It was my pleasure to represent the chapter at the 2016 AIA convention in Philadelphia. I was fortunate enough to attend this year when the convention was held in an historic, walk-able city AND when 3 of my Jones Whitsett colleagues were also in attendance.

AIA membership exceeds 88,000 architects, a fairly staggering number. There were nearly 21,000 members in attendance at this year’s convention. As far as our representation goes, there are 5,149 accredited votes distributed in proportion to chapter size; WMAIA is apportioned 10. The business part of the convention entailed voting for candidates for national office as well as various resolutions to the institute’s by-laws. This year, we voted in the 2018 president, or First Vice President, and a new secretary. The candidates were all impressive, but we cast our 10 votes for the eventual First Vice President winner: Carl Elefante, AIA Potomac Valley, an architect with a strong background in preservation and sustainability who understands our current challenges, including the lack of diversity in our profession. It will be difficult for us as professionals to respond to our increasingly globalized economy without diverse points of view; this was the strongest message I took away from convention.

Other highlights of my convention experience include:
+ Re-living my best American architectural history course seeing Frank Furness’s Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Art and John MacArthur’s Philadelphia City Hall
+ The Barnes Foundation
+ Ready access to great food at the Reading Terminal Market
+ Neri Oxman’s keynote address; check out her work: http://materialecology.com/
+ Watching Margo Jones elevated to Fellow in a very impressive investiture ceremony!
AIA FELLOWSHIP RECOGNIZES MARGO P. JONES FAIA

This year, the 2016 Jury of Fellows from the American Institute of Architects (AIA) elevated 149 AIA members to its College of Fellows. Among those elevated was our own Margo Jones FAIA. Margo, principal of Jones Whitsett Architects of Greenfield, MA was nominated and elected into the College of Fellows in recognition of her leadership in the field and her service to the communities of western Massachusetts.

Margo is the first woman in more than 15 years to be elected to office by the membership of the NCARB. She served as Secretary, Treasurer and 2nd Vice President of the Board of Directors. Margo helped move forward an agenda that included shortening the duration of internship, reducing its complexity and moving the registration exam onto a more sustainable platform. Margo also serves on the Massachusetts Board of Registration of Architects, and is a past president of our chapter.

Margo holds a Master’s Degree in Architecture from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and has practiced architecture in Greenfield, MA for over thirty years. As principal of her own firm since 1984, she has designed numerous award winning schools, public projects and significant historic preservation projects, including Sanderson Academy in Ashfield, several projects at the Bement School in Old Deerfield, renovations to the Ted Shawn Dance Theater at Jacob’s Pillow in Becket, and most recently, the new Plains Elementary School in South Hadley and the renovation of Colegrove Park Elementary School in North Adams, a project recently awarded a Massachusetts Historic Commission Preservation Award.

Congratulations, Margo!
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DESIGN WASTE / CREATE SPACE

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COURTNEY CARRIER

MERGING SOCIAL SCIENCE + NEUROSCIENCE IN ARCHITECTURE

COMMITTEE:
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RAY MANN AIA

KYLIE LANDREY

FROM SHELTERS TO LONG LIVING COMMUNITIES

COMMITTEE:
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ALEXANDER SCHREYER

YAKUN LIANG

YAKUN LIANG

3
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BUILDING HOPE: A COMMUNITY + WATER INITIATIVE
COMMITTEE:
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CARYN BRAUSE AIA

CHRISTOPHER MANSFIELD

A NEW ZEN IN CHINA
COMMITTEE:
KATHLEEN LUGOSCH FAIA
RAY MANN AIA

JIANSEM YE

THE SPATIALITY OF STORYTELLING
COMMITTEE:
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MICHAEL COTTOM

XIANG YU
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INTERACTION: RENOVATION OF BUILDING TYPES
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ART & LIFE: MAKING THE VISIBLE INVISIBLE IN CAOCHANGDI, BEIJING, CHINA
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An Externship is a contract with the University. The hiring office pays the student for their work (the minimum requirement is just over $4,000 for a semester). The particulars of the work and schedule are part of a written contract between the hiring office and UMass. Once a contract is approved, UMass will cover the student’s tuition and fees. An amazing benefit for our students!

If you are interested, we can share a job posting with our graduate students and should there be someone you would like to hire, we will help you through the contracting paperwork. It’s quite straightforward. You can contact me, lugosch@art.umass.edu, or Jean Crossman, jcrossman@art.umass.edu.

Looking for an assistant? This might be a great opportunity for your firm!

Nick Jeffway, Class of 2017, eats well at his Externship at Leers Weinzapfel Associates

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ARCHITECTURE STUDIO:
FOUNDATIONS
The project was to design and document a new boathouse for the Williams College crew team on the site of the current John A. Shaw Boat House at 50 Onota Lane in Pittsfield, Massachusetts.

On the first floor, a glass pavilion houses and showcases the rowing shells. On the second floor, a wooden structure accommodates the auxiliary facilities. The first floor is oriented to the site: in plan, it parallels the northwest property line and two large garage doors open out to the property’s small stretch of lakefront. The second floor, on the other hand, is oriented to maximize both exposure to southern light and views of Onota Lake. Eight large glazed bays cantilever out and face directly south. The bays—along with their corresponding exposed wood beams—form eight symbolic oars.

INDEPENDANT STUDY

PROFESSOR: BEN BENEDICT
I can’t remember when I first met Rick, but I know the time we’ve known each other would be measured in decades and not years. Chris Riddle and I began working with Rick, his partner, Peter Wells, and The Berkshire Design Group shortly after Chris and I formed Kuhn Riddle Architects in 1988.

We were from the same generation, basically, and our firms ran parallel in many respects: we started our firms at roughly the same time, steered our respective growths through the turn of the century and were all looking forward to the transition approaching our firms in the years to come. Chris and I were a little further ahead in the process, but Rick and Peter weren’t far behind.

Rick was a polished professional and an excellent communicator. He was well connected, very proficient technically, and well liked by both his design colleagues and the community at large. He was someone you always wanted on your team and at your side during an interview. He was a good designer and wonderful to collaborate with.

What I most admired about Rick was his ability to sit down and draw – on the spot – pen in hand. The lasting image I will always have is of him sitting down with a site plan, rolling out the trace and taking the cap off his fat black Sharpie. We’d be off to the races. It’s a lost art in the design profession, I’m afraid, as we continue to rely more on computers and less on solving design problems with the simplest tools – paper, a pen and our minds. Rick was a master at that – sketching, refining, layer after layer of trace, the black Sharpie spinning out curvy lines as he tackled whatever problem was at hand.

To me that has had a more lasting impression than any built project he designed and completed – and there were many during his illustrious career. For me his memory will always be of a man – a landscape architect – who thought broadly, creatively and collaboratively….with a big fat black pen in his hand. Our design community, both locally and regionally, has lost a great colleague and creative designer.

He will be missed.
INTERESTED IN ADVERTISING?
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For five decades, Richard Nonas has created a body of work whose terse, reduced vocabulary belies its power to fundamentally alter our sense of space, time, landscape, and architecture. His totemic sculptures—made from earthy and industrial materials that have a timeless character (wooden railroad ties, granite curbstones, massive boulders, and thick steel plates)—have reimagined space and terrain all over the world. With horizontally oriented, ground-based, and wall-mounted works executed in a wide range of dimensions and weights, Nonas has developed a vocabulary of serialized geometric forms that both command and alter their environments, while retaining an intimate, human scale.

Artist Sarah Crowner Her practice—which includes ceramics, tile floors, sculptures, and theater curtains—centers around sewn paintings that she makes by stitching together sections of raw or painted canvas or linen. The hybrid paintings borrow from the language of collage, as well as quilting, with visible stitching functioning as both line and surface.

What can 6 one-week projects do to expand the understanding of the A.P.E. gallery as an active space within a community? This summer A.P.E. will launch 6X6, a unique new program that expands the understanding of a contemporary art gallery as an active space within the community. 6X6 will host six artists/artist groups over six weeks from July to mid August. During their week-long residency, each artist or group will create and continue work in the gallery space, which will then be made open to the public through a variety of workshops, events, and pop-up exhibitions. Artists and artist groups will be provided with an open platform to try something different, test an idea, develop new work, and engage new audiences. Each project or process relies on or maintains a central inquiry into the relationship between the public, the work, and the space in which it is made. For More Information: www.apearts.org

Supporting the Architectural Community

Dennis O’Rourke dorourke@184.pellapdsn.com
City Joinery LLC is a furniture making + woodworking studio in Easthampton, MA, that makes mostly movable furniture, typically in solid wood. Though its modern-leaning work often includes steel, bronze, or aluminum components, it is to the amazing planks of American woods that its work most vigorously bows. Most of these are carefully sourced from nearby forests. CJ’s owner/founder/designer Jonah Zuckerman was trained as an architect, and has spent years working collaboratively with design professionals on unique furniture and architectural components + installations. Everything in their workshop is made to order, and they routinely customize existing designs by size and material. 3-D modelling and CAM are often incorporated into the design process on new pieces. Though their work has been published widely and shipped all around the world, their favorite projects these days are those that stay close to home.

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