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GARDENING THE COMMUNITY  
SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS  
JABLONSKI DEVRIESE ARCHITECTS

SUMMER  
2018

# NEWSLETTER OF THE WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER

## AIA CONVENTION 2018

### BLUEPRINT FOR BETTER CITIES: LUDMILLA PAVLOVA-GILLHAM AIA

During the four days that I spent at the AIA 2018 Convention and Conference in New York I listened to many presentations on governance, practice, knowledge and technology, and talked with a great variety of architects, educators and emerging professionals from across the country, hoping to report back to our members in WMAIA with some kernels of wisdom that might be useful to our work. Here is one that stood out, from my friend Frances Bronet, who is the first female President of Pratt University: "Go where there is light." People constantly occupy space in new ways: look for an opening, anticipate a space that is about to open and unfold, and that will lead you to the where groundbreaking ideas and work will evolve.

Every year the AIA National convention attempts to weave together the many strands of our complex profession - to reflect on its members' accomplishments, share lessons learned to improve practice, honor leadership and excellence in design, practice and innovation, and nurture the future of architecture in service to society. This year's theme of Blueprint for Better Cities was underscored by the 50 year anniversary of the 1968 keynote address to the Institute by Whitney M. Young, at that time the Executive Director of the National Urban League. Young noted: "The crisis is not in our cities... The crisis is in our hearts..." and admonished the AIA for being "most distinguished by your thunderous silence and your complete irrelevance." His words ring just as true today as millions of our children march in the streets to demand protection from assault weapons, an end to racial and gender injustice, and a halt to environmental degradation. The tenor of the conference – and AIA's incremental work over the last 50 years - reflected a continued effort to acknowledge that **architecture is not neutral** and the profession is complicit in building the infrastructure that has produced serious social, economic and environmental problems.

Leaders and participants at the conference worked together to amend institute governance and codes of ethical conduct, and to honor firms and projects that produce innovative design solutions to support human rights, racial and gender justice, and healthy and sustainable communities – to be inspired all you have to do is read the latest reports and resolutions, and study the lists of Honors bestowed. Of particular interest was a resolution from the floor, introduced by Frances Halsband, FAIA, compelling the Board of Directors to update the Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct and require members to ensure that their work-

places are environments free of discrimination, harassment, and abuse, including consequences for harassers. Partly motivated by the #MeToo movement and the alleged sexual harassment by 1997 AIA Gold Medal winner Richard Meier, the resolution passed with an overwhelming majority—4,272 votes in favor compared to 13 votes against (with 136 abstentions.)

The conference also outlined a wide range of solutions to the 21st century problems that we now face: there were numerous sessions on best practices in developing both public and private buildings and infrastructure, there were inspiring speakers on how to run a firm and create a culture of design for inclusion, and there were many excellent explorations of the **intersectionality** of social, cultural and economic systems that requires architects to be conscious participants and agents in the creation of better neighborhoods, better cities and a better world.

I hope you will reach out to me at programs and events over the next year and let me know how you are improving your practice or engaging in innovative design, and what support you need from the Institute. I would be happy to find people or resources to support your efforts and encourage you to take advantage of the many knowledge communities and leadership opportunities it offers. Because to prosper we all need to go where the light is.



## OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

### IN THIS ISSUE

**ONE** AIA CONVENTION 2018: LUDMILLA PAVLOVA-GILLHAM AIA

**TWO** WMAIA NEWS

**THREE TO TEN** STUDENT WORK 2017-2018

**ELEVEN + TWELVE** FINDING LOCAL WOOD: MASSACHUSETTS WOODLANDS INSTITUTE

**THIRTEEN** FEATURED ARTISAN: SHALON STAINED GLASS

**FOURTEEN** WMAIA DAY OF SERVICE 2018

**FIFTEEN** WMAIA PROGRAMS

### THE WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

THE WMAIA NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED FOUR TIMES A YEAR. IT IS CIRCULATED TO ALL MEMBERS, ADVERTISERS AND SUBSCRIBERS. PLEASE DIRECT ALL NEWSLETTER CORRESPONDENCE TO RACHAEL CHASE, AT EDITOR@WMAIA.ORG. ARTICLES, PHOTOS, NOTICES OF EVENTS AND OTHER INFORMATION ARE WELCOME. OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN THE NEWSLETTER ARE NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF THE WMAIA.

**COVER PHOTO:** STEPHEN JABLONSKY AIA

### LINDSAY SCHNARR AIA APPOINTED TO MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF REGISTRATION OF ARCHITECTS

WMAIA member Lindsay Schnarr AIA was recently appointed to the Massachusetts Board of Registration of Architects by Governor Charlie Baker. Lindsay is a project architect for Kliment-Halsband Architects in their Northampton office. She previously worked for Steffian Bradley and Kuhn Riddle Architects. A 2011 graduate of the University of Massachusetts/Amherst M.Arch program, Lindsay was the 2010 recipient of our WMAIA/AIA National Student Scholarship. From 2012-17 she was an EP Coordinator for the chapter. Lindsay currently serves on the Amherst Design Review Board. The Registration Board appointment is for a five-year term.

Congratulations Lindsay!



### DESIGN SELECTION BOARD MEETS IN WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS

On Wednesday, June 27, the Massachusetts Designer Selection Board – the autonomous 11-member board that selects designers for state building projects and Commonwealth charter school projects – held its regular meeting at Springfield Technical Community College (the DSB usually meets in Boston). WMAIA has been working with DSB Executive Director Bill Perkins PE on ways to make the DSB – and DSB participation – more accessible for our members. Observing the DSB deliberate is enlightening and very helpful to firms who submit for state work. We applaud the willingness of the board to meet in Western Mass. and look forward to future meetings here as well.

### WMAIA

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# Congratulations UMass M.ARCH Students!

Department of Architecture  
at the University of Massachusetts Amherst

## ERICA SHANNON

### RESILIENT ARCHITECTURE: ADAPTIVE COMMUNITY LIVING IN COASTAL LOCATIONS

Thesis Advisors:  
Ajla Aksamija AIA  
Sigrid Miller Pollin FAIA

This design proposes a coastal living-development case study for how communities in low-lying areas can be elevated in order to sustain fluctuating coastal conditions caused by climate change.



## RYAN RENDANO

### ARCHITECTURAL SYNERGY: A FACILITY FOR LIFELONG LEARNING IN ACADEMIA + PRACTICE

Thesis Advisors:  
Stephen Schreiber AIA  
Ajla Aksamija AIA

This proposal unites architecture students, educators, practitioners, researchers, and the local community to address the disconnect between education and practice through a new model for collaborative synergy, embodied by a facility for lifelong learning.



## SABRINA AFRIN

### BANGLADESHI CULTURAL CENTER: FOR THE BANGLADESHI POPULATION LIVING IN NEW YORK CITY

Thesis Advisors:  
Erika Zekos Assoc. AIA  
Joseph Kruczynski

This design proposal involves the criteria and issues that are critical for a cultural group undergoing a diasporic condition, the Bangladeshi community of New York City.



## MASTER OF ARCHITECTURE

## REYHANE BASSAM TABAR

### RENOVATION OF AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: FORT RIVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN AMHERST MA

Thesis Advisors:  
Ray K Man  
Naomi Darling AIA

The purpose of my thesis is to discover a logical way to connect the ideas of Rudolf Steiner, developer of the Waldorf Education Method, and current theories of educational and psychology with the architectural design of an educational facility while maintaining Massachusetts Department of Education standards.



## GARRISON PIERS-GAMBLE

### CURATING PLACE: USING INTERPRETIVE DESIGN TO METABOLIZE CHANGE IN THE POST-INDUSTRIAL LANDSCAPE OF WORONOCO MA

Thesis Advisors:  
Sigrid Miller Pollin FAIA  
Max Page Hon. WAIA  
Carolina Aragón

This thesis was an investigation of the concept of place through the interrelationships between people, architecture and the landscape. The research challenges how the architect may assume the role as the curator of place rather than the creator of place.

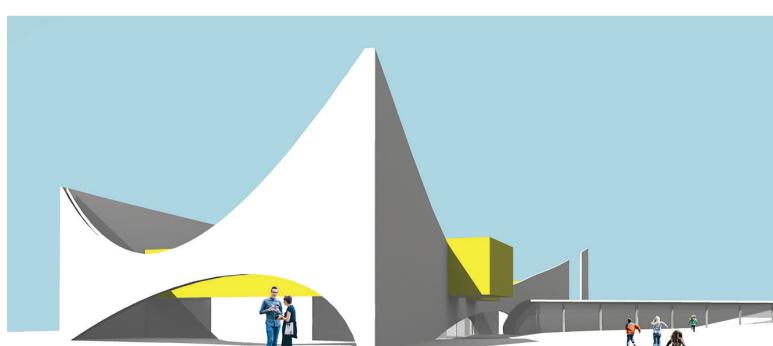


## MICHAEL CHOUDARY

### LEARNING SPACES: DISCOVERING THE SPACES FOR THE FUTURE OF LEARNING

Thesis Advisors:  
Pari Riahi AIA  
Sandy Litchfield  
Assoc. AIA

How can new spaces of learning unfold the layers of playfulness and haptic experience and utilize them to enrich early childhood education?



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

## WILDWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

On Saturday, May 5th, students from the UMass Amherst Department of Architecture gathered at Wildwood Elementary School with kindergarten students, families, and teachers to build a unique garden-based learning space - the culmination of several months of collaboration.

The endeavor is the capstone project of the five seniors in Design Studio VI, led by Erika Zekos Associate AIA, which has a strong public engagement component. Each year, students have the opportunity to work with a partner on a project that would be helpful in supporting the partner's mission, with a focus on participatory practices. The studio is guided by the belief that high quality design has positive impact on our experiences and should be accessible to everyone.

The Amherst School Garden Program is led by Garden Educator Leila Tunnell and Elementary Science and Garden coordinator Jennifer Reese. Their mission is to help children build meaningful connections with the natural world through engaging, interdisciplinary activities in the garden and in the classroom. "We are always looking for opportunities to collaborate with community partners and to engage students in authentic learning with real-world applications," said Reese. The partnership, she noted was, "a clear 'yes!'"

The architecture students conducted research into Public Interest Design strategies, learning about Human Centered Design and public engagement methodologies, which would later inform their work. They also did research to understand the social and environmental context of the Amherst Public Schools. Next, the students developed plans for a series of classroom visits. Kindergartners were invited to use drawings to express what they felt was important about a garden. The students explored possible garden sites around the building and helped the UMass class to understand how the spaces around Wildwood were used and where a garden would thrive. Interviews were also conducted with the Kindergarten teachers, the school's principal, and the head custodian.



## Department of Architecture

at the University of Massachusetts Amherst

Kindergartners' ideas were incorporated into a design for unique raised garden beds near their classrooms. UMass students shared their design ideas and received feedback from their young design partners before finalizing their design and moving on to procuring and preparing materials. "I was so impressed with the UMass college students," shared Wildwood Kindergarten teacher Lisa Poirier. "They listened to the kindergartners' ideas and designed a garden area that is beautiful, practical, and accessible."

The Department of Architecture provided the construction materials and, under the guidance of shop manager John Pierce, the seniors learned the tools of the woodshop to pre-build the benches and planter box panels. Meanwhile, Kindergartners painted the wooden slats that would be utilized for the garden wall.

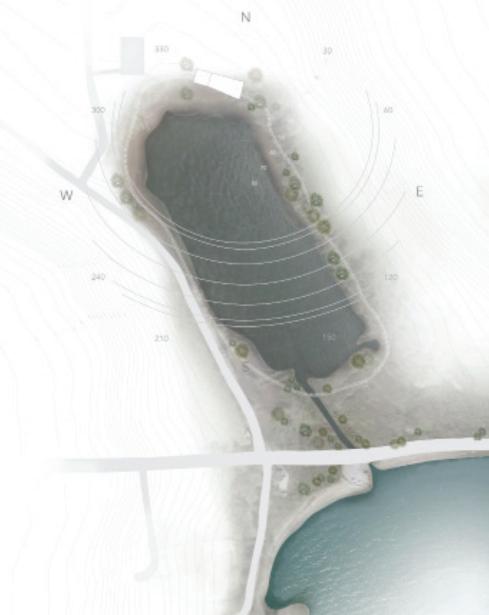
The final step - assembling the series of raised beds and surrounding benches took place on a beautiful Saturday afternoon and included many Kindergartners and their families. Reflecting on the experience, architecture student Micaela Goodrich commented that "being able to work together and with a community was new for us. In just a few weeks we came out with an amazing project and built a lot of relationships that have had such an impact for me personally. This experience made me really understand what design work is all about." Benny Yeo, a fellow senior architecture student, added that "designing a garden with kindergarten students taught me how to effectively engage the community to designing something meaningful with them."

Poirier captured the importance of this project for her students. "This was a unique and meaningful experience for my students to see their ideas translated into architectural design. Thanks to Farmer Leila, Jen Reese, Erika Zekos and the wonderful UMass students for providing a space where current and future kindergartners will learn and play."

## Department of Architecture

at the University of Massachusetts Amherst

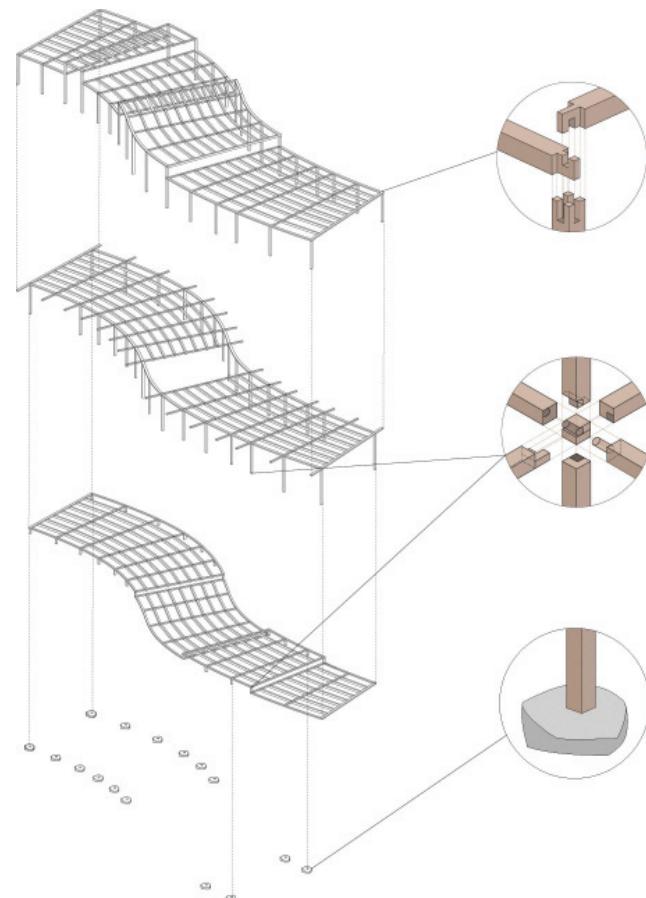




**Maya Gamble: Linear to Circular:  
Transforming the Construction Industry for a Sustainable Future**



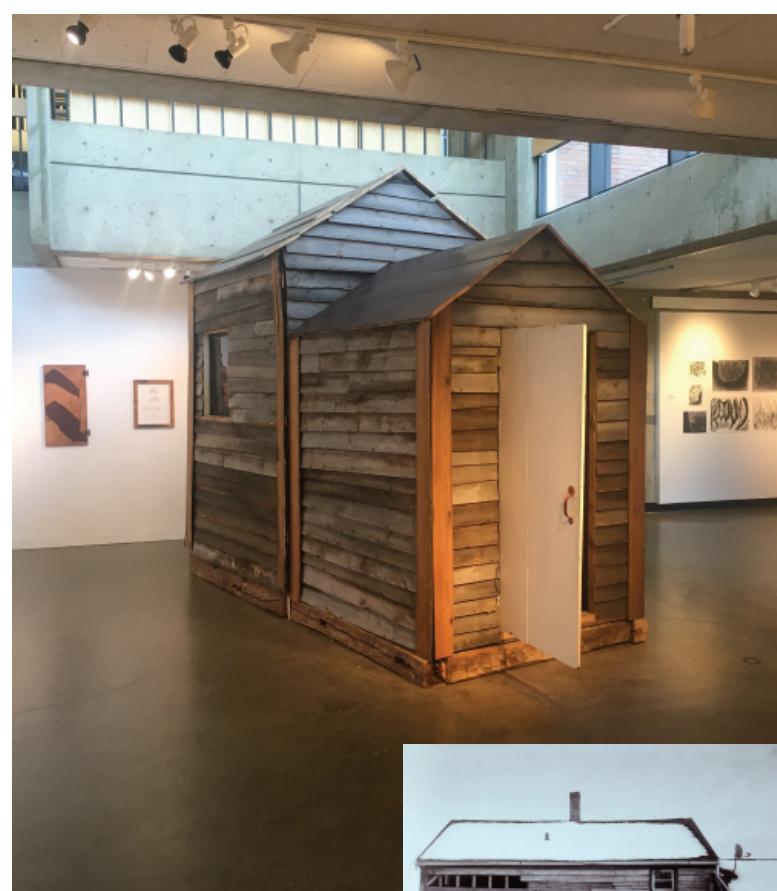
Sara-Ann Yong : Of Nature: Design Proposal for Nitobe Memorial Hall



Dana Maple Feeney: Ecological Landscape Design:  
A Call to Action



Taran Wilkens-Plumley: Printing Place



Fiona Post: Ives House





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## STUDENT WORK

### INDEPENDENT STUDY



Jeremiah Kim spent this past semester redesigning the controversial Spring St. bookstore. "My guiding principle throughout the design process was the form of a book itself. The book is a compelling shape: it opens up and invites you in. The front entrance opens up to greet you. The lines of the building end at the southern side, the side that receives the natural sunlight, where glass windows allow for an unfiltered viewing of the natural mountain scenery of Williamstown."

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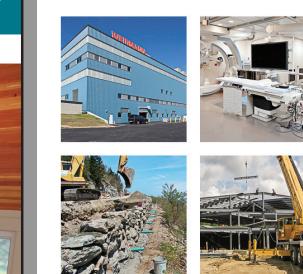
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## FINDING LOCAL WOOD

WENDY SWEETSER FERRIS

Wood is the ultimate green building material. It provides you with beauty, warmth, and character, as well as environmental benefits like long-term carbon storage and conservation of local forestland. Simply put, there's little that can compete with wood. Here in western Massachusetts, where 85% of the land is forested, wood is an abundant and renewable resource that adds value to our local economy. However, finding the right supplier of wood for your project can be an obstacle.

A new website launched this month will make it easier for designers, builders, and homeowners to access local wood by connecting people seeking wood with people sourcing wood. The site, [www.westernmasswood.org](http://www.westernmasswood.org) is an online directory of sawmill, kilns, and loggers working in western Massachusetts. It also includes a bulletin board function where you can post your specific needs and notify people with access to wood.

The website, sponsored by the Massachusetts Woodlands Institute (MWI), aims to encourage people to use more local wood in their building projects. Whether you are building a timber frame home constructed entirely of wood or you are looking for some locally sourced wood for a renovation, finishes, or furniture, the website will help connect you to the people you need.

Much as the buy local movement has benefited farmers and communities, using locally grown and milled wood has the potential to reduce our environmental footprint by using locally sourced materials. When you use local wood, you help landowners keep their forests as forests by providing an income stream from their land through sustainable woodland management. In Massachusetts, we import 98% of our wood products, so every foot of local wood can make a difference.

"The forests of Western Massachusetts provide a wide array of tree species. The biological diversity is supported by people committed to continuing a history of forest stewardship and protecting key habitats across working landscapes. The pairing of people and the forest enables access to a unique product with an amazing story to tell," said Sean Mahoney, Wood Utilization Forester with the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). "Designers enjoy choosing local wood because it gives them the creative ability to connect their clients to the land. Hemlock posts, black birch floors, and red maple cabinets are a few recent examples I have seen of architects working with local trees to enhance the built environment."

MWI President Brian Donahue, a professor of American Environmental Studies at Brandeis University, built his family's Gill farmhouse out of wood found on the farm's woodlot. With the help of his farm partner, architect Tom Chalmers AIA, of Austin Design Inc. and timber framer Dave Bowman, the house became a showcase of local wood as it reflects its inhabitants'



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New Home, Leeds, MA

## MASSACHUSETTS WOODLANDS INSTITUTE

desire to creatively utilize as much of their land's available wood as possible.

"We built a traditional timber-frame house because it is sturdy and permanent, but mostly because it celebrates wood," said Donahue. "The floors, doors, cabinets and stairs also have their roots in our woodlot, and in a slow, careful approach to managing these woods. We selected woods for our house given what sustainable harvesting of the woods made available. Here in New England, we could be sustainably harvesting far more than we consume, and sequestering more carbon in the buildings we inhabit."

Highlighted on the website are also stories of people who have prioritized using local wood in their building projects. If you have suggestions of a project to be highlighted, contact the Massachusetts Woodlands Institute at [info@masswoodlands.org](mailto:info@masswoodlands.org).

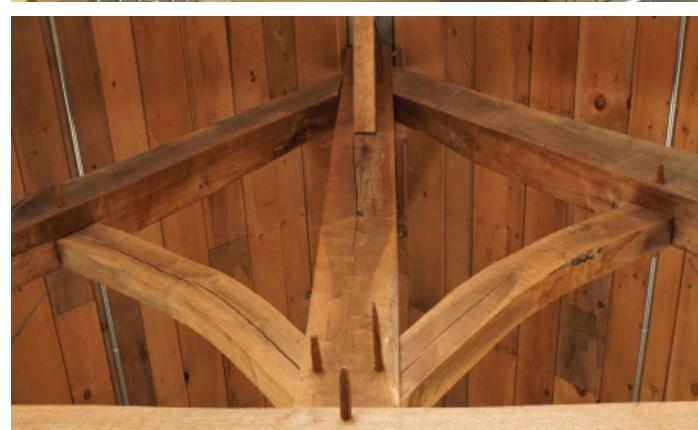


Brian Donahue's timber frame farmhouse celebrates wood throughout the interior and exterior.



The house demonstrates the beauty and warmth that wood provides in its frame, floors, stairs, and cabinets.

## FINDING LOCAL WOOD



WesternMassWood.org will help you find local sources of wood



The diversity of local wood provides the opportunity to creatively connect people to the land in the buildings we inhabit.

## FEATURED ARTISAN

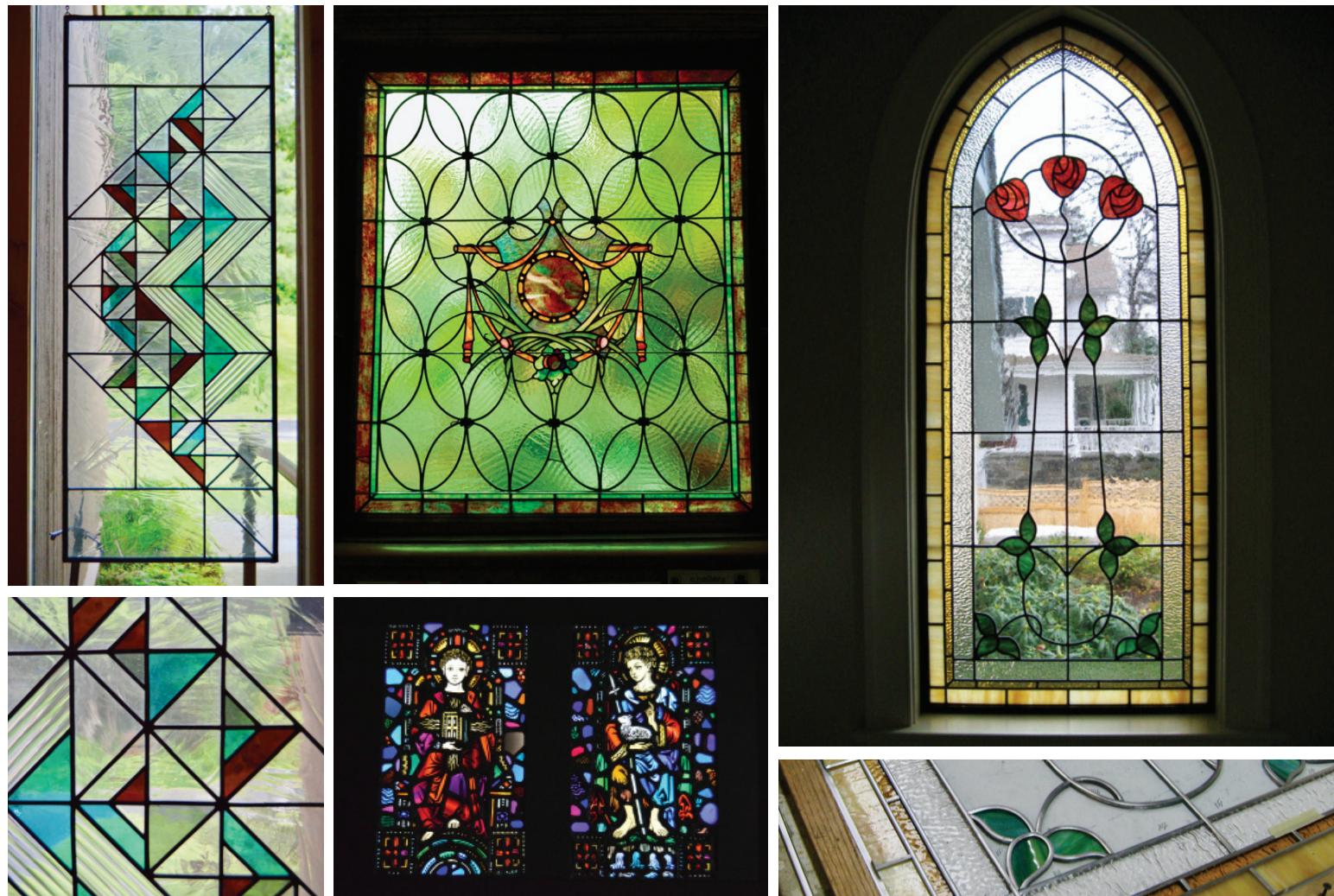
### SHALAN STAINED GLASS

Located in the Historic Windsor Mill in North Adams, MA., Shalan Stained Glass specializes in the conservation and restoration of stained and leaded glass windows for churches, public buildings and private residences. The studio also designs and fabricates new windows in various architectural styles.

**New Commissions:** I've always considered myself more a designer/craftsman than an artist and I enjoy the challenges of working with clients and their sometimes preconceived notions of what a stained glass window should look like. I look for design cues in the existing architecture and interior of the building. I really like working with both clear handblown and clear textured glasses and I try to incorporate them as much as possible in my new work. They serve to obscure the view to the exterior without completely cutting off that view and also help to accentuate the leadlines which I consider to be an important part of my designs.

**Historic Restorations:** Stained glass restoration poses its own set of challenges and rewards. Most ( but not all ) stained glass windows need to be restored once every one hundred years. While the lead came has a limited lifespan, the glass can last for centuries. Wherever possible, we try to conserve any original broken glass by edge gluing the pieces with either epoxies or silicone. Documentation in the form of rubbings, photographs and written notes is an important part of the process in understanding how a window was built, what possible design flaws may exist, and how to correct them, if necessary while simultaneously respecting the original artistic intent of the window. I find great satisfaction in working on a 100-year-old window that's reached the end of its lifespan and going through all the necessary steps of restoration so as to preserve it for another century.

For more information about our studio and to view other completed projects, please visit our website, [www.shalanstainedglass.com](http://www.shalanstainedglass.com).



## GARDENING THE COMMUNITY STEPHEN JABLONSKI AIA

Following up on last year's tremendously successful day of service, several WMAIA members gathered forces to contribute a day of labor to a local non profit based in Springfield that builds community through local garden projects and has an emphasis on social justice. The two ring leaders, Kristain Whitsett AIA and Steve Jablonski AIA organized, set up tents and prepared materials.

This year the group split into two work parties: Group One focused on laying sheets of plywood sub floor inside a storage trailer, leveling the plywood and laying a number of rows of VCT tile. The architects really appreciated the hands on approach, and being up close and personal with plywood and tile. Group Two took on applying sheets of FRP panels as a back splash to an outdoor sink used to rinse recently harvested vegetables. The panels looked great and went on without a hitch.

GtC executive director Anne Richmond was tremendously pleased with the results. Because of donated WMAIA labor we saved the organization hundreds of dollars in capital expenditures. A big thanks to everyone who volunteered and helped organize the event. Seeing the volunteer spirit presence two years in a row makes me proud to be a part of a great service organization.



## WMAIA DAY OF SERVICE 2018



Interiors of the Gardening the Community Building

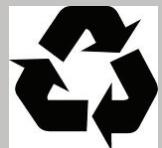
If you have suggestions for future years – please let us know! [kw@joneswhitsett.com](mailto:kw@joneswhitsett.com)  
Thank you to the coordinators at GtC; Anne Richmond, Ibrahim Ali and Tyrra Minto.  
And many thanks to the volunteers who made it happen!



# AIA Western Massachusetts newsletter

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WMAIA PROGRAMS  
WILL RESUME IN FALL 2018

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