

AS SEEN IN *Architectural Digest*

EXCELLENCE IN DESIGN | LONG ISLAND

DEVELOPMENT REDEFINED

With professional sensibilities and local pride, bld architecture ushers in a new era for development on Long Island



Both a playground of the rich and home to vibrantly diverse residential communities, Long Island was not immune to the boom of low-quality commercial development that spread like a blight in the 1960s and '70s. There was a time, however, when industrial development brought prosperity, progress, and beauty to the peninsula, a tradition bld architecture is recreating.

"We grew up surrounded by beautiful 19th-century industrial landmarks that were crucial to the growth of Long Island communities," says architect Alex Badalamenti, president and CEO. "Our goal at bld is to return to community-centered development that benefits all."

This firm's diverse portfolio exemplifies this passion, boasting more than 4 million square feet of Long Island's newest film studios, e-commerce distribution centers, a casino, and stunning multifamily housing units—including the award-winning Watchcase Condominiums. Their success, Badalamenti says, is the result of the bld team's deep local connections and their expertise in navigating the myriad

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: The extraordinary exterior restoration, renovation, and expansion of the Bulova Watchcase Factory in Sag Harbor, winner of Vision Long Island's Smart Growth Award. The 100,000-square-foot and \$200 million expansion of Jake's 58 Casino Hotel in Islandia, slated for completion in late 2025, marks a groundbreaking investment in the community. A green roof, photovoltaic energy, rainwater harvesting, and other sustainable initiatives round out the expanded casino's forward-looking development. The award-winning Patchogue YMCA contributes to the overall sense of community in the village and stands as a new local landmark. The Royal Blue in Mineola, a six-story, 101,000-square-foot luxury rental apartment building is set to open in 2024.

complexities inherent in large-scale developments.

"As Long Islanders ourselves, we know how to get things done here," he explains. "People know us and trust that our work adds value to the area aesthetically and economically."

This sensitivity to the quality-of-life impact of large-scale development, advocacy for long-term economic benefits, and effective stewardship in bringing projects to fruition forms the cornerstone of the bld ethos.

"This is personal for us," Badalamenti says. "We're deeply invested in getting it right."

