



WMAIAnews

Newsletter of the Western Massachusetts Chapter of the American Institute of Architects



From WMAIA's Annual Meeting and Design Awards dinner on December 4th (from left to right): juror Michael Crosbie PhD, AIA, Honor Award winner Stephen Dietemann, Honor Award winner Thomas RC Hartman AIA, Merit Award winner Kevin Chrobak AIA, Merit Award winner Sigrid Miller Pollin AIA and juror Kathleen Dorgan AIA (see story on Page 6) photo by Erika Zekos Assoc. AIA

Growing the Chapter

by Lorin Starr Affiliate AIA

"Growing the Chapter" was the theme of WMAIA's October executive committee retreat. It was an upbeat meeting with the prevailing sense that the chapter is vibrant, in a solid position and poised for growth. The retreat focused on several main areas including building membership; becoming a (better) resource for architecture in our region; community outreach; and fundraising.

We will be continuing a membership outreach campaign in hopes of increasing our architect and associate members but also of expanding membership among affiliates. We feel strongly that WMAIA is enriched by the participation of allied professionals (including engineers, designers, educators, contractors, building owners, and suppliers) and the different and unique perspectives these professionals bring to the design and construction of our buildings and communities. We also hope to build stronger relationships with organizations of shared interests in the hope that this will increase our impact throughout the region.

We have renewed our commitment to offer continuing education programs locally and at a reasonable cost. Last year, through strategic partnerships, we offered (or co-sponsored) an unprecedented number of programs. We will also continue to develop our membership communications -- newsletter, e-communications and website -- to provide valuable sources of information to our members.

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OUR NEWS

Smart Growth And Sustainable Development Ideas Competition

Erica Rioux Gees, AIA

In January 2009, the Pioneer Valley Development Council and Western Mass AIA will be launching a Smart Growth Ideas competition. The purpose of the Competition is to provide ideas for sustainable development and smart growth in Western Massachusetts.

We have all experienced firsthand the results of recent development pressures. Over the last 10 years we have managed to consume almost 40,000 acres of land despite a relatively stable population that increased less than 5% since 1970. During this same period, developed land increased by over 49% taking over previously undeveloped land and agricultural parcels and converting them to higher intensity uses. This is a situation unique to the Pioneer Valley and Massachusetts. Most sprawl development in other parts of the US has been tied to population increases. Once land is developed, it is nearly impossible to take it offline.

We are at a critical juncture where any future growth needs to be properly managed. It is the hope of the sponsors that the ideas for redevelopment generated by the entries will help stakeholders, developers, residents and town governing boards envision the potential we have for a smarter, more sustainable type of development in our region. Three sites have been selected as "typical" for the region. All the stakeholders of these parcels have also expressed a willingness to move forward

with implementation after the competition entries are submitted.

The competition is open to all -- design professionals, students, artists and interested citizens. First prize \$3000; second and third prizes will be at the discretion of the jury. Information for the Competition and entry guidelines will be posted on the website at the end of January. www.wmaia.org and <http://www.pvpc.org>.

New Renewal Process For WMAIA AIA And Associate AIA Members

By now you should have received your renewal notice. You may have noticed that the renewal process for WMAIA* Architect and Associate members is a little different. Your national and local dues will be paid together (no need for two separate payments) and will sent directly to AIA National and... you have the option to pay online at www.aia.org/renew. We hope that this will simplify the renewal process for you.

The membership office in Boston will continue to be available to assist you with questions about your membership benefits, status or dues. If you have any other questions, please do not hesitate to contact Lorin Starr at director@wmaia.org.

*WMAIA Affiliate Member dues will continue to be collected by the Boston office.

New UMass AIAS/ WMAIA Mentorship Network

Recognizing the need for each generation of professionals to nurture the next, the American Institute of Architects Student (AIAS) chapter at UMass is establishing the UMass AIAS/WMAIA Mentoring Network, comprised of practicing architects who voluntarily mentor students of architecture one-on-one.

There are benefits for both students and mentors. For students, it is an opportunity to discuss architecture outside the school setting, to get additional information to make solid career choices, to make a smoother transition to the Intern Development Program (IDP), and to gain the potential for a long-lasting relationship. For mentors, they have the chance to be a helpful resource for students, to help shape new talent, to pass on valuable life lessons and to nurture a potential long-lasting relationship.

Mentors are encouraged to meet with students in person at least twice each semester, with additional contact by email and other means. Mentors and students often meet at a practitioner's office, or at a coffee shop, or at some other convenient place.

Those WMAIA members interested in serving as mentors to architecture students should contact: Michael Luft-Weissberg (President of the UMass AIAS chapter) at mluftwei@student.umass.edu or Stephen Schreiber FAIA (Director of the UMass Architecture+Design Program)

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Last year we worked on several public outreach programs. Our AIA 150 project wrapped up in Holyoke. The Zero Energy House project (led by Jeremy Toal AIA for WMAIA in conjunction with the Homebuilders Association of Western MA and Habitat for Humanity) is well under way. We've also been working on a Smart Growth Development Competition with the Pioneer Valley Development Council. We expect this competition (spearheaded by Erica Gees AIA) to launch early in the year. Kevin Chrobak AIA has begun a program with the Dunbar Community Center in Springfield and the UMass Amherst Architecture +Design Program aimed at introducing inner city teens to the field of architecture. These projects provide opportunities for members to take an active role in our communities and help create a greater public awareness for the valuable role architects play in the development of communities and the built environment.

We would like to see programs like these continue. However, in order to provide a financial base to fund community and educational projects, we need to develop more sources of non-dues revenue. We are beginning to discuss establishing a foundation for this purpose. And, as a long-term goal, we are looking at finding a physical home for the chapter.

This is an exciting time for the chapter. While the economy is certainly affecting us all, it's also a time that we can plant the seeds for the future. The goals established at this retreat have formed the basis of the strategic plan for the chapter. That said – your input is always welcome. Call or email me (or any board member) with any thoughts or suggestions. This is YOUR chapter!

Lorin Starr is WMAIA's executive director. You can reach her at director@wmaia.org or at 413-665-2424.

Citizen Architects Update

In the last WMAIA news we featured an article about architects in our chapter serving in local government on various boards and committees. At the same time AIA national has been researching the same issue. Under the advice of the Board Advocacy Committee, the AIA Local Relations team has been contacting AIA components to gauge the level of civically engaged architects across the country. Local Relations developed a goal of identifying one percent of the membership as Citizen Architects. That goal has been met and exceeded with approximately 825 members serving in elected positions or on boards/commissions throughout the country.

Since the article ran in the last issue, we've heard from a few more of you. WMAIA is proud to report that we have far exceeded that goal with a whopping 10% (that's 16 of our 152 members) currently serving in elected or appointed positions in local government! Way to be involved!

If you're active on a board or committee and haven't contacted us yet, we'd love to hear from you! Email Erika Zekos, WMAIA news editor at studiozed@comcast.net.

WMAIA Membership Tally

AIA Architects:	99
Emeritus:	9
FAIA:	2
FAIA Emeritus:	1
Associate AIA:	16
Individual Affiliates:	4
Corporate Affiliates:	17
Student Affiliates:	4
TOTAL:	152

WMAIA NEWS

The Western Mass. Chapter of the American Institute of Architects publishes WMAIA NEWS four times a year. It is circulated to all members, advertisers and subscribers.

Please direct all newsletter correspondence to Erika Zekos, Associate AIA, Editor, Studiozed, 40 Hulst Road, Amherst MA 01002 (617) 388-3994, studiozed@comcast.net

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.

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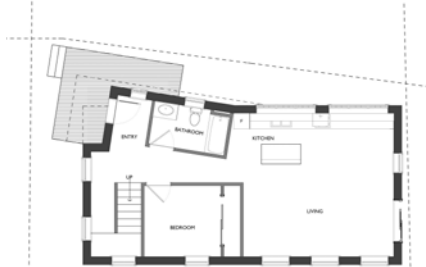
For more information on WMAIA Chapter, please contact Lorin Starr Affiliate AIA, Executive Director, director@wmaia.org.

Zero-E Challenge Update

by Jeremy Toal AIA

On November 17th 2008, the WMAIA and Miller Pollin Architects hosted an open presentation and critique of the designs proposed to be developed as an affordable home approaching zero-net energy for Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity.

More than 40 people were in attendance, including students, architects, builders, product reps and other industry professionals, educators, representatives from two Habitat chapters, affordable housing developers, and a realtor!



Zero-E Challenge design scheme by Jeremy Michael

Five preliminary schemes developed by individuals in the ZEC working group were presented and represented various possible formal approaches to the Habitat program of 3 bedrooms, 1-1/2 bathrooms, and living area, totaling around 1,100 square feet.

After the presentations, Thomas RC Hartman AIA of Coldham & Hartman Architects plugged building envelope areas from each scheme into a spreadsheet armed with some basic construction assembly performance assumptions. This simple static heat loss modeling illustrated the impacts of building form and glass area on overall energy performance, and let us know if our basic construction assembly targets were sufficient to approach zero-net energy.

A great discussion followed about the various formal approaches (cape, ranch, two-story, hybrid), construction assemblies, impacts of the super-insulated wall approach, and appropriate heating and ventilation options for such a tight, well insulated house.

Another development in the project is our acceptance into the US-DOE Building America program, which will provide free energy modeling and analysis through Steven Winter Associates, a leading high-performance building research and consulting firm in Connecticut. Through this partnership we'll be exploring the energy impacts of a basement, crawl-space, or slab-on-grade approach, as well as looking at the best way provide the required energy inputs...solar thermal, passive solar, mini-split heat pumps, gas heaters & cooking, how much PV...? Of course we need to balance the desire to get to carbon neutral with impacts on both initial cost and operating cost.

The design team has elected to move forward with a Cape Cod or "inhabited attic" form because of its efficiency in floor to surface area (resulting in the best static heat loss performance), simplicity of construction, and the impacts of both of those factors on cost. This approach also includes a ground floor bedroom and full bath, valued by the team and Habitat for Humanity for allowing for aging in place.



Zero-E Challenge design scheme by Emily Baillargeon

The team will be moving forward with development of the design and energy modeling in January and February and

will then begin making plans for the construction process to begin later in the summer of 2009. Anyone interested in getting involved in the design process or contributing materials, labor, money, or expertise should contact Jeremy Toal AIA LEED AP at jeremyt@dietzarch.com.



Zero-E Challenge design scheme by Andrea Michael

Homeowner's Project Handbook

Sign up now to be included in the 2009 edition of the BSA's "Homeowner's Project Handbook", a guide to residential and small-business architects in Massachusetts. Listings in the "Homeowner's Project Handbook" are available to designers who are current AIA or Associate AIA members of the BSA or the Central and Western Massachusetts AIA chapters. The deadline for inclusion in the 2009 edition is **January 16**.

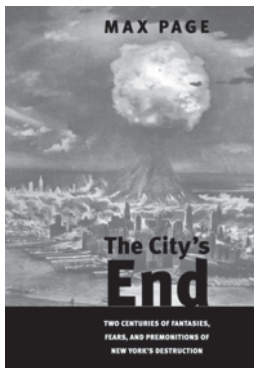
All members who purchase a listing also will have the opportunity to submit project images for consideration as the cover image. The "Homeowner's Project Handbook" is distributed free, in print and online, to thousands of homeowners and small-business owners in Massachusetts and beyond. The handbook also is prominently featured at Residential Design and Construction and Build Boston.

Download a listing form at www.architects.org/projecthandbook. Questions? Contact John Chase at 617-951-1433 x242 or jchase@architects.org.

MISCELLANEOUS

A Good Read

UMass Professor Max Page has written a new book, "The City's End: Two Centuries of Fantasies, Fears, and Premonitions of New York's Destruction". Publisher Yale University Press provides this summary,



"Why have Americans repeatedly imagined New York's destruction? What do the fantasies of annihilation played out in virtually every form of

literature and art mean? This book is the first to investigate two centuries of imagined cataclysms visited upon New York, and to provide a critical historical perspective to our understanding of the events of September 11, 2001."

Rudolph Exhibit

An exhibit about the work of legendary architect Paul Rudolph curated by Timothy M. Rohan, associate professor of Art History and Architecture+Design, is on view at the Yale School of Architecture in New Haven, CT. It opened in November and continues until February 6, 2009.

"Model City: Buildings and Projects by Paul Rudolph for Yale and New Haven" focuses on 13 key designs and is the first scholarly exhibition of Rudolph's work. The exhibit is displayed in one of Rudolph's most famous projects, the renowned Art & Architecture building (1958-63), which was renamed Paul Rudolph Hall following the completion of its restoration last summer. www.architecture.yale.edu

Youth Program

by Kevin Chrobak AIA

Approximately 2% of architects and 2% of architecture students are African American. This is a

percentage which has remain unchanged and, to some extent, unchallenged for nearly fifty years. In an effort to take a few small steps towards increasing these percentages, I began a conversation with Steve Schreiber FAIA, director of the UMass Architecture+Design program and Cherylyn Hatchett, executive director of the Dunbar Community Center in Springfield. After several meetings, and a few drinks, we've hit the ground running, fueled in large part by Steve's ability to secure a \$30,000 grant from the UMass President's office.

On Dec. 13th, we held an introductory design charette at Dunbar for ten high school students who had expressed an interest in architecture. Led by Matt Emond, a UMass Architecture graduate student, the charette focused on exploring the design process. All in all, the four hours flew by, characterized by energy, humor, creativity and pride.

Our next steps will integrate the ten students into a spring semester UMass design studio whose project will be an urban community center. Students will collaborate with UMass students while familiarizing themselves with the nuts and bolts of an architecture education. Field trips will be scheduled to a variety of local buildings and offices. We continue to seek volunteers to mentor, in particular we are hoping to have several Springfield architects provide twice a week internships during the summer of 2009 to sustain and foster interest amongst these students. Volunteers, ideas and support of any kind is appreciated. Contact Kevin at kchrobak@justerpopefrazier.com.

Fame (But No Fortune)

Juster Pope Frazier Architects is pleased to announce that project manager Scott Tulay is the winner of a nationwide competition for architectural drawing.

The jury for the 34th Ken Roberts Architectural Delineation, Architectural Drawing & Illustration Competition ("KRob") in Dallas has recently selected Scott Tulay of Juster Pope Frazier Architects, Northampton MA as the winner of the Wiley Prize for Hand Delineation in the professional category. The KRob contest is the oldest active architectural drawing competition in the world. Scott Tulay submitted a charcoal and pastel drawing which examined the quality of filtered light through a local tobacco barn wall. Tulay's drawings of tobacco barns began a few years ago as precedent studies for Juster Pope Frazier's design of the recently completed Wesley United Methodist Church on North Maple Street in Hadley.

Scott Tulay is represented by Wunderarts in Amherst, as well as Guarari Collections in Boston.



HONORS

WMAIA Annual Meeting And Awards Dinner

On December 4th about 60 WMAIA members and guests met at the Blue Heron Restaurant in Sunderland for WMAIA's Annual Meeting and presentation of Design Awards. After a presentation from the evening's sponsor, National Vinyl, we enjoyed a fantastic dinner and good conversation.

Following desert, the "business" of the meeting was conducted. The slate of officers for the WMAIA board was presented and the group unanimously voted for Bill Austin AIA, President, Thomas RC Hartman AIA, President Elect; Christopher Farley AIA Secretary; and Jeremy Toal AIA, Treasurer.

The centerpiece of the evening was the presentation of awards. Chapter president Bill Austin AIA presented a \$500 student scholarship to Michael

Luft-Weissberg AIAS, an architecture student at UMass (see Page 9).

Bill then followed with a heartfelt appreciation of his former professor Arnold Friedmann. Dr. Friedmann received WMAIA's' first ever honor award for his contributions to architecture and design in western MA. While "retired", he continues to be active and is a passionate advocate for high quality design (see below).

The presentation of the biannual WMAIA Design Awards closed out the night. Fourteen projects by eight firms were submitted, representing a broad range of building types, styles and budgets.

We were fortunate to have a wonderful jury (short bios can be found on the right). Jurors Michael Crosbie and Kathleen Dorgan were able to join us at the meeting and spoke highly of the quality of submissions overall. Jury comments can be found along with the projects on the following pages.

Thanks To Our Jurors

Michael J. Crosbie PhD, AIA is the Chairman of the Dept. of Architecture at the Univ. of Hartford. He has served as technical editor for *Architecture* and *ProgressiveArchitecture* magazines, has contributed to many other journals and has authored dozens of books. He is currently editor-in-chief of *Faith & Form*. He previously practiced with Centerbrook Architects and consults with Steven Winter Associates.

Kathleen Dorgan, AIA, LEED AP is principal of Dorgan Architecture & Planning in Storrs CT. Trained as both an architect and an urban planner, she has contributed to the development of incremental strategies for neighborhood renewal and community building. Ms. Dorgan is active in local and national volunteer groups and is a frequent speaker, university instructor and writer.

Leslie Thomas AIA is a principal with Thomas Bracy Architects in Concord, NH. She is active in the AIA, having served as National Board New England Regional Director from 2004-07.



Arnold Friedmann accepts his award.
photo by Erika Zekos Assoc. AIA

Arnold Friedmann

Arnold Friedmann, professor Emeritus at UMass Amherst was presented the WMAIA's first-ever honor award for outstanding contributions to the fields of architecture and design in western MA.

Friedmann, was born in Nuremberg, Germany in 1925 and came to the United States via Israel in 1947. He apprenticed as a cabinet maker and furniture designer in New York and attended Brooklyn Museum of Art School and Pratt Institute. He began teaching in 1954. He published *Critical Study of Interior Design Education* in 1968 and became a major moving force in the field of design education. He joined the UMass faculty in 1972 and retired in 1990. Throughout his career, he has worked to professionalize interior design education, while at the same time his practice and teaching have focused on the, "personalization of living spaces to enhance the quality of life by good design." He believes that design, "is based on the solution of problems, function, and an attempt to provide supportive environments for every project." This, combined with an effort to create aesthetic beauty creates high quality spaces. Arnold has received countless awards and accolades and WMAIA is proud to be counted among his many admirers.

Honor Award

Great Barrington House (Great Barrington)
Dietemann Design (Great Barrington)

Jury comments: The interiors are wonderful. Great use of color. Huge value for a modest home. Uses the site very well. The idea is well realized and detailed. Enjoyed the caboose imagery. The house has a wonderful sense of humor to it. Sustainable features such as a natural landscape instead of a lawn and a location near town. Built on a site that was considered a "throw-away."



photo by Gregory Cherin



photo by Scott Barrow Photography

Honor Award

Rocky Hill Cohousing (Florence)
Coldham&Hartman Architects (Amherst)

Jury comments: This is a very successful project. It has a wonderful, strong sense of community. The way the collection of building steps up the site creates a very human scale. The interiors of the common areas relate well to the scale and quality of the exterior. It has everything that people want out of a place to live - neighborly, community, sense of scale and living sustainably. The use of color and texture is great - there is a lot of individuality/unique identity. It has a very organic feel. It appears to have grown over the years. Plans are wonderful - rational and well thought out.

Merit Award

Chicopee Health Center (Chicopee)
Juster Pope Frazier LLC (Northampton)

Jury comments: The jury appreciated this project- the bombed out strip mall made good. The interior is uplifting. The skylighting and colors are great. Progressive approach to this type of building. Fantastically high-quality project and another good reuse of an existing building.



photo by Juster Pope Frazier LLC



photo by Peter Mauss ESTO Photographics

Merit Award

1290 Studio and Residence (Amherst)
Sigrid Miller Pollin AIA (Amherst)

Jury comments: It has many green features. Very successful use of interior materials and color. The fact that the furniture is designed by the architect adds to the coherence of the building. Excellent use of site lines to connect spaces within the structure. Good integration between interior and exterior and framing of the landscape.

Award Submissions

These projects were also submitted for the WMAIA Design Awards. Here are some of the jury's comments on the award submissions: *Good quality overall – all the submissions were deserving of consideration. A lot of proficiency in design detailing and construction. Re-use is a good trend in sustainability. A strong sense of regionalism in the work, which was laudable. The projects that really stood out were ones that thought out how the building met the ground and integrated with the landscape. We saw good public buildings - good work for people of more limited means. In general the projects were not about big-budgets and unlimited resources. There was a lot of environmental awareness. We came away from this convinced about the value of architects and design.*



Wendell Free Library
(Wendell)
Margo Jones Architects, Inc.
(Greenfield)

photo by Paul Franz



Gordon Hall
(UMass Amherst, Amherst)
Sigrid Miller Pollin AIA (Amherst)

photo by Paul Franz

Wendell Town Office
(Wendell)
Margo Jones Architects, Inc.
(Greenfield)



photo by photo by Peter Mauss ESTO Photographics



New Police Headquarters
(Rockport)
Reinhardt Associates, Inc.
(Agawam)

photo by Reinhardt Associates, Inc.

Wesley United Methodist Church
(Hadley)
Juster Pope Frazier LLC (Northampton)



photo by Juster Pope Frazier LLC



Luso Federal Credit Union
(Ludlow)
Juster Pope Frazier
LLC (Northampton)

photo by Juster Pope Frazier LLC



Hillside House
(Great Barrington)
Dietemann Design
(Great Barrington)

photo by Gregory Cherin



Elihu Thompson Administration Building
(Swampscott)
Reinhardt
Associates, Inc.
(Agawam)

photo by Reinhardt Associates, Inc.



Paradise Copies
(Northampton)
Metcalf Associates
(Northampton)

photo by Tristram Metcalfe AIA



Easthampton Savings Bank
(Westfield)
Dietz and Company
Architects (Springfield)

photo by Bruce Martin



Student Award

WMAIA's student scholarship was awarded to Michael Luft-Weissberg AIAS. Michael is BFA student in UMass Amherst's Architecture+Design program. He plans to graduate in 2009. Besides being an excellent student, Michael is active in the community. He is President of the AIAS chapter, sits on the WMAIA board, is VP of the Academic Honesty Board of the Ombudsman's Office. As if that weren't enough, he's also a VP of his fraternity, has volunteered with Nuestras Raices in Holyoke, participates in the University Jazz Ensemble and is minoring in Chinese. Congratulations Michael!

Home Energy Score

by Thomas RC Hartman AIA

At the last meeting of the WMAIA Executive Committee we discussed our participation within AIA Massachusetts, which is essentially the legislative affairs component for our membership. We hold three of nine seats and are proportionally well served for the size of our membership. So we asked the question... what's important to us and what should we put forward as a legislative issue for the coming year.

I've recently become interested in a portion of the newly passed Green Communities Act that was not passed into law. The bill was put forward by the Massachusetts Senate and almost became the first requirement by a state to have home sellers provide prospective buyers with an audit that shows the full energy costs of a home. Here's the original language of the bill:

SECTION 4. Chapter 13 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the following section:-

Section 97A. (a) The board of registration of home inspectors, in consultation with the state board of building regulations and standards, the division of energy resources and the energy efficiency advisory council, shall develop requirements and promulgate regulations establishing a home energy scoring program to require the scoring by licensed personnel at the time of sale of single-family residential dwellings and multiple-family residential dwellings with less than 5 dwelling units. The board of registration of home inspectors shall consider other state home scoring programs and any relevant federal programs when developing requirements and promulgating regulations.

(b) The board may include in its

regulations any provisions requiring sellers of such dwellings to provide potential buyers with copies of utility and, if applicable, oil heating bills for the dwelling for charges incurred during the prior calendar year; and, if the seller has not retained such bills, provisions requiring utilities and heating oil distributors to provide potential sellers billing information for the dwelling for charges incurred during the prior calendar year.

(c) The regulations shall include provisions for training and licensure; standards of professional and ethical conduct for home energy scoring personnel; and the establishment of reasonable fees for the services of such personnel, to be paid by the sellers or purchasers of dwellings.

(d) Before implementation of any regulations established under this section, the board of registration of home inspectors shall report to the senate and house committees on ways and means and the joint committees on consumer protection and professional licensure and telecommunications, utilities and energy on the anticipated added costs, if any, to sellers or purchasers of dwellings relating to the implementation of this section. The report shall include any recommendations deemed appropriate by the board, including, but not limited to, any added costs being absorbed by any existing energy efficiency program funding sources or mechanisms.

I've been told that it was defeated due to opposition by the realtors association. From the North Central MA Association of Realtors website this appears to be the case:

Mandatory Home Energy Score & Audit: S. 2468 S. 4 OPPOSE

The Senate version of the Comprehensive Energy legislation, S.2468, contains proposed language

in Section 4 which seeks to effectively mandate home sellers to perform a home energy audit at the time of sale and to provide results to potential buyers. MAR staunchly opposes this idea because a homebuyer who wishes to perform an energy audit is already free to do so; homeowners should not be required to perform this expensive test that has no data to prove it results in an increase in energy conservation.

The purpose of this article is to propose that WMAIA support a renewed and modified effort to have mandatory energy scoring on all homes in the state, and whether we want to put the agenda forward to AIA Mass for statewide approval. Given that the purchase of a home is typically the single largest investment of a family, it's amazing that the lack of information that one is provided at the time of sale about the operating costs. When I purchased my house, the realtor's sheet on oil and electricity consumption stated "n/a". So, I can obtain more information on the energy use of a dishwasher than I can on my house? We've all seen the labels on Energy Star appliances, this is what we need for houses. It's that simple. The label should be located on the electrical panel, and be either a badge of honor, or a reason to improve the building before it goes to market.

A precedent for this type of mandate is Title 5 for septic systems. The primary difference however, is that the Energy Score is simply information, and the bill that was defeated did not require that any modifications or energy upgrades be made to bring the house into a compliance standard. Title 5 on the other hand, requires the work be performed before a transaction can occur. We've come to accept this as a necessary hurdle to ensure underperforming septic systems are fixed. In due time perhaps our fossil fuel consumption will also meet this lowest standard of performance.

I'd like to propose that the Home Energy

Rating Score (HERS) rating be the simple standard that's used. The cost of which will need to be considered. Let's say it costs \$1,000 to perform the rating. Half of this cost could be paid for by the utilities' demand side management programs, the other half could be paid directly by the seller, but the cost could apply directly to a tax credit.

What is a HERS Index? A home energy rating involves an analysis of a home's construction plans and onsite inspections. Based on the home's plans, the Home Energy Rater uses an energy efficiency software package to perform an energy analysis of the home's design. The rater then conducts onsite inspections, typically including a blower door test (to test the leakiness of the house) and a duct test (to test the leakiness of the ducts). Results of these tests, along with inputs derived from the plan review, are used to generate the HERS Index score for the home. The HERS Index is a scoring system established by the Residential Energy Services Network (RESNET) in which a home built to the specifications of the HERS Reference Home (based on the 2006 International Energy Conservation Code) scores a HERS Index of 100,

while a net zero energy home scores a HERS Index of 0. The lower a home's HERS Index, the more energy efficient it is in comparison to the HERS Reference Home.

Each 1-point decrease in the HERS Index corresponds to a 1% reduction in energy consumption compared to the HERS Reference Home. Thus a home with a HERS Index of 85 is 15% more energy efficient than the HERS Reference Home and a home with a HERS Index of 65 is 35% more energy efficient. The last two homes tested from Preferred Building Systems were rated at 51 and 45 making them 49% more efficient and 55% more efficient than the HERS Reference Home.

An Energy Star compliant home scores an 85. My house, built in 1913 with upgraded insulation, still having the original windows, and a 2.2 kw pv system probably scores slightly above 100. (I guess I better have the audit done now!) A really old home with no improvements at all might score 130 or more.

So what does this mean for architects? Why would the realtors oppose this measure? What do home builders and renovation contractors think about this? For architects and contractors, I think it can translate directly into new business opportunities. For someone who has an old leaky inefficient house, they certainly know that it uses a lot of energy when they pay the bills each month. Simply having to perform the audit may cause them to DO the improvements before the audit is performed. They will need construction professionals who know how to make a difference. Others may simply use the HERS score as a negotiating strategy in the purchase of a house, and then plan to improve the situation after they become the new owners. Eventually the rating will become a factor in the appraisal methodology. Our firm has been discouraged at the inability of the standard valuation methods to include reduced operating costs and comfort levels.

This is an exciting opportunity to unify as the voice of WMAIA, take this issue to Boston and utilize our strength within AIA Mass to make the changes that will improve our built environment. If you think it's worth pursuing, we'll take it to AIA Mass. From there to the builders, then the realtors...

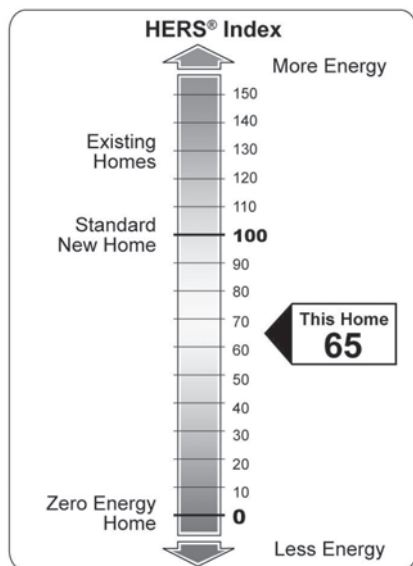
What do you think? Please contact me with support or concerns at Tom@ColdhamAndHartman.com.

Nice Work If You Can Get It

Kerry L. Dietz AIA, principal of Dietz and Company Architects of Springfield served as a Housing Affordability expert with the Sustainable Design Assessment Team (SDAT) in Kaua'i, Hawaii. The AIA's SDAT program provides broad assessments to help frame future policies and sustainability solutions in communities around the country.

CET Project Manager / Trainer

The Center for Ecological Technology (CET) seeks an individual with experience in energy efficiency, renewable energy, and/or green building to manage projects and teach workshops and classes. This is a full-time salaried position based in Northampton or Pittsfield with regular travel to locations throughout western MA. CET is a 30-year old non-profit organization with offices in Pittsfield, Northampton, and Springfield. To apply, go to www.cetonline.org/AboutCET/job_openings.php.



An example of the HERS Index graphic

Conversation With Bruce Fowle

by Erika Zekos Assoc. AIA

I had an opportunity this fall to attend a lecture in Pittsfield by Bruce Fowle FAIA LEED, Senior Partner of FXFOWLE Architects of New York and Dubai. His office has designed many notably “green” buildings including the New York Times Headquarters (in collaboration with Renzo Piano Building Workshop). Bruce is a passionate advocate for sustainable architecture and is currently designing the new Housatonic River Museum in Pittsfield. His talk focused on the climate change crisis and the role of the built environment in it.

Bruce’s connection to western MA goes back a long way. He’s been coming here since he was a child and his first exposure to architecture as a profession happened while visiting a cabin that friends of his parents designed and built in South Egremont. He continues to visit the Berkshires from his home in New York City whenever possible.

In 2006 Bruce and Jenny Hersch (founder and board member of the Housatonic River Museum) were introduced by a mutual friend and he agreed to design a new building celebrating the cultural history and ecology of the river, past present and future. At their first meeting Bruce raised the idea of a net-zero energy building and of using the river as a metaphor for the paradigm shift that our culture needs.

What does “green” mean?

Bruce believes that a building must not have a negative impact on its community or natural environment. While LEED is a holistic program, it does have limitations. He likes to think beyond LEED and has developed the “FXFOWLE Index” – measuring environmental, social and economic conditions as well as energy use.



The first sketch we saw was one that Bruce had drawn while on a train heading up to the Berkshires in the winter of 2007. That concept went through many iterations and the design that closely resembles the current plan was settled on in the Spring of 2008. We feel so fortunate to be working with Bruce, the FXFOWLE team of architects and engineers and our exhibit designers at Roto Studio. Their enthusiasm for and their commitment to working together on this innovative project has made the process even more exciting.”

~ Jenny Hersch, Housatonic River Museum founder and board member

Elevation by FXFOWLE Architects

Design process

Jenny and Bruce wandered the City of Pittsfield looking for a site. The ideal location would be a destination zone within walking distance to downtown along the west branch of the river. A lot was purchased on Wahconah Street; a “mixed bag” of one to three storey residential and commercial buildings with a marked void around the existing historic baseball stadium. The 13,000 square foot museum will provide some urban fabric healing; acting as a new entry to the ballpark, but at the scale of the neighborhood.

The language of wavelike folded planes of the street wall and roof references the gable roofs of the neighborhood as well as supports the river design metaphor. The building’s primary façade is on the west side, along Wahconah Park, an extensive park along the river featuring wetlands and proposed canoe launch and walking trails. Like a crustacean – the exterior walls open up towards the park, revealing the internal forms through the façade.

Roto Studio of Dublin, OH is designing the program for exhibit and support

spaces and meets regularly with FXFOWLE to coordinate their efforts. Cascading levels allow all exhibits to be accessed by ramps, creating a meandering pedestrian experience and eliminating the need for elevators.

The design of the exhibits themselves is underway. The underlying idea is to create an immersive, repeatable experience that builds awareness and respect for the natural environment while appealing to all ages. Current concepts range from watersheds to the water cycle, erosion to estuaries, water power and water pollution, river industry and river poetry, source to sound.

Celebrating sustainable design features

The building is expected to achieve LEED Platinum certification and to be carbon neutral as well. Bruce said that it’s important to understand that if this was an office, retail complex or apartments a zero carbon goal would likely be out of reach. This project affords a unique opportunity to shape the building as site choice, design and program all developed together.

A major design goal is to not have to purchase carbon offsets, but there are still many unknowns. The plan is to use a broad combination of energy reduction strategies. The museum will use extremely efficient low energy lighting. This is a big challenge because LED lighting for the museum environment is still being developed. South facing roof area is being maximized for photovoltaics to offset the lighting energy use. The roof will also feature solar thermal for hot water and a prominent, rotating wind tower and cowl for natural ventilation and cooling as much as possible (although a backup cooling system will be required for the hottest days). The north facing roof facets will be planted with native succulents.

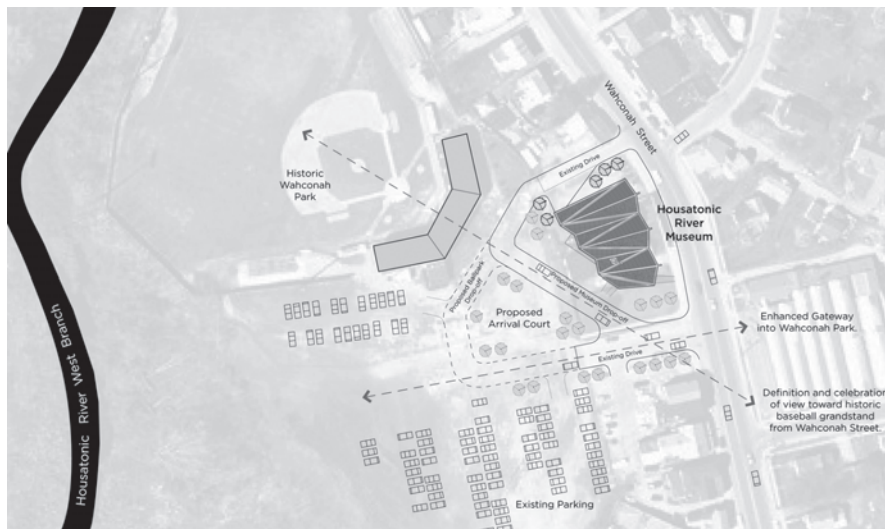
Geothermal energy is expected to help as well. There's limestone under the site and they feel positive about the dynamics. Lastly, wood pellets will be

used as necessary.

Because the building is in a flood plane it's raised up above the ground. They are exploring the creation of a vernal pool below to assist natural cooling. A bio swale for waste water and runoff is also under exploration.

What's next?

FXFOWLE prides itself on, "Architecture that stimulates and inspires and tells a story of place." The Housatonic River Museum design certainly fits that description. It contends with Pittsfield's complex urban and natural environments in a way that manages to improve them both and that will become a model for the future. The Housatonic River Museum board and staff are continuing to build support and raise money for the project. If you would like more information go to <http://housatonicrivermuseum.org>.



"The Housatonic River Museum will be located a stone's throw from the West Branch of the Housatonic River and will integrate seamlessly with Historic Wahconah Park and an unusual amount of open, riverfront parkland in downtown Pittsfield. The building will certainly enhance the character and function of the neighborhood and will be an important demonstration of net-zero energy, zero-carbon and be a model of sustainable design.

~ Jenny Hersch, Housatonic River Museum founder and board member

Site plan by FXFOWLE Architects

Holyoke Box City

by Erika Zekos Assoc. AIA

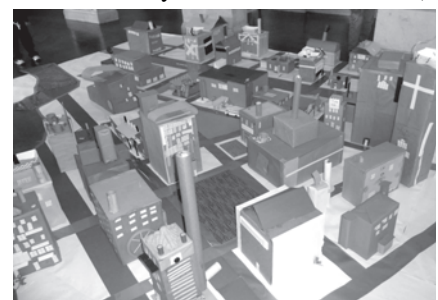
Recently nearly 100 second grade students from five classrooms at Sullivan and Kelly elementary schools in Holyoke

participated in a community design workshop sponsored by WMAIA. They worked with volunteer architects in their classrooms for five weeks to learn about what architects do, study their own neighborhoods, identify what makes a strong community and design a city of their own entirely from recyclable materials!

In 2006 WMAIA was awarded a "Blueprint for America" grant in celebration of National AIA's 150th anniversary. WMAIA used this grant to bring a Sustainable Design Assessment Team (SDAT) to Holyoke. A specially selected team of planners and architects came to the city to work with local administrators, designers, historians and community groups to begin the process of planning for the future. Additional city run South Holyoke focus groups were held in 2007 and 2008. This project for the young citizens of Holyoke was also supported by the grant.

On October 19 students gathered at Wisteriahurst to assemble a giant Box City made from all of their buildings.

As a program coordinator for Learning By Design, I had the opportunity to coordinate the project. Many thanks to volunteers Paul Davis and Andrea Michael (of Dietz and Co. Architects in Springfield) and Beccah Eldridge, Joan Fish and Lynne Panagotopoulos (of Steffian Bradley Architects in Enfield, CT).



WMAIA PROGRAMS

WMAIA Upcoming Programs

Programs under development for 2009 include: Accessibility Regulations; Energy Modeling; Low-Impact Development; Disaster Preparedness Training; tours of local buildings and a fall UMASS symposium on Greening the Valley.

Watch your inbox for WMAIA's monthly enews. The enews contains the latest information on programs, news and other happenings. If you have not been receiving this email, please contact director@wmaia.org with your current email address so that we can make sure you're on the list.

Watch your mail for more detailed program information and registration forms or just download what you need from our website at: <http://www.wmaia.org/programs/programs.html>.

WMAIA Program registrations should be sent to:

Lorin Starr
WMAIA Executive Director
71 South Main Street
Sunderland, MA 01375

or faxed to:
413-665-2424

For questions regarding programs or to offer ideas for future programs (always appreciated!) please email director@wmaia.org.

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