

## MEET A SEAMASS MEMBER:

### Justin A. Kordas, PE

Justin A. Kordas is a U.S. Marine Corps veteran who has built a notable career in the Architecture, Engineering, and Construction (AEC) sector. His dedication to sustainability drives his proactive efforts to reduce embodied carbon in structural systems. Justin's expertise is recognized through his roles as a voting member of ACI Committee 377, which focuses on Performance-Based Structural Integrity & Resilience of Concrete Structures, and as an associate member of ACI Committees 355 (Anchorage to Concrete) and 315 (Details of Concrete Reinforcement).



He actively contributes to sustainability initiatives by collaborating with various Boston-area working groups. In addition to his professional endeavors, Justin shares his knowledge by teaching Analysis and Design of Steel Structures at UMass Dartmouth and mentoring undergraduates on their Senior Design Projects. He also mentors for the ACE Mentor Program in Rhode Island, helping high school students explore careers in architecture, construction, and engineering. His commitment to the profession extends to his service on the board of directors of both SEAMASS and AIA Rhode Island.

*He has answered the questions below to give us deeper insight into his journey and contributions. Thank you, Justin, for your contributions to SEAMASS and the Structural Engineering profession!*

**Why did you join SEAMASS?** I joined SEAMASS with the primary goal of connecting with fellow engineers and expanding my professional network. As I became more engaged within the organization, I discovered a passion for mentoring younger members, guiding them as they embark on their engineering careers. Additionally, I have greatly benefited from the wealth of knowledge and expertise shared by more seasoned members. The collective experience within SEAMASS is vast, and the opportunities for learning and professional growth are immense.

**As an engineer, what accomplishments are you most proud of?** Reflecting on my career, I take pride in several significant accomplishments. I have had the privilege of contributing to high-profile projects at my previous firm, including the Encore Boston Harbor, MGH Cambridge Street Expansion, Moxy Hotel, Omni Boston Seaport Hotel, Raffles Boston Back Bay Hotel and Residences, South Station Air Rights Tower, and The St. Regis Residences. These projects have not only challenged me technically but have also allowed me to make a tangible impact on the built environment. I am particularly proud of the role I have played in mentoring junior engineers, helping to shape the next generation of professionals. Additionally, founding and growing my business, Stone Fleet, stands out as a major milestone. Seeing the company thrive and evolve has been incredibly rewarding.

**Describe a project that you're involved with.** Recently, I have been involved in an exciting renovation project for a local YMCA through my company, Stone Fleet. The project entailed the demolition of a portion of the existing building, followed by the construction of a new steel structure designed to accommodate updated programming needs. A distinctive feature of this project was the cantilevering of the upper levels over the first floor, which allowed us to maximize usable space despite ground-level constraints. The architectural design posed unique challenges, such as the misalignment of many columns and the need to transfer lateral forces through the diaphragms at various points to ensure structural stability. Another notable aspect was the addition of a new pool building, where the architectural vision required the structural elements to be integrated as visible interior features. To enhance the building's aesthetics and functionality, we incorporated a saw-tooth style roof that provides uniform natural lighting throughout the interior. This project has not yet gone into construction.

**How do you spend your free time?** Managing and growing a business leaves me with limited free time, but I make the most of the time I do have by prioritizing family and personal interests. I enjoy traveling with my wife, exploring new countries and experiencing different cultures. During my commutes, I often listen to audiobooks, which allows me to stay informed and entertained. Growing up near the ocean, I have always enjoyed spending time in it. Whether it's swimming, floating, or simply being near the water, the ocean is a place where I find relaxation and peace.