



WMAIAnews

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

Ready for Change

It seems that everywhere we turn we hear questions about the economy – When will it turn around? How is your firm faring? Do you have enough work? What are you doing to get through it?

The AIA has been working hard to put a positive spin on this downturn by publishing articles such as “How Firms Can Benefit from Hard Times” (by Rena M. Klein, FAIA) and to educate through webinars with titles like “Navigating the Economy, Strategies for Architects in an Economic Downturn” (see www.aia.org for links to both). They suggest managing short term problems by having a long term vision, getting in touch with your core values, and having the ability to change and reinvent yourself. Easier said than done!

Other, more accessible suggestions for strengthening your firm while work is slow include furthering your education, diversifying your practice, volunteering in the community, being innovative, doing a competition and developing a hobby into a new career. You’ll see examples of all of these throughout the pages of this issue of WMAIA news. From an article about how one local architect manages life as a musician, to reports about recent conference experiences to pieces on how others are reaching out to low income communities through housing initiatives to an article about an innovative design for prefab housing - you’ll be inspired and impressed by the ways western MA architects are defining success in this tough economy.

Grassroots 2009

by Thomas RC Hartman AIA

On February 6 - 8 Erica Gees AIA, Stephen Schreiber FAIA, and I attended Grassroots 2009 in Washington DC. Grassroots is the annual leadership and legislation conference of Presidents, Elects, and Directors of AIA components throughout the nation.

During that conference, members head to Capitol Hill on Advocacy Day to meet with their legislators to communicate the importance of the AIA issues agenda and strengthen relationships between Members of Congress and the architectural profession. This year’s

continued on Page 2



from left to right, Tom, Erica and Steve
photo by Vernon Woodworth AIA

Inside

Ready for Change 1
Grassroots 2009

OUR NEWS

Miller Pollin Elected FAIA 3
Volunteer! 3
AIA Convention '09 3

MISCELLANEOUS

Miami Insights 4
PeaPod Homes 4
Music Man 6
Congratulations 6
Cool Idea 6
Job Openings 6
Zero-E Challenge Update 7
Remembrance 7
Wisdom Way Solar Village 8

IN THE WORKS..... 9

COMPETITIONS

Socially Responsible Housing
Award 10
“Invent the Future” 10
Architecture for Humanity 10

IN THE GALLERIES 10

WMAIA PROGRAMS 12

OUR NEWS

Grassroots
continued from Page 1

event occurred during the Stimulus Bill, shortly after the House of Representatives had passed it's version of the bill, and while the Senate was in session. The cartoons from Peter Kuttner FAIA, of Cambridge Seven and member of the National Board, tell the story well, and he kindly offered them for our publication in the newsletter.

AIA GRASSROOTS WASHINGTON

PK 02/09 FOOTNOTES

NATURALLY FIRMS AT GRASSROOTS WERE ALL WORRIED ABOUT STAYING AFLOAT, BUT THE REAL FOCUS WAS ON SHARING PROGRAMS TO KEEP A WHOLE NEW GENERATION OF ARCHITECTS FROM DISAPPEARING...



The primary message brought to the Hill was to ensure that economic recovery funds the best designed projects. Having a “shovel ready” projects offer a chance to build, but not necessarily an investment in the future that is appropriate. Yes, we need to build, but build well and thoughtfully.

John Nunnari Assoc. AIA of AIA Mass organized our visits to the Hill, and Erica, Steve and I were joined by Vernon Woodworth AIA from the BSA. We visited staff of Representatives Stephen Lynch of Boston, John Olver of Amherst, and John Tierney of Salem. We were fortunate to have about a half an hour with each staff member (in our preparations the day earlier were told that we could expect to meet in the hall and potentially for only a few minutes). Erica Gees was truly amazing in all three consecutive meetings, well prepared, and made the “ask” several times. Afterwards we visited the new Capitol Visitor’s Center, which was excellent.

At the conclusion of our tour, Steve gathered tickets from Senator Kerry’s

office, and we were able to enter the Senate Chamber while they were in session. An interesting experience to understand that what happens in the chamber is really a show and a record, as opposed to the actual negotiations going on behind closed doors. The speeches being given ranged from mundane to inspiring, but few words reached the ears of the other Senators in the room. Their staff will brief them later...

We had very nice dinner together with all of the New England chapters, and beforehand I walked over a block to the White House, where although three weeks after the inauguration the bandstand and President Obama’s viewing booth was still being removed. The best part of the evening was the occasional shouts of “We love you!” towards the residence.

AIA GRASSROOTS WASHINGTON

PK 02/09 FOOTNOTES



The conference had several portions that focused on how the economy was affecting our profession, our firms, and us as individuals. The last major period of recession brought a reduction in the number of young architects who remained in the profession after the slow down. There was little good news

from the podium, in fact almost none. But there was hope and talent in abundance. The phrase “Dedication to hope and creativity” caught our attention, and the possibilities for the future were emboldened with a presentation by David Zach.

I spent the first morning after arriving by train in an orientation session to AIA National's programs and people. Jay Stephens, who is General Counsel, led the session and we were introduced to a new website being launched, the SDAT programs, resources available to chapters, continuing education staff, and membership benefits. The one thing I learned in this session from Jay, who is also working with WMAIA on it’s bylaw review, was about anti-trust laws and the implications of architects discussing fees with each other. Have a look at this article (www.info.aia.org/nwsltr_nacq.cfm?pagename=nacq_a_0708_pc_stephens), but essentially the concern is price fixing and that if architects get together and decide that we will do our work at a fee range, that we will be anti-competitive.

So, this means that none of us can talk about fees with each other, and is serious

business. Doing so is a felony! This notion honestly disturbs me, but I can understand the concern, the history, and the potential for price fixing. There are numerous fee surveys that have been prepared to learn about fee ratios so that we don’t live in a vacuum, and these have been carefully designed to maintain



anonymity of the firms, show a low and high, and indicate an average range.

At a session on working with the media, I learned that when talking with media, or even the public for that matter, say "American Institute of Architects", not just AIA. Don't take for granted that we won't be confused with an automobile association. Towards the end of the conference, I attended another session with Jay Stephens that was specifically focused on keeping our Chapter out of legal trouble and ensuring that we have all of the various policies in place beyond the by-laws, such as the Sarbanes-Oxley requirements. In the coming year, your executive committee will be working to ensure our obligations, and we will be asking for a membership vote at December's Annual Meeting.

In summary, the experience was inspiring and provided me with a much better appreciation of what AIA National and the various components and chapters do to support our profession. The organized effort of sending hundreds of architects simultaneously with a consistent message to each and every member of Congress was incredibly impressive and timely.

AIA Convention '09

The profession of architecture is in the midst of incredible change.

As our world becomes more complex and diverse, so too does our work. Attend the AIA 2009 National Convention and Design Exposition in San Francisco and experience the power of diversity for yourself from April 30 - May 2.

Learn how the architecture profession is adapting to rapid change, from new building products to innovations in design practice through more than 500 program offerings.

New this year - you can complement your convention experience on your own time. Whether you're joining in on-site or are unable to attend this year, be sure to check out the live video links to the theme presentations, plus on-demand video of 11 sessions on navigating the economy and sustainability. Go to: www.aiaconvention.com.

Miller Pollin Elected FAIA



Sigrid Miller Pollin, principal architect of **Miller Pollin AIA** and professor at UMass Amherst has been elected to the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Architects, a honor reserved for about 2% of the country's architects. Well deserved! Sigrid will be honored at the AIA annual convention in San Francisco in April.

Volunteer!

The Sustainable Design Assessment Team (SDAT) for Orange, MA is planning its first visit at the end of April. If you would like to be a part of visioning the future of this mill town please contact Martha Montgomery AIA at martha@montgomeryark.com.

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.

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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 the WMAIA Chapter, please contact Lorin Starr, Executive Director at director@wmaia.org.

MISCELLANEOUS

Miami Insights

by Martha Montgomery AIA

Although Miami is not my personal idea of heaven, it wasn't such a bad place to attend a conference in early March. The title got me. "Redefining the Architect's Role: Architects as Agents for Social Change". And I would have gone almost anywhere to hear and meet Cameron Sinclair of Architecture for Humanity.

Thursday evening the conference was launched with a reception at the local business underwriting the event – Coverings, Etc. – in their showroom of recycled, sustainable procured and/or reclaimed finish materials. These included beer bottle countertops, many versions of lava surfaces, fly ash boards, natural stone, etc., much of it beautiful and new to me. (I was curious how they justified shipping sustainable materials from Italy, however.)



At the Coverings Etc. reception
photo by Martha Montgomery AIA

The conference itself was one full day of lectures at the University of Miami in Coral Gables, Florida. (May I just say, 10 hours of straight lecture is too much). Their School of Architecture is housed, partly, in a 2005 Leon Krier building which served as our auditorium and classroom facility.



Inside the Leon Krier auditorium
photo by Martha Montgomery AIA

Friday's lectures began with Cameron Sinclair, and while there were many interesting presentations, his was by far the most interesting and dynamic. Sinclair described the phenomenon that is Architecture for Humanity (AfH), how the concept began and grew and where it is headed. He co-authored the book "Design Like you Give a Damn" for Architecture for Humanity with partner Kate Stohr. With the \$100,000 TED award in 2006, (www.ted.com/index.php/speakers/cameron_sinclair.html), he began the "Open Architecture Network" – "a global, open-source network where architects, governments and NGOs can share and implement design plans to house the world." His goal is to ensure decent housing for five billion unserved people who are currently choosing between water and food. Global disasters are typically the triggers for AfH's involvement, as they go where resources are minimal, but Sinclair says they view these as opportunities, not responsibilities. He claims not to offer relief or recovery, but to treat the clients

as partners and co-designers.

Currently, AfH is sponsoring a classroom design competition - a worldwide challenge with prize money for both the designer and the school involved (see **Competitions on page 10**). I'm hoping to beat you! There are AfH chapters in Boston, New York, Philadelphia and Montreal. I have made an inquiry about starting a chapter in western MA. Let me know if you have any interest, please. martha@montgomeryark.com.

PeaPod Homes

by Kathleen Lugosch AIA

For several years, the primary concern of Lugosch Architect, Inc. has been residential architecture.

I have found it both rewarding and difficult. It is particularly challenging to bring a custom designed home in on budget and within the architectural fee.

I have been looking at Pre-Fabricated residential architecture to understand the value of this potential alternative approach to residential architecture. It is alluring: design control, recycling of designs with relatively minor site and client modifications, better control of the construction budget.... One of my efforts in this direction has been the design and production of PeaPod Homes, a business generated through a partnership that includes Van Krzywicki, Business Manager, Mark Rittle, Sales and Production and, Lugosch Architect Inc., Design Team.

I fear that in the design profession we often eschew the business component of our work. If one is looking at prefabricated homes as a response that embodies the mission of transforming the construction of homes, overtaking

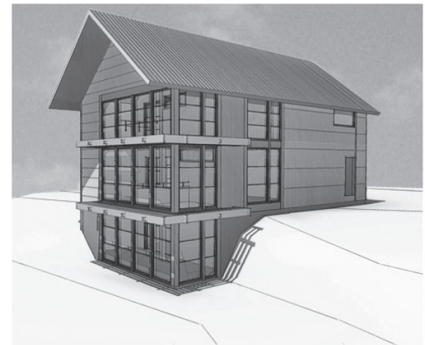
trends to energy and land gobbling houses, then market and salability must be considered as a significant part of design. We defined our buying market as the NPR crowd; a thinking crowd, a step to the side of main stream. We researched real estate marketing reports to identify programmatic elements that appeal to different demographics.

One trend noted was the tendency of families to change homes and neighborhoods as their housing needs shifted over times in response to changing family constellations: a couple, a family with children, empty nesters, in-law or family dependents, caretaker apartment, live/work studio. We determined to bring the potential for expansion, change and division into the base design of PeaPod Homes. We also made a very clear decision to design a house that would fit comfortably within an existing neighborhood, using imagery reminiscent of an American farmhouse. And, from the start, our goals included the reach to Zero Net Energy and LEED Gold.

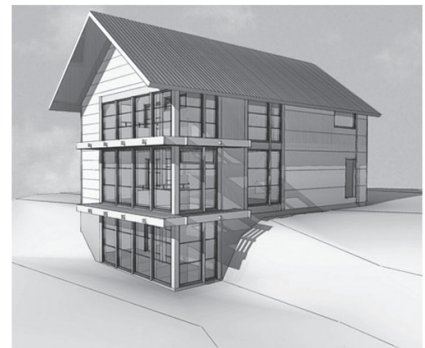
Distinct from a more typical design process, we immediately brought Dr. Charlie Curcija, mechanical engineer, University of Massachusetts Senior Research Fellow, principal of Design Builder Software, onto our design team, working together to model a house that from the start would merge systems, structure and forms. Our designs are based on a specific latitude with the

understanding that for optimal function, the house will need to be tuned for distinct latitudes and site conditions. We set as the initial criteria a hypothetical site that would have limited southern exposure forcing the question of whether we could model a house that would perform with only a narrow face to the south. Forms were modeled to work with the roll of sunlight over the year, systems were developed to integrate convection heating and cooling along with materials and structure, products were selected based on a precise study of quantity and placement of insulation, glazing, and solar mass. Our goal was to engineer our buildings from the start for optimum performance and for control of the construction dollar. We also paid close attention to build-ability. For these houses to meet the criteria of market acceptability, they need to be easily built. The package that we have designed will deliver all major structural, passive mechanical and enclosure components to the site for field assembly by a certified SIP contractor, giving the finish work to a local contractor of the client's choice, thereby assuring the homes will meet the defined performance criteria and also provide local employment.

Critical to the success of such an endeavor of pre-fabrication is the integration of design and production, the movement from CAD to parametric software and Building Information Modeling. Hernan Barufaldi, Lugosch Architect Inc. and graduate of the UMass Architecture + Design program directed the integration of BIM technology into our parametric CAD explorations. BIM is a critical tool that advances our reach as architects from merely designing a building into the specification and value engineering of materials and the sequence of production. It is essential to the development of pre-fabricated housing. BIM has given us the ability to work closely with our selected manufacturers, and to meet our stated design criteria of customizing our homes in response to client,



July 6 TH, 11:00 AM - Latitude 40



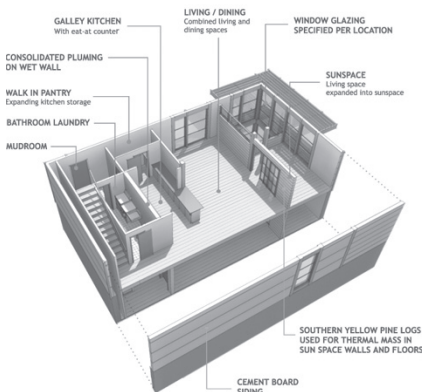
January 6 TH, 11:00 AM - Latitude 40

Summer and winter daylighting studies

drawings provided by Lugosch Architect Inc.

programmatic and site needs. BIM has revolutionized our ability as architects to amplify our reach as project designers with the result of a more coherent and streamlined design, production, and construction process. Barufaldi also spearheaded the development of our web presence, www.peapodhomes.com.

There is, however, one aspect to a deeply research based endeavor that must be noted: the upfront efforts require a significant commitment of time and office resources. This has been a tremendous investment for Lugosch Architect, far beyond what we had budgeted at the start of the project. We hope to offset these upfront costs through the sales and production of our homes, but I caution that this kind of speculative work, especially in today's market, should only be undertaken those who are wildly, maybe even blindly (but hopefully not foolishly) optimistic.



Layout of a PeaPod Home
drawing provided by Lugosch Architect Inc.

Music Man

Al Nardi, award winning architect and Past President of WMAIA has had the opportunity to see the world in an interesting way. First with the eyes of a Wright-Style trained professional for 30 years and then again with the eyes of a music composer/concert stage artist for the last nine years. Al has continued to practice both professions simultaneously, in western MA as well as Palm Beach, FL, and Brazil. You might call him a renaissance man. He is a trained chef and has owned and operated restaurants in Springfield and has built computer networks and websites for other firms. He is also sole parent to his two children and president of the school PTO.

When asked if there are any correlations between both professions, he usually laughs out loud and confesses... "perhaps more than the imagination could guess"...and oddly enough his thesis at the University of Notre Dame was creating music by precisely measuring the positive and negative spaces of classical structures and facades and transposing those measurements to music. "My music is the rhythm with which I energize myself to produce in the Architectural Office and my Architecture is the sophistication and balance that enters my musical compositions and arrangements." says NARDI.

NARDI, as he is referred to in the music world, has been a musician since age three and was taught by his father. He lost 95% of his hearing at age five to a childhood illness and although he never took formal music composition education he stayed with his music hobby. Having a minor degree in Electronic Engineering, NARDI has built his own sound system with special earphones that allows him to "feel" the frequencies he can not hear as well as hear the direction of his assistant back stage (similar to a football coach speaking to his quarterback). His coach

is his own son, A.W.Nardi, Jr., a mortgage broker and International Finance Student in Connecticut.

Nardi also confesses he borrowed the name "Nouveau" from the Architecture world to describe his new genre of music. Organic, flowing, interwoven sounds and rhythms, delicately detailed and yet a mastered cohesive artistic work. Nardi has released four CDs, including vocals which have been heralded as, "the most romantic music written in this century". He has been asked again to play in three cities in Brazil as well been invited for a first concert in Hong Kong. He has been aired on local television and radio as well. NARDI also does professional voice-overs for Radio, TV, and Internet Advertisers.

NARDI has furthered his Musical Career with a weekly Internet-Radio Program, now heard by listeners in 27 countries...during which he performs live his music, lyrics, and romantic stories which he calls "Minit-Romances". "Minit" because, he spins a full romantic story and original music with details offered from his audience within 60 seconds...and each story is completely ad-lib. Although 80% of his listeners are women many men also listen in. On Tuesday Nights, men email NARDI for "romance advice" and are usually answered in a rather humorous yet poignant way.

Recently NARDI has the opportunity to put all his talents to work in one project; the renovation of the Community Music School of Springfield, where not only his architecture can shine but he will be one of the performers for the opening of the New Performance Hall being built as part of the two million dollar renovation. He also recently opened "NOUVEAU-KIDS" where he broadcasts new talent in the area.

For the future, his hope is to be able to continue working for high end clientele in western MA and Palm Beach and to use his radio program to promote the

work of his fellow AIA members by interviewing them and broadcasting on non-music evenings. Join the 15,000 people who surf to his sites at www.nardimusic.com, www.nardi-live.com, www.minitromance.com, www.myspace.com/nardimusic, www.youtube.com/nardimusic, and www.nardi.name.

Congratulations

Kraus Fitch Architects of Amherst recently received a citation for "social sustainability" in the BSA Sustainable Design Awards Program. for their Jamaica Plain Cohousing, for which they were the programming architects.

Cool Idea

Looking for something to do? Why not spend a few minutes surfing on over to YouTube to check out one of this amazing house with a retractable roof... Wonder if this design would work in the New England snow? www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZxmvRDTEly8.

Job Openings

Sr. Mechanical Engineer, P.E. and Electrical Engineer Opportunities

RDK Engineers, an award winning MEP specialty firm providing total building systems solutions, is currently seeking Sr. Mechanical Engineer, PE and a Mid Level Electrical Engineer for our new Amherst, MA office location.

Visit our website and take a look at the innovative projects we are working on. If you're looking for a growth opportunity and a great place to work, then RDK may be right for you! 978-296-6315 or www.rdkengineers.com EOE M/F/D/V No agencies please.

Zero-E Challenge Update

March 19, 2009

by Jeremy Toal AIA

The Zero-E Challenge team has been working over the past several weeks to develop the Cape Cod or “inhabited attic” scheme for a three bedroom, one and a half bath home for Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity. We have spent much of our last two meetings tightening up the floor plans, discussing window configurations and siding materials and “the look” of the house. The decision was made to pursue a transitional look, both a bit traditional and a bit contemporary, using traditional forms and materials, but arranged and detailed in a more contemporary way.

We have also been spending our time discussing the wall and roof assemblies, looking at the various ways we can achieve our targets of R-40 walls and R-60 roofs. The challenge is in balancing the performance aspects – R-value, air-infiltration, vapor and condensation issues – with the cost and build-ability aspects...remember, this has to be built by unskilled volunteers as economically as possible.

The wall system approach we’re settling on is pretty straight forward, and has been built and proven in our region many times. The approach consists of a 12” thick double-stud wall system filled with dense packed cellulose insulation. This will yield an R-42 wall with relatively simple construction methods already commonly used by Habitat volunteers and will incorporate economical insulation material (recycled newspapers), and eliminate the thermal bridging effect of the studs.

Getting to our target for the roof assembly is somewhat more complicated. With a typical R-value of 3.6 per inch, we’d need more than 16”

of cellulose insulation. This would be easy if we had an unused, vented attic space – we could simply blow 16 or 18” of cellulose onto the floor of the attic, make sure we have an adequate space for ventilation beneath the plywood sheathing at the eaves, and a tightly caulked air barrier at the ceiling of the living space below. With our “inhabited attic” scheme, however, we’re forced to insulate at the roof rafters and we need to maintain headroom for the living space; mind all of the same performance aspects (air-infiltration, vapor and condensation issues) and also keep the costs and complication down. More on that solution and the results of our energy modeling in an upcoming update....

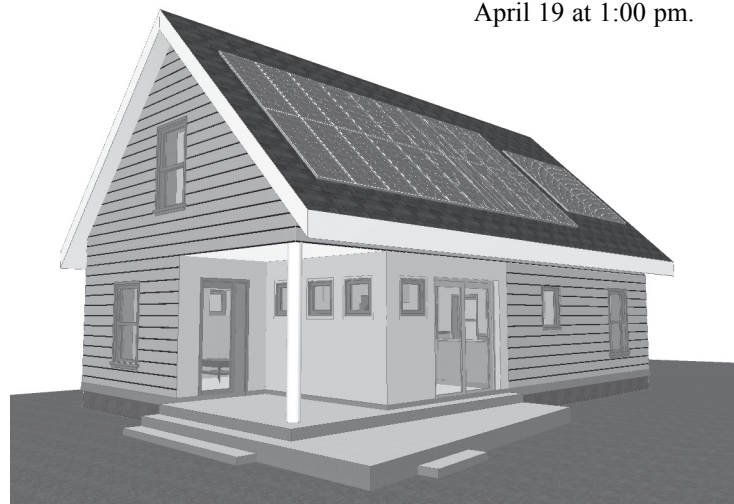
So with the scheme nearing completion, we’ll shipping the design off to Steven Winter Associates for energy modeling in April, present the scheme to Habitat’s Board of Directors for approval, and will then begin making plans for the construction process to begin late in the summer of 2009. Anyone interested 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.

Rememberance

by Lorin Starr Associate WMAIA

Architect Rich Morse passed away on March 2, 2009, he was 56. Although Rich was not a member of our chapter, he had an active practice in the area and served as a mentor to many young architects.

I had the privilege of working with Rich over the years on many committees in our town. Rich and I both served as library trustees and, additionally, whenever a committee was formed with the word “building” in it, we either volunteered or found ourselves appointed to it. Thus, we spent quite a bit of time together. His stewardship of our old library (the Graves building) and his involvement in the construction of the new Sunderland Public Library has left a lasting legacy. Rich’s dedication to the library and the town represented a great generosity of spirit. Indeed Rich was always generous with his knowledge and expertise; I know he helped me many times and I’m sure I was not alone. Rich’s own practice was primarily residential and was distinguished by a great sense of space, an appreciation for and encyclopedic knowledge of historic building details and an early and persistent interest in energy efficiency. A celebration of Rich’s life will take place at the Sunderland Public Library on Sunday, April 19 at 1:00 pm.



Perspective view of the Zero-E Habitat House drawing provided by Jeremy Toal AIA

Wisdom Way Solar Village

by Erika Zekos Associate AIA

I had a nice conversation with Anne Perkins of Rural Development Inc. (RDI) in Turners Falls last week as she waited at RDI's new Wisdom Way Solar Village for an Energy Star inspection.

Here's an introduction from their website (www.ruraldevelopmentinc.org/index-wwwv.htm): RDI, with the help of many partners, is building a village of twenty near Zero Net Energy homes near the center of Greenfield, MA called Wisdom Way Solar Village. Eleven of the homes are being built for low-income buyers, five are designated

for moderate-income buyers, and two will be sold on the open market. In addition two homes will be fully accessible for people in wheelchairs. These two homes will owned by RDI and rented to people with physical disabilities.

Bill Austin AIA and Chris Farley AIA of Austin Design along with Robb Aldrich of Steven Winter Associates have worked closely with RDI to ensure that the homes meet our stringent energy efficiency requirements.

WMAIA: Has RDI done any development on this scale before?

Anne Perkins: Yes, a 14-home subdivision in Montague in the late 1990's followed by a five home cluster in Montague. Since then we've done scattered site homes around Franklin

County – about 10 a year. We've built over 100 homes since the early 1990's, many of them highly energy efficient.

WMAIA: What are you proud of?

AP: Bringing energy efficiency to affordable housing, starting with Energy Star homes in 1999. Getting them ever more efficient and then adding renewables in 2004. We worked with Bill Austin to design a prototype "PV House" in 2004 and later he designed a home in Colrain which served as a prototype for Wisdom Way.

We are also proud of our collaboration with local manufacturers and the DOE Building America program. Through Robb Aldrich and that program our homes have served as research homes for the NREL (National Renewable Energy Lab). NREL helped us to research the energy efficiency of the windows on the Colrain house and compare them to others. We discovered that windows with a heat mirror sash outperformed the low-e glass, but our window manufacturer (Paradigm Windows) stopped producing the heat mirror option. We worked with Paradigm to meet our goal of a relatively high solar heat gain with a low U value, ending up with a triple-pane, krypton gas filled window with a U value of .18 on the north, east and west sides. On the south face we opted for a double-pane and reversed the low-e coating to allow heat in, not reflect it. These windows have a U value of .26. The process took an intense six months, but Paradigm was a great partner.

WMAIA: Have there been any hurdles in design and construction?

AP: We had initially hoped to have a cluster design with offsite parking, but Greenfield didn't have a zoning option that permitted this. The Fire Department also required a 26 foot wide roadway. So we went with a subdivision-style design on a cul-de-sac.

There were also design challenges involved with making the homes



Exterior view of two Wisdom Way units under construction this winter.
photo by Anne Perkins

"Several things appeal to me about this project. The energy efficiency... is the most important factor. It's a chance for me to really live my values of environmentally sustainable practices in a more tangible, yet comfortable way. Also, I think the project will lend itself to the establishment of a friendly and cooperative neighborhood which shares this common value. I am especially looking forward to working with others on a common garden and getting to know the neighborhood children at the shared playground. I also like that the neighborhood is designed for various income levels and is accesible to folks with physical handicaps. I believe that kind of diversity will provide opportunities to build social bridges where there is a tendency toward social barriers." ~ Jane Costello, Wisdom Way homeowner

Continued on Page 11

IN THE WORKS

"In The Works" is a regular feature of the WMAIA News. If your firm has new or recently completed work that you'd like to share with the readers then please send 300 dpi jpg images and a short project description to Erika Zekos, WMAIA news editor (studiozed@comcast.net). The deadline for the next issue is June 17, 2009.



Village at Hospital Hill Northampton, MA

Dietz & Company Architects of Springfield is currently in construction with this Phase II redevelopment project that features 40 new units of affordable rental housing at Village Hill Northampton. Phase II is part of a master planned community of commercial space, affordable housing and market rate housing at the former site of the historic Northampton State Hospital.

Six new buildings and a total of 40,800 square feet house the 40 units in a combination of town house units and flats. The design features one, two and three bedroom units; all with open floor plans. Efficient layouts, large windows for natural

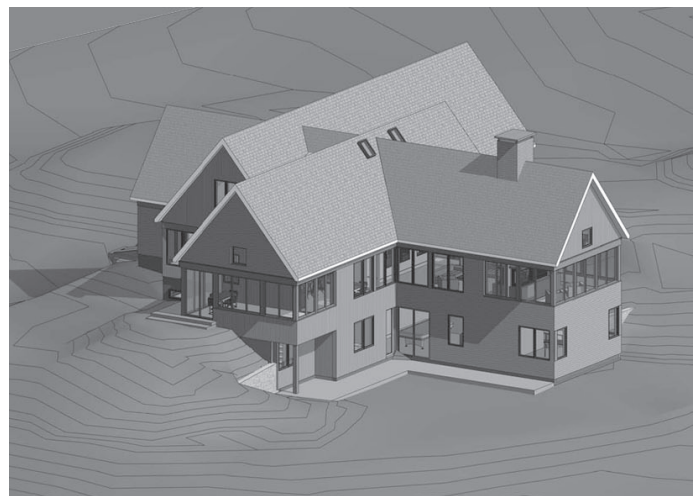
light and ventilation, as well as energy efficient details will make for extremely comfortable units. Green materials are being used wherever possible and roof-mounted photovoltaic panels will provide a portion of the electricity.

Each building's massing is varied and incorporates traditional design elements, which compliment Northampton's historic architecture, with modern materials and details. Buildings were sited to create both private and open public areas that will foster a sense of community among the residents in this pedestrian oriented neighborhood. The estimated completion date is April 2009.

Dichter Residence Becket, MA

Kuhn Riddle Architects of Amherst is designing the Dichter Residence to be built in 2009 on Yokum Pond in Becket, Massachusetts. The clients are looking for a home to share with family and friends, a "modern and whimsical" space that would have traditional bones, integrating it into the lake community.

As a variation on the classic gable roof, steeply-pitched gable volumes sit adjacent to each other and stretch towards the lake, while a third cross-volume intersects them to create a series of spaces looking out to woods and water. The massing of these forms translates to the interior spaces where 6/12 pitched ceilings meet at the center of the house to create a dynamic interior hip.



Where the volumes intersect, the corners are carved-out by tall windows, opening up the outside corners and the inside corner of the main living space. The corner concept carries through the many built-ins of the house, exemplified by the corner fireplaces and display niches.

COMPETITIONS

Socially Responsible Housing Award

The Clancy Award honors the decades of creative commitment that John Clancy FAIA brought nationwide to the planning, design and construction of multifamily housing for diverse populations at all income levels.

This award recognizes and encourages excellence in socially responsible urban, multifamily housing by honoring an organization, a group or an individual who has been a major force behind one or more built housing developments characterized by excellence in planning, design and construction. Entries are due April 23; find a detailed call for entries at www.architects.org/awards.

"Invent the Future" Building Challenge

Sponsored by Connecticut Science Center and LEGO Systems, Inc.

Imagine, design and build an invention everyone will want and/or need in 50 years. Models must be built using only LEGO® bricks and elements. The model does not have to work, but it should be a realistic representation.

Entries will be judged in five groups: individuals ages 6-9, 10-13, 14-17, 18 and up, and groups comprised of any ages. Entries will be judged by a panel of local celebrities. Judging will be based on: originality and creativity of design (50%); engineering, construction and detail of design (30%); description (20%). Finalists from each category will be announced in August.

See www.ctsciencecenter.org/legorules.php for more info on contest rules and prizes.

Architecture for Humanity 2009

Open Architecture Challenge: Classroom

According to the World Bank, educating all children worldwide will require the construction of 10 million new classrooms in more than 100 countries by 2015. At the same time, millions of existing classrooms are in serious need of repair and refurbishment.

Architects and designers are invited to work with teachers and students to design the classroom of the future for a school of your choosing. Your design should address the unique challenges your school faces in trying to provide smart, safe and sustainable learning spaces.

Share your design expertise and inspire school students to re-imagine their classroom. Help students learn about the built environment using a companion design curriculum. Become an advocate for better classroom design in your community.

Register by May 4, 2009 (deadline for submissions is June 1, 2009). The entry fee is \$25.00.

The jury consists of leaders in education and architecture (including students) and will be hosted online and at the 2009 Aspen Ideas Festival. Members include Dave Eggers, Michelle Kaufmann, Saul Griffith, Kigge Hvid and others.

If your design wins, your school will receive up to \$50,000 in funding for classroom construction and upgrading. You will receive a grant of \$5,000 to help them do it.

IN THE GALLERIES



Tulay Shows Drawings

Scott Tulay of Juster Pope Frazier will have a solo show at wunderarts Gallery in Amherst from April 25 to June 7, 2009. Opening reception Saturday April 25, 6:00 - 9:00 pm. Scott recently won first prize for hand delineation in the national KRob drawing contest.

**Wisdom Way
Continued from Page 8**

accessible. Two of the homes are fully accessible and all of them are accessible on the first floor. Ironically, the site was almost too flat.

WMAIA: What other efficiencies did you design in?

AP: For cost effectiveness we wanted to stay with an exhaust-only ventilation system. These are very tight homes (the first two have HERS ratings of 8 and 17) so ventilation is key. Our solution is a continuous air distribution system consisting of a whisper green fan running 24/7 in the first floor living room ceiling circulating air into the upstairs bedrooms. There's also a continuous exhaust vent from the main bathroom. In addition we have no central heating. Homes have a low BTU direct vent Monitor heater in the living room. The auxiliary effect of the air distribution system is that it moves heat as well. If the bedroom doors stay open NREL found that the bedrooms stay just a degree or two below that of the living room.

WMAIA: Did you manage to keep costs low?

AP: The houses cost about \$160 per square foot (and this includes the pv and solar hot water). When we include the infrastructure (road, sewer, landscaping, etc.) it's about \$215 per square foot.

WMAIA: Are you also aiming for a LEED rating?

AP: At this time we're two points over the requirements for LEED Platinum (if

the USGBC accepts all the points). So we are assured of at least LEED Gold.

WMAIA: Given the economy, how are sales?

AP: The news is that all kinds of buyers are attracted to this way of living. Nine of the 20 units are sold or under agreement. Sales are way ahead of the construction schedule, so we haven't been doing active marketing over the winter. However, I do think the economy is affecting potential buyers; without the downturn we would have even more. Because we have accepted State and Federal funds, buyer's lotteries were mandated for the subsidized low and moderate income homes to assure Fair Housing; the next one is scheduled for May 15. Because we had involved buyers in the design process the state did allow some buyers "pre-lottery."

Two homes are already occupied, six foundations are in (making another 12 homes ready for occupancy as soon as this fall).

WMAIA: Have you had to educate buyers about a "green mindset"?

AP: Our buyers are people who have been conserving already. They're ready

to live in efficient homes, but have to re-learn how to live comfortably without having to sacrifice. Out of habit one owner was turning his heat way down to conserve energy and save money – which is counterproductive in these homes!

WMAIA: What did you gain by staying local with design, construction and materials?

AP: We use local professionals and suppliers as much as possible. This leads to good relationships and supports the local economy. Personally, I have been in the building business for a long time, in fact, I was a carpenter first. In the early eighties when a local food coop was building a new solar greenhouse, Bill Austin was the crew leader and I was on his team. We got along great and I am so happy to be working with him again. I think personal relationships are key; that's what makes my day. I'm a true believer in getting everyone's input; electricians and plumbers aren't always invited into the conversation and it gives them an investment in the process and the outcome.

If you are interested in advertising in WMAIA news contact Lorin Starr at director@wmaia.org for more information.

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WMAIA PROGRAMS

WMAIA Upcoming Programs

Jurisdiction 521 CMR Section 3

April 13, 2009

9:00am-12:00 noon

Sunderland Public Library

Presented by: Thomas P. Hopkins,
Executive Director Architectural
Access Board
3 HSW

Deep Energy Retrofits

May 18, 2009

(time & location pending)

Presented by: Marc Rosenbaum, PE

Tour of the new Tadao Ando building at the Clark Museum

June 10, 2009

Stone Hill Center, The Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute
Williamstown, MA
2LU (approval pending)

Forum on the Economy

WMAIA is in the planning stages of a program addressing the local economy and the impact on the profession. If you have suggestions regarding issues that would be relevant to you and your practice, please contact Lorin Starr at director@wmaia.org

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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