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WINTER
2025

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ACADEMY OF MUSIC
NORTHAMPTON MASSACHUSETTS
BONHAM & DOUGLAS ARCHITECTS

WMAIA ANNUAL MEETING 2024
UMASS AMHERST OLVER DESIGN BUILDING



WMAIA STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS 2024



This year, in conjunction with AIA National and with the support of Pella, we were able to offer two \$1000 scholarship to M.Arch students at UMass and two \$500 scholarships to UMass Architecture undergraduates. Submissions were screened by the UMass faculty and then submitted to the WMAIA board for review. Judging criteria was design excellence and clarity of presentation. This year's WMAIA scholarships were presented to: Freya Johnsen, Christian Garcia, Charles Garretson, and Caytlin Yii (not pictured).

IN THIS ISSUE:

ONE ANNUAL MEETING PHOTOS + WMAIA STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS 2024

TWO LETTER FROM WMAIA PRESIDENT KERRY BARTINI AIA

THREE TO EIGHT WMAIA DESIGN AWARDS 2024

TEN COTE UPDATE

TWELVE EMERGING PROFESSIONALS

FOURTEEN IN MEMORIAM: JOHN AUBIN AIA

FIFTEEN WMAIA PROGRAMS: WINTER 2025

THE WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

THE WMAIA NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED FOUR TIMES A YEAR. IT IS CIRCULATED TO ALL MEMBERS, ADVERTISERS AND SUBSCRIBERS. PLEASE DIRECT ALL NEWSLETTER CORRESPONDENCE TO RACHAEL CHASE, AT EDITOR@WMAIA.ORG. ARTICLES, PHOTOS, NOTICES OF EVENTS AND OTHER INFORMATION ARE WELCOME. OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN THE NEWSLETTER ARE NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF THE WMAIA. THE EDITOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT OR REVISE MATERIAL AS SPACE AND SUBJECTIVE OPINION PERMIT.

COVER PHOTO: LEIGH CHODOS

WMAIA COMMUNITY

Happy 2025!

It was so great seeing a lot of the membership, sponsors, and volunteers at the Annual Meeting last month at UMass's Olver Design Building. Thanks again to those that were able to come out and celebrate local architects and projects, newly licensed architects, scholarship recipients, new fellows...it was a great night.

And 2024 was a great year. This past spring we saw the Women in Architecture put together a great program with Jean Caroon FAIA focused on mentorship; and the COTE Committee ran a fantastic lecture, tour and demonstration series. In June we did our annual Berkshires tour; this year at the Bousquet Mountain. We continued our relationship with UMass BRUT and the BCT programs; as well as providing continuing education credit for the AI Architecture Lecture. And the Film Series continues.

2024 also kicked off two new initiatives. The EP Grant Program, which awards 6 grants up to \$250 each to Emerging Professionals in our region who are furthering their architectural career. And the FAIA Grant assists applicants who want to pursue Fellowship in the Institute, providing up to 3 hours of consulting time.

We can't do any of this without our dedicated membership, volunteers, and sponsors.

Please feel free to volunteer on a committee - we'd love to have you!

All the best for a healthy, promising 2025.

Kerry Bartini AIA

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WMAIA ANNUAL MEETING 2024

WMAIA celebrated the season and design in Western Massachusetts with another festive gathering at the Olver Design Building at UMass on December 17, 2024. Many thanks to the Department of Architecture for hosting us!

With over 80 people in attendance, the evening included the presentation of an HON WMAIA Award to Prof. Timothy Rohan, the presentation of our student scholarships, and our 2024 Design Awards. Here's a recap of the evening:

HONORARY WMAIA

Every two years (even years), WMAIA bestows Honorary Membership upon a person or persons outside the profession of architecture. Prof. Timothy Rohan was the recipient of the Honorary WMAIA membership at this year's annual meeting. The award was presented in recognition both of his teaching -- work that inspires students to deeply understand their built environment and to value how design, broadly speaking, brings delight and utility to everyday life at multiple scales-- and, more particularly, for his work related to UMassBRUT. As stated in the nomination for Hon WMAIA, "Prof. Rohan co-founded UMassBRUT, the advocacy group for modernist architecture in the Massachusetts public university system. His vision and engagement with the UMass Amherst campus inspires students, staff and administrators to elevate the perception and acceptance of some of modernism's most maligned buildings, and to advocate for their sensible adaptation."



Prof. Timothy Rohan

ELECTION OF OFFICERS The annual meeting included the election of officers for the coming year they are: President, Kerry Bartini AIA; President Elect, Garrison Piers-Gamble Assoc AIA; Secretary, Caryn Brause FAIA; Treasurer, Jody Barker AIA

NEWLY LICENSED 2024 ARCHITECTS

We were pleased to acknowledge the newly licensed architects in our region: Jie Chen AIA, Christopher Kunkle, James Regnier AIA, Brett Rosengren AIA. Congratulations!

DESIGN AWARDS

The WMAIA 2024 Design Awards program was held in conjunction with the Western Massachusetts Section of the Boston Society of Landscape Architects, and was sponsored by Keiter Builders.

This year's awards were juried by colleagues from AIA Greenville South Carolina: Dustin Albright, AIA, LEED AP, Cary Perkins, AIA, Holley Bloss Owings LA, and Scott Crichton AIA, LEED AP. We were fortunate to have Dustin Albright present the awards.

Any building type or landscape project anywhere in the world completed at any time in the last seven years (after January 1, 2017) was eligible if the architecture firm/architect-of-record or landscape architect currently has its principal office in Western Massachusetts, which is defined for the purposes of this program as Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden and Hampshire counties or if the architect having a lead project role (i.e., Project Principal, Project Designer, Project Architect, Project Manager) is a member of WMAIA.

The sole criterion of the program is design excellence.

WMAIA received 15 entries. Two Honor Awards – the highest award category – were presented; two Merit Awards were given, and four Citation Awards were presented.

In addition, those in attendance at the awards presentation voted on an "Architect's Choice" Award, which resulted in a two-way tie.

Projects are shown here with Jury Comments over the next several pages.

WMAIA DESIGN AWARDS 2024

HONOR AWARDS



PHOTOS: Ed Wonek Art Works

HONOR AWARD - LANDSCAPE SHAW ELEMENTARY Dodson & Flinker, Inc.

JURY COMMENTS: This is a really outstanding project. The jury loved how the ecofriendly practices of siting this school served to create outdoor learning labs. It's a model educational tool. Excellent execution of design choices including: bringing the meadow up to the building edge, the site furnishings, and the outdoor "rooms." The presentation photos clearly illustrated the design objectives. The jury loved how the design concepts are clear to the students. The jury commented that there is no downside to this project except the challenge of getting the students to go back inside.



PHOTOS: Leigh Chodos

HONOR AWARD 33 HAWLEY Bonham & Douglas Architects

JURY COMMENTS: This is quite a nice project that is a real upgrade yet pays some homage to the original industrial building. The project took over a decade to complete and yet has a remarkable cohesiveness that could easily have been lost. The jury appreciated the spatial complexity, the effectiveness of the connecting stair, and the successful blending of steel structure with the warm wood. There is a strong combination of sustainable design strategies, including the sky-lit central space, the insulated metal skin, and the solar array, not to mention the creative adaptation and reuse of the building itself. There is a great relationship between indoor and outdoor spaces, and the outdoor spaces look fun and inviting. This could have been an architecture/landscape architecture submittal. Overall, an outstanding project, resulting in an outstanding community facility.

WMAIA ANNUAL MEETING 2024

MERIT + CITATION AWARDS



PHOTOS: Sean Kernan

MERIT AWARD
MANDEL STUDIO
Naomi Darling Architecture LLC

JURY COMMENTS: The jury was drawn to a handful of simple design decisions that made a big impact, including the choice of exterior materials and the detailing of the cladding. The jury liked the organization of the program and plan. This is a gem of a building positioned to take advantage of its beautiful site.

WMAIA DESIGN AWARDS 2024

MERIT + CITATION AWARDS



PHOTOS: Dodson & Flinker, Inc.

CITATION AWARD
MT. TOM NORTH TRAILHEAD PARK
Dodson & Flinker, Inc.

JURY COMMENTS: It was clear that the design team had a detailed understanding of the site. The project highlights ecological resources throughout the design. The jury appreciated how the designers showcased accessibility – accessible trails are a noble thing. The jury appreciated the educational signage and the clear importance of habitat protection. Accomplished a lot within a modest budget.



PHOTOS: Leigh Chodos

MERIT AWARD
GARDNER ELEMENTARY
Jones Whitsett Architects

JURY COMMENTS: This is a lovely public building. The jury appreciated the well-articulated massing and the orientation of the different volumes. It's very well controlled for such a massive school building. It's a cohesive, interesting, kid-friendly environment. There is a fun, playful use of color and an abundance of natural light.



PHOTOS: Leigh Chodos

CITATION AWARD
ACADEMY OF MUSIC
Bonham & Douglas Architects

JURY COMMENTS: While very much a restoration project the jury felt there was new life breathed into this project with the treatment of the details and attention to color and contrast. The jury particularly appreciated the interventions where there was a little more leeway, e.g. the bathrooms, marquee, and the new chandelier, which are very well done.



PHOTOS: Sean Kernan



CITATION AWARD
SUNDERLAND KAYAK SHED + BATHROOM
Ko-LAB Architecture

JURY COMMENTS: There is a lot to love about this small, modest building that began as a student design project. The canopy over the kayak area is simply-conceived and well-executed. The kayak storage within the seating is clever and effective. The design really maximized storage area. The design made a lot out of a little. This proves it's possible to be creative on a tight budget.



PHOTOS: Ben Gancos Studio



CITATION AWARD
BUCKLAND POOL
Kuth Ranieri Architects

JURY COMMENTS: This was a really creative and resourceful small project. The design team did a lot with a limited budget. The jury appreciated the sustainability measures including the sourcing of materials. Materials were used in an interesting way.

WMAIA ANNUAL MEETING 2024

ARCHITECT'S CHOICE AWARDS



PHOTOS: Ann McCallum FAIA



ARCHITECT'S CHOICE AWARD STOCKBRIDGE HOUSE BURR AND MCCALLUM ARCHITECTS



PHOTOS: Jim Gipe



ARCHITECT'S CHOICE AWARD RED GATE FARM KUHN RIDDLE ARCHITECTS & DESIGNERS



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WMAIA DESIGN AWARDS 2024

OTHER PROJECTS



PHOTOS: Jim Gipe

ELMS COLLEGE LIVING - LEARNING KUHN RIDDLE ARCHITECTS & DESIGNERS



PHOTOS: John Gruen

MODERN LAKESIDE RETREAT PAMELA SANDLER ARCHITECT



PHOTOS: Stefano Secchia

NORTH AMHERST LIBRARY KUHN RIDDLE ARCHITECTS & DESIGNERS



PHOTOS: Greg Shuppe

FRANKLIN FOOD PANTRY KUTH RANIERI ARCHITECTS



PHOTOS: Raj Das

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Thanks to Pella for their support of the annual meeting and scholarship program, to Keiter for their support of the awards program and to the UMass Architecture Department for hosting us!



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One of WMAIA COTE's primary goals is to provide educational programming on sustainable building practices to our chapter that is both practical and of interest to Western Mass architects. Last year we dug into embodied carbon and the 2023 Stretch Energy Code. In 2025 we plan to continue delving into the energy code – with a focus on filling in the remaining gaps between theory and practice. There have been a good assortment of webinars and resources produced on the new code (if you have missed these, check out the BSA, Built Environment Plus, or DOER for resources). The challenge for many of us at this point is implementation of the energy code in our active and ongoing building projects.

This winter - WMAIA COTE is planning a series of roundtable conversations with local architects to discuss their first-hand experiences working with the 2023 Stretch Energy Code. Panelists will share local case studies as well as lessons learned from working with the new code. There will be plenty of time for questions and conversation. Our hope is that by sharing experiences and resources we will be able to support each other in successfully designing high performance, energy efficient, and code compliant buildings.

Interested in participating?

Please reach out (Jill, jd@joneswhitsett.com) if you have:

- + A project that you would like to share your experience working on
- + Lessons learned from working with the new energy code that you would be willing to share
- + Any specific questions on the energy code that you would like to have addressed
- + Any particular building types (renovations, small projects, etc.) that you would like to see examples of
- + Other ideas for COTE programming

Our first roundtable is scheduled for February 25 (virtual). We hope that you can make it.

AIA MASSACHUSETTS

AIA MASSACHUSETTS SEEKS ARCHITECT TO SERVE ON THE EMBODIED CARBON INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATING COUNCIL



In November 2024, Governor Healey signed a groundbreaking clean energy bill advancing Massachusetts' climate goals. A key component is the creation of the 17-member Embodied Carbon Intergovernmental Coordinating Council, tasked with reducing carbon emissions in construction and transportation projects.

If you're a licensed architect with expertise in low-embodied carbon materials, the Board of AIA Massachusetts encourages you to apply for this impactful role. Applications are due 2/5/2025

For more info visit: www.aiama.org/latest-news



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This is the first in a series highlighting our chapter's emerging professionals. Kicking off the series is Shelby Parrish, Associate AIA, our newest WMAIA board member.

WHY IS LICENSURE IMPORTANT TO YOU?

Licensure has always been a priority for me because it demonstrates everything I have learned during my school and early career years. It embodies the long process of spent attaining information regarding the role of an architect and how to run an architectural business. Licensure tells me that I have comprehended what is expected of me as an architect, and that I am ready to fully step into that role with confidence.

WHERE ARE YOU ON THE PATH TO LICENSURE?

I have completed my Master of Architecture from UMass Amherst as well as the required experience hours. Now, I am studying and preparing for ARE exams.

WHAT'S ON YOUR PLAYLIST?

I listen to all kinds of music so I have a playlist that fits every need. When I am working or studying for exams, however, I always listen to movie scores. Some of my favorites include the Ender's Game score (Steve Jablonsky), How to Train Your Dragon score (John Powell), the Howl's Moving Castle score (Joe Hisaishi), and the Pride and Prejudice score (Dario Marianelli).

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JOHN AUBIN AIA
IN MEMORIAM: 1963 - 2024



Longtime WMAIA member John Aubin AIA, died December 18, 2024 at his home in Chicago after a brief encounter with a rare cancer. John was an architect, craftsman, maker, urban idealist, and adventurer. He was known to his family and many friends for his kindness, intellect, good humor, and endless curiosity about our world.

John took a geographically adventurous route to college, attending Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, the University of California at Berkeley, and the City College of New York, where he received his architecture degree. He was a licensed architect in New York, Illinois, and Massachusetts.

While a student in New York City, John lived in an East Village building that he and others rehabilitated, cementing his interest in urban redevelopment. He practiced architecture in New York City for ten years and built his mother a beloved home in Granby, CT before returning to Massachusetts to work on a real estate development project that John named Open Square.

Between 1999 and 2022, John redeveloped Open Square in Holyoke, a zero net energy mixed use development. His vision, talent, and belief in community transformed the underutilized but historically significant mill buildings into a vibrant mixed-use space combining commercial, residential, and creative tenants. John also incorporated sustainability into the project, refurbishing its two hydroelectric turbines, which generate about 1/2 megawatt of power. You may recall a 2015 WMAIA tour of Open Square where John let us get up close to those turbines.

The WMAIA will remember John with gratitude for his longtime participation in our community, and with deepest sympathy for those who loved him.

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