MILLER POLLIN ARCHITECTURE
CROTTY HALL
AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS
I believe that the Institute was “woke”, as evidenced by the election for national offices. This year’s election for national officers was different from last year, however, I was proud to represent Western Mass in voting for candidates and at the annual business meeting. While ofﬁces for treasurer and president-elect/ﬁrst vice president were ﬁrm principals and partners. Due to her work leading the Equity in Architecture Commission, Emily felt compelled to throw her hat in the ring for this important role. She will provide a strong voice on the board from New England; we are all thrilled that she will have this opportunity.

So back to my assertion about woke. My prior experience this the business meeting was that it was fairly dry and administrative. However, this year’s meeting was more vibrant and engaged, and it was clear that the Institute was taking a stance on important issues. That was particularly evident during the mid-day keynote, which featured a conversation with Michelle Obama, her ﬁrst public appearance since leaving the White House. Institute President Tom Vonier did a really nice job engaging the former ofﬁcial in a way that was at times meaningful, and at others light and fun. For instance, we learned that the Obama’s dogs, Sunny and Bo, had never heard a doorbell before, and the Obama’s friends continue to be amazed that Michelle opens the front door herself. She also unequivocally ruled out a run for ofﬁce noting the toll taken on the entire family. She will, however, continue to ﬁght for the causes she believes in.

My time at A’17 was rounded out by a tour of Seaside, still a vibrant example of New Urbanism, though showing some signs of strain struggling to ensure that lower income people have the opportunity to live there, and sessions about using research in practice and doing pro bono work. All in all, this year’s was a really inspiring and productive convention.

Kere observed, “I am truly a privileged person” and has striven to make use of that privilege returning to his homeland to design and help train local people to construct the Gando Primary School. Michael Murphy of MASS Design Group discussed his work with the goal to make “buildings that can heal”, showcasing his Butara District Hospital in Rwanda and Cholera Treatment Center in Haiti. Chilean architect Alejandro Aravena, 2016 Pritzker Prize winner, demonstrated how clever use of geometric thinking on a tight urban site resulted in maximizing housing for low income people enabling them to live where the opportunities are. Aravena’s ﬁrm, Elemental, has posted drawings for four of its low-cost “incremental” housing projects on its website for free download. And ﬁnally, Elizabeth Diller showcased her ﬁrm’s project in development: the Shed, a ﬂexible, multi-disciplinary arts venue that uses gantry crane technology to transform an urban site from either a indoor or outdoor venue. Diller asserted that, “architects can be activists,” and need not wait for programs from others.

As if the day couldn’t get any better, the mid-day keynote featured a conversation with Michelle Obama, her ﬁrst public appearance since leaving the White House. Institute President Tom Vonier did a really nice job engaging the former ofﬁcial in a way that was at times meaningful, and at others light and fun. For instance, we learned that the Obama’s dogs, Sunny and Bo, had never heard a doorbell before, and the Obama’s friends continue to be amazed that Michelle opens the front door herself. She also unequivocally ruled out a run for ofﬁce noting the toll taken on the entire family. She will, however, continue to ﬁght for the causes she believes in.

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WMAIA NEWSLETTER MEETS AT THE UMASS DESIGN BUILDING

On June 1, 2017, the ﬁrst gathering of Western Mass Fellows from AIA, ASLA, and AICP was held on the roof garden at the UMASS Design Building. Organized and hosted by Steve Schreiber FAIA, the event was an opportunity for our fellows to meet “in region” with colleagues from landscape architecture and regional planning. A dinner was followed by a presentation on the new Design Building by architect Josiah Stevenson FAIA of Leers Weinzapfel.

About Fellowship: The AIA confers “Fellowship” on individual architects who have been deemed by their peers to have shown distinction before the public and the profession as a model architects. Only 3 percent of the AIA members have this distinction (more in Western Mass!). Interested in pursuing Fellowship? Contact director@wmaia.org

THE WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

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Cover photo: Peter Mauss Estot Photography

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CONGRATULATIONS UMASS M.ARCH STUDENTS!

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at the University of Massachusetts Amherst

ABHINAV BHARGAVA
THE PERFORMANCE OF LIGHT
Thesis Advisor: Ajla Aksamija AIA

DYLAN BROWN
RENOVATION OF A REMOTE HISTORIC VILLAGE
Thesis Advisor: Pari Riahi AIA

JIE CHEN

NYC 2050
Thesis Advisor: Pari Riahi AIA

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MASTER OF ARCHITECTURE

A PATH TO RESILIENCY
Thesis Advisor: Ajla Aksamija AIA

LUKSZ CZARNIECKI
HUMANITY IN A CHILDREN’S CANCER HOSPITAL
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SARA JANDAGHI JAFARI
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A VISIBLE HISTORY
Thesis Advisor: Max Page

NICHOLAS JEFFWAY

REVITALIZATION: THE NIPMUC TRIBE AND BLACKSTONE RIVER
Thesis Advisor: Ray Mann

ANDREW STADNICZK

Z-CUBE: MOBILE LIVING FOR FEMINIST NOMADS

ZI (ELVA) YE

STUDENT WORK WILLIAMS COLLEGE

The existing music center, a Brutalist concrete block, offers little space for creativity in the College community. Practice rooms are cramped and windowless, and storage is lacking, with no appropriate space for musicians to hang out, study, and jam. In assigning rooms, departmental groups and music courses take priority, limiting opportunities for student bands and a cappella groups to rehearse and perform.

My project provides a much-needed forum for creative collaboration, a building imbued with the spirit of musical counterpoint and spontaneous expression. Bursting out of the quad, curved walls and a jutting polished-wood canopy draw in students; a curving exterior stair doubles as an informal amphitheater. Inside, gentle arches à la Ito’s Tama Art University Library compartmentalize the large gathering space, whose ceiling swoops upward nine feet to the east wall. A stair mimicking the shape of the building envelope arcs through a skylight hole cut through all ceilings. Three large rehearsal halls (like piano keys into the quad, and a triple-height, skylit oval hall provides a multifunction arena for student performances, coffee houses, and dance events (stone walls scatter sound). Music lockers and a dozen practice rooms, each with a view of the surrounding trees and mountains, line the perimeter of the top floor. MAX SOPHER ’17

STUDENT WORK

DESIGNER BLACK

IT’S NOT A COLOR. IT’S AN ATTITUDE.

Let us help you turn your blueprints into beautiful spaces. To explore solutions for your next project, contact your Western Massachusetts Marvin Representative:
Stephen Hoyt at 413.923.8321 or shoyst@awhastings.com
Students were asked to design a three-dimensional form by using the Grasshopper parametric add-in for Rhinoceros 3D modeling software. This configuration allows each designer to create a script that algorithmically produces a result in virtual space. Each student’s final project is anchored on the Ada & Archibald MacLeish Field Station site in Whately, MA. The design must accommodate visitors to the site and relate their physical presence to the virtual landscape; as such, the design should respond to the context in some way – this could include the social, cultural, historical, technological, or environmental aspects. The design is based upon an algorithmic system defined in Grasshopper and was uploaded through the Augment application; this allows it to be visible through any smartphone so long as you have the app.
On the beautiful morning of May 20th volunteers gathered in Springfield for the first annual WMAIA Day of Service. The conclusion— a resounding success! Volunteers arrived around 10am to an urban garden in the middle of Springfield—complete with a large greenhouse and a few storage sheds, but in need of further development and some skilled (and not-so-skilled) carpenters and architects!

The idea for a WMAIA Day of Service arose out of the board to our surrounding communities. After some deliberation, the board (and requisite sub-committee) decided to partner with Gardening the Community in Springfield for this inaugural year.

Gardening the Community (GTC) is a small, but vibrant and growing non-profit in Springfield. It runs gardens on four sites in Springfield, including the Walnut Street Farm—our first community-owned urban agriculture space in the region.

Apart from gardening, partnering with other local growers, and offering fresh vegetables in urban food deserts, GTC focuses specifically on youth development. While our group of volunteers was there, about 20 local youth showed up to spade the earth, spread mulch and hay, and start planting squash and other vegetables.

Ibrahim Ali, the Co-Director of GTC, orchestrated a 10-minute break for introductions and a Q&A session between the youth involved in GTC and the WMAIA volunteers. It was inspiring to see these kids working hard on this plot of land—easier to share their success stories, as well as the mission behind GTC and what it means for their community.

The actual scope of the volunteer work came together in a last-minute fashion, but worked out perfectly—thanks largely to the efforts of Brian DeVriese, AIA, and especially Steve Jablonski, AIA. GTC requested that our group help with two items that required more skilled labor than they are usually able to attain: Construct an addition off an existing shed to provide roof cover for a new sink that will be used to wash vegetables before sale at the site, and construct ramps to the toolshed for wheelbarrows and bicycles (used to deliver produce locally).

Brian and Steve got to work earlier in the week setting up anchors that were critical to the rest of the framing. Brian also took the time to draw up some CAD plans for the shed addition. Steve did the required (and much appreciated!) leg-work to get materials and a generator to the site before the work party arrived. After arrival, the volunteers quickly split up into a ramp building team, a painting team, and a shed addition team—lead by our most experienced carpenters, Garth Schwellenbach, AIA, and Rachel Kenan Roberts.

Hours later we had finished most of the framing for the shed addition, pointed the sheathing, and completed two wide and sturdy ramps. Several volunteers stayed beyond the scheduled finish time to help wrap things up. Many thanks to them for going above and beyond!

We would like this to turn into an annual event. As a group of affiliated professionals, we have the ability to organize and offer our skills and labor to deserving causes. We can learn more about our community, spend enjoyable time with our colleagues, and help introduce professional architects and WMAIA in particular, to a broader audience.

If you have an interesting project that will benefit from the skills and labor of architects or students, please let me know:

Thank you to the coordinators at GTC, Anne Richmond, Ibrahim Ali and Tyrro Minto.

And many thanks to the volunteers who made it happen: Carey Clouse AIA, Michael DiPasquale AIA, Chris Forley AIA, Garrison Girman AIA, Rachel Jablonski AIA, Ludmilla Pavlova-Gillham AIA, Rachel Kenan Roberts, Garth Schwellenbach AIA, and Lorin Starr.
THINGS TO DO + SEE IN WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS

MASS MoCA

Richard Nonas has created a long-term, outdoor installation in granite for the museum grounds. For five decades, he has made works that alter our sense of landscape and architecture — of place — using the simplest of means. His vocabulary includes pared-down forms and earthy and industrial materials that have a timeless, even tectonic quality. Nonas has now reimagined the southeast corner of MASS MoCA’s campus with Cut Back Through (for Björn), a new arrangement of the three large granite chairs and five granite stools first seen in MASS MoCA’s galleries.

Cut Back Through (for Björn)

“In a language of place, it is the most direct human language there is; the most basic way to impose human order and meaning on an outside, non-human world.” — Richard Nonas

Richard Nonas

Cut Back Through (for Björn)

Currently the chair of the Department of Architecture at the University of Massachusetts, Schreiber also taught architecture in Florida and New Mexico. In addition to his service to NCARB, he has served as the president of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA) and is currently the chair of the Amherst Planning Board. Schreiber is a member of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and in 2004 was elected to the organization’s College of Fellows. In 2003, he received the Award of Excellence from the AIA Tampa Bay chapter, and was named an Outstanding Teacher by the American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS) South Florida chapter in 2001. Schreiber received a Bachelor of Arts from Dartmouth College and a Master of Architecture from Harvard University. He holds the NCARB Certificate and is licensed to practice architecture in Massachusetts.

Congratulations, Steve!

Stephen D. Schreiber, FAIA, NCARB, of Amherst, MA, was elected as a regional director of the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) at its 98th Annual Business Meeting.

Schreiber was elected to serve on the Council’s Board of Directors by the New England Conference (Region 1), which is made up of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont. Schreiber was appointed to the Massachusetts Board of Registration of Architects in 2006 by then-Governor Mitt Romney, serving several years as both chair and vice chair. In 2014, he was elected chair of the New England Conference. In addition to his efforts for the Massachusetts Board and Region 1, Schreiber previously served on the New Mexico and Florida boards.

For nearly two decades, he has dedicated his time and expertise to multiple NCARB committees, beginning with his service on the ARE Graphics Subcommittee in 1999. Schreiber has also served on the Broadly Experienced Architect, Procedures and Documents, and Regional Leadership committees, as well as the ARE Item Writing Workshop and the NCARB Award Jury.

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WOULD YOU LIKE TO NOMINATE SOMEONE FOR FEATURED ARTISAN?
EMAIL EDITOR@WMAIA.ORG

FEATURED ARTISAN

KAMIL PETERS
METAL + WOOD

Kamil Peters is a contemporary metal artist. He is an Amherst native and an alumnus of Hampshire College with a focus on Fine Arts and Education. In addition to his own work, Kamil is a mentor for budding artists and teaches fabrication classes. His work reflects his versatility as an artist and craftsman, ranging from intricate masks and sculptures to large-scale commercial installations. With a passion for using found objects, and inspiration often found in nature, Kamil's designs have an organic and impactful quality. His workshop is located in the Canal District of Holyoke. Sharing space with so many different artists has encouraged collaboration and exploration. Working mostly in metal and wood has allowed Kamil to collaborate with concrete fabricators, glass blowers, landscape architects and designers to create one of a kind pieces. Kamil loves engaging with clients and bringing a project from dream to reality. His work can be found in restaurants, buildings, and homes throughout Massachusetts and beyond. www.kamilpeters.com
WMAIA PROGRAMS SUMMER 2017

WMAIA PROGRAMS: FALL PREVIEW

Save the dates: Registration materials will be available closer to program dates!

Friday, September 8th
8:30 – 10:30 AM
UMass/Amherst

COTE Committee Presents an In-Depth Tour of the Division of Fisheries & Wildlife - Field Headquarters Building
(Architecture: Architerra, Inc.)
Saturday, September 23rd
Northborough, MA

WMAIA Annual Meeting and WMAIA COTE Committee/USGBC-MASS Green Giants Awards
(& Old Chapel building tour)
Tuesday, December 5th
The Old Chapel
UMass/Amherst

WMAIA PROGRAMS: IN THE WORKS

Also in the works...
A charrette in Lenox later this summer,
A tour of Union Station in Springfield,
A program on the 2030 Challenge,
A “Green Housing for All” competition with the City of Northampton,
The fall lineup for the WMAIA/Five College Architecture Film Series,
And our new Women in Architecture Committee kicks off with a Pecha Kucha-style event featuring lightning talks on the topic of “Inspiration” by the women FAIA members of our chapter.