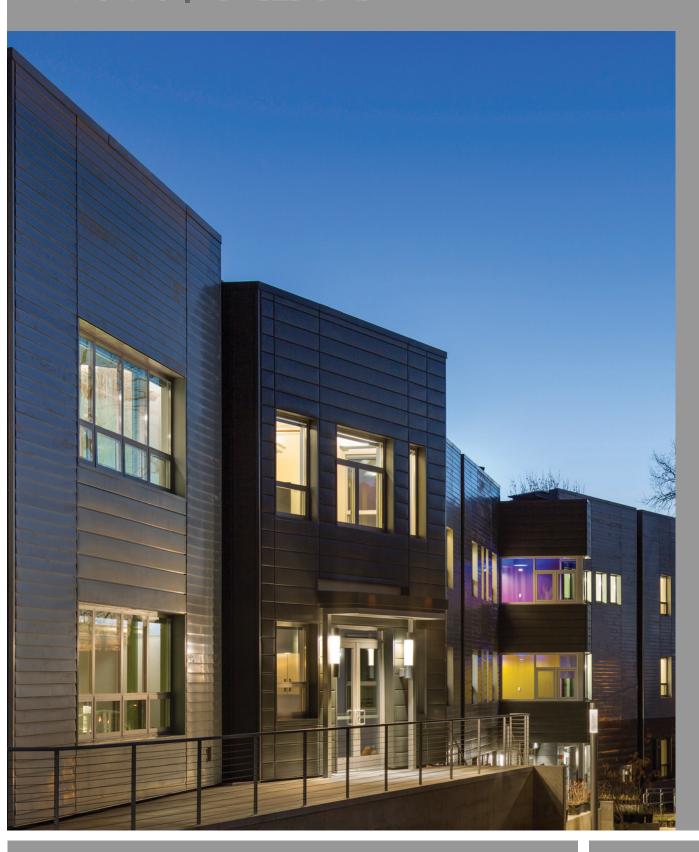
# WMIAIA



## **NEWSLETTER OF THE WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER**

## **AIA NATIONAL 2017: ORLANDO**

#### **HELEN FONTINI AIA**

I believe that the Institute was "woke", as evidenced at this year's AIA convention which I happily observed through keynote speeches, educational sessions and the even business meeting. I was privileged to attend this year's AIA convention, April 26-29, on behalf of WMAIA.

This year's election for national offices were fewer and less contended than last year, however, I was proud to represent Western Mass in voting for candidates and at the annual business meeting. While offices for treasurer and president-elect/first vice president were uncontested, the At -Large Director position featured two candidates: Dan Hart from Texas, and Emily Grandstaff-Rice, FAIA, from Boston. It has been widely reported through the AlA's published statistics that while about half of architecture students are female, only about 25% remain in the profession. Just 17% of women are firm principals and partners. Due to her work leading the Equity in Architecture Commission, Emily felt compelled to throw her hat in the ring for this important board position. New England worked to consolidate its votes and provide proxy voting for those chapters whose members could not make it to convention in time for the voting to help attain full New England support for Emily, who won the position. She will provide a strong voice on the board from New England; we are all thrilled that she will have this opportunity.

So back to my assertion about woke. My prior experience this the business meeting was that it was fairly dry and administrative. However, this year's meeting included a resolution entitled "Where Architects Stand," that restates the AlA's priorities related to public health, safety and welfare, equity and diversity, and included an acknowledgment that we have a role to play in mitigating the effects of climate change. That resolution, along with one proposed by the California Council which addressed "housing humanity" was resoundingly passed. All of these values take on a more potent meaning in the wake of the Grenfell Tower disaster in London.

The conference's day one keynote was particularly inspiring. The prompt, "anticipate need," was aptly addressed by four practitioners, beginning with Francis Kere, born in Burkina Faso, trained and currently practicing in Germany.

Kere observed, "I am truly a privileged person" and has striven to make use of that privilege returning to his homeland to design and help train local people to construct the Gando Primary School. Michael Murphy of MASS Design Group discussed his work with the goal to make "buildings that can heal", showcasing his Butaro District Hospital in Rwanda and Cholera Treatment Center in Haiti. Chilean architect Alejandro Aravena, 2016 Pritzker Prize winner, demonstrated how clever use of geometric thinking on a tight urban site resulted in maximizing housing for low income people enabling them to live where the opportunities are. Aravena's firm, Elemental, has posted drawings for four of its low-cost "incremental" housing projects on its website for free download. And finally, Elizabeth Diller showcased her firm's project in development: the Shed, a flexible, multidisciplinary arts venue that uses gantry crane technology to transform an urban site from either a indoor or outdoor venue. Diller asserted that, "architects can be activists," and need not wait for programs from others.

As if the day couldn't get any better, the mid-day keynote featured a conversation with Michelle Obama, her first public appearance since leaving the White House. Institute President Tom Vonier did a really nice job engaging the former FLOTUS in conversation that was at times meaningful, and at others light and fun. For instance, we learned that the Obama's dogs, Sunny and Bo, had never heard a doorbell before, and the Obama's friends continue to be amazed that Michelle opens the front door herself. She also unequivocally ruled out a run for office noting the toll taken on the entire family. She will, however, continue to fight for the causes she believes in.

My time at A'17 was rounded out by a tour of Seaside, still a vibrant example of New Urbanism, though showing some signs of strain struggling to ensure that lower income people have the opportunity to live there; and sessions about using research in practice and doing pro bono work. All in all, this year's was a really inspiring and productive convention.







## OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

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#### THE WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

THE WMAIA NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED FOUR TIMES A YEAR. IT IS CIRCULATED TO ALL MEMBERS, ADVERTISERS AND SUBSCRIBERS. PLEASE DIRECT ALL NEWSLETTER CORRESPONDENCE TO RACHAEL CHASE ASSOCIATE AIA, AT EDITOR@WMAIA.ORG. ARTICLES, PHOTOS, NOTICES OF EVENTS AND OTHER INFORMATION ARE WELCOME. OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN THE NEWSLETTER ARE NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF THE WMAIA. KERRY BARTINI AIA

**COVER PHOTO: PETER MAUSS ESTO PHOTOGRAPHICS** 

#### WMAIA FELLOWS MEET AT THE UMASS DESIGN BUILDING

On June 1, 2017, the first gathering of Western Mass Fellows from AIA, ASLA, and AICP was held on the roof garden at the UMASS Design Building. Organized and hosted by Steve Schreiber FAIA, the event was an opportunity for our fellows to meet "in region" with colleagues from landscape architecture and regional planning. A dinner was followed by a presentation on the new Design Building by architect Josiah Stevenson FAIA of Leers Weinzapfel.



Mark Lindhult FASLA, Josiah Stevenson FAIA, Kathleen Lugosch FAIA, Wayne Feiden FAICP. Sigrid Miller Pollin FAIA, Jack Ahern FASLA, Ann McCallum FAIA. Andrus Burr FAIA, Margo Jones FAIA, Doug Engebretson FAÏA, Robert Ryan FASLA, Steve Schreiber FAIA Front Row: John Mullin FAICP, Harry Dodson FASLA. Bruce Coldham FAIA, Julius Fabos FASLA

About Fellowship: The AIA confers "Fellowship" on individual architects who have been deemed by their peers to have shown distinction before the public and the profession as a model architects. Only 3 percent of the AIA members have this distinction (more in Western Mass!). Interested in pursuing Fellowship? Contact director@wmaia.org

#### WMAIA

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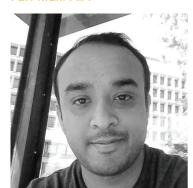
LAWSON WULSIN ASSOCIATE AIA



## CONGRATULATIONS UMASS M.ARCH STUDENTS!

Department of Architecture at the University of Massachusetts Amherst

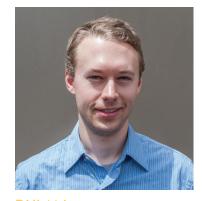
NYC 2050 Thesis Advisor: Pari Righi AlA



ABHINAV BHARGAVA

THE PERFORMANCE OF LIGHT

Thesis Advisor: Ajla Aksamija AlA



DYLAN BROWN

## RENOVATION OF A REMOTE HISTORIC VILLAGE

Thesis Advisor: Pari Riahi AlA



JIE Chen







### MASTER OF ARCHITECTURE

## CONGRATULATIONS UMASS M.ARCH STUDENTS!

## A PATH TO RESILIENCY Thesis Advisor:



LUKSZ CZARNIECKI

## HUMANITY IN A CHILDREN'S CANCER HOSPITAL

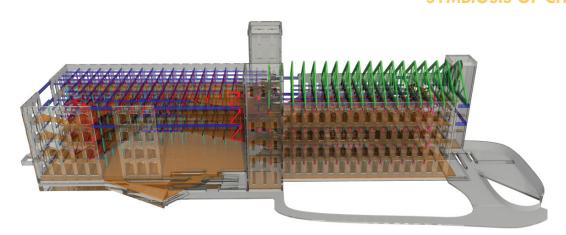
Thesis Advisor: Ajla Aksamija



SARA JANDAGHI JAFARI

#### **SYMBIOSIS OF CHURCH AND COMMUNITY**

Thesis Advisor: Caryn Brause





**LVAN**JANES

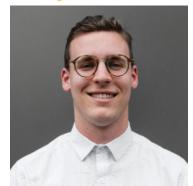
v



## **CONGRATULATIONS UMASS M.ARCH STUDENTS!**

epartment of Architecture

A VISIBLE HISTORY Thesis Advisor: Max Page



**JEFFWAY** 

**REVITILIZATION:** THE NIPMUC TRIBE AND BLACKSTONE RIVER Ray Mann

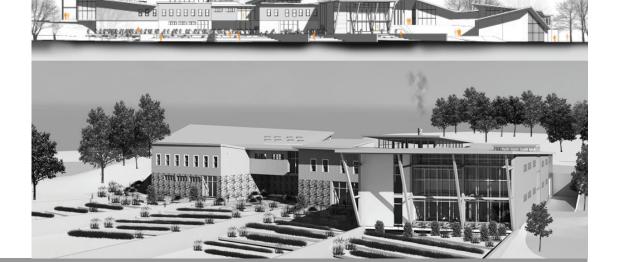


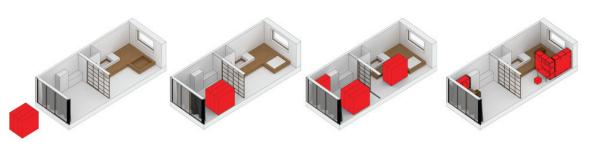
**ANDREW STADNICKI** 

### **Z-CUBE: MOBILE LIVING FOR FEMINIST NOMADS**









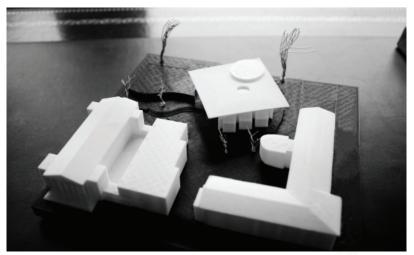


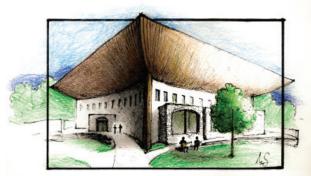
## **STUDENT WORK**

## **WILLIAMS COLLEGE**

The existing music center, a Brutalist concrete block, offers little space for creativity in the College community. Practice rooms are cramped and windowless, and storage is lacking, with no appropriate space for musicians to hang out, study, and jam. In assigning rooms, departmental groups and music courses take priority, limiting opportunities for student bands and a capella groups to rehearse and perform.

My project provides a much-needed forum for creative collaboration, a building imbued with the spirit of musical counterpoint and spontaneous expression. Bursting out of the quad, curved walls and a jutting polished wood canopy draw in students; a curving exterior stair doubles as an informal amphitheater. Inside, gentle arches à la Ito's Tama Art University Library compartmentalize the large gathering space, whose ceiling swoops upward nine feet to the east wall. A stair mimicking the shape of the building envelope arcs through a skylit hole cut through all ceilings. Three large rehearsal halls jut like piano keys into the quad, and a triple-height, skylit oval hall provides a multifunction arena for student performances, coffee houses, and dance events (stone walls scatter sound). Music lockers and a dozen practice rooms, each with a view of the surrounding trees and mountains, line the MAX SOPHER '17 perimeter of the top floor.







your next project, contact your Western Massachusetts Marvin Representative:

Stephen Hoyt at 413.923.8321 or shoyt@awhastings.com





## **SMITH COLLEGE** PROFESSOR: KAROLINA KAWIAKA

## **STUDENT WORK CLASS OF 2017**

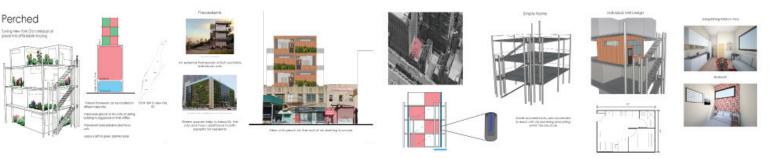
#### AMANDA LAVOND



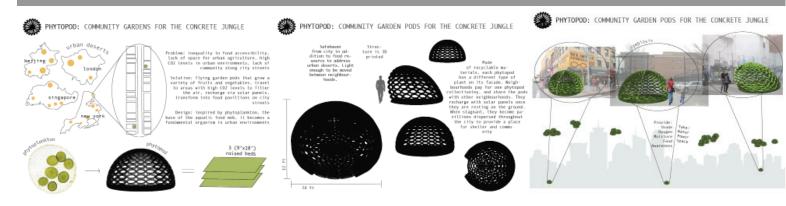




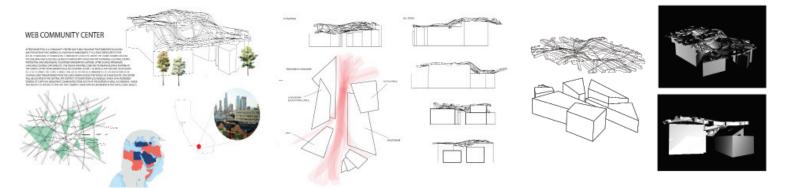
#### AUDREY RING



#### JULIA FRANCHI SCARSELLI



#### FIONA TWIFORD



## **STUDENT WORK CLASS OF 2020**

## **SMITH COLLEGE**

PROFESSOR: JAMES MIDDLEBROOK

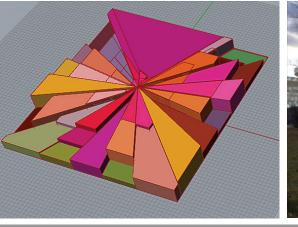
#### **PARAMETRIC DESIGN**

#### INTRODUCTION TO ARCHITECTURE

#### **FALL 2016**

Students were asked to design a three-dimensional form by using the Grasshopper parametric add-in for Rhinoceros 5 modeling software. This configuration allows each designer to create a script that algorithmically produces a result in virtual space. Each students' final project is anchored on the Ada & Archibald MacLeish Field Station site in Whately, MA. The design must accommodate visitors to the site and relate their physical presence to the virtual landscape; as such, the design should respond to the context in some way – this could include the social, cultural, historical, technological, or environmental aspects. The design is based upon an algorithmic system defined in Grasshopper and was uploaded through the Augment application; this allows it to be visible through any smartphone so long as you have the app.









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## **VOICES FROM THE FIELD**

**UPDATE + REQUEST FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION** 

### **CARYN BROUSE AIA**











In 2013, the University of Massachusetts Amherst Department of Architecture was selected as a recipient of the 2013 NCARB Award for the proposal, Voices from the Field: From Design Concept to Reality. A primary goal of the Award was to increase meaningful interaction between students and non-faculty architect practitioners. Since its pilot in Spring Semester 2014, the course has been offered three times and has enabled students to get out in the field and see the incredible variety of work being built in the region. I'm pleased to report that the course was subsequently awarded a 2016 AIA/ACSA Practice + Leadership Award, which recognizes best practice examples of highly effective teaching, scholarship, and outreach in the areas of professional practice and leadership.

The course examines active building projects in our region, Western Massachusetts, and on the UMass Amherst campus. The initial objective of the course was to bridge education and practice by increasing students' understanding of the relationship between concept design and technical execution. Whereas constructability was certainly a primary focus, the intention was to expose students to the complex web of factors that go into taking design decisions to realization. Testing the course format across varied project types, delivery methods, and project scales also addressed a much larger realm of concerns than initially hypothesized. The focus of the course has thus expanded, with an increasing emphasis on examining the connection between the quality of collaborative working relationships and the successful manifestation of design intent.

The structure of the course combines classroom time with fieldwork. During the semester, students visit five projects and spend approximately half of the allotted course time at construction sites, and the other half of the allotted course time preparing for these site visits. First, students review project documentation to understand its role in communicating design detailing for construction. Then, they attend site visits with project agents such as architects, construction managers, owner's project managers, and engineers.

This enables students to gain direct experience of the construction process and to become familiar with roles of various agents during construction.

While the course structure has been successful in delivering an integrated understanding of professional practice topics, there are some lessons learned help create a particularly enriching semester. First, exposing students to a diversity of construction phases is a priority. Students were best able to understand the transformation of the project from concept to reality when seeing a range of construction phases over the course of the semester. Second, alternating visits to projects with different structural systems is particularly effective. Finally, a diversity of project delivery methods provides essential knowledge for students. Among professional practice topics, contracts and delivery methods may seem abstract and difficult to grasp for students who have little practice experience. The opportunity to experience the realization of spaces, details, and materials that are a direct result of the project structures and to hear stories from project agents about their realization, makes these topics much more

We've been fortunate to work with many WMAIA and BSA members over the past three years including Coldham & Hartman Architects, Perkins + Will Boston, JCJ Architecture, Jones Whitsett Architects, Dietz and Company Architects Inc, DesignLAB, Bruner/ Cott, and Steffian Bradley Architects as well as representatives from Wright Builders, Suffolk Construction, Whiting Turner, and Arcadis. Members of UMass Amherst's Campus Planning and Design & Construction Management have also been significant partners in this effort.

The course will be offered again in the Fall of 2017 and we hope to work with you!

If you have an interesting project that will be in construction this fall and would be willing to host a small group of students, please email Caryn Brause AIA (cjbrause@umass.edu). Please indicate the project type, size, budget, construction type, project delivery method, and expected phase of construction for Fall 2017.

Thank you!

## WMAIA COMMUNITY KRISTIAN WHITSETT AIA

## WMAIA DAY OF SERVICE

On the beautiful morning of May 20th volunteers gathered in Springfield for the first annual WMAIA Day of Service. The conclusion – a resounding success! Volunteers arrived around 10am to an urban garden in the middle of Springfield – complete with a large greenhouse and a few storage sheds, but in need of further development and some skilled (and not-so-skilled) carpenters and architects!

The idea for a WMAIA Day of Service arose out of the board retreat in 2016. Board members were interested in promoting WMAIA, getting out of our offfices (or cubicles!), and contributing to our surrounding communities. After some deliberation, the board (and requisite sub-committee) decided to partner with Gardening the Community in Springfield for this inaugural year.

Gardening the Community (GTC) is a small, but vibrant and growing non-profit in Springfield, MA. Founded in 2002, it now runs gardens on four sites in Springfield, including the Walnut Street Farm where we volunteered, the first community-owned urban agriculture space in the region.

Apart from gardening, partnering with other local growers, and offering fresh vegetables in urban food deserts, GTC focuses specifically on youth development. While our group of volunteers was there, about 20 local youth showed up to spade the earth, spread mulch and hay, water, and start planting squash and other vegetables.

Ibrahim Ali, the Co-Director of GTC, orchestrated a 10-minute break for introductions and a Q&A session between the youth involved in GTC and the WMAIA volunteers. It was inspiring to see these kids working hard on this plot of land – eager to share their success stories, as well as the mission behind GTC and what it means for their community.

The actual scope of the volunteer work came together in a last-minute fashion, but worked out perfectly – thanks largely to the efforts of Brian DeVriese, AIA, and especially Steve Jablonski, AIA. GTC requested that our group help with two items that required more skilled labor than they are usually able to attain: Construct an addition off an existing shed to provide roof cover for a new sink that will be used to wash vegetables before sale at the site, and construct ramps to the existing tool shed for wheelbarrows and bicycles (used to deliver produce locally)

Brian and Steve got to work earlier in the week setting post anchors that were critical to the rest of the framing. Brian also took the time to draw up some CAD plans for the shed addition. Steve did the required (and much appreciated!) leg-work to get materials and a generator to the site before the work party arrived. After arrival, the volunteers quickly split up into a ramp building team, a painting team, and a shed addition team — lead by our most experienced carpenters, Garth Schwellenbach, AIA, and Rachel Keenan Roberts.

Hours later we had finished most of the framing for the shed addition, painted the sheathing, and completed two wide and sturdy ramps. Several volunteers stayed beyond the scheduled finish time to help wrap things up. Many thanks to them for going above and beyond!

We would like this to turn into an annual event. As a group of affiliated professionals, we have the ability to organize and offer our skills and labor to deserving causes. We can learn more about our community, spend enjoyable time with our colleagues, and help introduce professional architects and WMAIA in particular, to a broader audience.













If you have suggestions for future years – please let me know! kw@joneswhitsett.com

Thank you to the coordinators at GTC; Anne Richmond, Ibrahim Ali and Tyrra Minto.

And many thanks to the volunteers who made it happen: Carey Clouse AlA, Michael DiPasquale AlA, Chris Farley AlA, Garrison Gamble Associate AlA, Steve Jablonski AlA, Ludmilla Pavlova-Gillham AlA, Rachel Keenan Roberts, Garth Schwellenbach AlA, and Lorin Starr.





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## **MASSACHUSETTS ARCHITECT STEPHEN SCHREIBER FAIA ELECTED AS NCARB REGIONAL DIRECTOR**



Stephen D. Schreiber, FAIA, NCARB, of Amherst, MA, was elected as a regional director of the National Council of **Architectural Registration Boards** (NCARB) at its 98th Annual Business Meeting.

Schreiber was elected to serve on the Council's Board of Directors by the New England Conference (Region 1), which is made up of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont. Schreiber was appointed to the Massachusetts Board of Registration of Architects in 2006 by then-Governor Mitt Romney, serving several years as both chair and vice chair. In 2014, he was elected chair of the New England Conference. In addition to his efforts for the Massachusetts Board and Region 1, Schreiber previously served on the New Mexico and Florida boards.

For nearly two decades, he has dedicated his time and expertise to multiple NCARB committees, beginning with his service on the ARE Graphics Subcommittee in 1999. Schreiber has also served on the Broadly Experienced Architect, Procedures and Documents, and Regional Leadership committees, as well as the ARE Item Writing Workshop and the NCARB Award Jury.

Currently the chair of the Department of Architecture at the University of Massachusetts, Schreiber also taught architecture in Florida and New Mexico. In addition to his service to NCARB, he has served as the president of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA) and is currently the chair of the Amherst Planning Board. Schreiber is a member of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and in 2004 was elevated to the organization's College of Fellows. In 2003, he received the Award of Excellence from the AIA Tampa Bay chapter, and was named an outstanding Teacher by the American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS) South Florida chapter in 2001. Schreiber received a Bachelor of Arts from Dartmouth College and a Master of Architecture from Harvard University. He holds the NCARB Certificate and is licensed to practice architecture in Massachusetts.

Congratulations, Steve!

### THINGS TO DO + SEE IN WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS



### MASS MoCA

RICHARD NONAS

Cut Back Through (for Bjorn)

"There is a language of place, and it is the most direct human language there is; the most basic way to impose human order and meaning on an outside, non-human world." — Richard Nonas

Richard Nonas has created a long-term, outdoor installation in granite for the museum grounds. For five decades, he has made works that alter our sense of landscape and architecture — of place — using the simplest of means. His vocabulary includes pared-down forms and earthy and industrial materials that have a timeless, even totemic quality. Nonas has now reimagined the southeast corner of MASS MoCA's campus with Cut Back Through (for Bjorn), a new arrangement of the three large granite chairs and five granite stools first seen in MASS MoCA's galleries.



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## **FEATURED ARTISAN**

## **KAMIL PETERS**

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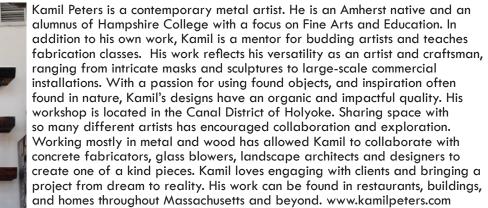








## **KAMIL PETERS HOLYOKE MA**



**FEATURED ARTISAN** 











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### WMAIA PROGRAMS SUMMER 2017

#### WMAIA PROGRAMS: FALL PREVIEW

Save the dates: Registration materials will be available closer to program dates!

#### 9th Edition of the Building Code

Friday, September 8th

8:30 - 10:30 AM

UMass/Amherst

#### COTE Committee Presents an In-Depth Tour of the Division of Fisheries & Wildlife - Field Headquarters Building

(Architecture: Architerra, Inc.)

Saturday, September 23rd

Northborough, MA

#### WMAIA Annual Meeting and WMAIA COTE Committee/USGBC-MASS Green Giants Awards

(& Old Chapel building tour)

Tuesday, December 5th

The Old Chapel

UMass/Amherst

#### WMAIA PROGRAMS: IN THE WORKS

Also in the works...

A charette in Lenox later this summer,

A tour of Union Station in Springfield,

A program on the 2030 Challenge,

A "Green Housing for All" competition with the City of Northampton,

The fall lineup for the WMAIA/Five College Architecture Film Series,

And our new Women in Architecture Committee kicks off with a Pecha Kucha-style event featuring lightening talks on the topic of "Inspiration" by the women FAIA members of our chapter.