I am honored to be elected next president and look forward to serving WMAIA! Thanks to the work of the Executive Committee under the leadership of outgoing president, Chris Farley AIA, the chapter is a strong position to continue to offer great programs and events in the coming years. Over the last two years, Chris has worked to unite professionals, product manufacturers, and consultants to allow us all to see the strengths of our chapter by encouraging sponsorship and affiliate membership. The support of these companies and individuals helps to keep our chapter strong, and allows us to maintain and improve the services we offer. I plan to continue to build on the work of sponsorship and affiliate membership. The support of these companies and individuals helps to keep our chapter strong, and allows us to maintain and improve the services and programs that we offer... thank you so much, Chris!

I would also like to acknowledge the long-time service of the last decade. I was able to participate in the process of the SDAT (Sustainable Design Assessment Team) process offered by AIA Communities by Design. Our region has won several of these grant opportunities over the near-daily basis to the multi-year I-91 bridge replacement. I am hoping to see more activity around these issues. I am a fan of the SDAT (Sustainable Design Assessment Team) process offered by AIA Communities by Design. Our region has won several of these grant opportunities over the last decade. I was able to participate in the process from the community side for South Hadley, and it was one of the most rewarding experiences of my career, the perfect match of community service + the power of leadership brought by architects. An upcoming Belchertown DART (Design and Resiliency Team) project will again put these elements on display. What would you like to see on the chapter’s radar for the next years? Please let me know: hf@joneswhitsett.com

Ariving here 8+ years ago from Chicago, I was struck by the high quality, community-oriented, incredibly sustainable work that WMAIA practitioners put forth. Our region is literally a hotbed of Living Building Challenge projects; sustainable design and building is simply how we all operate. This is incredible impressive, and should be celebrated. I suspect that one of the aspects that help to make our region receptive to embracing new ways of thinking and doing is our connection to the world of academia. We are fortunate to practice in a region with not one, but five colleges. Notably, the architecture and building and construction technology programs at UMass have influenced the development of significant projects on the UMass campus as well as produced a number of graduates that keep our practices strong. I hope to find ways to strengthen our ties to these institutions moving forward.

I was inspired by the takeaway of the recent Northampton resiliency-focused SDAT: strength and celebrate infrastructure as I commute to Greenfield, I am a witness on a near-daily basis to the multi-year I-91 bridge replacement necessitated by Hurricane Irene flooding. The time for architects to involve ourselves in the topics of infrastructure and resiliency is becoming more urgent. I am hoping to see more activity around these issues.

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WHY ARE YOU READING THIS?

1

ART BY ARCHITECTS

WMAIA’s exhibition NINETEEN: Architects Making Art was a resounding success. The art was terrific and the gallery was packed! Special thanks to the 19 artists who participated, to curator Julia Morgan-Leamon, to the A.P.E. Gallery in Northampton for hosting us, and to our sponsors Marvin Windows & Doors and rKmiles for their generous support.
In early fall, AIA and WMAIA helped Northampton begin a community planning process to create the city’s first comprehensive Climate Adaptation Plan. The kick-off event was a three-day AIA-Sustainable Design Assessment Team (AIA-SDAT), comprised of six consultants organized by the American Institute of Architects. Western Mass AIA provided additional volunteers to illustrate some of the concepts.

Climate adaptation is preparing for climate change. Northampton’s Climate Adaptation Plan will describe the framework and initiatives Northampton will use to adapt to a changing climate. The final Climate Adaptation Plan will be added to the city’s “Sustainable Northampton Comprehensive Plan,” and serve as the blueprint for a wide range of city actions.

Based on current predictions, Northampton’s future will most likely be warmer and wetter. In addition, extreme weather occurrences will become more common. Severe rainstorms and snowstorms will increase the potential for flooding and power outages. Severe storms could short-circuit communication and transportation infrastructure causing dangerous conditions for residents. Climate change will impact local agriculture and food supplies. Climate change could have on the city’s most vulnerable residents:

- Foster equity and diversity, with an emphasis on affordability, aging in place, and a range of housing types to attract a wide cross section of residents.
- Promote diverse reuse of existing buildings. Promote green roofs, rain gardens and other on-site drainage techniques.
- Continue to expand bike trails and sidewalk network.
- Recognize that climate adaptation requires collaboration across regions.

What happens next?

Building on the SDAT, the day after the final presentation Mayor Narkewicz committed the city to meet the standards of the Compact of Mayors, a global effort designed to reinforce and strengthen the city’s approach to climate adaptation and climate mitigation (reducing the city’s carbon footprint). The City invited residents and stakeholders to get involved, and supports the on-going community assistance program that focuses on the principles of sustainability. SDATs bring teams of volunteer professionals (such as architects, urban designers, landscape architects, planners, hydrologists, economists, attorneys, and others) to work with community decision-makers and stakeholders to help them develop a vision and framework for a sustainable future.

For example:

- Use existing protective infrastructure, such as flood walls and green buffers for community recreational use while reinforcing the image of Northampton as a special “place”.
- Celebrate the city’s agricultural history, including local food and farms and a longer farmer’s markets season.
- Balance preservation of green space and permeable surfaces with future growth and the need for development.
- Encourage density near existing centers. Promote adaptive reuse of existing buildings. Promote green roofs, rain gardens and other on-site drainage techniques.
- Foster equity and diversity, with an emphasis on affordability, aging in place, and a range of housing types to attract a wide cross section of residents.
- Promote transportation connectivity at all levels. This includes walking, biking, autos and public transportation.
- Continue to expand bike trails and sidewalk network.
- Recognize that climate adaptation requires collaboration across regions.

Based on current predictions, Northampton’s Climate Adaptation Plan will describe the framework and initiatives Northampton will use to adapt to a changing climate. The final Climate Adaptation Plan will be added to the city’s “Sustainable Northampton Comprehensive Plan,” and serve as the blueprint for a wide range of city actions.

The Climate Adaptation Plan provides an opportunity for citizens to come together to create a vision for our future. A vision that addresses climate change with innovative approaches that will ensure future generations enjoy a quality of life that is as good (or better) than what we enjoy now. The AIA-SDAT helped provide a glimpse of what this future could look like.

The AIA-SDAT visit began and ended with well-attended public presentations. During the opening session residents shared concerns about a range of issues related to climate change. These included threats to our local food supply, the need to support renewable energy, and the need to have better access to convenient transportation. Others concerns were related to the disproportionate impact that climate change could have on the city’s most vulnerable residents: low income households, and senior citizens.

The AIA-SDAT used the public comments and other data to develop a range of climate change strategies. They presented their recommendations at the final public presentation. The recommendations form the framework for a vision that celebrates climate adaptation, and also responds to Northampton’s history and sense of place.
THE 2015 GREEN GIANT AWARDES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD:
Peter Talmage for his lifetime passion for learning about, teaching and engaging in the conversation about sustainable design. Peter is well known in the sustainable design community but is particularly well known as a founding technical instructor for the Green Building Community Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Program.

TRADES CATEGORY:
Honorable Mention - Trades
Sean Jeffords, Beyond Green Construction, nominated by Megan McDonough
Sean is an energy efficiency maverick who is always looking for ways to teach others. This past year, he worked with the Pioneer Habitat for Humanity to stage an “Insulation Blitz” at their latest Women Build project in Easthampton, MA. Sean and Beyond Green showed up at the job site with Energia, a local co-op insulation company to teach 50 volunteers how to insulate with cellulose. By the end of the day the team had insulated their first potential zero net energy duplex! With 12” thick walls and some roof areas that were 24”, this was a mammoth undertaking.

Honorable Mention - Trades
Joe Miles and Andy Clogston of r.k. Miles Lumber Yard, nominated by Jonathan Wright
The staff at r.k. Miles (as well as their truck driver) worked closely with the architects and contractors on both of the Living Building Challenge projects on the Hampshire College campus - the Kern Center and the Hitchcock Center. r.k. Miles relocated their FSC destination yard to North Hatfield to service this project better. RK Miles consistently put in the extra effort that makes them stand out above their competition.

Runner up - Trades
Kent Hicks, Kent Hicks Construction, nominated by Marc Rosenbaum
From Deep Energy Retrofits to Zero Net Energy Buildings, Kent continues to add new knowledge, details and tricks to his craft. One of the first Certified Passive House consultants in the country, Kent has always stayed ahead of the curve, helping to lead-western Massachusetts in the move to sensible, energy efficient living. The future. The nominator stated, “Kent is a creative, dedicated problem-solver who is 100% committed to making each project as environmentally responsible as possible.”

Green Giant - Trades
Mark Niewey for his work at the Center for Eco Technology, nominated by Thom Barry
Originally trained as an aerospace engineer, Mark came to us with a desire to embrace efficiency and took on a job in its 25th yr at western Massachusetts-based, Center for Eco Technology. It wasn't long before he was leading CET's energy efficiency efforts as Director of Green Building and Efficiency Services and managing the Mass Save Programs for the regional utility companies. He also developed CET's own LEED for Homes verification service. Through Mark’s interest and drive to improve and increase building energy efficiency, he became one of the most respected and knowledgeable practitioners in western Massachussets.

EDUCATION CATEGORY:
Honorable Mention - Education
NESEA- Building Energy PRO-TOURS, Miriam Aylward & Jenny Goldberg, nominated by Jonathan Wright
Building Energy Pro Tours are half-day tours of high performance buildings all over the Northeast, led by members of the project teams, and concluding with a reception, workshop & Q&A session. These tours are an opportunity for sustainable building professionals to see projects in progress and share knowledge and learn from colleagues. NESEA hosts at least eight well-attended Pro Tours each year. With an average attendance at a Pro-Tour of 35-40 people, over 550 people have taken advantage of the learning opportunities offered by the NESEA Pro-Tours in the last year alone.

Runner up - Education
Kathleen Lugosch, Professor & Master of Architecture Program Director, Umass, nominated by Kylie Landrey
The Master of Architecture Program at the University of Massachusetts is one of a small number of programs that is fully integrated and interdisciplinary. Sustainability is taught in almost every course, with a focus on energy performance, building envelope, and renewable energy.

The goals of the BCT program go well beyond traditional instruction in construction management, building systems, and engineering. Instructors strive to impart an environmentally ethical understanding of the responsibilities graduates will have as planners, designers and builders of our future – giving them tools to use the available resources wisely and view the design and construction process as integrated and interdependent.

OWNER CATEGORY:
Honorable Mention - Owner
Wright Builders for their Investment in green construction at Village Hill, nominated by Mark Dunn
Village Hill, transformed from the former State Hospital grounds, is the site of Wright Builders most ambitious project to date. With 55 buildings comprised of single family, townhouses, duplexes and flats, all of the buildings will be either LEED for Homes Certified, Silver or Gold or will be Energy Star Tier II or III. By investing in quality, energy efficient construction and certification, Wright is able to give greater value to their clients with homes that are healthy, low energy, and easy to maintain.
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IN THE WORKS

Residences at Bellefontaine: A 19 unit condominium project for Canyon Ranch in Lenox with two penthouse units under the roof and parking in the basement.

Robert Harrison Architects

Crotty Hall is a 16,500 sf building currently under construction at 418 North Pleasant Street in Amherst. It is designed to be a net-zero energy facility that will house faculty and graduate students in the Department of Economics at UMass Amherst. It is sited with the intention of creating an “economics campus” in conjunction with Gordon Hall which already accommodates a portion of the faculty in economics.

Miller Pollin Architecture
I've always been taught and have accepted that a pre-req-
usite for a zero-net-energy-building was a super-insulated
shell. My current experience at my own house is causing me
to question that.

Background: My wife DeAnne and I built our 2,000 sf,
3-bedroom house in 1989 (our builder was Lance Hodes
of Hadenville Woodworking and Design.) We originally
planned for a double-layer envelope but fell by the
wayside during value engineering and what we built was
standard, proper construction for that era: a 2x6 exterior
wall and 2x12 roof rafters, both filled with cellulose.
The windows had low-e insulating glass, but were certainly
not triple-glazed. The basement sidewalls were un-insulated
between grade and sill plate, and there was no under-slab
insulation. Ours was an inefficient oil-fired forced-air
heating system. The hot water heater was also oil-fired
and similarly inefficient.

In '02, we added a two-panel solar pre-heat with an 80
gal. tank upstream from the original hot water heater. This
reduced our oil use for hot water through the winter, and
largely eliminated it between April and September. This
made a small dent in our oil bill, but the bulk of our energy
consumption was still oil for space heating.

In '04, we added 2.4 kw of photovoltaic (PV) panels on the
roof. This eliminated all of our electricity bill, but didn’t
affect fuel oil for space heating.

Lance Hodes’ crew did a nice job in ’89, and our house was
pretty tight. A blower-door-tester said our house was too
derived from small inheritances from the sale of the family homes.

By this time we’d both retired, and the pain around the
stalled in 2004.

---

The Numbers: If you have the site for PV – with a relatively
unnumbered access to south - there is no good reason not
to install it these days – the numbers work. The prices are way
down from as little as five years ago, and the tax credits and
other incentives are substantial. You don’t even have to be an
ideal solar site.

• Our 9.6 kw of PV would cost about $45,000 today. Feder-
  al and Massachusetts income tax credits reduce that $45,000
down to about $31,000. Our 9.6 kw generated about
  11,500 kwh this year, saving about $2,500 for the 11,500 kwh we
  generated this year. Adding the savings to the SRECs, that’s
  $4,500/year. So $31,000 divided by $4,500 equals a 6.9 year simple
  payback. That’s a no-brainer.

• Or you could borrow the money to pay for the cost of the
  PV array less the tax credits, $31,000. Over ten years, a
  $31,000 home-equity loan will cost you, at 6%, $344/month,
or $4,128 per year. (A good credit rating and adequate
  equity will reduce that interest rate by a percent or two.) The
  $4,500/year from electricity savings and SRECs more than
  pays for the loan payments. After ten years your electricity is
  free. That also is a no-brainer.

• Installing the air-source heat pump and the air-source hot
  water heater cost us about $18,000. I’m sure there are cheaper
  water heater and hot water systems out there, but these are
  extremely efficient pieces of equipment. If DeAnne and I had
  paid for the electricity to power these two appliances (which
  we didn’t, because of the PV) our cost would have been about
  two-thirds of what we used to pay for fuel oil in 2013. Of
  course, the numbers for the PV will probably be worse after the
  end of 2016, when the federal tax credit is set to expire. So
  act quickly!

The Message: So what does our experience say about residen-
tial design in Western Massachusetts today? I’ll summarize it
this way: Let’s assume you have clients who are committed to
addressing climate change and are reasonably careful about
energy use (these two qualities do not always go together).
Let’s assume they wish to have a zero-net-energy footprint.

Before my recent experience, on early step would have been to
talk about the ideal solar site. Only then would I go on
to talk about the envelope.

I'm not saying that a high-performance envelope isn’t
highly desirable. My house obviously would benefit
from a better envelope, and a house with less than
ideal solar conditions and/or a small site can have a
smaller PV array if it has a better envelope.

I’m just saying that, from my experience, there appears
to be at least one alternate path to net-zero: A proper
air-sealed code-compliant envelope, an air-source heat
pump HVAC system, a heat pump hot water heater, a
reasonably generous amount of PV, and, importantly,
an owner committed to conscientious energy behavior.
Nancy Katz/Wilmark Studios, located in the picturesque village of Shelburne Falls in Western Massachusetts, is a stained glass studio and more. It is the dynamic merger of creative artist Nancy Katz and master craftsman Mark Liebowitz, who founded Wilmark Studios in 1979.

Nancy, the studio’s principal artist, has a keen sense of color and design. She has extensive experience facilitating communal projects around the globe. Creating art which reflects the values and sensibility of a given community has been the focus of Nancy’s work for over three decades. She has a unique ability to cull information from community members and works intimately with clients to glean the best design solution for their needs.

Mark first saw the ‘light’ as an Art History major at Rutgers University (BA 1973). His love of glass began with soft blueish light cast through the great cathedral windows of medieval France and was nourished by the rich variety of glass in the New York/New Jersey area where he became hooked. Mark and Nancy met in 2005. They began working together shortly thereafter. In 2007, Mark packed up his longtime studio to set up shop with Nancy in the newly renovated firehouse in the heart of the village of Shelburne Falls. Together they create stained glass windows for public & private spaces working collaboratively with clients to address concerns and goals. They are experienced and masterful in all aspects of glass work—design, fabrication, installation, repair and restoration—enlisting the work of highly skilled additional crew members as needed.

ARCHITECTURE THROUGH FILM

Presented by the Western Massachusetts Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and the Five College Architectural Studies Program

SPRING 2016

March 8
EAMES:
The Architect and Painter (2011)

The husband-and-wife team of Charles and Ray Eames were America’s most influential and important industrial designers. Admired for their creations and fascinating individuals, they have risen to iconic status in American culture. The documentary draws from a treasure trove of archival material, as well as new interviews with friends, colleagues, and experts, to capture the personal story of Charles and Ray while placing them firmly in the context of their fascinating times.

LUs 1.5 (Approval Pending)

March 22
Design Is One:
Lella & Massimo Vignelli (2012)

Italian-born Massimo and Lella Vignelli are among the world’s most influential designers. Throughout their long career, their motto has been, “If you can’t find it, design it.” The work covers such a broad spectrum that one could say the Vignellis are known by everybody, even those who don’t know their names. From graphics to interiors to products and corporate identities, the film brings us into the work and everyday moments of the Vignellis’ world, capturing their intelligence and creativity, as well as their humanity, warmth, and humor.

LUs 1.5 (Approval Pending)

April 5
The Oyler House:
Richard Neutra’s Desert Retreat (2012)

In 1959, a working-class government employee in the tiny desert town of Lone Pine, California, asked world-famous modern architect Richard Neutra to design his modest home. To his surprise, Neutra agreed. Then began an unlikely friendship that would last until Neutra’s death in 1970. The Oyler House: Richard Neutra’s Desert Retreat tells the story of this house and its stunning desert setting through interviews with Richard Oyler; actress Kelly Lynch, who currently owns the house; Neutra’s two sons; and well-known LA real estate agent Crosby Doe.

LUs 1.5 (Approval Pending)

Location: Room 117 @ Fayerweather Hall · Amherst College · 6:30 PM.
All films followed by discussion. Free and Open to the Public.