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KUHN RIDDLE ARCHITECTS
BERKSHIRE POOLHOUSE

SUMMER
2013

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

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THE WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

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RACHAEL CHASE ASSOCIATE AIA, AT: EDITOR@WMAIA.ORG

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OUR NEWS



ARCHITECT MARGO P. JONES ELECTED NCARB TREASURER

San Diego, CA—Margo P. Jones AIA, NCARB, LEED AP, of Greenfield, MA, was elected treasurer on the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) Board of Directors at its 94th Annual Meeting. “NCARB’s work is carried out by an extremely dedicated group of practitioner volunteers,” Jones said. “We donate our time on behalf of the public and the betterment of our profession. Together we form a priceless brain trust, which is a unique asset of the Council.” Jones is the founder and president of Margo Jones Architects, Inc., established in 1984. The award-winning firm specializes in educational facilities, historic preservation, and cultural institutions. Jones holds a Master of Architecture degree from M.I.T. and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Chicago. She is licensed in Massachusetts and Vermont.

EDITOR UPDATE:

Rachael Chase Associate AIA, editor of the WMAIA Newsletter, has said a fond farewell to Kuhn Riddle Architects after five years together and is in the process of starting her own practice, Nova Design Studios. Contact her at editor@wmaia.org.

EMERGING PROFESSIONALS UPDATE

WMAIA Emerging Professionals held a panel discussion about the professional licensure process for architects at Smith College on April 25th. The discussion was led by four architects with varied work experiences and moderated by Dorrie Brooks (Associate AIA). A group of 30 attended. Panelists included Ludmilla Pavlova-Gillham AIA, Bill Austin AIA, Margo Jones AIA and John Aubin AIA. The panelists shared stories of their own challenges working to complete licensure exams (ARE) and to gain professional experience. While their paths varied, all agreed wholeheartedly on the value of the license despite the ups and downs of the construction industry. Panelists were equally curious about current interns and the difference in the IDP and ARE process today, turning the table on the audience to engage in a lively discussion of changes in the profession and in the ARE over the past few decades. The event was a successful demonstration of the kinds of mentoring events WMAIA-EPA hopes can become a regular staple of the WMAIA calendar.

The Emerging Professionals gathered for their 4th meeting this year at the offices of Metcalfe Associates, located on the second floor of one of the historic buildings along Main St. in Northampton near Thornes. The ceilings were tall and the walls were layered with hand-drafted architectural drawings that one's eye could get lost looking at for hours... especially the eyes of architectural interns, most of us trained during the computer era and longing for the drafting skills of the previous generation. The group convened to discuss strategies to navigating the sometimes rough waters of IDP & ARE completion. To many of us, it hasn't been clear where to begin the process, never mind how to strategically manage the 5,000+ hours and 7 exams required to finally drop the nagging "intern" qualifier from our professional title. Jason Newman and Lindsay Comeaux Schnarr, local IDP coordinators for the WMAIA chapter, prepared and presented a slide show that covered the basics in getting registered with NCARB, reporting hours and studying for the exams. The Metcalfe office room was just big enough to allow the 14 of us to sit together and discuss the key points of the process. We all breathed a sigh of relief when the air conditioning finally kicked in... and one had to wonder how it was being powered after seeing the drawings on the wall. We welcomed 5 new emerging professionals to the group and discussed designing a new "EP" page for the WMAIA website where resources and reference materials may be posted for local Intern Architects. Thanks to everyone who is helping to get the word out!

If you or anyone you know would like to join the mailing list for WMAIA-EPA, please send email addresses to db@margojones.com or contact Lorin Starr at director@wmaia.org.

COMPETITIONS

Narrow Lot
Architectural Design Competition



1 Garfield Avenue,
Florence Village, Northampton, MA

- A successful design will:**
1. Respect the context of the site while adding vibrancy to the neighborhood.
 2. Offer opportunity for repairing existing urban design deficiencies.
 3. Demonstrate a house that can work on other narrow lots in the city.
 4. Engage the community on design issues and raise the profile of architects.

Awards/Prizes

| Awards | Who Awards? | Cash Prize |
|-------------------|-------------------------|------------|
| First Place | Architect & Design Jury | \$1,500 |
| Second Place | Architect & Design Jury | \$ 500 |
| Honorable Mention | Architect & Design Jury | \$ 200 |
| People's Choice | Open public voting | None |

Commission Opportunity
The lot will be sold with the condition that the buyer hires one of the architects entering the competition for the final design.

REQUIRED MATERIALS DUE SEPTEMBER 15TH
**A PROJECT BRIEF WILL BE MAILED TO ALL
WMAIA MEMBERS**

For more information or questions: Wayne Feiden, FAICP,
City of Northampton, Office of Planning & Sustainability
wfeiden@northamptonma.gov

VOTING FOR NATIONAL OFFICERS & A CALL FOR ACTION

This year I attended the AIA National Convention in Denver as President Elect of AIA New England (it was a last minute opportunity to represent the region when AIANE President, Greg Spiess AIA of Rhode Island had to bow out suddenly). While the National Convention provides wonderful opportunities for continuing education, networking, great tours and fun, the responsibilities of delegates take up most of the trip. Here is a synopsis of how your National Officers are elected:

In regional meetings prior to the National Convention, board members go over the delegate handbook in detail to discuss elections as well as upcoming amendments and resolutions to be voted upon at the Convention. National Directors inform local chapters of important and/or controversial issues pending, and relate any first hand experiences regarding the candidates.

On Thursday of the Convention, delegates first become accredited to vote, by registering our voter cards. We then gather to hear all candidate speeches. This year there were ten candidates: two for 2014-2015 Treasurer, four for 2014-2015 Vice President and four for 2013 First Vice President/2014 President Elect. After all candidates have delivered their prepared speeches, we adjourn to the caucuses. We divide into three groups of regions in separate rooms and take the opportunity to write out questions to the candidates, who must respond without preparation.

On Friday delegates vote. This year we were told to expect a runoff, which is always scheduled for Saturday of the Convention.

On Saturday delegates attend the AIA Annual Business Meeting. Here we vote on bylaw amendments, we hear and respond to new resolutions (formal requests for action from the membership to the board), we hear a report of actions taken on Resolutions adopted at the previous year's Convention, and, finally, we hear the results of the elections. Yes, this year there was a runoff for First Vice President/President Elect. After the business meeting delegates returned to the voting booths to decide that runoff.

The majority of Resolutions involve recognitions and appreciations. They typically move without objection. Less so with the new Resolutions from the floor! In a nutshell, the overarching impact of new Resolutions and Bylaws amendments were very much concerned with issues affecting the much anticipated REPOSITIONING of the AIA. AIA Massachusetts and AIA Seattle proposed a resolution that, essentially, proposed a time frame for benchmarks of the Repositioning. Rather than going through each point, please check the following link for details of the business meeting. <http://convention.aia.org/event/events-tours/aia-business.aspx>.

You will find a clear theme – the membership wants the AIA to be receptive, young, and inclusive. We voted that Associate and International Associate members may serve as Officers on Component Boards – already common in many Components.

We also voted to revise the relationship that Allied and Student Members may have to Component Boards. This Business Meeting reflected the apparent consensus that if the AIA is not perceived as a welcoming, nimble body, it will fail to thrive.

Some notes about the candidates -

Our region had a strong candidate in the race. Greg Ames, AIA from Connecticut, one of our Regional National Directors, ran for the office of Treasurer. He came up short, against John Grounds of Washington, DC.

Interestingly, the runoff for First Vice President/President Elect was between the two female candidates. The winner, Elizabeth Chu Richter, FAIA, from Texas, will be National President in 2015-2016. She will follow Helene Combs Dreiling, FAIA. These will be only the third and fourth female AIA Presidents in the 134 year history of the Institute. Susan Maxman, FAIA was the first, in 1992-1993, Kate Schwensen, FAIA served in 2005-2006, and now we are about to have two women in a row. See the following link and notice that single year terms apparently only began in the 1960's.

<http://www.aia.org/about/history/AIAS077478?dvid=&recpec=AIAS077478>



Elizabeth Chu Richter FAIA

REPOSITIONING THE INSTITUTE, AND THE POWER OF IDEAS

During the opening Keynote business session at this year's AIA National Convention, AIA President Mickey Jacob FAIA, and AIA CEO Robert Ivy FAIA outlined the findings of the Repositioning effort so far, and described some of the new initiatives aimed at responding to those findings. Key findings have been broken into four categories: Connect, Engage, Innovate, and Lead. AIA national will be posting a "scorecard" so members can track that National is "doing what they said they would do" in the repositioning effort.

National is working on restructuring the organization to be more "nimble" and rethink component and board structures. A distinct focus on emerging professionals is taking shape, as well as a study on gender issues in the profession. More focused messaging has been widely called for, and the Institute is responding with NPR radio ads and a PBS program beginning in 2014, called "Cool Spaces!" that will literally show the public what it is we architects do, and how our work impacts society and how we all live and work. National has also released a report which is available free to all members, entitled "AIA Foresight Report - The Changing Context, Business, and Practice of Architecture 2013" available at <http://www.aia.org/practicing/AIAB099351>. Visit <http://www.aia.org/about/repositioning/index.htm> for detailed information and resources around Repositioning the AIA.

THE POWER OF IDEAS

Keynote Speakers at these conventions are always meant to be inspiring, to invigorate us with a new passion for our work, the profession, the organization, and the Colorado host chapters who wrangled these speakers really outdid themselves. I attended two keynotes: Cameron Sinclair, co-founder and chief eternal optimist of Architects For Humanity, and Blake Mycoskie, founder and chief shoe giver of TOMS, as keynote speakers for the 2013 AIA National Convention.

By now many of us have heard about Architecture for Humanity, are familiar with the work they are doing, often in disaster zones like Haiti and Japan, New Orleans, and now New Jersey, and have probably heard Cameron Sinclair on a podcast, or seen him speak, or have watched his TED Talk on youtube. Sinclair gave a presentation of the work AfH is doing across the globe, responding to the question, what is the value of architecture? Sinclair contends that we have the ability to create change through the built environment. Sinclair showed how AfH teams work with communities to create real, life-altering change, impacting things like security, education, and resiliency, just to name a few. AfH's model puts that power into the communities that need us most, and I know there are plenty of places and people here in our own communities that stand to benefit from our getting involved.

While I felt I knew what to expect from Cameron Sinclair, I was not at all prepared for the opening keynote on Thursday by TOMS Shoes founder Blake Mycoskie.

Mycoskie told the story of how he created the now multi-million dollar company, TOMS Shoes. While vacationing in Argentina, Mycoskie met two women who were running a "shoe drive" (picking up donated shoes in wealthy areas like Buenos Aires and delivering them to folks in poor rural villages). They explained to him that many children in rural villages could not attend school because their families could not afford shoes. Mycoskie couldn't believe the impact that these used shoes made on these children and families, and then soon wondered what would happen when these shoes wore out, or were outgrown? Mycoskie, being an entrepreneur, eventually came up with "one for one," the core idea behind TOMS Shoes – for every pair of shoes sold, one pair is donated to someone in need. Seven years later, TOMS has given away 10 million pairs of shoes.

There were many emotional points in the story (I don't think there was a dry eye in the house), and Mycoskie made the case for incorporating giving, or doing good, into our businesses: Giving feels good (to the business owner and the customer). Giving transforms customers into marketers and evangelists. Giving or having a higher purpose attracts and retains top-notch talent, and attracts partners and allies. What I took away from this presentation, beyond all of this, was about the power of ideas. At one point Mycoskie recounted how, once he had this idea for a one-for-one shoe company, he couldn't let it go. When he shared the idea with friends and colleagues, they felt compelled to help. Publicity and partners seemed to come out of the woodwork. This is the power of an idea, of an elegant solution! This is what we architects do everyday...ideas, solutions, for good! I left that session truly inspired. Inspired to pay more attention to my "big ideas", inspired to incorporate doing good into my own personal and business brands, and inspired to help WMAIA members use their skills and gifts to do more good right here in our communities. Your big ideas have real power to transform lives and create positive change.

So what is your "big idea?" Let's hear it!



Big Blue Bear installation at the Colorado Convention Center

STUDENT WORK 2013

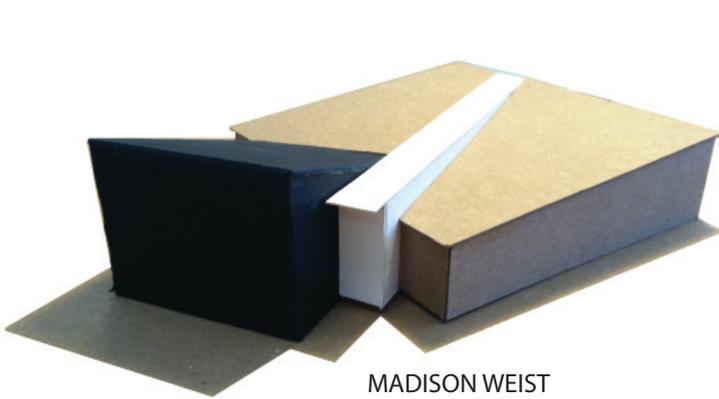
WILLIAMS COLLEGE
PROFESSOR: BEN BENEDICT



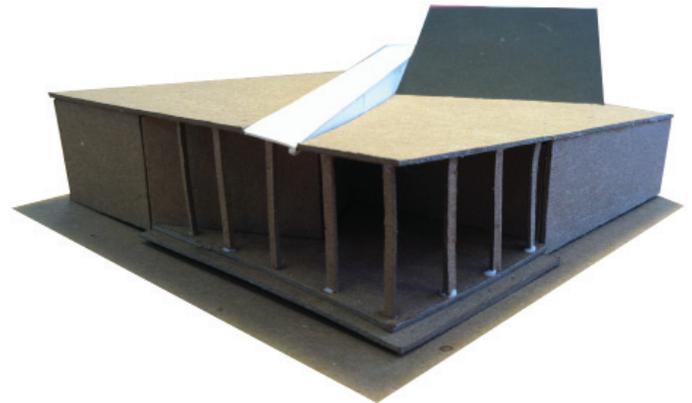
BEN HOYLE

The problem was a 3 week assignment to design a new firehouse for Williams College.

The students would be the volunteer firefighters so the idea was to make the building a new “fraternity” that stimulated community spirit. The site is on Main Street (Route 2) at the eastern edge of campus.



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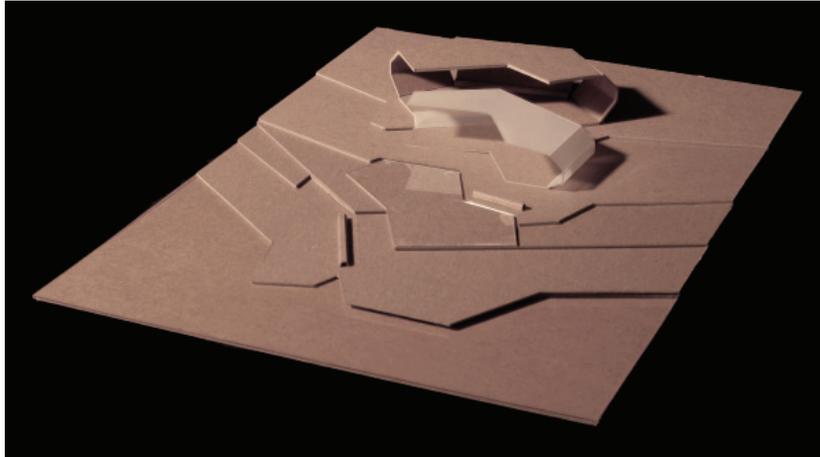
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award-winning
elegant
colorful

mica
blue
CREATIVE

websites / logos / brochures
architectural photography
text / copy writing
qualifications / proposal packages
awards program packages
marketing plans

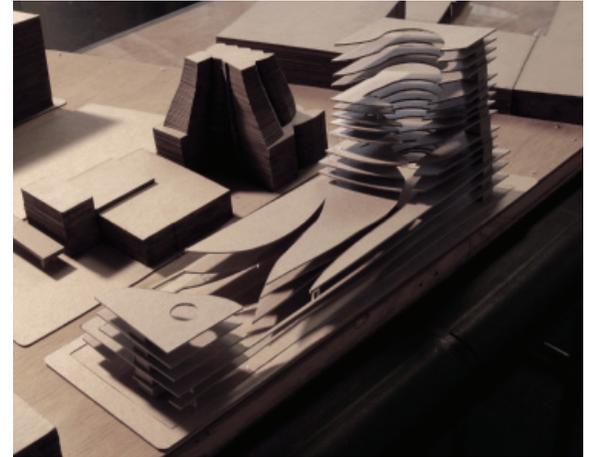
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C.J. Lawler Associates, Architects
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jwaggoner@micablue.com

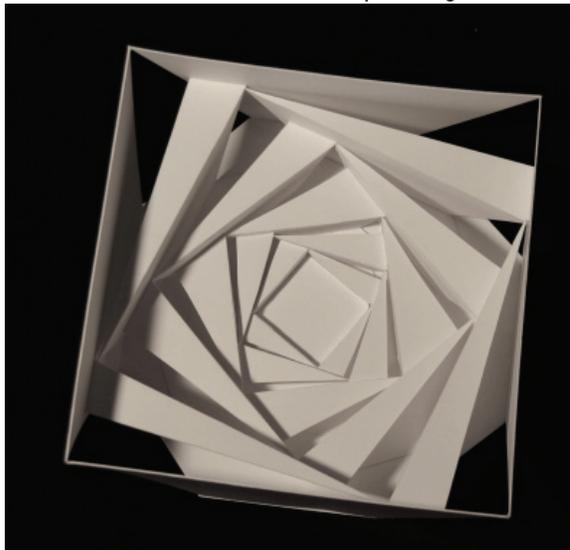


Lauren Tom '16, Introduction to Architecture, Spring 2013, Pavilion & Landscape Design for Smith College

Final models for High Line (Chelsea NYC) redevelopment project:



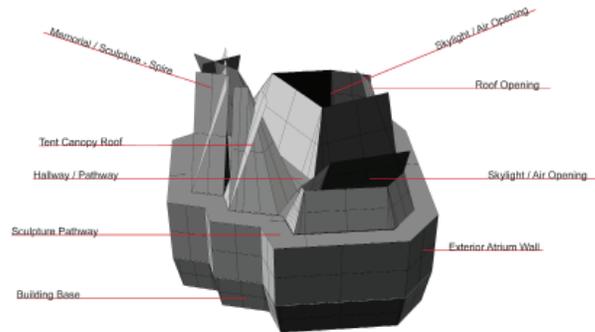
Kayemarie Tomlin-Hines '13, Advanced Architecture, Spring 2013



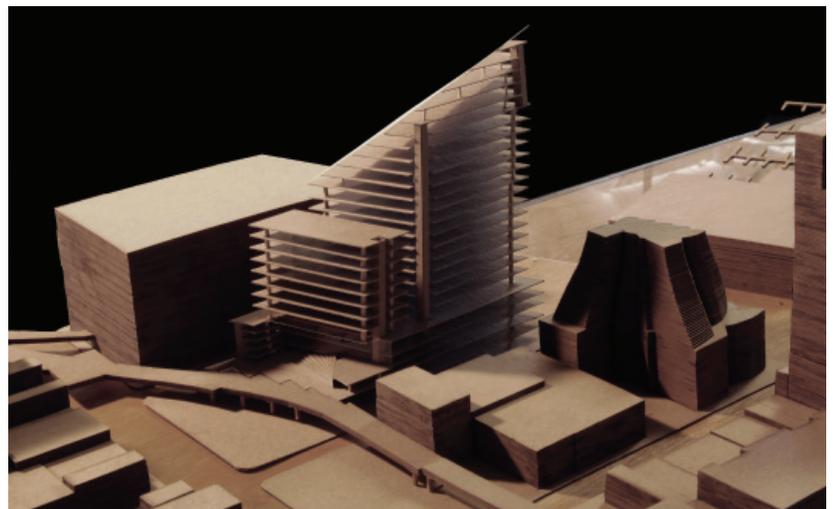
Lillian Nosow '15, Introduction to Architecture, Spring 2013 Abstraction model based on plant form



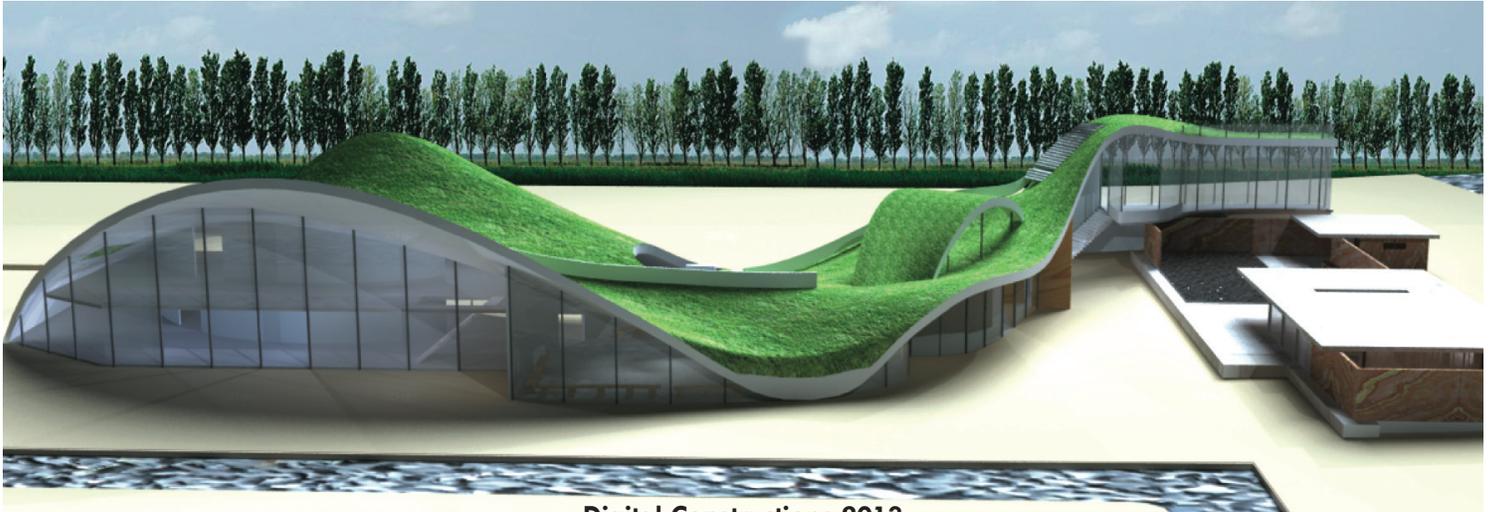
Isabel McCagg '13, Advanced Architecture, Spring 2013



Irena Wight '15, Introduction to Architecture, Spring 2013, Form & Function exercise using Rhino 4.0

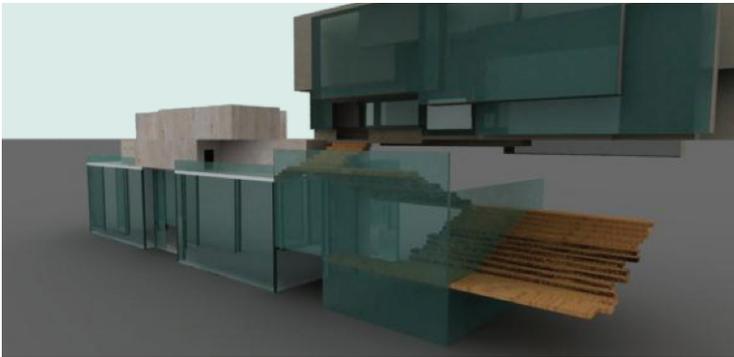


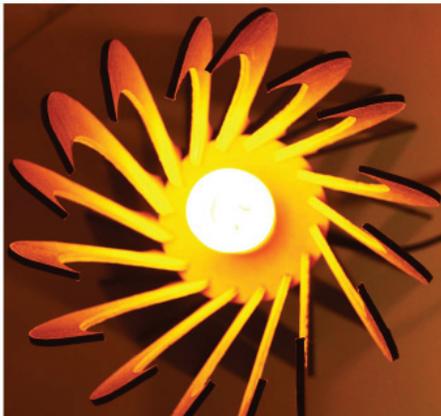
Rebecca Wolfe '15, Advanced Architecture, Spring 2013



Digital Constructions 2013

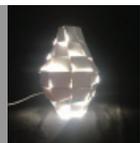
Students in this course explored design, history and technology through this digital research and design studio at Amherst College. Students from Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College and Amherst College took on the challenge of designing an addition to the canonical Barcelona Pavilion by Mies van der Rohe. Each student explored different creative, architectural or social concepts that related to tectonics and transparency in this intro/intermediate paperless design studio.





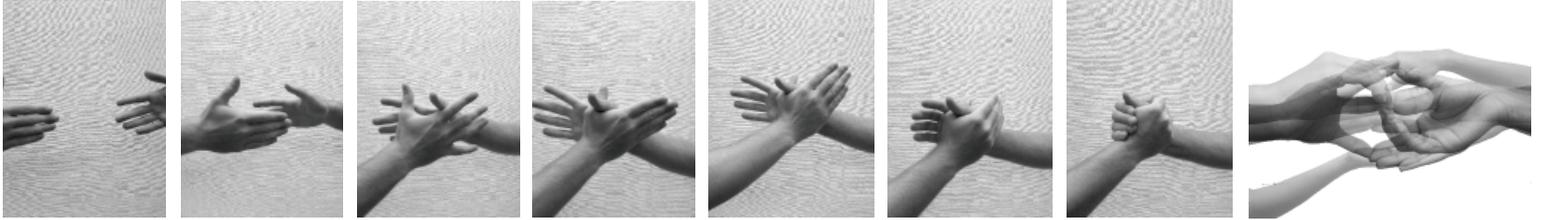
These are a series of "lamp" projects that were digitally fabricated for the Graduate Section of Analysis and Representation II. The project objectives were to become familiar with a digital fabrication tool - the laser cutter, to take a concept through design development to fabrication, and to quickly experience the design feedback loop offered by prototyping. The designs needed to be responsive to a particular lightbulb including fittings, geometry, and light quality.

Students: Tom Forker, Ryan Luczkowiak, Jason Danforth, Rachel Beesen

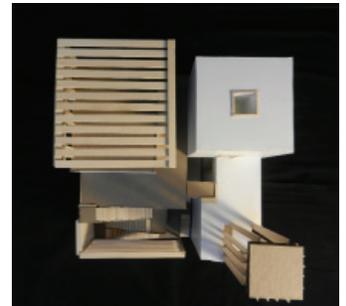
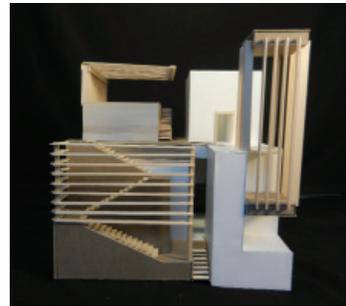
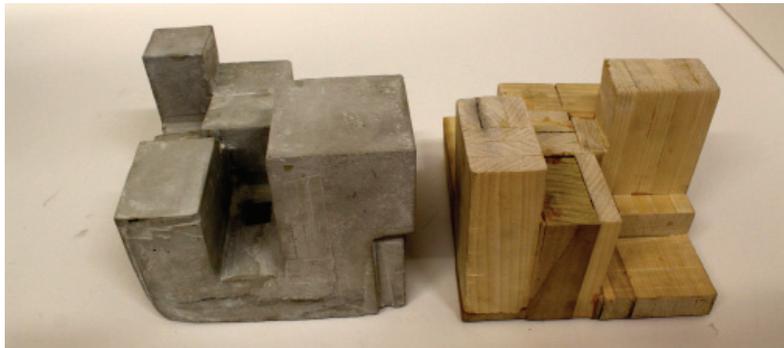


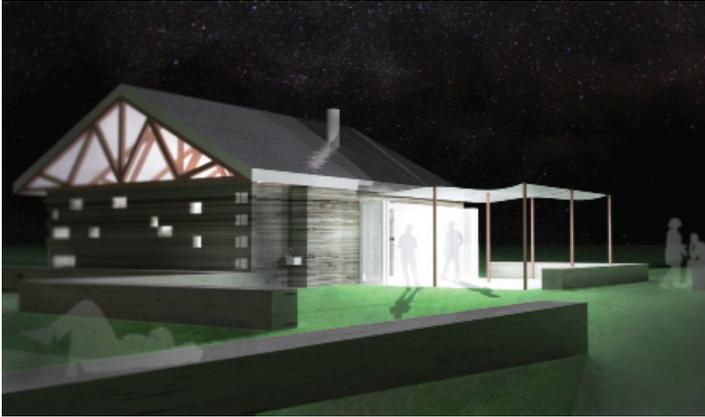
STUDENT WORK 2013

UMASS AMHERST
PROFESSOR: SIGRID MILLER POLLIN FAIA
ANDREW SHEA (LEFT) + ALEXANDRA RIOS (RIGHT)



PROFESSORS STEVE SCHRIEBER AIA + SIGRID MILLER POLLIN FAIA, WITH THEIR STUDENTS





JASON DANFORTH



THOM FORKER

RIVERSCAPING: RESPONSE TO THE BUILD



FROM THE EDITOR: We asked designer Laura Brooks to talk about her winning design for the Hadley RiverScaping competition that was built this Spring. Community response has been mixed, and we wanted to give her a chance to talk about the built work and describe what was working or not working as well as she had intended. For more information about the RiverScaping projects, go to www.riverscaping.org.

LAURA BROOKS: “My initial intent for the installation was to provide a means for the public to be able to get up from the ground level and see the river without walking up onto the dyke. Something that was always on my mind while coming up with a design was that although many residents of the area know the Connecticut River runs behind the mound on North Lane, many people that aren’t from the area (myself included) have no idea. Obviously, if they just stopped for a minute at either one of the parking lots they’d quickly find the river, but from talking with classmates and now having spent two weeks out there it seemed that there weren’t many “new” people visiting. I wanted my installation to be noticeable while driving by and encourage people to stop and check out the area. It’s not that people should go on the walkway instead of the dyke, it’s to help more people visit and reconnect with the river.

In reality, almost any installation would be an intrusion to the site and it’s bound to upset some people. It’s a beautiful area untouched, and the installation is temporary (there seemed to be some confusion with that in some of the responses). There was little disturbance to the ground thanks to the diamond pier foundations, so whenever the town decides to take it down it will go down quite easily.

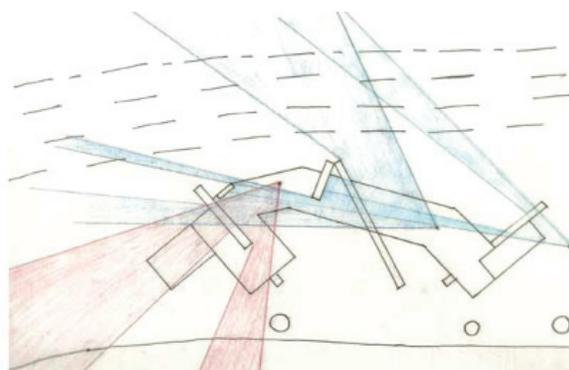
For me, the most frustrating part has been the walls not doing what I had originally designed them to do. I had envisioned them being solid, with small cuts to get those somewhat intimate views of the river while blocking out the road, but budget restraints and time forced the design to change.

Although you can see the river while standing on the step-up bench, you can also see the road through the walls as well as the windows because they’re quite large. The three lower walls were also meant to be high but we needed to lower them down to save materials - so they now act as more “beginning/end” points of the walkway than focusing someone’s view. I still think they contribute to the finished design as one can be sat on and gives an interesting view through the opposing wall’s window and the threshold, and on the other end of the walkway there’s another threshold moment.

The step-up bench, which provides a view of the river when stood upon, provides a lovely view of someone’s house across the street when sat on. This didn’t cross my mind at all when adding the seating areas (The seating was added due to the drop in height of the deck, in order to avoid building handrails) because I was paying more attention to what people would see if they were standing rather than sitting. Something to keep in mind from now on!

It might be unsuccessful to some people, but as long as one person who’d never stopped at the site before ends up doing so and gets to appreciate the river then I would say the installation was completely successful.”

RIVERSCAPING: HADLEY SITE



Competition model + drawing by Laura Brooks



All photographs by Laura Brooks

ACCESSIBLE ACCESSIBILITY

ACCESSIBLE AND UNIVERSAL DESIGN

This series grows out of conversations with architects and designers that often begin with an implicit question that goes something like this: How do I meet all of the requirements of federal and state access codes, protecting myself and my clients from liability, complaints, and possible law suits? From there, the conversation progresses to a more compelling question: How do I, as a designer, integrate accessibility into the design of buildings, facilities, and landscape that are seamless, holistic, aesthetically appealing and usable by all persons of all ages and abilities?

Let's begin with the relationship between the ADA Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) and the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board (MAAB). The basic principle is this: you're required to do nothing less than the scoping and technical standards of the ADAAG. They set the baseline, but beyond that you are also required to meet any standard of the MAAB (or equivalent in any other state your working in) that is more stringent than the federal guideline. A couple of commonplace examples of MAAB standards that exceed ADAAG are ramp widths and toilet stall dimensions.

At some time in your career almost every designer is called on to draw up an access ramp or to supervise a project that includes one or more access ramps. Seems a simple proposition—at first glance: slope 1:12, width 4 feet, level landings at the top and bottom, handrails on both sides. While seemingly straightforward, you may have just made one of the most common mistakes in designing for access. And, here's my first piece of advice: To avoid errors, never design a ramp at a slope of 1:12.

But isn't 1:12 the right slope for ramps? Read the code more closely and you'll find that 1:12 is not the correct slope for a ramp, but the maximum slope allowed. Both the MAAB and the ADAAG say that a ramp is to be constructed with "the least slope possible".

Now let's take that first bit of advice and broaden it into a general principle. Do not design to the limit of code. Whenever a range is allowed as it is for toilet seat rims at 17" to 19" high — design to the midrange. Always leave a buffer for construction errors and acts of nature.

If you follow that simple bit of advice, you are already on more secure ground and much less likely to get a letter from the MAAB telling you that you have to take that long drive into Boston to the top of Beacon Hill to defend your work before the Board.

But let's turn to the other side of the equation—to Universal Design and the pursuit of design excellence. Popularized in the early 90s, the idea of Universal Design at its best is the response by design professions to an important issue of civil and human rights —the movement of people with disabilities from the shadow-lands on the margins of society into the mainstream of community life.

You may have heard of a set of Seven Principles of Universal Design. I'll have more to say about them in a future issue, but for now I suggest that you set them aside and start looking for the best universal design examples you can find.

A delightful way to start would be with a visit early on a sunny summer morning to Greenfield Community College. The completion of the core building renovation in 2011 has transformed the once drab, dark and inefficient throw-back 60s Northern California design building. A 16,000 foot solar designed glass and steel, addition houses the cafeteria, library and College services. Follow the gentle 4% walkway to the accessible at-grade entrance, take the stairs or elevator to the library on the 3rd floor and watch the morning light stream in the south facing wall of windows looking over one of the finest visual gateways to the Pioneer Valley that I know of.



CHRIS PALAMES is a new contributor for the WMAIA Newsletter. This is the first of a series of columns on **Accessible and Universal Design**. Each column will explore questions about the ways in which architecture and design help the movement of people with disabilities into the mainstream of community life. A pioneer of the disability movement and long time resident of the Valley, Chris has served on the **Massachusetts Architectural Access Board** and as a consultant the **Massachusetts Division of Capital Asset Management**.



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Codes require energy modeling for residential compliance

You may have heard that energy codes are ramping up. Architects can better serve their clients by having an awareness of code changes with designs that cost-effectively meet code requirements, leverage generous new construction rebates, and avoid the expense of code non-compliance. Since it's a lot to keep track of, a qualified energy engineer or HERS rater is invaluable for navigating the code changes. Energy efficient building- which is quickly becoming mandatory- begins in the design stage, not on the job site!

2012 IECC and a new Stretch Code on the horizon

The current Stretch Code, currently base energy code for a growing number of Western MA communities, achieves a 20% improvement in building performance over the base 2009 IECC code. The 2009 IECC has been referred to as the training wheels for the 2012 IECC, which is weeks away from being adopted in Massachusetts with an expected 12 month concurrency period. The Stretch Code will then be revamped to exceed the 2012 IECC levels. This suite of 'advanced energy codes' will create buildings that are ready for what I like to call the 'low energy future.'

What is a Home Energy Rating?

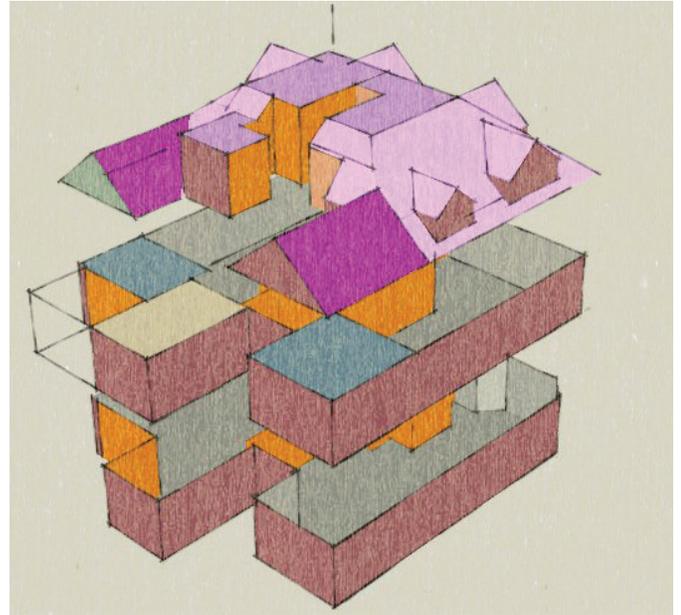
The Stretch Code currently requires a performance path for compliance for residential new construction, with a confirmed HERS rating. A HERS rating involves detailed energy modelling of the home, site inspections, and diagnostic testing. It is an asset rating, meaning that all fixed elements of the home are factored including thermal boundary details, mechanical systems, ventilation systems, some appliances, renewable energy systems, and lighting fixtures. The HERS index rates each home on a scale where 0 is a zero-net-energy home and 100 is a home built to the 2006 base energy code. The current version of the Stretch Code requires a new house to be 70 and 65 if over 3,000 sq. ft.

The HERS rating begins during the design process:

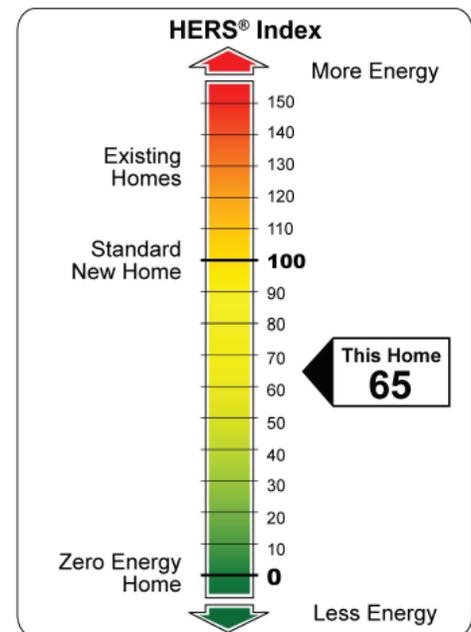
The HERS rater provides input on different options relating to insulation, air sealing tactics, mechanical ventilation, and basic info on mechanical systems. A typical HERS rating process for Stretch code compliance of a single-family home:

- + A preliminary index (score) is submitted to the local building official during plan review. This is compiled using REM/Rate software and includes all relative designed features of the building.
- + Before the drywall is installed, an air barrier inspection is done using an Energy Star checklist. Often diagnostic testing is done at the mid-point as well.
- + After the building is completed and before the CO is issued, the energy model is adjusted with as-built conditions and the final HERS index is submitted to the building department.

Next issue we'll dive into specific energy code changes and how they impact design choices. Did you know that the 2012 IECC requires a home to be more than twice as airtight as the 2009 IECC? (3 ACH50 down from 7 ACH50)? Stay tuned.



HIS & HERS Energy Efficiency uses Sketchup to help with the energy modeling process



REM/Rate modeling software is used to calculate the HERS index: 0 is zero-net energy and 100 is a home built to the 2006 base code.

Adin Maynard is a new contributor to the WMAIA Newsletter. This is the first in a series about energy efficiency.

Adin is the principal of HIS & HERS Energy Efficiency and a certified HERS rater and building performance policy and implementation geek. He lives and works in Northampton. www.hhefficiency.com

CHRIS RAWLINGS WATER HOUSE POOLS

FEATURED ARTISAN

NATURAL SWIMMING POOLS create valuable habitat, provide year-round enjoyment and can be constructed in any location. By using native wetland plants that work in harmony with mechanical and biological filtration. We provide exceptional water quality without the use of chemical additives. www.waterhousepools.com

CHRIS RAWLINGS Graduated from the Rhode Island School of Design with a degree in Industrial Design, and began Rawlings Excavation Services LLC in 1999. Always drawn towards projects involving water and the setting of large stones, the evolution to Natural Swimming Pools was a logical result. With a design background, heavy equipment experience, and an environmentally conscious approach, it is Chris' goal to create unique pools that nourish the people who use them, while revitalizing the landscapes in which they are constructed. In creating a natural swimming pool- one where the water is clear, clean, and safe- we create not only a space for personal enjoyment, but also an environment that enhances life on many levels. A natural swimming pool is a place of balance and harmony, celebrating our capability to utilize the astonishing effectiveness of nature's systems.



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HAVE YOU WORKED WITH AN ARTISAN WE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT?
NOMINATE SOMEONE FOR 'FEATURED ARTISAN' BY EMAIL AT EDITOR@WMAIA.ORG

THINGS TO DO + SEE IN WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS



**SITE-SPECIFIC
INSTALLATION
BY GINA SIEPEL: 1 X 1**
July 2 – July 27, 2013
Artist Reception on
Arts Night Out:
Friday, July 12: 5-8 pm
Combining performance,
drawing, installation, and
traditional woodworking,
Siepel will attempt to install
a single ash board, one
inch wide by one mile long,
into the interior of the A.P.E.
Gallery.



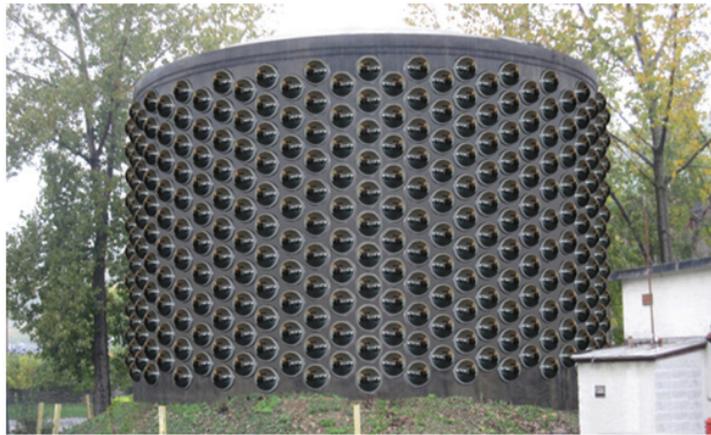
**PAPERWORKS: THE ART AND SCIENCE
OF AN EXTRAORDINARY MATERIAL**

MASS MoCA

New York-based conceptual sculptor Marko Remec has created five outdoor installations for the grounds of MASS MoCA for his show *Totally Totem*. Referencing the social functions of indigenous totem poles of the Pacific Northwest, Remec adheres readymade objects such as mops, brooms, safety mirrors and rearview mirrors to utility poles, transforming them into contemporary totems. As recorders of the present, the works speak to facets of the urban and suburban condition—surveillance and paranoia, narcissism and indifference, and the complex relationship between the built and natural worlds.

Berkshiremuseum

Berkshire Museum presents a new exhibition that explores paper as a source of creative inspiration and innovation. *PaperWorks* features compelling contemporary works of art by more than 35 artists, all made from paper, as well as an array of objects and artifacts that show the uses of paper in industry, science, fashion, and technology. *PaperWorks* will be on view through October 26, 2013.



MARCO REMEC: TOTALLY TOTEM

KNOW OF SOMETHING MEMBERS WOULD BE INTERESTED IN SEEING OR DOING?

EMAIL IDEAS FOR 'THINGS TO SEE & DO' TO EDITOR@WMAIA.ORG



All photographs by [Chattman Photography](http://www.chattmanphotography.com)

Since the spring of 2010, architect, Bill Austin AIA (Austin Design Inc.) and his wife, landscape architect, Joan Rockwell ASLA (JSR Associates), have been working with Marky Jean-Pierre and The Honor for Haiti Foundation (FONHOH), a nonprofit 501c3, on a Master Plan for two sustainable educational campuses in the rural area of Lagoun, Belladère, Haiti. The project is located on about 7 acres of land two hours northeast of Port-au-Prince in the Central Plateau.

FONHOH was created by Haitian and American scholars invested in providing access to quality education for school-age students living in remote rural areas of Haiti. Marky Jean-Pierre, an associate professor in French at UMass Amherst heads the FONHOH office in Amherst.

Prior to the January 2010 earthquake, only 30% of school-aged children in rural areas had access to formal education. Currently, there is no elementary school in Lagoun. The closest tuition-free elementary school is 10 difficult miles away. The closest middle school is overcrowded and approximately 20 miles away. With few options, rural families historically have sent their children to urban centers and the capital region, to live with family members in order to receive their formal education.

The 2010 earthquake destroyed 1,300 schools in the capital region along with a substantial amount of its infrastructure. Haiti lost 541 teachers, 189 other educational professionals, and 3,951 students. This was a disproportional percentage of the population due to the concentration of students and teachers in Port-au-Prince. Since the earthquake the area of Lagoun has been experiencing a population surge as urban survivors relocate to rural parts of Haiti to rebuild their lives.

Bill and Joan met Dr. Marky Jean-Pierre, one of FONHOH's founders, through an old friend and colleague, Anne Perkins. Marky's strong commitment to improving rural education, holding a vision of how a sustainable educational campus would work and already owning several acres in the area of Lagoun, inspired a group to begin working with him on a master plan for his project. With the assistance of Haitian surveyors and civil engineers, work began immediately to develop an educational program that includes a day care facility for 40 children, pre-school for 3-5 year olds, a K-9 school for 300 children, a high school for 120 students on one site and a college for teacher training for 580 students, a programmatically diverse vocational school for 270 students, a conference center with dormitories and a recreational center on a second site.



View of the site

A DIFFERENT KIND OF ARCHITECTURE

The landscape in this area is surprisingly green. Valleys are cradled by steep hills and distant mountains. Narrow footpaths and small roads connect villages and towns. The soil is fragile and dry. Even though there is a constant sense of remoteness, people are present everywhere.

There is not a clearly defined style of Haitian architecture though the majority of buildings share concrete construction and tin roofs. For the most part, these structures are created to meet the need for shelter. The tin roofs are hot. The concrete, while economical, often lacks cultural richness that could be part of future Haitian architecture.

As part of FONHOH's educational goals, this project will act as an educational and campus planning model intent on elevating current standard building methodologies by building modern forward thinking yet locally responsive architecture. This will be matched by an excellent educational program that will prepare Haitian students to attend colleges around the world, then bring their training and skills back to Haiti.

Austin Design and JSR developed a master plan for the two sites that;

- Responds to local needs and conditions while maintaining a global perspective/awareness so that students will feel both secure, inspired, and proud.
- Maximizes the use of local building materials and methods so that the largest number of local workers can be employed during construction.
- Presents a design that works with the natural features of the land, maximizes the benefits of local climate conditions while limiting its harsher effects, and responds to Haitian culture through the use of local materials and building methods.
- Provides a lightweight roof of photovoltaic panels that will provide electricity to the school and, possibly, other homes in the area.
- Maximizes the capture of prevailing breezes to provide passive cooling.
- Uses broad roof overhangs and rooflines to provide shade and shelter from rain and manage storm water runoff to control erosion.
- Will be engineered to the highest standards of earthquake and hurricane damage protection.

This project is in the fund-raising phase. The Haitian Government, private entities, and surrounding communities have expressed their interest in making this development a reality. For more information, contact Bill or Joan at www.austindesign.biz.

All renderings + photographs by Austin Design +
Joan S Rockwell & Associates



Pre K-12: Aerial View



Teacher's College: Aerial View



Teacher's College: 3D View

SOUTH HADLEY FALLS + THE AIA SDAT: ONE YEAR LATER

More than one year ago, South Hadley Falls was the subject of an **AIA SDAT**, or Sustainable Design Assessment Team visit. Administered by the AIA Center for Communities by Design, the visit was the result of acceptance of South Hadley's proposal, which sought guidance for revitalizing South Hadley Falls. Taking place over a 4-day period, April 22-25, 2012, the South Hadley Falls team was led by Todd Scott, AIA, a preservation architect from Seattle. The SDAT team consisted of five additional professionals and was selected based on criteria developed by the AIA Center for Communities by Design staff in response to South Hadley's grant application. Our team included an architect with an urban design focus; a landscape architect specializing in connectivity; a land use planner; an economic development consultant; and a community organizer. The two community-wide meetings each drew over 120 people. As a result, townspeople are well acquainted with the ideas and process connected with the term, "SDAT." The final report was issued in July, 2012. Recommendations were categorized in five topic areas: preservation, urban design and land use, connectivity, economic development and community organization.

In August, 2012, The Rise of the Falls Facilitation Group (Rot-FFG) was formed. This 10-member, volunteer group was appointed by the South Hadley Selectboard. Many of the members involved in the Steering Committee have again agreed to serve on this new committee. Members represent key interests in town, including the South Hadley Falls Neighborhood Association, the recently formed Historic District Study Group, Selectboard, Community and Economic Development Commission, Planning Board, Cultural Commission, Library Building Committee, and Mount Holyoke College. The range of expertise within our group has become increasingly critical as we attempt to define our role in helping the recommendations contained in the SDAT Report come to fruition. Following are some updates linked to each of the report's five topic areas:

PRESERVATION: Preserve the best of the Falls

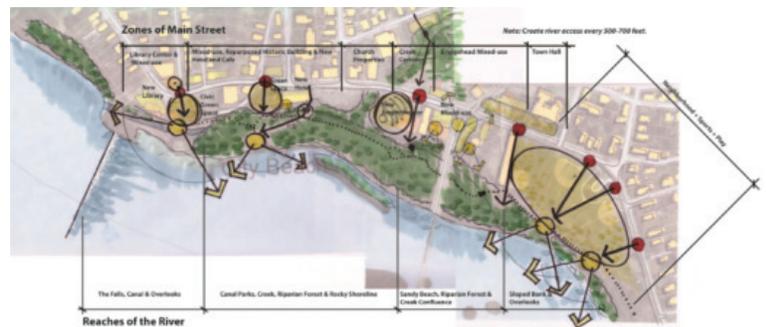
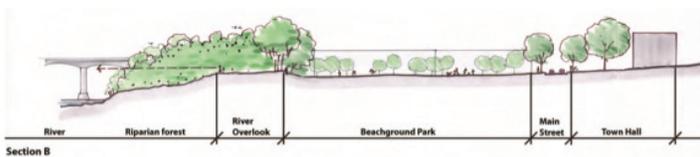
Within the last few months, South Hadley has formed a Historic District Study Committee. While the focus of this committee is town-wide, establishing and placing a Falls Historic District on the National Register is a recommendation of the SDAT and could enable existing building owners to tap federal historic tax credits to rehabilitate their buildings.

URBAN DESIGN & LAND USE:

Develop the reaches of the River and Main Street

On June 19th, 2013, Town Meeting approved amendment of the zoning by-laws to create a South Hadley Falls overlay district. This district, which matches the study area defined in the SDAT, has been created to allow for the fact that the urban development pattern of the Falls is unlike the rest of town and is worth preserving. Though not a specific recommendation of the SDAT, the overlay district will contribute to many of the stated goals in the report. One such goal is the creation of design guidelines to ensure that the character of the Falls is preserved. Work continues on this project which is being developed by UMass.

The new South Hadley Public Library is now under construction. This important community center commands a key location in South Hadley Falls, offering incredible views of the falls, historic canal and Holyoke. As a result of a recommendation of the SDAT team, the library building was shifted south to better engage with Main Street and to create space for a small plaza to be used for events and to view the river.



SUSTAINABLE DESIGN ASSESSMENT TEAM: ONE YEAR LATER

HELEN FANTINI AIA

CONNECTIVITY:

Improve walking and biking in the community

Members of the RotFFG have become linked to another town committee, the Sustainability & Energy Committee, which has recently created a subgroup to explore ways to make South Hadley more bikable. In addition, members of the RotFFG are exploring ways to work with the Conservation Commission on a plan to clear invasive species and debris along the river near the Beachgrounds Park to create views to the river.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Create a great place

Lacking a permanent Town Administrator for over a year, this spring South Hadley hired a former mayor of Holyoke, Mike Sullivan, to fill the position. Mr. Sullivan has already demonstrated interest in the revitalization of the Falls, and along with the Community and Economic Development Commission, is actively exploring use of town funds towards the creation of a redevelopment authority.



COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION:

Build capacity and leadership

The SDAT team promised delivery of a set of recommendations that were both short and long term in nature. The short term recommendation, to create a neighborhood association, was acted upon within days of the April 25th meeting. The South Hadley Falls Neighborhood Association is a vital and vibrant group that has already hosted a block party, several fundraisers, and clean-up days. They have conducted surveys to help prioritize issues of importance. In the coming year, they plan to focus on improving public transportation to the neighborhood. The South Hadley Falls Neighborhood Association has been a strong voice in reminding town officials that investments must be made in this neighborhood. Last year's block party was so successful that a larger event, FallsFest, is planned for July 27th 2013. Their new website is: www.fallsneighbors.org

MOVING FORWARD:



The Main Street and 116 Intersection, viewed East to West

The RotFFG spent the first few months of meetings grappling with the enormity of information contained in the SDAT report. A fair amount of time was spent in creating matrices to categorize and manage the report's recommendations. It has only been in the last few months that we have realized that our strength is in our connections to the other town entities; not in categorizing and managing data. The group's charter states our purpose; "facilitating and monitoring the implementation of the recommendations provided by the AIA Sustainable Design Assessment Team ... the Committee's primary duty is to work with other community and Town boards, committees, and agencies to monitor and assist ... the implementation of the recommendations."

When members of the RotFFG feel as if change is not happening quickly enough, we try to remember that each small improvement or connection made does contribute to the improvement of the Falls. And while there are things that our group can affect, there are others that are completely out of our hands. On January 28, 2013, the Crack of Dawn restaurant on Bridge Street was destroyed by fire. The building has subsequently been demolished, leaving the gateway corner at Main and Bridge Streets even more devoid of interest and life than one year ago. We hope that this unfortunate event may yet provide an opportunity for continued conversations and positive development in the Falls.



South Hadley Falls
Neighborhood
Association

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Lafayette Gallery



Henri Labrouste Bibliotheque St Genevieve



Marc Chagal Paris Opera House

Audrey Hepburn said "Paris is always a good idea." Every place seemed like a good idea when I was in Paris for nine days in May free styling through Le Marais and every other neighborhood I could reach on foot. Charles Garnier's L'Opera , Lafayette Gallery, and the stunning structure of Henry Labrouste's Bibliotheque St Genevieve are a small sampling of looking up in a great city.

All photos by Sigrid Miller Pollin FAIA



**EILEEN GRAY EXHIBIT, MAY 2013
CENTRE POMPIDOU, PARIS, FRANCE**

In an exhibition curated by Cloé Pitiot at the Centre Pompidou, Eileen Gray — still an under researched figure of modernism — is presented as an artist, a total creator, who expressed her sensibility in the spirit of the Gesamtkunstwerk, the total work of art.



ARE YOU RECEIVING REGULAR EMAILS FROM WMAIA?

We are relying more and more on electronic communication and we want to be sure you're in the loop! You should be getting our monthly emails as well as program information. If not, please contact Lorin Starr at director@wmaia.org (or phone her at 413-253-9744) to make sure we have your current email address or to let us know that we need to contact you via snail mail.



UMass A + D alumna Jenn Levy, Kathleen Lugosch FAIA, Sigrid Miller Pollin FAIA, Steve Schreiber FAIA and Angela DeGeorge UMass A + D alumna at Kathleen's FAIA Investiture ceremony in Denver. Congratulations to Kathleen!

(Photo by unidentified innocent bystander)

190 NORTH MAIN STREET • FLORENCE MASSACHUSETTS • 01062

Save the Date !

AIA New England Conference & Design Awards

OCTOBER 5th 2013
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS



AIA colleagues and architects, this year the annual AIANE conference is coming to the **Heart of New England**. Worcester is the 2nd largest city in New England with world class hospitals, industries, universities, museums, concert halls, contemporary and historic architecture, restaurants and diners.

We have an exciting program planned with tours, classes and other opportunities for fun and CEU's. After a full day of exploring the city, mingle with colleagues at the reception at the DCU Center and take part in the always competitive design awards program and convivial dinner.

The **Central Massachusetts Chapter of the AIA** is proud to invite you to join us at what will be a lively and informative event.

The conference hotel is right in the middle of all the urban action, an easy walk to many of Worcester's attractions

Watch for more details including program notes, registration and instructions for the design award entries.

Central Massachusetts AIA on the web at : www.aiacm.org



WMAIA PROGRAMMING WILL RESUME IN THE FALL WITH OUR FILM SERIES + ANNUAL MEETING / HOLIDAY GATHERING IN DECEMBER!

