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FALL
2026

NEWSLETTER



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MACKAY-LYONS SWEETAPPLE ARCHITECTS

2026 NE ARCHITECTURE AWARDS
PROJECT WINNERS IN WESTERN MA

WMAIA had the honor of hosting the 2026 New England Architecture Awards. This is an annual program of the eight New England AIA Components: BSA, AIA Connecticut, AIA Maine, AIA New Hampshire, AIA Rhode Island, AIA Vermont, Central Mass AIA and Western Mass AIA.

We received 147 submissions; 24 projects were honored. **Four of the award-winning projects are located in Western Massachusetts. Award winners for these projects are featured on this page, and are continued on page 3.**

The presentation of awards was held on Friday, October 2 at the Northampton Center for the Arts @ 33 Hawley Street.

We'd like to thank our esteemed jury:

- **Paul Schulhof AIA, Founding Principal, Rashidi Schulhof Architects (NYC), Chair**
- **Katherine Darnstadt AIA, Founding Principal, Latent, (Chicago)**
- **Eric Robinson AIA, Principal, Paulett Taggart Architects, Principal (San Francisco)**
- **Nicola Springer AIA, Partner & Managing Director, Kirksey Architecture (Houston)**

Also presented at the NE Awards Ceremony were the **2026 EP Friendly Firm Awards**. New England firms awarded with this designation are committed to the advancement of Emerging Professionals through various initiatives that foster professional development and personal growth. 27 firms were acknowledged including three Western Massachusetts firms:

Berkshire Design, Inc.
Dietz & Company Architects, Inc.
Kuhn Riddle Architects & Designers

The 2027 New England Architecture Awards will be hosted by the BSA. Stay tuned: more info in the spring.

continued on page 3



Photos (including cover photo): Timothy Hursley

MERIT AWARD
FRESH GRASS ANNEX
North Adams, MA
MacKay-Lyons Sweetapple Architects
North Adams, MA & Nova Scotia, Canada



Photo: Robert Benson Photography

CITATION AWARD
ALIKI PERROTI & SETH FRANK LYCEUM
Amherst College, Amherst, MA
Bruner Cott, Boston, MA

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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 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.

AIA Western Massachusetts BSLA

WMAIA Celebration of Architecture and Design Awards Program 2026

The bi-annual Celebration of Architecture and Design Awards Program has long been a mainstay for WMAIA. In partnership with the Western Massachusetts Section of the Boston Society of Landscape Architects, the program encourages and recognizes distinguished architectural and landscape design achievement and honors the project team, including the clients and consultants who work together to improve the built environment.

Participation in this program involves sharing your work at the **WMAIA Annual Meeting & Awards Program on December 17, 2026**, regardless of whether your project has been selected for an award. Our aim is to increase awareness of the fine work produced within our community.

The Western Massachusetts AIA/Western Massachusetts BSLA Design Awards Program recognizes and honors excellence of all types of building designed by architects & landscape architects practicing within and outside the Western Massachusetts region.

Register any time. SUBMISSION DEADLINE OCTOBER 16. See wmaia.org

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2026 NE ARCHITECTURE AWARDS
PROJECT WINNERS IN WESTERN MA (continued from page 1)





Photos: David Hiepler

HONOR AWARD HOUSE FIVE, *Berkshires, MA*
Easton Combs, New Marlborough, MA





Photos: Chris Cooper

HONOR AWARD
KATHLEEN MCCARTNEY HALL, *Smith College, Northampton, MA*
TenBerk, New York, NY

WMAIA DAY OF SERVICE
FRANKLIN HAMPSHIRE HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Last month, members of the WMAIA Chapter stepped away from their screens and onto the construction site for a Day of Service with Franklin Hampshire Habitat for Humanity. Trading our keyboards for toolbelts, we put our collective skills to practical use helping build two homes for local families in Pelham. It was an inspiring day of teamwork and rewarding physical labor; our team successfully framed the second-floor exterior walls of one home and constructed a new exterior deck on another. Seeing the design process transition so rapidly from lines on a page to physical reality was a powerful reminder of our profession's tangible impact on the community. Thank you to the wonderful construction supervisors and organizers at Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity for hosting us and guiding our efforts.

Franklin Hampshire Habitat for Humanity Staff/Volunteers: Megan, Sara , Walt, Ron, Donovan, Bullet, Dave, Carol

WMAIA Volunteers: Lorin Starr, Garrison Piers-Gamble Assoc. AIA, Rob Marcalow AIA, Jody Barker AIA, Laura Schmidt Assoc AIA, August Rulewich, Vivian Rulewich, Amelia Kilian, Andrew Bagge AIA, Salabat Khan Assoc. AIA











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PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC

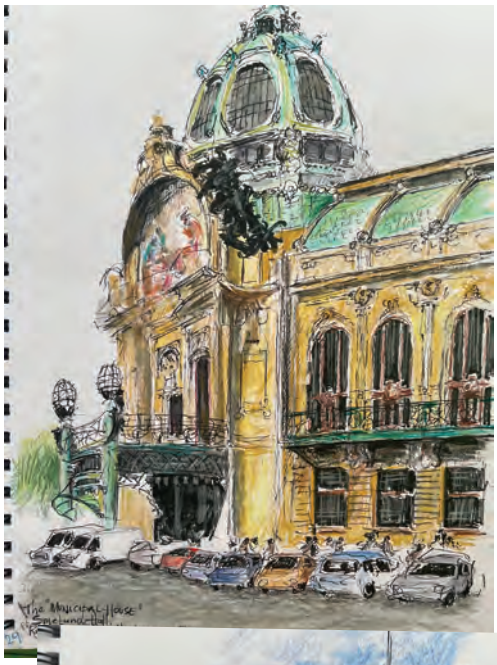
BRUCE COLDHAM, FAIA, EMERITUS

This trip was a solo event for me — all alone in a place that I had never been before (but was most curious about). In my twenties I used to love just crashing into a strange city , alone and without any preconceived direction, moving about completely selfishly, and filling a sketch book with interesting material. I wondered whether anything had changed in 50 years. I found that it had not.

That was especially true in a city like Prague. A guy on the train said' You're going to love Prague, it is the most interesting city in Europe for what you're interested in". He was right — and full sun for two weeks on end certainly helped.

Prague is fabulously interesting. Every street curves; nothing aligns with anything. When you cross the river to the castle side, there is the added excitement of topography, challenging for an 80 year old itinerant doodler, but exciting all the same.

I never took my watercolor pencils with me on my walkabouts. I would look for some kind of protection from foot and automobile traffic — a bench, a bollard, a bin — and then set to work. After 20 to 30 minutes I would move on to the next opportunity. No time or place to be breaking out dozens of pencils. That would wait until I got back to my lodging.





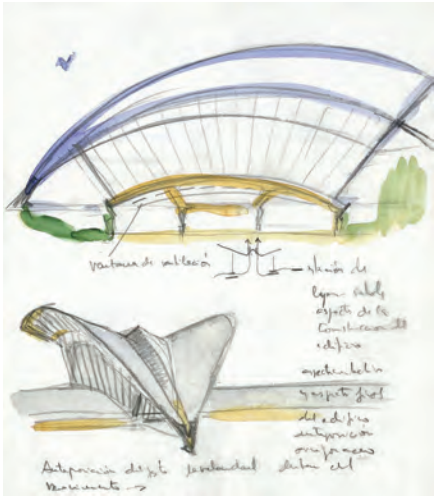






DO YOU HAVE INTERESTING ARCHITECTURAL TRAVEL PHOTOS OR SKETCHES?
WE DO OUR ARCHI-TRAVEL FEATURE EVERY YEAR! CONTACT DIRECTOR@WMAIA.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION

ARCHI-TRAVEL
LYON, FRANCE



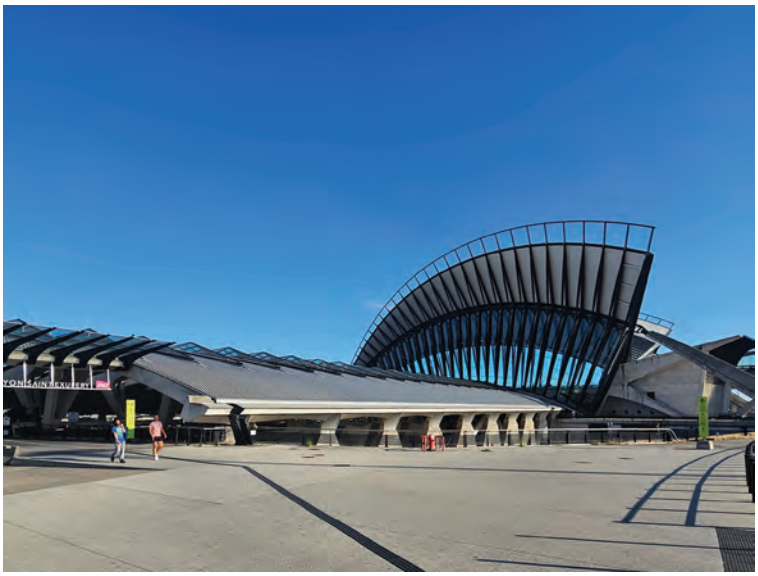
JULIANNA WAGGONER, HON WMAIA

This summer my wife and I visited relatives in France, traveling between Nice, Lyon and Besancon. Train travel gave us the opportunity to see the stunning Gare de Lyon-Saint-Exupery (the train station at Lyon-Saint-Exupery, near the airport).

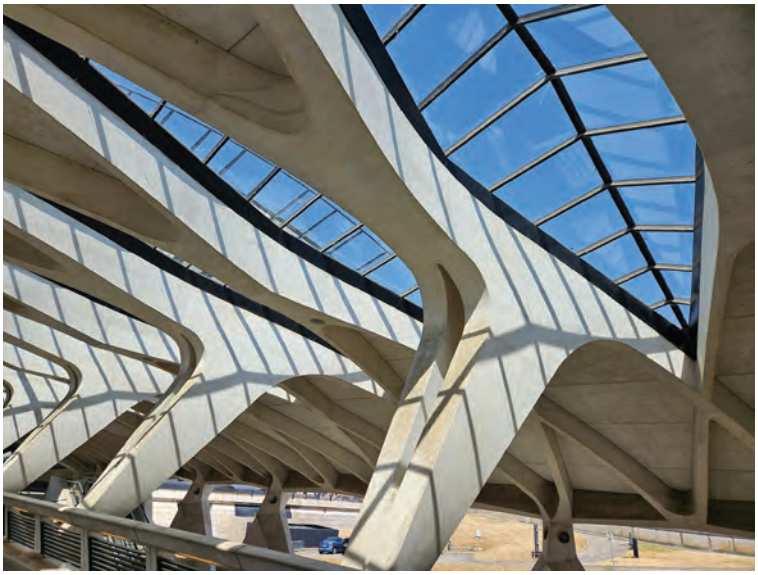
The station was designed by Santiago Calatrava in the mid-1990s. Calatrava, born in Spain in 1951 - and currently based in Zurich, Switzerland - is an architect, structural engineer, sculptor and painter. His sculptural forms often resemble living organisms. This steel and concrete structure is almost forty meters high and is designed to metaphorically resemble a bird with wings outstretched.

The station was built as an addition to the Lyon airport, to serve high-speed TGV trains on the LGV Rhône-Alpes, part of the main line running from Paris Gare de Lyon to Marseille Saint-Charles. A rail link to La Part-Dieu (main railway station and business district) in central Lyon is provided by the Rhônexpress tram-train line with a 30-minute journey, serving many commuters.

left: Gare de Lyon Saint-Exupéry - sketch by Santiago Calatrava, https://calatrava.com/









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ARCHI-TRAVEL
BALI, INDONESIA & BĂLȚI, MOLDOVA

WAYNE FEIDEN FAICP, HON WMAIA

With the support of the U.S. State Department Fulbright Specialist and Professional Fellows programs and the UMass Center for Resilient Metro-Regions, I traveled to Bali, Indonesia and Bălți, Moldova earlier this year. (Fellowships do not imply a U.S. State Department endorsement of my work.)

BALI

Bali, Indonesia is well known for rich Hindu culture, beautiful rice terraces, and amazing gardens.

As a planner, I was equally interested in Bali's local economic development and sustainability. An amusement park big bet didn't pay off as well as local investments. A demonstration sustainable bamboo pavilion supports the growing interest in sustainability.

In Bali, I collaborated in exploring how an existing emergency operations center for natural and climate change-induced hazards could also support day-to-day emergencies. An integrated calling system, like our 911, for provincial emergency operations, police, fire, and emergency medical calls can provide lessons for the U.S., where hazard mitigation planning is often separate from emergency response planning.

BĂLȚI

Bălți, Moldova has wonderful architectural heritage, although many buildings were lost during World War II and the Soviet occupation.

Much of Bălți's housing stock is in somewhat bleak but very affordable Soviet brutalist-style apartment complexes, with occasional hidden treasures such as mosaics and bas reliefs. Some of the original district heating pipes, encased in highly friable asbestos, remain in housing complexes.

The Soviet era included a good central market, a rich industrial legacy with both environmental challenges and a texture that those of us from the Northeastern U.S. might appreciate, and Soviet classism-style Alecu Russo State University.

Moldova is upgrading their park system and nascent environmental restoration efforts as they look west to join the European Union.

In Bălți, I identified opportunities for park improvements and riparian restorations. As in the U.S., building a stronger sense of place supports local residents and the local economy.



***Bali** - Defunct amusement park - A big bet that didn't pan out*



***Bali** -A bamboo pavilion supports the growing interest in sustainability*



***Bali** -Emergency Operations center - for natural and climate emergencies, with a possibility of responding to everyday crises*



***Bălți** - Mihai Volontir Central Park*



***Bălți** - Central Market*



***Bălți** - Soviet Block-Mosaic-Asbestos*

7 DO YOU HAVE INTERESTING ARCHITECTURAL TRAVEL PHOTOS OR SKETCHES?
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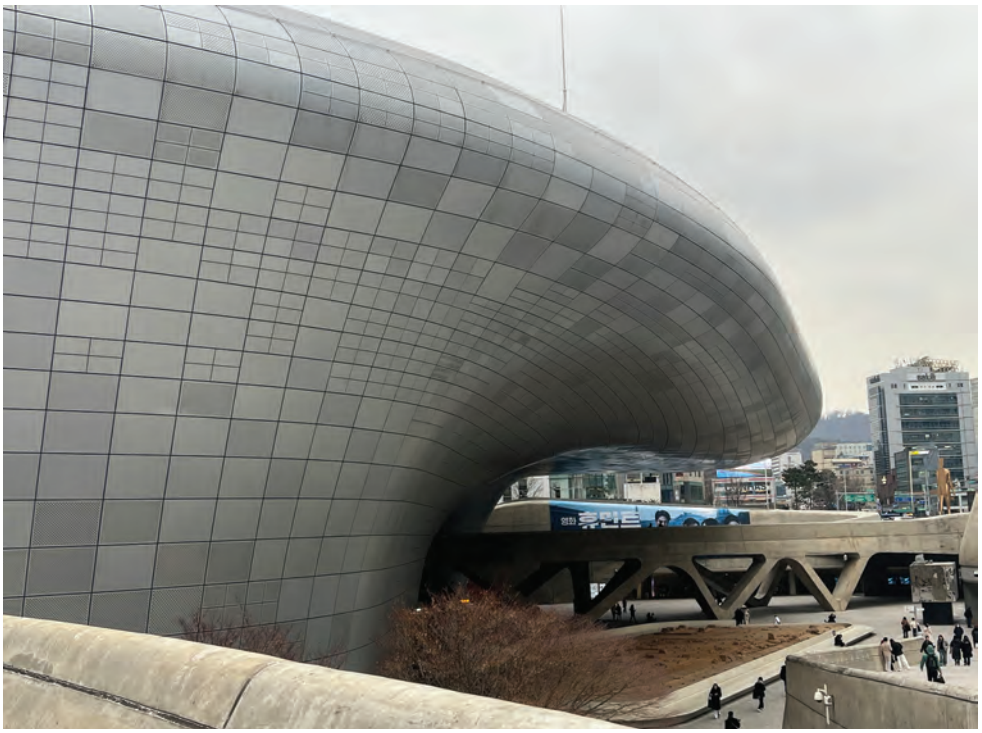
ARCHI-TRAVEL
SEOUL, KOREA & TOKYO, JAPAN

KYLIE HORNE, AIAS

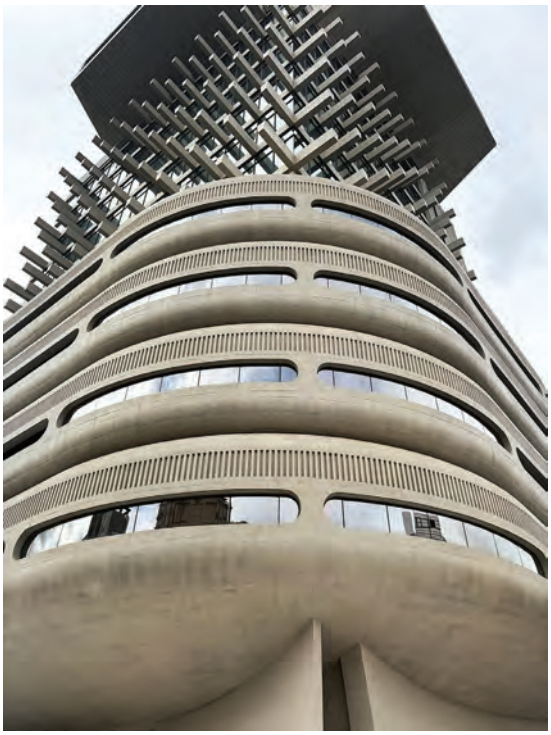
In January 2026, I traveled to Korea and Japan for one week before traveling to Korea for a short, 3-week study abroad program at Yonsei University.

In Japan, I visited the 21_21 Design Sight Museum, designed by architect Tadao Ando with inspiration from fashion designer Issey Miyake. The building is on the edge of a park, and features 18,300 sq. ft. of floor space, including two galleries and a café.

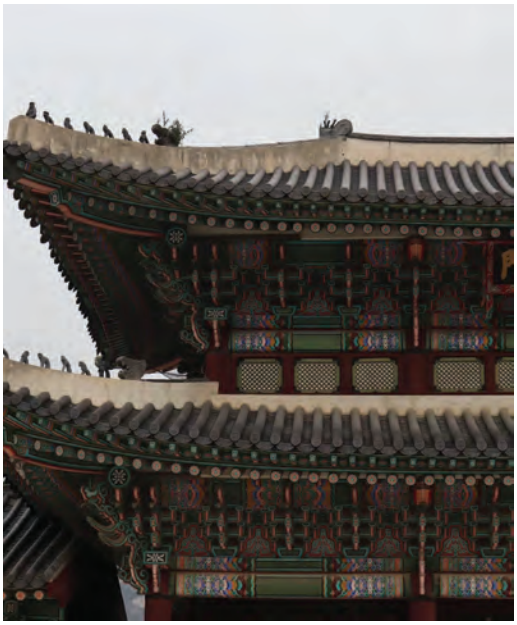
In Seoul, I visited the Dongdaemun Design Plaza by Zaha Hadid, the Gyeongbokgung Palace (built in 1395 as the official palace of the Joseon dynasty), and the retail and exhibition building known as Haus Nowhere by The System Lab. All of these buildings featured unique architecture that I found intriguing and unlike anything I have seen in the U.S.



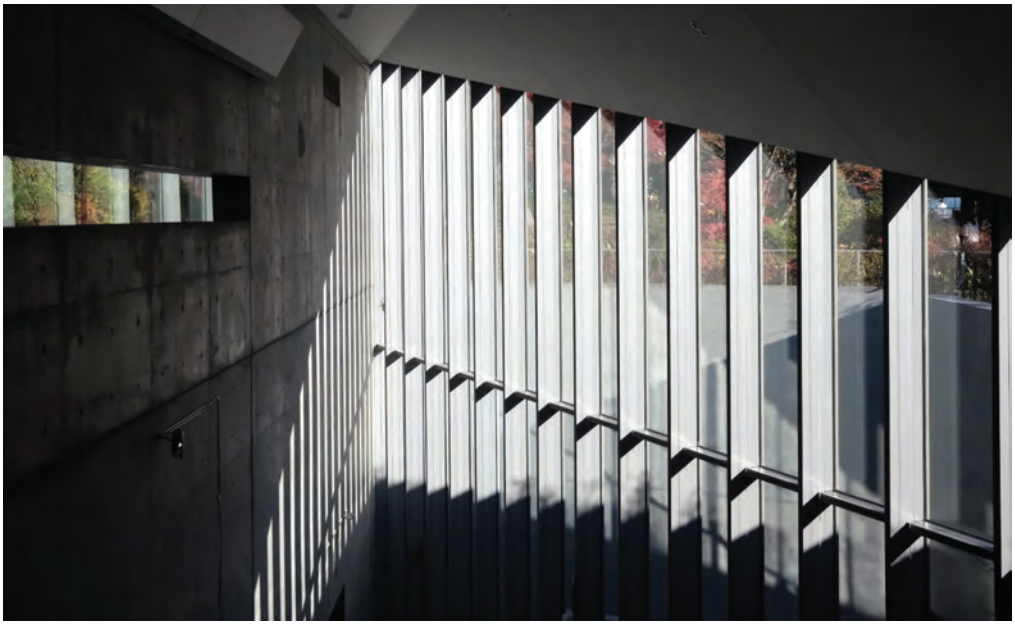
Seoul *- Dongdaemun Design Plaza by Zaha Hadid*



Seoul *- Haus Nowhere by The System Lab*



Seoul *- Gyeongbokgung Palace, built in 1395*



Tokyo *- 21_21 Design Sight Musuem by Tadao Ando*

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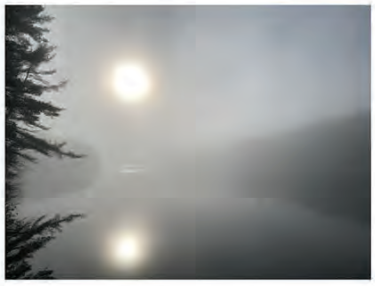


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This show, divided into five moments, intimates deep kinship and feelings of responsibility, love, and joy with place, this forest, I call home. Impressions, photos, maps, emotion, memory . . . ways of seeing that I explore through this exhibit.
- Kathleen Lugosch FAIA Emeritus

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WMAIA/COTE PROGRAM
MGHPCC TOUR

WMAIA COTE recently toured the **Massachusetts Green High Performance Computer Center (MGHPCC)** in Holyoke to learn more about data centers. Special thanks to Executive Director John Goodhue who took our questions and led our tour.

The LEED-Platinum MGHPCC is a data center, but not an AI data center, as John clarified. What is the difference? For John, it is about scale, use, and intention. Running as a joint venture of six academic institutions and built with partnership from the Commonwealth, MGHPCC operates for the purposes of research and education. It supports 20,000 users and hundreds of research projects, doing everything from modeling nuclear fusion to analyzing genomes. This puts it in stark contrast to projects like OpenAI's center under construction in Abilene, Texas on a plot of land the size of downtown Holyoke. And OpenAI is aiming to provide 1.2GW of compute - 100x the size of MGHPCC.



How does John see the relationship between green design and data centers? For the MGHPCC, being sustainable just makes good sense. They operate on the timescale of a research facility - looking ahead 30-50 years, rather than the ~10-year time scale of some AI data centers - and were quite deliberate about what they built. The building uses various strategies to keep its environmental impact low, including running on European voltage to reduce step-down transformers and the subsequent power loss associated with them, using flywheels for their UPS rather than batteries, and using a closed-loop chilled water system for cooling the building's primary "furniture" - 4'x3' computer racks. Our group was surprised to discover how loud that many computers are!

Still, the energy intensity of data centers may come as a shock to architects used to calculating their Energy Use Intensity ranging from the teens to thirties: MGHPCC's EUI comes out to approximately 7,472 kbtu/sf. Almost all of this power goes into the computing itself. The data center world cares much more about PUE, or Power Use Effectiveness, than EUI. MGHPCC's PUE comes in around 1.2, meaning that only a tiny fraction of the power is used in the actual building operations. That energy intensity is changing all the time as computing efficiency rockets upward, allowing the data center to increase its computing power without increasing the physical footprint of its racks.

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MARVIN

Make space for listening to the echoes of the past

For architect Scot Samuelson, it was about having respect for the history and significance of the work that came before him. So, for the reimagining of a Connecticut home designed by renowned early-20th-century architect J. Frederick Kelly, Samuelson included custom, historically inspired Marvin Ultimate collection windows and doors in his plans, ensuring that this transformation honored the character of Kelly's original vision.

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SPOTLIGHT: EMERGING PROFESSIONAL
TIMOTHY WANG, ASSOC. AIA

My name is Timothy Wang, and I'm a Design Associate at Dietz and Company Architects in Springfield. I've recently graduated with my M.Arch from the University of Hartford in the spring of 2025, and since then I've been making an effort to advance my career in our profession.

I've always had an affinity for design which led me to choose a career in architecture. Prior to my education, I really did not understand the effect the built environment had on people. I've been in places where I definitely admired how unique and interesting the spaces were but until I started architecture school I wasn't aware of how much creative thinking and attention to craft went into our built environment. Architecture school gave me the opportunity to travel and deepen my passion for design and the construction of buildings. My education and early career has given me the opportunity to apply my experiences to design, which motivated me even further.

Now that I've completed school I am pursuing my licensure. Although we don't need to become licensed architects to make meaningful contributions to the built environment, I'm choosing to pursue it now and officially call myself an architect. I feel that achieving this step will lead me to more opportunities within the profession, but just as importantly be a testament to the dedication and hardwork I've been doing for the past 7 years, and by no means is this an end goal either. I feel like this is a hurdle I want to jump over to prepare myself for the next ones I'll have in my career.



The WMAIA EP Grant is certainly helping me get over these hurdles. Passing the ARE's requires an abundant amount of time as well as financial contributions. I'm grateful to the WMAIA for contributing to my growth and further establishing myself as a professional.



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WMAIA COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING FALL 2026

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Free and open to the public. Registration and payment required for LUs.

All programs are 4:00-5:15PM, Hybrid | ZOOM or in person at 170 Design Building UMass | 1HSW

Monday October 19, 2026 – Construction Management, Charles D. Myers

Monday November 2, 2026 – Design Build: A Framework for Material Craft and Community Engagement, Tolya Stonorov

Monday November 23, 2026 – Decarbonizing UMass: a Facilities-Based Perspective

FILM SERIES SEE MORE INFO and REGISTER at wmaia.org

We are partnering with the Architecture + Design Film Series sponsored by AIA Vermont, which offers an excellent roster of films on Wednesdays, once a Month, LIVE at Contois Auditorium in Burlington and 118 Elliot in Brattleboro, or VIRTUAL with same-day viewing available. All films are FREE to attend. We are not able to offer LUs for these programs.

SAVE THE DATE: December 17, 2026
WMAIA Annual Meeting & Awards Program

Don't miss this opportunity to celebrate architectural and landscape design in Western Massachusetts, to catch up with colleagues, to hear news and information from the Board of Directors, and vote for officers for the Chapter.

Are you receiving our regular WMAIA enews?

The enews is sent several times a month and is used to communicate information about programs and other opportunities. Be sure we have your correct email address!
If you are not receiving this information, please contact director@wmaia.org