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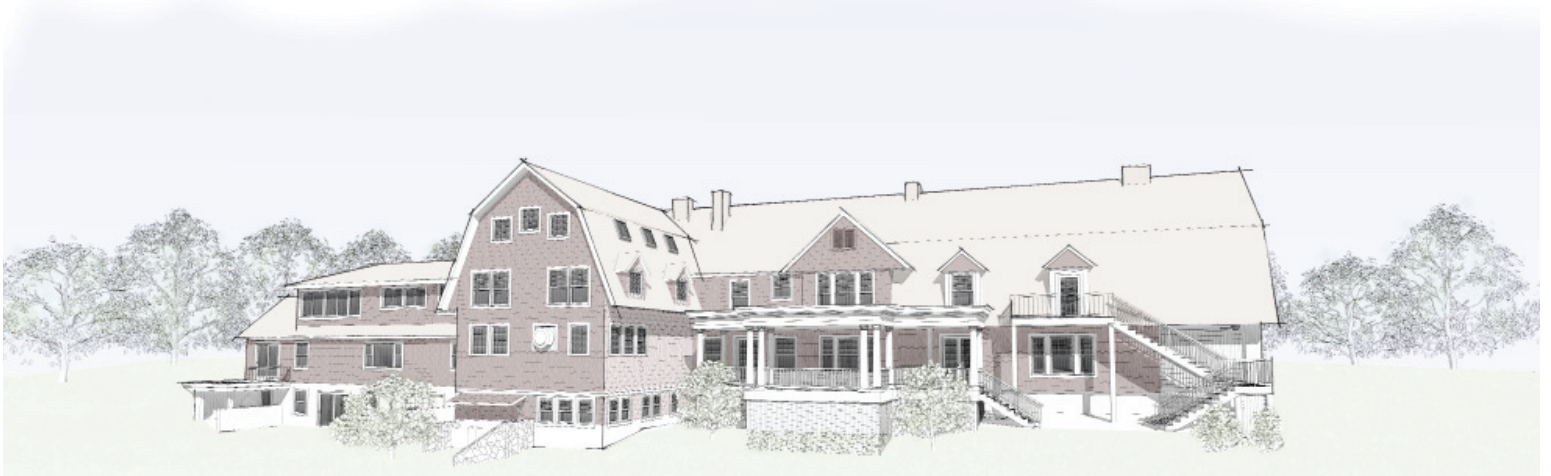


DIETZ & COMPANY ARCHITECTS
MARLBOROUGH SENIOR CENTER
MARLBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS

FALL 2015

NEWSLETTER OF THE WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER

IN THE WORKS: COLDHAM + HARTMAN ARCHITECTS



WONDERWELL MOUNTAIN REFUGE

C&H Architects is working with the Natural Dharma Fellowship on the stewardship of the Wonderwell Mountain Refuge. Since 1911, the original structure has gazed west to Mount Croyden, and for over 100 years witnessed the peaceful setting of the sun. Our role is to assist NDF and Wonderwell in transitioning this building and place into the next 100 years. Building technology and regulations have changed greatly over this period and what was once a residence is now a shared place and home for many. As such, we have been tasked with bringing the building up to date for energy efficiency, life safety, access, cooking facilities, and to enhance the staff facilities.

IN THE WORKS: AUSTIN DESIGN INC.



BLACKSMITH HOUSE

A blacksmith shop has lived on a scenic rural highway in Southern Vermont for over 100 years. In that time it has become a local landmark. “Go 1 mile past the old blacksmith shop”, a neighbor might say when giving directions to someone. But time took its toll and the shop needed help, and a new life. Its new life would be as part of a new 1000 sf, super-insulated, single family residence to be built only 20’ to the north of its historic footprint. Though only its timber frame was re-used in the new home, the blacksmith shop’s character, façade, materials and proportions find their way into the new home. A contemporary addition piggybacks onto the shop and is supported by its historical framework, providing a look to the future, grounded in the past.

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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COVER PHOTO: BRUCE T. MARTIN

HONORED: KATHLEEN LUGOSCH FAIA



Kathleen Lugosch FAIA, the founding director of the master's program in architecture at UMass Amherst, was presented the award for Outstanding Accomplishments in Research and Creative Activity by Chancellor Kumble R. Subbaswamy at this year's 11th Annual Faculty Convocation.

WMAIA

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Kerry at the UMass Center in Springfield



Project Architect Robyn Chrabascz AIA at the Revitalize CDC Green-n-Fit Rebuild

THREE DECADES OF INSPIRATION AND SERVICE

Dietz & Company Architects has been around for 30 years. Sure, there are others who have been here longer, but Kerry Dietz AIA's accomplishment stands out. She started the company early in her career as a sole practitioner, at a time when women were even more underrepresented in the architectural profession and especially at the helm of their own firms. She's made a go of it and grown her firm in Springfield, a city that has struggled to shake its economic troubles, and she's done so by committing to the kinds of projects that don't traditionally garner fame and fortune.

But let's back up. Happy 30th anniversary Dietz & Company Architects!

I recently sat down for a conversation with owner and President Kerry Dietz to discuss her career, her firm, and how they're celebrating this significant anniversary.

ON INSPIRATION

As a teenager in the 1960s Kerry watched as her parents worked with an architect to design and build a contemporary house. That was unusual for the time, especially in rural Ohio. The experience of witnessing the development of their home and then living in an all-electric, flat roof, lots of glass house inspired her to study architecture at Kent State and then University of Michigan.

ON CHANGES OVER TIME

Kerry relocated to western Massachusetts after grad school and worked for a few years with other firms until she branched out on her own. Her firm has weathered a lot of change over the years. The transition from hand drafting to CAD to BIM has changed nearly every aspect of practice. Not only has the speed of project work and communication accelerated, but, Kerry notes that it has affected even who is eligible to work on a project. Decades ago an art student with a strong design sense could join a team. Now, she only hires architecture program graduates because the knowledge required to do even the simplest changes on a 3D model require considerable knowledge about construction.

It's true that hand drafting was boring, but there was time to contemplate ideas and there was more opportunity to learn by observing your peers. She worries that the computer creates a disconnect between the hand and the creative mind and that there's a turn away from learning by osmosis, understanding design, and communicating ideas with sketches.

ON FOSTERING LEARNING

I asked Kerry about how she balances her love of sketching and the community of the studio at Dietz & Co. Kerry tries to offer opportunities for observational learning through things like jobsite visits for the younger staff. She has also felt inspired to teach at UMass Amherst to engage the next generation of architects about the real world of professional practice. For ten years she taught about elements of the practice not covered in design studio such as proposal writing, negotiating and pricing, and working with owners and contractors.

ABOUT HER TEAM

Good relationships with her staff and with colleagues in engineering and construction were mentioned a number of times during our conversation. Kerry is grateful for the dedication of her long time staff and for the energy of the newer recruits. Mark Sternick AIA and Debbi Gottlieb AIA have both been at Dietz for over 20 years, Jeff Manley AIA for 18, and Kevin Riordon AIA for 11.

MILESTONES: 30 YEARS WITH DIETZ & CO

Dietz & Co. has grown to become one of the region's largest architecture firms. There are 19 at the office now, eight of whom are registered architects and four are UMass Amherst graduates. While the firm does a great deal of affordable housing and elderly housing work, they also have a strong record of education, healthcare, commercial, and institutional projects. Dietz & Co. has also won recognition for excellence in historic preservation and smart growth.

ON THE IMPORTANCE OF MISSION

I wanted to dig in a bit into a line on the home page of the Dietz & Co. website which says "30 years of design that inspires and serves". Just what does she mean by those words?

To Kerry, to serve means staying committed to community based projects such as affordable housing and elder housing. She's proud of the attention her firm gives to quality of life and sustainability issues in these projects that don't offer much wiggle room in the budget for extras. Kerry enjoys working with resident-oriented organizations that share Dietz's commitment to issues of comfort and accessibility for the people who will live in the buildings they design. Service also expresses a responsibility to sustainability. She is proud to announce that they recently completed the first Net Zero capable affordable housing in the state (it's in Easthampton) and that there is a Net Zero capable elderly housing project that is nearing completion in Williamstown.

The firm also gives back in service hours to the Springfield-area community they live and work in. Every year they work with Habitat for Humanity and serve lunch at the Worthington Homeless Resource Center.

This anniversary year they are going above and beyond. Instead of a party, the firm is opting to give back to the community in a major way. In June they hosted a picnic at the Holyoke Soldiers Home, where the firm has done work. Kerry was inspired by the home's director and his project to record veterans' stories that they made a significant donation to kick start the Veterans History Project. They also volunteered with the Revitalize CDC Green-N-Fit Neighborhood Rebuild effort to renovate homes of low-income residents

Dietz and Company also recently donated \$25,000 to teachers in the Springfield Public Schools. Through the DonorsChoose.org website, teachers were able to post their classroom needs and the firm provided the funding. An October party for teachers is planned to announce the grants.

WHAT'S NEXT

The firm has lots of work on the boards, including lots of housing. Kerry will continue to be inspired by her staff and her community. Here's to the next 30 years!



The Dietz & Co. team along with friends + family at the Revitalize CDC Green-n-Fit Rebuild



The Dietz & Co. team presenting a donation to the Soldier's Home to fund their Veterans' History Project



Senior Project Architect Marc Sternick AIA at the Soldiers' Home Picnic

ART BY ARCHITECTS

WMAIA PRESENTS:
ART BY ARCHITECTS

AN EXHIBITION OF ARTWORK BY WMAIA MEMBERS
AT THE A.P.E. GALLERY, NORTHAMPTON, MA
NOVEMBER 30 – DECEMBER 13, 2015

RECEPTION AT ARTS NIGHT OUT – DECEMBER 11TH

THE GOAL OF THE EXHIBIT IS TO DEMONSTRATE THE CREATIVE TALENTS OF OUR MEMBERSHIP + HIGHLIGHT AND EXPLORE THE DIVERSE FORMS OF EXPRESSION EXPLORED BY ARCHITECTS

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EMERGING PROFESSIONALS UPDATE



The WMAIA Emerging Professionals kicked off the return of autumn with a hard-hat tour of a state-of-the-art community hospital in Greenfield, MA – the Baystate Franklin Medical Center. The tour was led by the architectural project team from Steffian Bradley Architects (SBA), including two fellow Emerging Professionals who presented “lessons learned” throughout the development of the project.

The event was a great success with over ten EPs who attended, earning CORE IDP Hours in Construction Observation and spending the later hours of a warm September afternoon learning the ins and outs of coordinating a highly technical, over 60,000 square foot building. We capped off the evening with a social hour at the People’s Pint in downtown Greenfield, where project architects and designers from SBA noshed and reflected on all-things-architecture with the WMAIA EPs. We hope to return for a follow-up tour when construction of the facility is completed in April of 2016.



As WMAIA’s Architect Licensing Advisor, the majority of questions I have received recently all revolve around the same topic: the transition to ARE 5.0. Although the transition is still over a year away, it is important for ARE candidates to be aware of the potential implications of transitioning now so they can prepare themselves to be in the best position possible when the transition comes around.

There is no universal “best case scenario” in terms of navigating the ARE transition. The decision of whether or not a candidate should depends on the candidate, his/her long term licensure goal, schedule, and preferred study methods. However, as an Architect Licensing Advisor I can offer a few key suggestions.

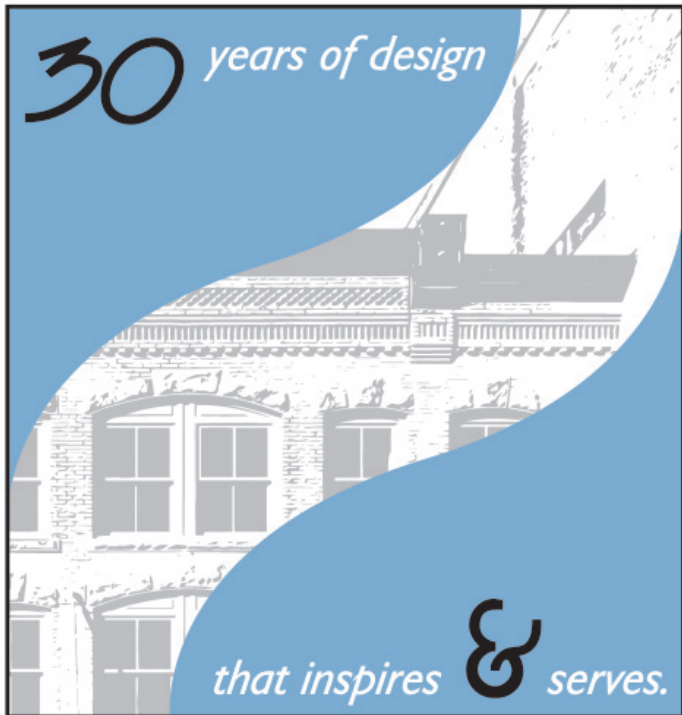
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Jason Newman, Associate AIA**



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BEFORE



MONTAGUE HOUSE

The Montague House was an addition and renovation designed for a chemically sensitive couple to age gracefully in place. Additions to the original house include a master bedroom suite, entry + pantry addition, and a spacious screen porch...all on one level. Materials include polished concrete floors with radiant heat, cement board panel siding with fry reglet hardware, fibreglas windows, and 5V metal roofing. The design includes 8" walls with blown-in rock wool insulation for a super tight, healthy enclosure, an HRV and whole house HEPA filter to improve indoor air quality, two electric mini-split heat pumps to reduce the use of oil, and solar panels on the roof.

Contractor: Renaissance Builders

DO YOU HAVE A BEFORE + AFTER PROJECT?

EMAIL EDITOR@WMAIA.ORG

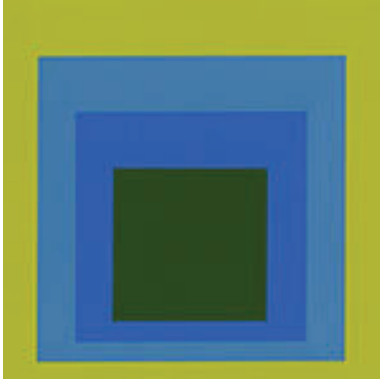


THINGS TO DO + SEE IN WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS

Mead Art Museum

Intersecting Colors: Josef Albers And His Contemporaries: Through January 3, 2016

This exhibition celebrates the juncture of art and science in the work of 20th-century American artist, teacher, and color practitioner Josef Albers, focusing on the ways in which scientific concerns with visual perception informed Albers's art and teaching, and influenced his students and contemporaries.



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Judy Pfaff



Between 1985 and 1992, Pfaff created large-scale, multi-media works that bridge, both conceptually and physically, the surface of the wall and the space of the gallery.

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THINGS TO DO + SEE IN WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS

THE
CLARK



Contemporary artist Thomas Schütte (German, b. 1954) is best known for his public large-scale sculptures of figures that reimagine the role of statuary and monuments. The artist's fascination with architecture as a kind of public sculpture that is both symbolic and practical complements his figurative practice and its exploration of the human form. Since the 1980s, Schütte has created a series of architectural models that conjure up spaces ranging from a tiny efficient home to a temple. Thomas Schütte: Crystal, Schütte's site-specific installation at the Clark, is the artist's first full-scale architectural artwork in the United States. It is located on a meadow near the top of Stone Hill, close to the woodland's edge. Schütte arrived at the unusual asymmetrical shape of Crystal by imagining a small piece of crystal scaled up to architectural proportions.

MASS MoCA



SUTTONBERESCULLER: BIG TOP GRAND STAND ON VIEW THROUGH NOVEMBER 8, 2015

In response to the temporary environments common to fairs, festivals, and circuses, Seattle-based collective SuttonBeresCuller have created a large migratory outdoor sculpture entitled Big Top Grand Stand. Atop a 16' flatbed trailer, four unique structures are neatly nested within each other and telescope skyward, extending the midway experience and creating a stacked sculpture in the lineage of Brancusi's Endless Column. Adorned with flashing lights, vibrant flags, and reflective surfaces, this flamboyant homage has turned the concession stand into pure sculptural form.

Department of Architecture at The University of Massachusetts Amherst



The city of Holyoke, Mass. recently unveiled "Arrivals," its newest public art installation. "Arrivals" was designed by Department of Architecture professors Joseph Krupczynski and Caryn Brause AIA and features a 30-foot-long illuminated display about local history.

JOIN US FOR OUR FALL LECTURE SERIES!

The series includes women with a wide range of specialties in the design fields. The goal of the Women in Design series is to recognize and celebrate the professional and personal accomplishments of women in the field of architecture and design. Speakers have been selected for their interdisciplinary interests.

Tuesday October 20 5:30 pm

Beka Sturges ASLA, Associate Principal, Reed Hilderbrand LLC, Cambridge, MA

"Erratic Horizons"

Tuesday November 3 5:30 pm

Sigrid Miller Pollin FAIA, Principal Miller Pollin Architecture, Amherst, MA

"Why Are We Not Surprised By Everything? Structures and Patterns"

Tuesday November 17 5:30 pm

Victoria Rospond AIA and Lea Cloud AIA, Founders and Principals, CDR Studio Architects, PC, NYC "Collective Efforts"

For more information, go to <http://www.umass.edu/architecture/news-and-events>

WOOD ON THE PLAZA

A PUBLIC ART EXHIBITION ON WOOD ARCHITECTURE + ENGINEERING

PEGGI CLOUSTON
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
UMASS AMHERST

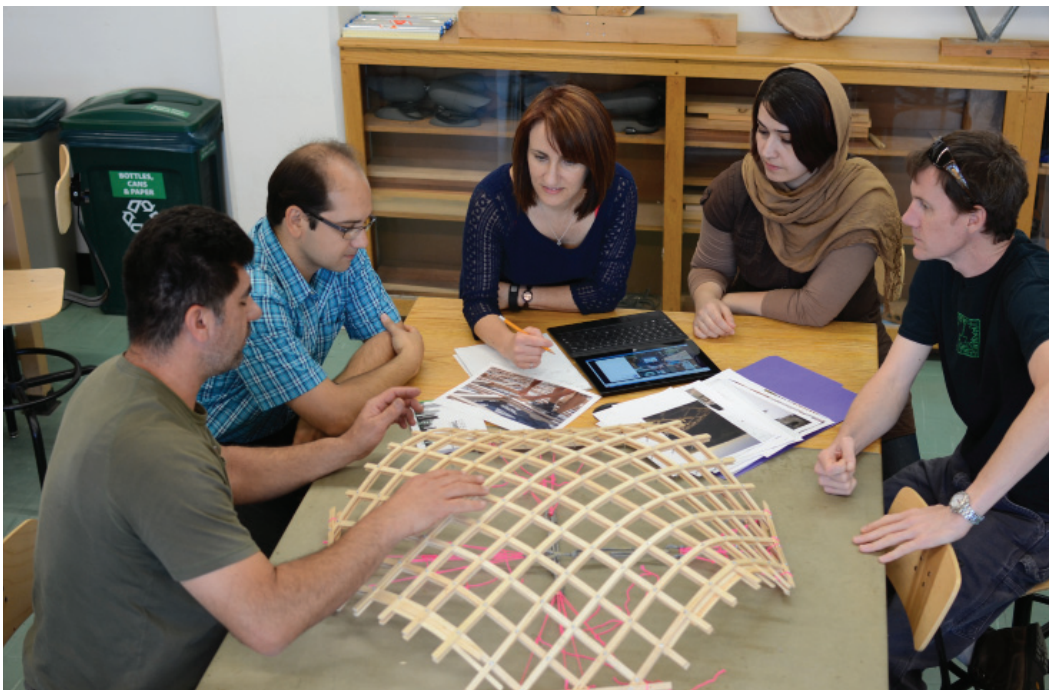
Fundraising is underway for a large public art exhibition on Wood Architecture and Engineering, planned for the plaza of the Fine Arts Center at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Scheduled to run for three months in the spring of 2016, the exhibition, *Wood on the Plaza*, is designed to raise public awareness of transformational advances in wood architecture over recent years. It is also intended to celebrate the construction of the new UMass Design Building: a first-of-its-kind institutional wood-framed structure built to house the Building & Construction Technology Program along with Architecture, and Landscape Architecture & Regional Planning. The building is scheduled to be completed Spring 2017.

The plan for the exhibition is to display print material from the previous Boston exhibition: *Urban Timber – From Seed to City*, curated by Yugon Kim (founding owner/partner of IKD Associates and director of TSKP Architects Boston) and hosted by the Boston Society of Architecture in the summer of 2014. The exhibition will highlight how sustainability has become one of the primary drivers of the recent wood movement: using more wood in construction is being identified as a way to combat climate change. Life cycle assessment studies prove that wood products use less energy and create less pollution to manufacture than steel or concrete. Moreover, wood buildings act as carbon sinks that decrease greenhouse gases in the atmosphere (one cubic yard of wood use roughly amounts to one ton of sequestered CO₂) especially when considering the carbon emissions avoided by not using steel and concrete.

A primary feature of *Wood on the Plaza* will be a 30 foot square by 12 foot high timber grid shell: a demonstration of the beauty and engineering sophistication of building with wood. The shell will be comprised of thin wood laths that intersect in a grid formation, and bend to tight curvatures producing beautiful shadow play and architecturally dynamic spaces below. Associate Professor Peggi Clouston, from the Building and Construction Technology program, initiated the project with her graduate students: Al Sanchez (M. Architecture), Hamid Kaboli (PhD. Environmental Conservation), Niloufar Khoshbakht (PhD. Environmental Conservation) and Matt Sutter (M. Architecture), as an interdisciplinary design/build project. So far, the group has completed the conceptual and structural design of the shell, including a 9 foot wide prototype, built with the help of local highschool students.

The cost of the exhibition is estimated to be \$60,000, so the team is pursuing competitive grants, and seeking donations through crowd sourcing and sponsorship from companies and agencies throughout North America. Weyerhaeuser, Architectural Timber Millwork, Hill International, Simpson Gumpertz and Heger (SGH), and Fire Tower Engineering are already signed on as sponsors.

The details of the work, progress-to-date, and a promotional video, can be found on the project website at woodontheplaza.info.



The design team from left to right: Al Sanchez; Hamid Kaboli; Prof. Peggi Clouston; Niloufar Khoshbakht; and Matt Sutter.



Proof testing:
Bending capability of the laths

WOOD ON THE PLAZA

A PUBLIC ART EXHIBITION ON WOOD ARCHITECTURE + ENGINEERING



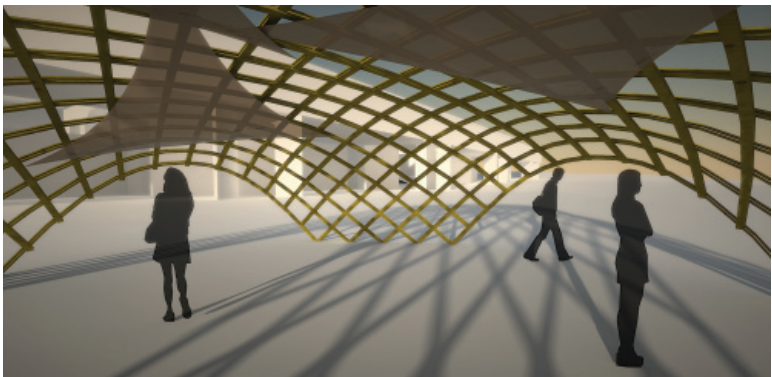
Timber grid shell in Cluj, Romania



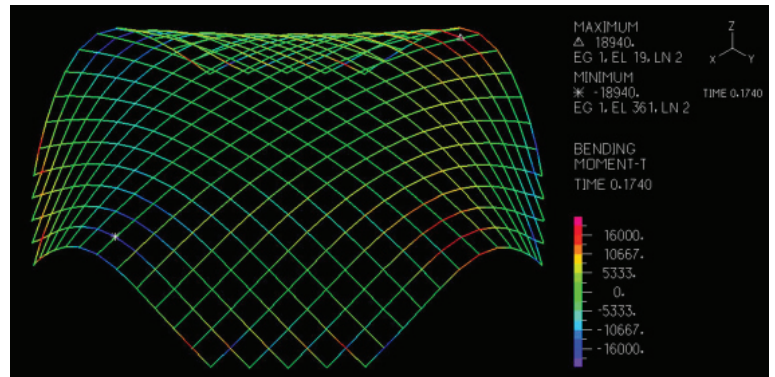
View from under the prototype



Highschool students help build the shell prototype



Under the shell visualization by A. Schreyer



Structural analysis of the shell

FEATURED ARTISAN

HOMESTEAD HEAT MASONRY HEATERS

Masonry heaters operate differently than wood stoves and other continuously fired + fed devices. With a heater, you “batch burn” a charge of firewood, once or twice a day, or even every other day, depending on the amount of heat output desired. The burn rate of the fire is always geared towards clean combustion, with temperatures in the firebox reaching 2,000 degrees. The gases entering the chimney after passing through the heat exchange chambers inside the heater are only a few hundred degrees. The physical mass of the heater stores the energy from the burn, radiating it into the home over the next 18-24+ hours, slowly and evenly.

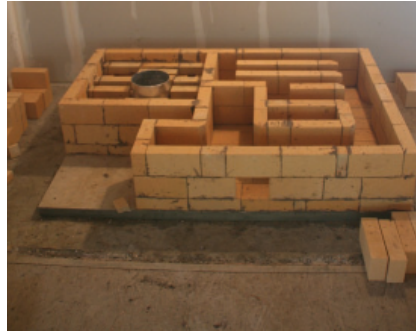
Heaters consist of four main parts: foundation, core, facing, and chimney. They are usually located on the first floor of a home, built up from the basement to the first floor. The core, or “engine” of the heater, consists of the firebox, baking oven, and heat exchange channels or chambers that the combustion gases move through as they make their way to the chimney. The core is surrounded by a 3-6” masonry facing (brick, stone, tile, or plaster) which provides additional thermal mass for heat storage, and creates the finished look of the heater. Chimneys attach to the top of a heater, and are made from insulated stainless steel pipe or masonry.

The quality of heat delivery from a masonry heater is unsurpassed in its effectiveness to warm space with a gentle, inviting, radiant heat that draws you in. People naturally want to relate to the heater by touching, leaning, and sitting on it. The combustion and heat transfer efficiency is also unmatched, optimizing the value of each load of wood.

Masonry heaters can be refined art pieces or utilitarian in their finished look, yet the function remains the same. Clean burning, easy to operate, no electricity required, durable, beautiful, and so wonderfully warm!

Homestead Heat designs and builds masonry heaters for clean, efficient wood fired home heating. They also build residential and commercial baking ovens, cook stoves, and outdoor kitchens. Their work often features timber frames and fine woodwork, as well as landscape details, such as stone and masonry walls, benches, counters, patios and stairs.

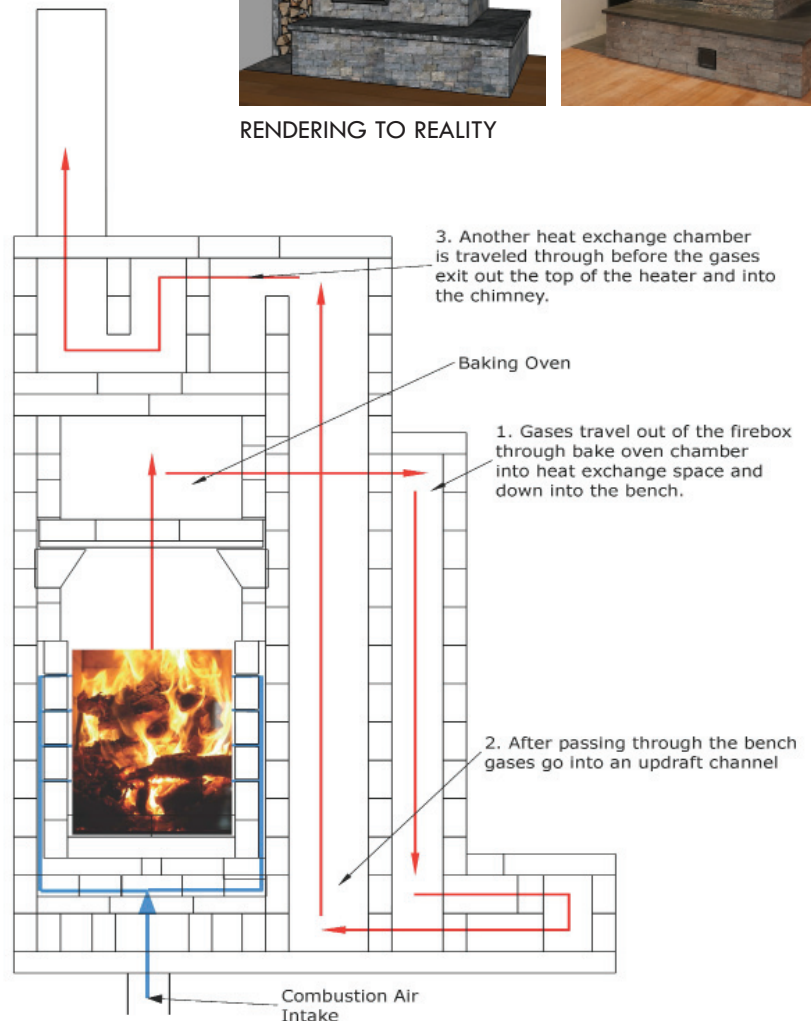
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HOW IT WORKS



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WM AIA programs

ARCHITECTURE THROUGH FILM FALL 2015

SAVE THE DATE!
WMAIA'S ANNUAL MEETING
IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE USGBC MA WEST BRANCH
DECEMBER 1, 2015
RED BARN, HAMPSHIRE COLLEGE
SPONSORED BY: PELLA

October 20

TINY:
A Story About Living Small
(2013)

This documentary follows one couple's attempt to build a "tiny house" from scratch, and profiles other families who have downsized their lives into homes smaller than the average parking space. Through homes stripped down to their essentials, the film raises questions about good design, the nature of home, and the changing American Dream.

1.5 LUs

November 3

16 ACRES:
Sacred ground. Prime Real Estate. Battle Royale.
(2012)

The dramatic inside story of the monumental collision of interests at the Ground Zero site in the decade after 9/11. The documentary follows one of the most architecturally, politically, and emotionally complex urban renewal projects in American history.

1.5 LUs

November 17

BIRD'S NEST:
Herzog & De Meuron in China.
(2008)

This documentary follows the design and construction of the National Stadium for the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, China. The documentary shows how Herzog and De Meuron negotiate between two cultures, two architectural traditions, and two political systems.

1.5 LUs

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