As co-president/CEO of IA Interior Architects, a global architectural firm of over 750 staff across 23 offices in 4 countries, Tom's primary focus is the firm's practice and, in collaboration with his counterpart, he sets the overall firm strategy. He works closely with IA's Executive Committee and each office's leadership to continue IA's tradition of superior service for our international roster of clients. Over 50% of IA's offices are led by females, it is our priority to cultivate, guide, and empower future female leadership.

Prior to his current role, Tom was Managing Principal of IA's Chicago office for 15 years, and oversaw the Central United States Region, providing leadership and on-going growth to support the expanding needs of IA's clients. Tom is a member of the AIA, OAA, AIBC, CoreNet, and IFMA, and is a past school board member in his community. He holds an NCARB certificate, bachelor of architecture, and a bachelor of environmental design degrees from Ball State University, and is a license architect in multiple U.S. States as well as Ontario, and British Columbia.



Chuck Scott | CEO, Canada & Latin America,
Cushman & Wakefield

As Chief Executive Officer, Canada & Latin America of Cushman & Wakefield, Chuck Scott oversees the corporate direction and strategy of more than 5,650 employees in 35 offices across 7 countries. His responsibilities include developing and executing the company's growth strategies, building new business opportunities and client partnerships, and enhancing the firm's presence and service offerings across both regions.

In addition to his responsibilities as CEO, Chuck leads the Americas Valuation & Advisory Services platform. His proven track record of strategic leadership and growing the Canadian business by more than 200% through both organic growth initiatives and acquisitions propelled him into this expanded role in 2020. Chuck is responsible for leading the platform's overall strategy, identifying future growth opportunities and leading change through innovative approaches to garner maximum results amid a rapidly evolving industry landscape.

Chuck joined Cushman & Wakefield in 2008, bringing more than 20 years' executive leadership experience and commercial real estate expertise to the role. Prior to his current position, he served as the President of Cushman & Wakefield's Global Occupier Services division in Canada where under his leadership, the business unit achieved record-setting revenue growth.

Chuck is an energetic, driven, and passionate leader with proven success in developing and fostering long-term relationships with some of the firm's largest occupier and investor clients. Throughout his career, he has been focused on identifying high value opportunities that position both the firm and its clients for continued growth. Prior to joining Cushman & Wakefield, Chuck was President of The Gordian Services Group, a boutique real estate consulting and project management firm where he oversaw its Canadian and U.S. operations



Godyne Sibay | Managing Partner,
Ontario Region, McCarthy Tétrault

With over 30 years of experience at McCarthy Tétrault LLP, Godyne has made it her personal and professional priority to lead positive change within the firm for its lawyers, its clients and for the community. Now, as Regional Managing Partner for Ontario, she has been given the mandate to drive a series of initiatives that will ensure the firm continues to deliver platinum-level service to clients in Canada, New York City, London U.K. and beyond using the firm's capacity, expertise, scale and the diversity of talent in an industry that is evolving at an unprecedented pace. Godyne started her career with a BSc in 1980 from the University of Toronto and her LL.B. in 1983 from the University of Ottawa. She was called to the Ontario Bar in 1985.

Her extensive experience in project development, public-private partnerships, private and public procurement, commercial real estate, leasing, acquisition, disposition and construction has allowed her to take a leadership role in an array of challenging and impactful projects that contribute to and strengthen our cities and communities. Significant landmark infrastructure and development projects across Canada include numerous public-private partnerships and other projects involving hospitals, power, transportation, universities, hotel, forensic facilities, police facilities, entertainment venues, condominium, commercial, mixed use and professional sports facilities. Ms. Sibay is consistently recognized for her expertise and experience in leading legal directories including in the most recent editions of Chambers Global and Chambers Canada, the Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory, International Who's Who Legal, The Legal 500-Canada, the Guide to the World's Leading Women in Business Law, and Martindale-Hubbell.

These projects have given her the opportunity to see firsthand how great things can be achieved with leadership, collective commitment and expertise, effective and collaborative teamwork with diverse teams and remarkable drive.

In addition to championing unprecedented client service, innovation and progression at McCarthy Tétrault and beyond, Godyne has been leading a number of projects that permit her to play a significant role in the advancement of women and equity seeking groups in the Canadian workforce. Notably, she was a founding member and co-chair of the Toronto chapter of Women's Infrastructure Network. She was a founding member and Co-Chair of the Urban Land Institute's Women's Leadership Initiative in Toronto, as well as a member of their Advisory Board. Prior to this, she was the 2013 and 2014 Co-Chair of the United Way's Women Gaining Ground (now Women United) Initiative, and a member of the driving force behind their annual fundraising campaign, the Campaign Cabinet. She is a member of the International Women's Forum, an invitation only membership of diverse and accomplished women from 33 nations on six continents with a goal to advance women's leadership locally and globally. She is a recipient in 2011 of the WXN Most Powerful Women in Canada Award and is a judge for the Top 100 Most Powerful Women Awards.