LETTER FROM OUR NEW WMAIA PRESIDENT

As I listen to the 2017 top ten lists that permeate the radio waves in the last days of the year, I am struck by how many of the challenges that we are facing and struggling to overcome are linked to solutions that require good design. Design by definition is the expression of purpose or intention within a material object or action. There are numerous ways to judge the virtue of a design, from its usefulness and aesthetic merit to its social or ecological value, or simply how it makes us feel. But, each year I wonder - what have we learned about ourselves that changes what we value today?

One of the things that stood out for me over the last year is how clearly environmental or humanitarian disasters expose the flaws in the design of our social and physical structures. The hurricanes striking Texas, Florida, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, among other environmental challenges, pose a clear direction for us to follow in the coming year - to leverage our knowledge of systems design so that we can work within our communities to improve our infrastructure and to design buildings and towns to withstand the temperature fluctuations and the increase in powerful storms that are likely to accompany changes in our climate. The opioid crisis, the growing gap between rich and poor, the physical and mental health challenges facing our population also call to us to work with our community institutions to provide safe places, reinforce and improve social structures, build affordable housing and maintain our cultural heritage in ways that enrich human experience.

To meet those challenges we must be more intentional about how we work with our clients to provide them with solutions that extend beyond the limits of each project’s basic requirements. We will need to learn from each other, be more creative and build our own capacity for practice that is innovative and socially responsible. Our Chapter has done a great deal already over the last year: we have learned from our colleagues who have pursued the Living Building Challenge; we have a new building code that raises the bar for safety and energy efficiency; we held our first Day of Service honing skills; and we have a growing and active group of emerging professionals; and we have a support of AIA National.

This year’s WMAIA Annual Meeting was held at the newly renovated Old Chapel at UMass. Many thanks to Jeff Quackenbush (project executive, UMass Facilities) for providing a tour of the project. We are grateful for this support from National. This is the 9th year we have been able to offer student scholarships with the financial support of AIA National. These joint WMAIA/AIA Scholarships are given to two UMass MArch. students based on design excellence, clarity of presentation, and community and/or university engagement by the applicant. We are grateful for this support from National.

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We thanked 2016-2018 president Helen Fantini AIA for her two years of chapter leadership and recognized outgoing board members Carey Clouse AIA and Doug Marshall AIA. Caryn Brause AIA was newly elected to the board.

Our business meeting included election of officers and board members for 2018. Our new officers are:

- President: Ludmilla Pavlova Gillham AIA
- President Elect: Kristian Whitsett AIA
- Treasurer: Garth Schwellenbach AIA
- Secretary: Jason Newman AIA
- Board Members: Caryn Brause AIA, Christopher Farley AIA, Garrison Piers-Gambly AIA, Stephen Scheider FAIA

IT IS CIRCULATED TO ALL MEMBERS, ADVERTISERS AND SUBSCRIBERS. PLEASE DIRECT ALL NEWSLETTER CORRESPONDENCE TO Rachael Chase Associate AIA, AT editor@wmaia.org. ARTICLES, PHOTOS, EVENTS AND OTHER INFORMATION ARE WELCOME. OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN THE NEWSLETTER ARE NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF THE WMAIA.

For more information or to be included in the newsletter, please contact Rachel Chase Associate AIA at editor@wmaia.org.
Jonathan Wright has been a leader in sustainable building practices for years. His team views every project as an opportunity to educate the client about the importance of energy efficiency, building durability and how building to higher standards saves money in the long run and is good for the planet. Along with Wright Builders and his development company, New Harmony Properties, Jonathan has personally invested his own resources into creating a walkable, sustainable neighborhood on Village Hill in Northampton, MA, comprising single family homes, townhouses and apartment style condominiums. The buildings are designed and built to a high level of energy efficiency. Energy Star and Tier Three Energy Star are achieved throughout with all buildings achieving LEED for homes. All these homes continue to operate at a fraction of typical heating and cooling costs for this area, while providing state-of-the-art ERV ventilation.

Wright Builders recently completed two Living Building Challenge projects right here in the valley. This is the highest standard of sustainable building practices in the country, including net-zero energy and net-zero water thresholds. Only a handful of these buildings exist nationwide.

Jury Comments:
“Anyone who has accomplished a Living Building Challenge project is in a league of their own.”
“That Jonathan has become a client/developer is exactly what we want. He is really walking the walk.”
“Bringing an LBC Project to market twice - and bringing clients along as well - is the kind of leadership we need in the industry.”
“Jonathan’s work is head and shoulders above anyone else’s.”

Ayla Aksmamija received the Green Giants award for Educator this year in honor of two of her classes at the University of Massachusetts Amherst: a Graduate design studio focusing on net-zero energy design, and a Seminar on sustainable and high-performance building facades.

These two courses teach sustainable design to graduate students, and offer unique and innovative way for learning about net-zero energy design strategies, methods to improve building performance, and how to integrate building performance analysis procedures with design process. In 2016, these two courses were selected to participate in the Architecture 2030 Curriculum Project as one of the most innovative models for teaching sustainable design in the nation (one of twelve participating universities).

The teaching methods, pedagogical approach, assignments and projects were captured to be shared with all architecture schools in the nation as exemplary programs for sustainable design education.

Jury Comments:
“There aren’t many people teaching what Ayla is teaching.”
“The 2030 class is a model that should be replicated at other schools.”
“When I was in graduate school, I had to go to Europe to get this kind of an education.”
“That she is making students ask these questions is courageous and sets her apart from other educators; she’s really doing something different.”
**GREEN GIANTS 2017**

**GREEN GIANT 2017 OWNER:**

**JULIE JOHNSON, HITCHCOCK CENTER**

To recognize the extraordinary achievement of the Hitchcock Center’s recent Living Building Challenge project, the Green Giants Award in the Owner category was awarded to Julie Johnson, executive director.

The Center took on this strenuous project as a reflection of their mission as environmental educators, seeking to demonstrate their commitment to a healthy environment and a sustainable life. The Center is truly a Living Building complete with interactive exhibits about the building and site, as well as a practical showcase of energy efficiency and durable, sustainable materials and technologies. It hosts many school and other groups for tours, classes and activities, introducing thousands of people each year to their programs and philosophies and now their facility.

The inspiration is daily and the education significant.

2017 can be a year marked by a major transition in the process of architectural licensure. The major shift was initiated when the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) announced that it would phase out the term “Intern,” in an effort to more accurately and better represent the diverse population of individuals in the field who are pursuing licensure. This somewhat confusing shift in how the field addresses these individuals as “aspiring architects” or “exam candidates” is compounded by the organization’s decision to transition from the Intern Development Program (IDP), used for tracking and monitoring an individual’s progress in the licensure process to a new model renamed the Architectural Experience Program (AXP). NCARB President Dennis Ward, AIA, is quoted as saying: “Renaming the IDP is another step in realizing our programs to better reflect current practice and terminology….” This major change became effective on June 29th of 2017.

To help facilitate a seamless transition between the two licensure modes NCARB hosted a conference that was open to practitioners, educators, “aspiring architects” and licensure advisors to unveil the new AXP model. The conference, in July 2017, held in Chicago, IL, highlighted the changes implemented in the new model which included the reevaluation of categories for which hours would be logged, adjustments made to the total number of hours required in each of these specific categories, changes made in the total number of exams to be completed, as well as changes made in the actual exam format. While many of the workshops held at the conference focused on conveying the many ways in which the new AXP model is different from the IDP model, one of the most profound shifts that was emphasized throughout the conference focused on the perception of the licensure process within the profession. The conference emphasized how the licensure process historically has rested on the shoulders of the individual with little outside support, which has resulted in fewer candidates actively pursuing licensure, but has also resulted in candidates’ having overall negative experiences with the process.

The NCARB conference promoted ways in which the licensure process could be celebrated through the process of architectural licensure. The major shift was initiated when the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) announced that it would phase out the term “Intern,” in an effort to more accurately and better represent the diverse population of individuals in the field who are pursuing licensure. This somewhat confusing shift in how the field addresses these individuals as “aspiring architects” or “exam candidates” is compounded by the organization’s decision to transition from the Intern Development Program (IDP), used for tracking and monitoring an individual’s progress in the licensure process to a new model renamed the Architectural Experience Program (AXP). NCARB President Dennis Ward, AIA, is quoted as saying: “Renaming the IDP is another step in realizing our programs to better reflect current practice and terminology…” This major change became effective on June 29th of 2017.

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Sigrid Miller Pollin FAIA receives BSA Women in Design Award

Sigrid Miller Pollin FAIA, professor of architecture at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, received a 2017 Women in Design Award of Excellence from the Boston Society of Architecture.

Pollin, an American Institute of Architects fellow and principal of Miller Pollin Architecture, is nationally recognized for her work in promoting aesthetically innovative and sustainable designs. Her most recent work, Crotty Hall, is UMass Amherst’s first net-zero energy building, designed to produce as much energy as it consumes.

Since joining the UMass Amherst faculty in 1998 as a professor of architecture, Pollin has been instrumental in developing the master of architecture program, and inspiring a holistic design approach among students.

Pollin’s honors include the AIA New England Citation Award for Excellence in Architecture (2013), the UMass Amherst Distinguished Faculty Lecturer (2010), and the UMass Amherst Chancellor’s Award for Creative Activity (2010).

Congratulations Sigrid!
The cottage began its life as an agricultural blacksmith shop, located directly across Weatherhead Hollow Road from one of the first farmhouses in Guilford, VT. The farmstead itself straddles the narrow town road threading the valley toward the State line, and makes a significant contribution to the visual landscape of Guilford, one of Vermont’s oldest towns. The historic structure was in heavy disrepair but its humble beauty on the roadside spoke to us. We wanted to honor its legacy and presence by giving it a new life, as a small residence within the owner’s vision of a rural arts campus.

Saving the hand-hewn post and beam frame and moving it back from the right-of-way to a poured foundation gave the structure a fresh start. By grafting a contemporary structure onto its back, we kept the proportions and fenestration of the shop, and brought it into the 21st century, assuring its use and vitality in today’s landscape. The compact, spartan cottage exterior belies the comfortable and casual spaces inside, surprising with eclectic high-end finishes. The 1000 sf Blacksmith House utilizes an efficient package of air-sealing, high-performance windows, double stud wall construction, and durable natural materials, ensuring its future in this peaceful agrarian setting.

Photos: Austin Design Inc. and Owner

**Ryan S. Hellwig, PE**
**Structural Engineer**

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Greenfield, MA 03101
rshper@crocker.com

Providing Structural Engineering on award-winning projects in the Pioneer Valley and beyond for over 24 years

**Florence Recreational Pavilion**
Morgan Studio & Kuhn Riddle Architects
2016 WMAIA Honor Award

**Nechama Ann and Paul Premenade Condominiums**
Kuhn Riddle Architects
2016 WMAIA Honor Award

**South Hadley Plains Elementary School**
Jones Whelan Architects
2016 WMAIA Citation Award

**Olympia Oaks**
Multifamily Affordable Housing
Kuhn Riddle Architects
2016 WMAIA Merit Award

**Ala New England People’s Choice for Excellence in Architecture**

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**DO YOU HAVE A BEFORE + AFTER PROJECT?**
**EMAIL EDITOR@WMAIA.ORG**
In 2017 the US experienced sixteen billion-dollar weather and climate disasters that cost at least $306.2 Billion (still counting). By comparison 2007 had only five of these billion-dollar disasters at a cost of $14.9 Billion – or less than 5% of the cost in 2017 (adjusted for inflation). In terms of the human cost, fifteen deaths were attributed to such disasters in 2007, but in ten years’ time, that number increased to 362. From 1980 to 2017 tropical cyclones were responsible for the highest number of fatalities in the US (3,461), followed by drought/heatwave events (2,993) and severe storms (1,578). So it should be no surprise that in the face of such terrible costs, human and financial, Massachusetts state legislators are taking action to prepare for the impacts of climate change by assessing vulnerability and adapting strategies to increase the adaptive capacity and resilience of infrastructure and critical assets within the Commonwealth.

In September 2015 the Baker Administration signed Executive Order 569, Establishing an Integrated Climate Change Strategy for the Commonwealth. The order outlined five specific steps to develop and continuously updating a state-wide climate change strategy:

i) Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA) shall develop a state-wide energy plan with specific interim GHG emission reduction targets and effective strategies for conservation, energy efficiency and demand reduction for clean energy.

ii) Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) shall promulgate regulations to ensure that 2020 emissions limits set forth in the Global Warming Solutions Act (GWISA) are met.

iii) EOEEA and Public Safety shall strengthen community resilience by providing technical assistance to cities and towns and coordinating the development of comprehensive municipal hazard mitigation plans across the state in a manner that includes adaptation to the impacts of climate change.

iv) Executive office shall designate a Climate Change Coordinator to assess within 2 years the Commonwealth’s vulnerability to climate change and to incorporate adaptation options into existing policies and plans of each executive office and

v) The Executive Order shall be reviewed within 3 years and every 5 subsequent years.

Major phases of the 2018 State Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan will include:

i) Conducting a Risk Assessment that includes hazard analysis & characterization, exposure analysis, climate change analysis and hazard profiles (currently underway).

ii) Developing an online state agency vulnerability assessment survey tool that provides data and a process for assessing the risk and exposure associated with hydrologic, atmospheric, geologic, man-made and other hazards and future scenarios.

The exposure areas that will be considered will include natural resources such as habitat, plants and wildlife, economic losses and drivers such as GDP, vulnerable populations (accessibility or functional needs, transit dependent or low income); government assets such as roads, bridges, or rail, buildings, land holdings and other critical infrastructure such as pumps, dams, data/cyber, etc.

iii) Analyzing the state’s capability and adaptive capacity, reporting on existing and new/ emerging capabilities, and prioritizing potential enhancements for hazard mitigation and adaptation

iv) Developing a state hazard mitigation and climate adaptation strategy by reaching out to stakeholders and holding workshops to receive input on local goals, strategies and actions to mitigate hazards

The vulnerability assessments will include two future scenarios - mid-century and end-of-century - that are informed by the work of researchers from the Northeast Climate Science Center at UMass Amherst, currently developing projections for changes in temperature projection, and sea level rise for each of the 27 Commonwealth major basins. The peer-reviewed climate change projections will enable municipalities, industry, organizations, state government and others to develop resiliency plans that are informed by estimates of how the climate is likely to change in Massachusetts through the end of this century.

EOEA circulated a final draft of the study at the beginning of January for energy reports, for example, that the Commonwealth basin is expected to experience increased average annual temperatures throughout the 21st century of +2.28 to +4.46 by 2030s, +3.00 to +4.63 by 2050s and +4.04 to +10.94 by 2090s. Maximum and minimum temperatures are also expected to increase throughout the end of the century by an even greater percent change.

As state and municipal agencies progress through the milestones established by EO 569, they will develop the expertise and capacity of stakeholders across the Commonwealth that are informed by shared technical resources at a regional level of detail that is appropriate for each local community and its unique concerns, values and priorities. EOEA’s Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program, a voluntary program to train over 250 vendors as state service providers so they can assist communities to undertake hazard mitigation and climate adaptation plans, and to build coalitions across the state that implement an integrated and mutually supportive climate change strategy. I believe this will result in better informed municipal clients and organizations who will look to architecture, engineering and construction professionals for the skills and creativity that will be required to implement resiliency and climate adaptation plans.

As community members and as professionals, architects have an important role to play in developing resilient building codes and communities that provide greater value to our clients. The AIA’s Resilience and Adaptation Initiative helps to build member’s awareness of emerging issues and provides resources and education to address shocks and stresses, and to advocate for policies to support new practices.
Although Lou Conover has been doing art work in cedar shingles for about twelve years, his background is neither in art nor in the building trades. He worked as a software engineer and then as a high school math teacher, and he currently teaches computer science at Mount Holyoke and Smith Colleges. He is a resident of the Pioneer Valley Cohousing Community, where a number of his designs can be found. We asked Lou to describe his work:

“When I create a design I incorporate visual elements of the surroundings of the structure. For example, both images of the sun above are placed on east facing walls so that they are struck by the sun as it rises. The sun and mountains on the gable over the door (image: lower left of page 13) are on a house near a hillside with a view of the Holyoke Range. Mathematics is also a theme in my work. The stem of the rose (image on page 14) is in the shape of the Golden Ratio curve. The curves in the design (image: upper right of page 13) come from the graph of the stable points of an iterated function.

An overriding concern in artwork that employs the materials that are part of the cladding of a structure is that the function of the materials has to be preserved - in this case, keeping the weather out! It’s also important that modifying the material in this way doesn’t shorten its lifespan. There can be no up facing end grain, and the shingle exposure has to be kept within limits. I find the challenge of working within those constraints highly stimulating.”

You can see a portfolio of Lou’s work at www.shingledesigns.com. He is available for commissions and can be reached at info@shingledesigns.com.
JUST BIG ENOUGH | GREEN HOUSING FOR ALL

JURIED ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN COMPETITION & EXHIBITION
APE GALLERY, 126 MAIN STREET, NORTHAMPTON MA FEBRUARY 6-10, 2018
WINNERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT THE WMAIA GALLERY RECEPTION
ON THE EVENING OF FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH!

The Just Big Enough design competition will help highlight how we can create very small very green housing that is affordable to people left out of the green housing market, and find a design solution to some surplus city-owned lots in Northampton, MA.

The competition is sponsored by the City of Northampton, co-sponsored by WMAIA, and supported by the Boston Society of Architects Foundation and the Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity.

OTHER WMAIA PROGRAMS WILL RESUME IN FEBRUARY!