

THE
DAYLIGHT
AWARD

DLA
DAYLIGHT
ACADEMY



The Daylight Award 2026 laureates for Daylight Research: Invisible Life Shaping Ecosystems

https://youtu.be/iFk85HPfC_4

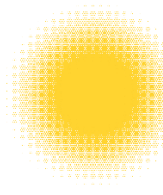
In this portrait film, The Daylight Award 2026 recognises **Brittany N. Zepernick, Steven W. Wilhelm and R. Michael McKay** for their groundbreaking research into how daylight shapes aquatic ecosystems.

Working at the microscopic scale, their research reveals how photosynthetic algae, the foundation of most life on Earth, depend on light to sustain entire ecosystems. From producing oxygen to supporting food webs and regulating carbon cycles, these organisms play a critical role in planetary health.

Focusing on environments such as the Great Lakes, their work makes visible a changing underwater world. As climate change reduces winter ice cover, shifting light conditions alter how much daylight reaches life beneath the surface. What may seem like a seasonal change becomes a profound ecological transformation.

Their research shows how microbial communities adapt to these new light conditions, while also raising urgent questions about the future of biodiversity, water quality and global ecosystems.

This portrait film brings their work into focus, connecting daylight to climate, public health and life at every scale.



THE
DAYLIGHT
AWARD

DLA
DAYLIGHT
ACADEMY



The Daylight Award 2026 laureates for Daylight in Architecture: Momoyo Kaijima & Yoshiharu Tsukamoto

<https://youtu.be/z9XmuDm0j4s>

Presenting **Momoyo Kaijima and Yoshiharu Tsukamoto**, founders of architectural practice Atelier Bow-Wow, and the laureates of The Daylight Award 2026, for Daylight in Architecture.

Their work explores how daylight shapes the way we live together. Through their concept of *Architectural Behaviorology*, they investigate the relationship between buildings, people and natural forces, with daylight at its core.

Rather than relying on large gestures or expansive glass façades, their architecture reveals a more subtle approach. In dense urban environments, daylight is discovered through reflection, narrow gaps, courtyards, filtered openings and carefully positioned windows.

In their projects, light is not only an aesthetic element. It becomes a social and cultural tool, shaping shared spaces, daily routines and human interaction.

Working across small and medium-scale buildings since 1992, Atelier Bow-Wow's projects include homes, workplaces, schools and cultural spaces. Each demonstrates how constraints can become opportunities to create meaningful, light-filled environments.

This portrait film highlights an architecture that is attentive, inventive and deeply connected to its surroundings, where daylight becomes something to experience, inhabit and share.