

ARCHITECTS AS LEADERS: An Invitation

An inquiry into the nature of the skill sets of architects relative to leadership

Why would you be interested in this class? Here's a start from the AIA website:

Architects have a lot to give. Architects impact the lives of everyone in the communities they serve. The architectural profession employs more than 275,000 Americans and it is part of the design/construction industry, which represents 8 percent to 10 percent of the U.S. economy. Architects need a strong voice on a wide range of issues from community planning, housing, sustainability, building codes, project delivery, historic preservation, and a wealth of other issues.

Why do we want you in the class?

Intent of the class was to bring students together with practicing professionals at all levels. Ideally, the class should be half students and half professionals. Currently, 8 students and one professional are registered for the class, leaving 4-6 spots for more professionals. We all have a lot to learn from each other and this will be an excellent forum for that.

Another intended outcome of the class is for you to look at where in your life you currently **are** a leader, whether you know it or not and the places where you **could** be a leader. This includes within your firm, your community, your social organizations, etc.

What will we be doing in the class?

The intent of the course is to promote civic engagement and leadership in architecture. The purposes of the course are to give students and practitioners practical and theoretical grasps of leadership on the basic assumption that leadership can be learned and therefore taught. The course will have a unique approach to leadership education that combines practical theories and opportunities for students to study the characteristics of authority, leadership, social and role dynamics, political processes and the values that orient their careers. Participants will practice strategies for leading positive change, such as forming organizations, planning events, volunteering, fundraising, and creating awareness campaigns.

The course will focus on personal, group, and global dimensions of leadership.

Course themes will include:

- Introduction to leadership
- Discerning and learning architect and designer skills as transferable skills
- General leadership skills
- Structures of leadership
- Governance
- Financial literacy and leadership

The course will utilize the following learning activities (or more):

- Readings of books, articles, newspapers, on-line resources, etc.
- Lectures
- Mini-research papers
- In-class discussion
- Mini-presentations by students
- Attendance at public hearings and meetings
- Panel discussions by outside guests
- Personality assessments

Reading: Students are expected to have read the assigned textbook readings and other assigned readings prior to each class. The classes are designed to reinforce and expand on the readings. Students are encouraged and will be called on to participate and contribute in class discussions, in-class exercises, group work and case presentations. It is expected that the concepts and techniques presented in the reading assignments will be discussed in class, therefore reading the material is critical to group participation. Real world problems and examples will frequently be used to tie theory with practice.

Text and Materials: The following texts are required for this course:

- Richard N. Swett, FAIA, *Leadership by Design: Creating an Architecture of Trust*, 2005, ISBN 0-9755654-0-0, Greenway Communications, Paperback, (\$39.50 new or less used)
- Roger Fisher, William Ury, and Bruce Patton, *Getting to Yes: Negotiating Agreement Without Giving In*, 3rd Edition, 2011, ISBN 978-0-14-311875-6, Paperback (\$10.88 new or less used)

- Rosamund Zander and Benjamin Zander, *The Art of Possibility: Transforming Professional and Personal Life*, 2002, ISBN 0-14-20.0110-4, Penguin (Non-Classics), Paperback, (\$10.20 new or less used)

Other Resources: The following texts will be used throughout the course and selected portions will be posted on Moodle.

- Other Required Reading: Online Readings or class handouts

When and where will the class meet?

Location: UMass Design Center, 7 Elm Street, Springfield, MA Parking is available nearby at no cost.

Meeting Time: Wednesdays 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm

Term of Class: 13 sessions, from January 25th to April 25th, excluding March 21st

How do you sign up for the class? Email me! Soon!

Kerry L. Dietz AIA, LEED AP-EB
Dietz & Company Architects, Inc.
kerryd@dietzarch.com
413.733.6798