

WMAIA news

Newsletter of the Western Massachusetts Chapter of the American Institute of Architects



AIANE Livable Communities Exhibit Reception

(left to right) WMAIA Executive Committee members Bill Austin AIA, Martha Montgomery AIA, Chris Farley AIA and Thomas RC Hartman AIA
photo by Erika Zekos Assoc. AIA

President Wraps It Up

by Thomas RC Hartman AIA
President, WMAIA

Over the past two years it has been my pleasure and privilege to serve as your **President of the Chapter**. During this time I had the opportunity to go to Grassroots in DC as President Elect, and to Miami in 2010 and New Orleans in 2011 for the AIA Conventions. Working with our stellar Executive Director, Lorin Starr Affiliate WMAIA, and the dedicated Executive Committee has been much more rewarding than I could have imagined.

A few weeks ago, from October 14 - 16, our chapter hosted the AIA New England Conference with the theme "Livable Communities in the American Landscape". More than 150 people, representing all of the New England chapters, participated in conference events. I know that many of you attended portions of the conference, but for those who did not, let me provide a brief summary of how we showcased and presented where WE LIVE. Read on for more information about the various conference events.

The conference began with a session on Regenerative Design with Bill Reed. I've known Bill for a while, but never had the opportunity to spend a few hours being challenged by his thinking and practice. Later that evening, the A.P.E. Gallery hosted

continued on Page 2

Inside

President Wraps It Up 1

AIANE CONFERENCE

Livable Communities Exhibit . . . 2
Touring A Livable City 4
AIANE Farm Tour 5
Conference Session Review 6
Training For Post-Disaster
Evaluators 7

2011 AIANE DESIGN AWARDS

Special Citations 8
Merit Awards 9
Honor Awards 11
People's Choice Award . . . 12
AIANE Design Awards Jurors 12
Thank You To Our Conference
Sponsors 12

MISCELLANEOUS

At Home 13
Stalled Projects 13
New Local Book 13
Super 60 Award 13
KRA Goes Platinum 13
USGBC Webinars 13

OPPORTUNITIES

Build Boston 14
Architecture For Art 14
River Competition 14
Conway School Info Sessions 14

LECTURES 15

WMAIA PROGRAMS

Architecture Through Film Series . . 16
WMAIA's Annual Meeting And Holiday
Gathering 16

AIANE CONFERENCE

continued from Page 1

an opening for the Livable Communities exhibit and People's Choice Award. I hope you had a chance to visit the gallery with its prime presence on Main Street in Northampton. This was an excellent opportunity for WMAIA to present a public face for Architecture.

The next morning at the breakfast session, Catherine Ratte and Wayne Feiden Honorary WMAIA presented the compelling work of (respectively) the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission and the City of Northampton. This set the stage for the two conference tours around the valley. One tour was focused on farming and its supporting architecture, the other, on projects in the Northampton area. I was not able to join the tours, but received warm reports late that evening after the Awards Dinner.



Stacks of AIANE Design Award submissions at Lorin's house
photo by Erika Zekos Assoc. AIA

In addition to the conference, WMAIA hosted this year's AIANE Design Awards Program. In total WMAIA received (or more specifically, Lorin's house was overtaken by) 180+ award submissions. Lorin processed the mass of material and transported it to Philly, where three members of AIA Philadelphia graciously

served as our jury. At the Awards Dinner at Smith's Faculty Club (beautifully decked out with flowers by our own Martha Montgomery AIA) we had the wonderful challenge of being overbooked for the space. The Executive Committee offered our seats during dinner and the keynote by James S. Russell FAIA who recently authored *The Agile City: Building Well Being and Wealth in an Era of Climate Change*. Following dinner, juror Alan Metcalf AIA, AIANE president Carol DeTine AIA, and I presented the awards to the winners (look for images of these projects beginning on page 8).

The final event of the weekend was a Disaster Training workshop led by Erica Gees AIA, who once again impressed me. Our chapter had hoped to do this workshop a year ago, and could have been more effective after the Springfield tornado if we had. The purpose of this day long training is to prepare Architects and Engineers to quickly evaluate if a structure is safe to occupy, just retrieve personal belongings, or must be closed for entry. This program is meant to provide national support to communities both near and far.

There was a huge amount of work required to prepare for the AIA New England conference, I look forward to our Annual Meeting in December when Jeremy Toal AIA begins his term and we announce our intentions of how we plan to use the profit from this event.



Mary Yun AIA and A.P.E. Gallery owner Gordie Thorne hanging the window display
photo by Erika Zekos Assoc. AIA

Livable Communities Exhibit

by Lorin Starr Affiliate WMAIA

From the early planning stages for the AIA New England Design Awards and Conference, WMAIA was determined to broaden the conference's reach to the general public. We were fortunate to partner with the A.P.E. Gallery in Northampton (a gallery with a high-profile Main Street presence) for a public exhibition in conjunction with the Conference. The conference theme, "Livable Communities in the American Landscape," provided a focus for a public exhibition which began almost two weeks prior to the conference and continued through the conference weekend. It also provided a very public venue for a People's Choice award.

Building upon the AIA's Ten Principles of Livable Communities, we invited entrants to the AIA New England Design Awards Program to opt-in to the Livable Communities Exhibition. A firm that felt its project represented one or more

of the AIA's Ten Principles could submit a board for the exhibition. It was our hope that the exhibition would provide public education on the topic of livable communities, public engagement in the People's Choice award process and a PR opportunity for participating firms. 15% of the entrants, showcasing a wide range of firms and building types, opted in.

With almost thirty boards to display and a two-week run in a prominent gallery, WMAIA set out to design a compelling exhibition. Several chapter members—Caryn Brause AIA, Chris Farley AIA, Julie Waggoner Assoc. AIA, and Mary Yun AIA, led by Erika Zekos Assoc. AIA—assisted by University of Massachusetts/Amherst Architecture + Design students Jennifer Levy and Angela DeGeorge, volunteered to design, fabricate and hang the exhibit.

The initial ten days provided an opportunity for the general public to learn about livable communities and cast a vote for the People's Choice award specifically answering the questions...WHAT DO YOU THINK?...which project embodies the AIA'S 10 PRINCIPLES and BEST CONTRIBUTES TO MAKING ITS COMMUNITY A LIVABLE PLACE?

On the evening of October 14, public participation grew exponentially as it was Northampton's monthly "Arts Night Out," an evening of open galleries that attracts large crowds to the downtown area. In addition, the AIA New England Conference had begun that afternoon and the conference reception was held at the gallery. At the end of the evening all ballots

were counted and the People's Choice winner was determined; the winner, Two Pond Farm by WMAIA's Kraus Fitch Architects, was announced at the AIA New England Awards Banquet (attended by over 100 people) the following evening. The award was also acknowledged at the gallery where the exhibition continued for two more days until the conclusion of the AIA New England Conference. Written public comments left at the exhibition included:

- *Niceeeee!*
- *Thank you so much! Great exhibit – educational and inspiring. More of these kinds of community engagement installations would be wonderful!*
- *WOW!!! Thanks for sharing this exhibit.*
- *Great event, thanks for bringing AIA to Northampton.*

Through the Livable Communities Exhibition WMAIA was able to expand the reach of the 2011 AIA New England Conference & Awards Program beyond the confines of the profession, creating an educational (and festive) public and professional event.



The next generation takes it in
photo by Julie Waggoner Assoc. AIA

WMAIA NEWS

The Western Mass. Chapter of the American Institute of Architects publishes WMAIA News four times a year. It is circulated to all members, advertisers and subscribers.

Please direct all newsletter correspondence to Erika Zekos Associate AIA, Editor, Studiozed, 40 Hulst Road, Amherst, MA 01002 (413) 559-0224, studiozed@comcast.net.

Articles, photos, notices of events and other information are welcome.

Opinions expressed in the newsletter are not necessarily those of the WMAIA. The Editor reserves the right to reject or revise material as space and subjective opinion permit.

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For more information on the WMAIA Chapter, please contact Lorin Starr, Executive Director at director@wmaia.org.



One stop on the tour, Rocky Hill Cohousing by Coldham&Hartman Architects
photo by Jeremy Toal AIA

Touring A Livable City

By Jeremy Toal AIA

Following two great presentations over breakfast – Catherine Ratte, Principal Planner for PVPC, on regional planning issues impacting the Pioneer Valley; and Wayne Feiden, Director of Planning and Development for the City of Northampton on the City’s efforts and successes in creating livable communities – our group of nearly 30 gathered in front of the Hotel Northampton with plenty of fuel to begin our journey.

Wayne joined Derek Noble AIA, Blake Williams AIA and myself as co-leaders of the mob of mostly-architects trodding toward Main Street. Our tour began on foot to emphasize the “walkability” of Northampton that is so key to the city’s vitality.

Bill Gillen AIA of Ford Gillen Architects met us in front of his mixed-use, downtown infill project, where the retail spaces fronting Strong Avenue are capped with two-story townhouses which walk-out on the opposite side to the Northampton Bikeway.

Walking through downtown Northampton on this pleasant autumn

morning, Wayne shared many stories and insights about things like the importance of timing traffic signals for pedestrians and keeping residences downtown. A stroll through the weekly Saturday morning Farmer’s Market reinforced another of Wayne’s key points – it’s all about people.

James Middlebrook, Professor of Art and Architecture at Smith, met the group to show us around the Olmsted-designed Smith College campus. We talked about sustainability and place-making at the new engineering building, Ford Hall by Bohlin Cywinski Jackson. We walked by the Botanical Gardens and through Weiss Manfredi’s Campus Center, eventually arriving at the Smith College Museum of Art, a masterful, context-sensitive, contemporary renovation and addition to the college’s art facilities designed by the Polshek Partnership.

By this point we’d really covered some ground, and all were ready to rest our feet for a few minutes and enjoy lunch in the wonderful public atrium space between the Museum and the Fine Arts Center. Then it was time to board the bus for our final leg of the tour.

About a mile from downtown Northampton, Village Hill has completed

it first phase of the ambitious re-development of the former state-hospital campus. Marc Sternick AIA from Dietz & Co. Architects described the history of the complex development project and three different housing types that are currently built-out. More tour guides rolled in. Jonathan Wright of Wright Builders, and Chuck Roberts AIA from Kuhn Riddle Architects showed us around the single-family neighborhoods within the mixed-use development.

Bruce Coldham FAIA of Coldham & Hartman Architects showed us around Rocky Hill Co-Housing and introduced many in the group to the co-housing concept. He described his firm’s process for working with residents to design the various building combinations that will make up their community. As if on cue, a resident who had apparently been through this process walked by and spontaneously interrupted the discussion to hug Bruce and express his affection for the architect!

We finished the tour, looping through the quiet, pedestrian paths at Rocky Hill, the fall colors and dramatic light playing off of the colorful house forms. I think our heads were all swimming with the thoughts and ideas; images and conversations of the day.



BCJ’s Ford Hall at Smith College
photo by Jeremy Toal AIA

AIANE Farm Tour

Sigrid Miller Pollin FAIA

The Farm Tour, which was part of the AIANE Conference weekend, offered participants a chance to see and hear about The Porter-Phelps Museum, Barstow Farm, Bramble Hill Farm, and the Nasami Farm Native Plant Center, all fine examples of our region’s agricultural heritage.

Kim Erslev, an architect and landscape architect with her firm Salmon Falls Ecological Design and also a faculty member at the Conway School, joined the group on the bus and narrated the tour. She emphasized the variety of valuable past, present and future agricultural endeavors that contribute to the economy and the quality of life in Pioneer Valley.

Our first stop was the Porter-Phelps-Huntington House in Hadley. Susan Lisk, Executive Director of the museum, organized a highly informative introduction to the rich, deep history of farming in the Pioneer Valley combined with a fascinating description of the history of the Porter-Phelps families in Hadley which dates back to the mid-1700s.



Barn at Bramble Hill Farm renovated by Tristram Metcalf AIA
photo by Sigrid Miller Pollin FAIA

The next stop was Barstow’s Longview Farm in Hadley. David Barstow capped off our box lunch at the café with a talk describing the current state of our region’s larger farms and the families that work to maintain them. Barstow’s is a dairy farm with many innovative green practices such as building one of the state’s first anaerobic manure digesters and creating clean energy on site.

projects and people including organic flower growers, a variety of grazing animals, yoga classes, and extended backyard to an adjacent school and nature center.

And last but certainly not least, Daniel Bernstein AIA of Architerra Inc. of Boston toured us through Nasami Farm Native Plant Center and Sanctuary in Whately, “a magnet for scientists and nature lovers”. The center, one of this year’s AIA New England Design Award winners, is well worth multiple visits both for the finely detailed architecture and the array of native plants grown on site.

The tour gave our keynote speaker, James Russell FAIA and architects from all over New England an over view of how our region’s agricultural spaces and places continue to evolve.



Following Barstow’s it was a privilege to be joined by architect Tristram Metcalfe AIA who walked us through the complex of unique structures he has designed or renovated on the breathtaking Bramble Hill Farm in Amherst. Bramble Hill’s 120 acres are community to a range of farming

Nasami Farm designed by Architerra, Inc.
photo by Sigrid Miller Pollin FAIA

Conference Session Review

Living System or Regenerative Design: Integrating and Regenerating the Health of Our Social and Ecological Systems

By Brian De Vriese AIA

Bill Reed is an architect, principal of Integrative Design Collaborative and Regenesi and former member of the Hillier Group. He left the conventional practice of architecture to begin a life's work of thinking in terms of sustainability and systems. He contributed to the development of LEED but has moved on to thinking about sustainability in a more comprehensive way. Bill's workshop for the AIANE conference was an introduction to his method of analyzing a problem using a living systems approach. As he demonstrated in a number of examples, the method can be applied to any scale of problem from a simple building project to a community master planning exercise to a massive metropolitan regional study.

The goal or intent of Bill's work is summed up in the question, "How do we sustain and regenerate life"? An example of such a problem was demonstrated by the ranch owner in New Mexico who contacted Bill to help him restore the ranch to its former desert state by eliminating the effects of years of occupation by grazing animals. The living systems approach of site analysis revealed that in the early 19th century it was not a desert at all but contained beaver ponds and lush vegetation. Soil sampling revealed the existence of humus similar to pond sediment. Historical records showed that early inhabitants and settlers trapped beaver in the region. This led to an analysis of the hydrology of the area and the realization that runoff from seasonal precipitation must have been retained by beaver dams in the arroyos, allowing the groundwater to be recharged and supporting diverse

plant and wildlife species.

Dams were built on the property to retain the runoff and within 18 months the former landscape had begun to re-emerge. Other ranch owners in the area began to emulate the work of the original ranch and a regional change began to take place. A sustainable regenerating living system had been reestablished in a region of former desert. Pretty cool! (One might wonder what the area looked like before beavers were part of the ecosystem, but the developing condition seems to be preferable (for the area's human residents) to the former desert state.)

These examples involve natural systems and do not consider the human community as a major component. In another example Bill demonstrated his systems analysis approach considering the human user as a significant part of the design. The project was to develop a master plan for the Yestermorrow campus in the Mad River Valley of Vermont. Yestermorrow is a residential design-build school.

The analysis started with the geological history of the area that produced the valley and its watershed system. In this case the valley was formed as a result of the collision of tectonic plates. The valley is narrow and steep; the flow of the river is fast. Periodic flooding has caused damage to structures and land in the valley over the years since it has been inhabited by European settlers. They have always responded by rebuilding and restoring the land.

In the specific example of Yestermorrow it was clear that the stakeholders did not agree on the goals of a master plan. Numerous plans with widely divergent proposals had been developed over a number of years. A visioning process produced a profile of the character of the people who live in the valley and of those who come to Yestermorrow. Self-reliance was key to survival in this somewhat isolated area and was

a character valued by people who are attracted to the Yestermorrow School.

Using the analysis based on the geology, hydrology, meteorology and community character, a masterplan was developed that respected the watershed by proposing development above the flood zone, working its way toward the more fertile bench areas that were inhabited by native people and settlers before the era of waterpower development. The existing main building was proposed to be demolished and replaced by smaller scale structures allowing for phased development and utilization of the residential scale construction skills of the user community.

Some points or guiding principles for designers:

- Building is a process.
- Development should be adding value on a continuing basis.
- How do we sustain and regenerate life?
- Are we healing ecosystems and the human spirit?

Practicing Regeneration:

- Work with the whole, which may be a series of nested systems.
 - Expand the scope. How big is "here"?
 - Recognize patterns.
 - Identify relationships and energetic exchanges.
- Understand the essence.
 - What and who is this place?
 - What is the uniqueness/distinctiveness of the place?
 - What do people in this place care about?
- Identify multiple self organizing niches
- Groups, communities or features that could be humans, animals, plants, buildings, landscapes etc.

The concept of regeneration seems much richer than the more static model

of sustainability which emphasizes only conservation and minimizing of environmental impact. Architects may appreciate this analytical approach which requires us to use both a more powerful microscope and a bigger telescope in analyzing a project. Bill has demonstrated some concepts and tools for helping us think about sustainability in terms of regeneration, a living process.

Anyone is interested in learning more about Bill Reed and the work of his firm can visit the websites www.integrativedesign.net or www.regenesisgroup.com for project descriptions, photos, articles and other resources.



WMAIA Executive Director Lorin Starr and Sigrid Miller Pollin FAIA at the Livable Communities Reception
photo by Erika Zekos Assoc. AIA

Training For Post-Disaster Evaluators

By Martha Montgomery AIA

How well do you remember the basics of Structures class? Can you recall how the moment arm formula might apply to a tall water reservoir in an earthquake? Several audible groans rumbled through the room at that question. Actually, most of the course material only requires common sense, because initial post-disaster evaluations are typically very quick, 10 or 15 minutes per structure.

WMAIA offered a Post-Disaster Safety Assessment Program (SAP) Evaluator Training after the AIANE Conference in Northampton. About 20 architects and engineers enrolled in this training program, which certifies us to evaluate structures after hurricanes, tornados, floods and earthquakes. Erica Gees AIA, formerly of western Mass and now working in DC for the AIA Legacy Foundation, was our instructor. She

presented a fast paced tour through the California EMA (Emergency Management Agency) manual and field guides. We covered a lot of territory!

There is a very specific protocol in place whose intent is to organize volunteer professionals, in groups of twos or threes, to investigate damage from a life safety perspective within 24 hours of disaster, if possible. The SAP Goal – “To get as many people back into their buildings as quickly and safely as possible.”

We learned the typical behavior of each type of natural disaster and how to judge the viability of buildings affected by these storms. Graphic slides, worksheets and demonstration scenarios helped familiarize the class with procedures. We were required to substantiate our decisions to declare structures safe or off limits. There are many situations somewhere between safe and unsafe. These conditions are the most challenging to evaluate – is it safe enough for Dad to go home quickly for an important teddy bear? How about if

your office is untouched, but one nearby is wobbling in the breeze? Which are the absolute DO NOT ENTER signals?

Exposure to this program sensitized me to the concept of “Resilient Design”, which could prevent so much destruction with very simple, inexpensive construction standards (like proper anchors and strapping). We may soon find these standards incentivized the way “Energy Star” incentivizes energy conservation. Perhaps the Insurance industry would like to head that charge?

Personally, I found it really interesting to learn specifics, like the different problems associated with high velocity flooding versus slow floods. I liked sensing what certain crack patterns meant about the structural integrity of a wall. I enjoyed hearkening back to Structures class and applying it to reality. I ended the day feeling quite confident that most of us could contribute if called to volunteer. Let’s all just hope there’s no call for it.

AIANE DESIGN AWARDS

Honor Awards For Design Excellence

BOK Center, Tulsa, OK
Pelli Clarke Pelli Architects, New Haven, CT
Photo: Jeff Goldberg/ Esto Photographics



Education and Community Center, Korean Church of Boston, Brookline, MA
Brian Healy Architects, Somerville, MA
Photo: Brian Healy Architects

Spiral House, Old Greenwich, CT
Joeb Moore & Partners LLC, Greenwich, CT
Photo: Jeff Goldberg/ Esto Photographics



Integrated Science Complex at The College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA
EYP Architecture & Engineering, Boston, MA
Photo: Robert Benson Photography

Bridge House IV, Ann Arbor, MI
Wilfred John Oskar Armster, AIA, Guilford, CT
Photo: Curt Clayton



Merit Awards For Design Excellence



The Children's School, Stamford, CT
Maryann Thompson Architects in collaboration with
Ingrid Strong, Cambridge, MA
Photo: Steve Turner

Guest House for Three Generation Family, Center Harbor, NH
Murdough Design, Boston, MA
Photo: Chuck Choi



Pennsylvania State University, Hershey
Medical Center, Hershey, PA
Payette, Boston, MA
Photo: Warren Jagger

Kripalu Housing Tower, Stockbridge, MA
Peter Rose + Partners, Cambridge, MA
Photo: Matthew Snyder



Addison Gallery of American Art, Phillips Academy
Andover, Andover, MA
Chad Floyd, FAIA, of Centerbrook
Centerbrook Architects and Planners, Centerbrook, CT
Photo: Jeff Goldberg/ Esto Photographics



Wintonbury Early Childhood Magnet School, Bloomfield, CT
Tai Soo Kim Partners, Hartford, CT
Photo: Tai Soo Kim



Garthwaite Center for Science and Art, Cambridge School of Weston, Weston, MA
Architerra Inc., Boston, MA
Photo: Chuck Choi



Nasami Farm Native Plant Center and Sanctuary, New England Wildflower Society, Whately, MA
Architerra Inc., Boston, MA
Photo: Architerra Inc.

Special Citations For Design Excellence

Modern Theatre, Suffolk University, Boston, MA
CBT Architects, Boston, MA
Photo: Peter Vanderwarker



Nulman Lewis Student Center, Providence, RI
Ann Beha Architects, Boston, MA
Photo: David Lamb Photography

Carl J. and Ruth Shapiro Ambulatory Care Center,
Boston, MA

Tsoi/Kobus & Associates, Cambridge, MA
Photo: Jeffrey Totaro



Civic Building and Veterans' Plaza
Silver Spring, MD

Machado and Silvetti Associates, LLC
Boston, MA
Photo: Anton Grass/ Esto Photographics



White Block Gallery, Heyri, Korea
SsD, Cambridge, MA
Photo: Chang Kyun Kim



BG Group Place, Houston, TX
Pickard Chilton, New Haven, CT
Photo: Peter Aaron/ Esto Photographics

**Paradise Pond Apartments, Affordable
and Transitional Housing, Northampton, MA**
PFRA + LDa Architects LLP, Northampton, MA
Photo: Woodruff/Brown Photography



People's Choice Award



Two Pond Farm, Williamsburg, MA
Kraus Fitch Architects, Amherst, MA
Photo: MicaBlue Creative

AIANE Design Awards Jurors

Thank you to our friends at AIA Philadelphia for their assistance with the jury process.

The 2011 jurors were:

Frank Grauman FAIA, Principal, Bohlin Cywinski Jackson, Philadelphia, PA

Alan Metcalfe AIA, Principal, Metcalfe Architecture & Design, Philadelphia, PA

Cathrine Veikos AIA, Assistant Professor of Architecture, University of Pennsylvania

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MISCELLANEOUS

At Home

By Erika Zekos, Associate AIA

Like so many others, I spent my post-crazy-October storm days without power, hot water, internet and heat. Maxed out on Scrabble games and lacking the ability to knit, I finally dug into *At Home, A Short History of Private Life*, by Bill Bryson. I've appreciated Bryson's wit and willingness to tackle big topics in a couple of his previous books (*A Walk in the Woods*, *A Short History of Nearly Everything*) and this latest effort was a fine example of his strength in both areas.

At Home takes us on a tour through the history of the modern house by looking at all that influenced it room by room. Bryson uses his own home, a Victorian parsonage designed and built in the English countryside in 1851, as an example and begins by describing the significance of the entry Hall in the way that only he could – by taking us back to the departure of the Romans from Britain in 410 AD. Despite the fact that the Romans had developed a highly sophisticated architecture, the conquering Angles and Saxons opted to ignore this and use their own far less developed building style to house themselves. Bryson explains that the name for these invader-dwellings is "hall", one of the first truly English words. Halls consisted of, "a single, large, mostly bare, always smoky chamber. Servants and family ate, dressed and slept together. ...Through the whole of the medieval period, till well into the fifteenth century, the hall effectively was the house, so much so that it became the convention to give its name to the entire dwelling, as in Hardwick Hall or Toad Hall."

Bryson continues his tour through the Kitchen, Scullery, Drawing Room,

Cellar, Bedroom, Bathroom, and many other spaces, describing in fascinating terms, many elements of English and American architectural history. He detours often along the way to describe no less than the impact of the spice trade, the engineering of the Erie Canal, the role of rodents and insects in human diseases, the evolution of clothing, 19th century child labor, city sanitation systems and many more subjects.

According to Bryson, "...whatever happens in the world – whatever is discovered or created or bitterly fought over – eventually ends up in one way or another, in your house." What he says appears to be true and amusingly, meanderingly described in the 452 pages of *At Home*.

Stalled Projects

There's money out there. The AIA's Stalled Projects database, which seeks to address the problem of financing commercial buildings, is now live. Visit www.aia.org/stalledprojects and list your stalled projects today. Starting on November 7, real-estate investors and developers are invited to browse the database to search for projects that may interest them. For more info, contact stalledprojects@aia.org.

New Local Book

Amherst architect Tullio Inglese's new book, *Toward a Grand Unified Theory of Architecture: Twelve Principles of Ecological Architecture*, is now available for purchase at the Nacul Center and on <http://tiaarchitects.com>.



Super 60 Award

Dietz & Company Architects, Inc. has been honored with a 2011 Super 60 Award for Growth by ACCGS, the Affiliated Chambers of Commerce of Greater Springfield, Inc. This award is presented annually to the top businesses in the region which contribute to the strength of the regional economy in a significant way.

Recently the firm opened the LEED Gold Certified Phase II of the YWCA of Western Massachusetts to provide transitional housing for women from domestic violence shelters to permanent housing. The firm is also working on The Caring Health Center which provides community-controlled healthcare services. The Center has experienced dramatic growth and now services over 22,000 individuals in the greater Springfield area.

KRA Goes Platinum

Kuhn Riddle Architects are pleased to announce that New England Environmental, Inc. headquarters in Amherst has received the USGBC LEED Platinum rating. The building is one of only five buildings in Massachusetts to receive LEED Platinum for new construction. Among its numerous sustainable features, a 40 kW PV array and 12" thick exterior walls.

USGBC Webinars

The Massachusetts USGBC offers many webinars – including several in Western Massachusetts through the Lake Hitchcock chapter. Check out their website at www.usgbcma.org/events for more information and contact Ludmilla Pavlova AIA at pavlovagillham@gmail.com if you are interested in participating in a local webinar viewing.

OPPORTUNITIES

Build Boston

November 16 - 18
Seaport World Trade Center, Boston
www.buildboston.com

Exhibit Floor, Lectures, Workshops, Connecting, you know the deal. Visit the largest regional event for the design and construction industry in the country.

Architecture For Art

2633 Rt. 23 Hillsdale, NY
November 12, 6:00 - 8:00pm
www.architectureforart.com

Opening Reception with artists Martha Bone and Bart Gulley.

River Competition

Submissions due December 10.
www.riverscaping.org

Riverscaping Public art/ Design-build Competition: The river is connection and separation. It is passage and obstacle. It is community and battlefield. It is music and noise. It is art and function. It is power and vulnerability. It is local and global. It defines our past and will define our future.

In this design-build competition, prizes are available for the most inspiring and creative solutions. Four of the most successful design projects will receive \$7500 to build and install their project.

Conway School Info Sessions

Upcoming information sessions:
December 3, and February 4
<http://www.csld.edu>

Join an engaging and informative introduction to the Conway School's philosophy and programs. Sessions include introduction to Conway's whole systems approach to sustainable land use planning and design, presentations of current student work, an opportunity to speak informally with students, alums, faculty and staff, lunch and a woodlands walk with a faculty ecologist.



Maria Chao Residence – LEED Gold Certified
Maria Chao – CHAO Designs – Amherst, MA
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LECTURES

**UMass Green Buiding Committee
Solving Old Problems with New Ideas Lecture Series**

UMass Amherst, Cape Cod Lounge

November 15, 4:00pm
Coldham & Hartman, The Living Building Challenge: Why Bother?

**UMass Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning Program
Zube Lecture Series**

UMass Amherst, 105 Hills North in the Procopio Room

November 17, 4:00pm
Kristen DeBoer, Executive Director, Kestrel Land Trust "Conserving the Valley We Know and Love"

**UMass Architecture + Design
David Dillon Lecture Series**
UMass Amherst, Cape Cod Lounge

December 8, 4:00pm
Blair Kamin, Pulitzer Prize winning architecture critic of the *Chicago Tribune*

There will be a reception following the lecture.

**Mount Holyoke College
Department of Art/ Architecture
The Architect's Lecture Series**

Room 220, Art Building
November 18, 6:00pm
Stephanie Brown: The Work of Peter Zumthor

December 2, 6:00pm
Stephanie Brown: Beauty & Non Existence: Light in Architecture

Boston Society of Architects
290 Congress Street, Boston

December 7, 6:00pm
Barnaby Evans: Animating a city's architectural fabric
Designer Barnaby Evans discusses *WaterFire*, a seasonal sculpture installed at the intersection of three rivers in downtown Providence, RI transforms visitors' perceptions of the urban landscape.
<http://www.architects.org/programs-and-events/lecture-series>.

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
EMPAC, 110 8th St., Troy, NY

November 22, 6:00 pm
**Tod Willimas/Billie Tsien Architects
The Work, At Work**

November 30, 6:00 pm
**Stephen Kieran
Kieran/Timberlake: Inquiry**

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WMAIA PROGRAMS

**Architecture Through
Film Series**

November 16, 6:30pm
at Pruyne Lecture Hall (at Fayerweather
Hall) Amherst College

The WMAIA/Five College Architecture
Architecture Through Film series wraps
up with a screening of "**Expo: Magic of
the White City,**" a documentary about
the 1893 Columbia Exposition
(1.5 LUs).

For more detailed information
visit: www.wmaia.org/films.html

**WMAIA's Annual
Meeting And Holiday
Gathering**

A celebration of members' work

SAVE THE DATE!

December 14, 2011, 5:30pm
Blue Heron Restaurant
Sunderland, MA

More info to follow. Look in your
inboxes and on www.wmaia.org soon.

Friends and colleagues
gather outside the AIA NE
*Livable Communities in
the American Landscape*
conference opening
reception at the A.P.E.
Gallery on Main Street in
Northampton on
October 14.

photo by Julie Waggoner
Assoc. AIA



WMAIA news

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