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HILLTOP HOUSE, WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS  
LYNN POSNER RICE  
MARY YUN, AIA

S P R I N G  
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**TASKFORCE FORMED TO ASSIST THE STATE IN DISASTER RESPONSE**

Over the past two years, AIA Massachusetts (AIA MA), The Boston Society of Civil Engineers Section (BSCES) and the Structural Engineers Association of Massachusetts (SEAMASS) have been working on forming an organization that would be able to assist the State's Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) in recovery efforts at times of a declared emergency. The results of this collaborative effort has been the formation of the Massachusetts Architects and Engineers Emergency Response Task Force -- MA AEER Task Force.

The objective of the MA AEER Task Force is to assist MEMA in the execution of its responsibilities with respect to the use of qualified volunteer Architects and Professional Engineers in the emergency assessment of buildings and vertical structures following catastrophic events. To provide this assistance the Task Force will be responsible for organizing, training, maintaining the roster of those professionals who have met the requirements by completing the required Safety Assessment Program (SAP) training and who have been certified and credentialed by MEMA.

Specifically the Task Force will:

- 1) Develop and maintain a database of licensed Architects and Engineers within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts that have been trained and credentialed and have expressed a desire to participate in emergency services activities
- 2) Sponsor or coordinate training, as needed, to ensure MA AEER Task Force volunteers meet the requirements defined by MEMA and maintain their readiness,

3) Contact and engage MA AEER Task Force volunteers in the event of a deployment by MEMA.

4) Be available as a deployable asset to other states through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC).

The Task Force will be governed by a nine-member board comprised of three members appointed from each organization. It is expected that the members will serve for at least three years, and hopefully longer. There are three offices - Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer. At this point there are also two committees, one responsible for maintaining the membership for that organizations, and the other to work on training and outreach. The officer positions are one-year terms, with each organization holding one of the positions with the organizations rotating the posts on a ladder basis. At present, WMAIA and the BSA are represented as well as AIA MA. As the AIA has three MA chapters it is hoped in the future that each chapter will have a representative.

The next step in the process of formalizing our relationship with MEMA is to finalize a draft MOU to take to MEMA that will define the working relationship with the State. We hope to have this done and in place by fall... just in time for hurricane season. In addition, the Board is working on developing a website that will have a direct link to our Chapter and provide updated actions of the Board as well as upcoming training. and other activities.

If you have any questions or would like to learn more, please feel free to contact me: johnrobinson01002@gmail.com

- John Robinson AIA



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

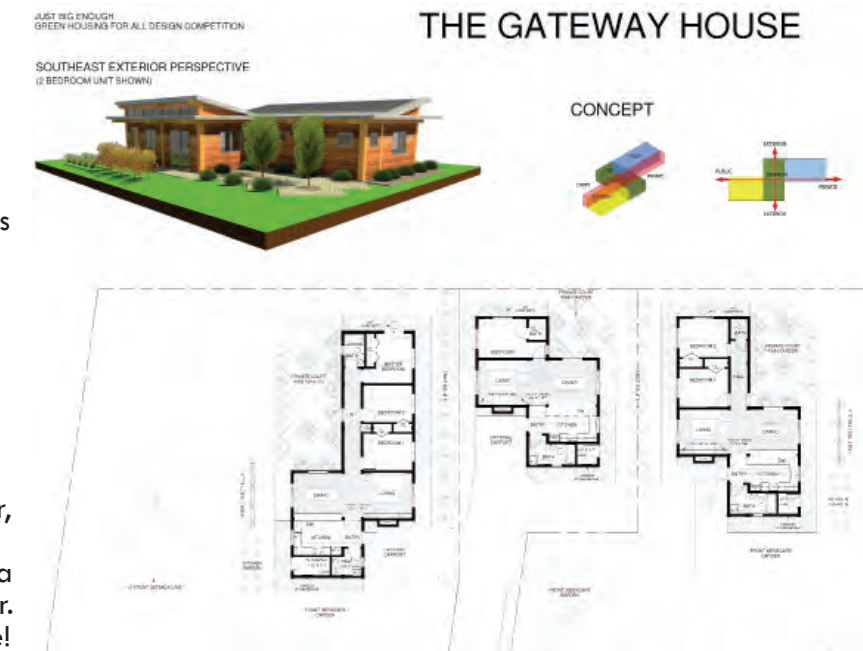
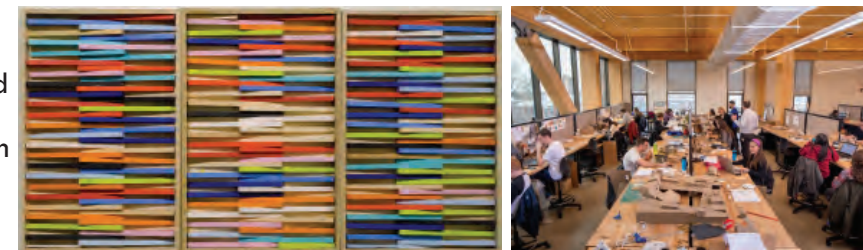
THE WMAIA NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED FOUR TIMES A YEAR. IT IS CIRCULATED TO ALL MEMBERS, ADVERTISERS AND SUBSCRIBERS. PLEASE DIRECT ALL NEWSLETTER CORRESPONDENCE TO RACHAEL CHASE, AT EDITOR@WMAIA.ORG. ARTICLES, PHOTOS, NOTICES OF EVENTS AND OTHER INFORMATION ARE WELCOME. OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN THE NEWSLETTER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

COVER PHOTO: LYNN POSNER RICE / MARY YUN, AIA

**CONGRATULATIONS STEPHEN SCHREIBER FAIA!**

The Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture is pleased to announce the 2019 Architectural Education Award Winners.

Each year, ACSA honors architectural educators for exemplary work in areas such as building design, community collaborations, scholarship, and service. Award winners inspire and challenge students, contribute to the profession's knowledge base, and extend their work beyond the borders of academy into practice and the public sector. This year, Stephen Schreiber FAIA was selected as a distinguished professor. Congratulations, Steve!



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## AIA GRASSROOTS CONFERENCE 2019

The AIA Grassroots Conference meets in Washington in alternate years to focus on both legislative and leadership issues. Western Mass was well represented this year: executive director Lorin Starr was our chapter's delegate; WMAIA president Ludmilla Pavlova-Gillham AIA represented AIA Massachusetts; and WMAIA past president Helen Fantini AIA represented AIA New England.

On Wednesday, March 6 in Washington DC over 600 architects and chapter leaders met with over 470 legislators and congressional staff representing 50 states in the union to emphasize the value that architecture plays in society, and to advocate for the profession. I was fortunate to represent AIA MA in this effort to spur congressional policy to recognize the role that design plays in solving some of the most urgent concerns of our time. The well-coordinated and carefully crafted message that we all delivered emphasized two critical federal issues: a tax deduction that will incentivize energy efficiency in both new and existing buildings, and federal funding for school design and a clearinghouse to help officials design safer schools. Each one of us emphasized that architects do more than design structures and spaces – our work creates a real difference by making people safer, healthier, and happier.

Massachusetts "citizen architects" met with staffers from the offices of Senators Markey and Warren and all nine Representatives; we were well received and engaged in substantive discussion. We also presented them with a pamphlet of selected projects highlighting the work architects are doing, entitled *Right Now in Massachusetts*. Whether it is sustainability, energy efficiency, good building practices, improved transportation, affordable housing, climate resilience or historic preservation, the stories included from each congressional district demonstrated how architects advance new ideas and new technologies to improve the built environment. The pamphlet, conceived and organized by Lorin Starr and Chris Farley AIA, was gratefully received by each legislator and will serve them as a future resource.

The Grassroots leadership conference on the following Thursday and Friday was organized under the theme of People. Purpose. Partnership. Candidates for elective office presented their vision for AIA's future, emphasizing their unique qualities as people and designers, and their commitment to advance a more sustainable, just and inclusive society through building partnerships with institutions at multiple scales and levels of impact.

With a focus on cultivating the people that are at the core of the Institute's strength, a wide array of conference programs addressed the leadership needs of the many types of architects in attendance – students and emerging professionals, small and large firms, educators and researchers, non-profit and government practitioners,

and FAIAs at the peak of their creative work. Some of the issues of concern were: changing demographics and lack of diversity, cultivating a pipeline of creative students and engaging them in meaningful design projects early in their education, supporting the careers of emerging professionals (particularly those of diverse backgrounds), retaining talented employees, rising to the challenge of the increasing complexity in project delivery, social and technical issues, managing the accelerating pace of change in technology and social communications, and the continued need to educate the public on the value of architecture.

The LEAD (Leadership Exploration and Development) sessions offered opportunities to learn and reflect on how the practice of architecture can be infused with meaning and purpose – how to engage in local government and participate in developing solutions to improve the civic space, how to design communities in which social justice and diversity are primary motivators, and how to ensure that architects are discerning and self-aware in their relationships with co-workers and clients, and are able to lead teams and Chapters to function responsibly and avoid discrimination and harassment.

The keynote presentations emphasized the importance of meaningful partnerships and delved into the qualities and character of strong leadership. As in the past two years of Grassroots, conference attendees were encouraged to seek partners beyond established relationships with clients, consultants and fellow architects, and to reach out to local officials, community members, state and federal legislators. The AIA has been working with the US Conference of Mayors to promote the value of architecture and in the first keynote discussion four Mayors from Columbia, SC, Rochester Hills, MI, Dayton, OH, and Winchester, VA, together with David W. Robinson, FAIA, a member of the City Council in Houston, TX discussed the pivotal role that architects play in the development of livable cities and towns. They explored various ways in which they work with architecture firms to envision and build civic spaces that spur economic growth and infrastructure renewal and provide a vision for sustainable and resilient cities.

For me, the most moving moments during the mayors' presentations were when they talked about the real problems that their residents face – environmental disasters such as flooding, social and economic concerns such as homelessness, opioid abuse and gentrification. They look to architects for leadership and creativity to support clients, particularly those who work with marginalized and impoverished communities, to build spaces that maintain their purpose and are beloved by their users over the long life of a building.

## AIA GRASSROOTS CONFERENCE 2019



Ludmilla Pavlova Gillham AIA, Helen Fantini AIA and Lorin Starr "on the Hill." Left – with colleagues from the BSA, Central Mass AIA and Courtney Brunson (right) Legislative Correspondent for Sen. Warren. Right – with Emily Grandstaff-Rice FAIA



They are also aware that the need to address climate change, transportation system improvements and infrastructure modernization will occupy their cities' attention for most of the 21st century, and that architects are perfectly positioned to provide guidance and collaborate in developing solutions.

The final presentations aimed to deepen the theme of People. Purpose. Partnership by giving the podium over to design professionals from San Antonio, TX, Atlanta, GA and San Felipe, Panama whose design mission is to support equity and justice, reduce homelessness and discrimination, and provide tangible examples of equitable development. As with the mayors, they emphasized a commitment to understanding the issues that impact and motivate a community, and to focusing on supporting the people who not only occupy buildings, but bring life to them. The conference as a whole inspired a desire to renew our commitment to practice in service to our communities, and to apply our talents to improving the world.

- Ludmilla Pavlova AIA

**THE ISSUES:** This year, the AIA identified two issues to bring to our Members of Congress in hopes of gaining their support. Wednesday, March 6th, was Capitol Hill day at this year's Grassroots conference and was a huge undertaking with over 600 architects "storming the hill" to meet with members of Congress and staff. Our delegation from Massachusetts was able to meet with staff from all nine Representatives and our two Senators. The issues were as follows:

### SCHOOL SAFETY

This is a huge issue and one that often elicits an emotional response and we all understand that design cannot prevent school violence. However, since August 2018, the AIA launched an initiative to advocate for a design-centered approach to school safety that aims to keep schools as vibrant welcoming places. The AIA's federal team was able to influence language in the Federal Commission on School Safety report. The visits to Capitol Hill were the second phase of the effort, allowing AIA members to directly inform and appeal to their Member of Congress on this issue. Specifically, we asked that design services be made eligible for federal funding when school districts and municipalities take advantage of Title IV and STOP School Violence to fund safety improvements. Additionally, we requested that a federal clearinghouse, housed under either the Department of Homeland Security or Education, be established to connect school officials with resources to assist them in making these important decisions.

### ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Billed as one of AIA's top federal priorities this year, AIA is promoting the creation of new tax incentives to help limit greenhouse gas emissions related to existing buildings. Prior acts, such as Section 179D of the tax code, increased use of federal funds to build new energy efficient commercial and multi-family projects, but did nothing to incentivize energy efficiency improvements for existing buildings. Because 95% of commercial buildings are more than a decade old, this an opportunity to incrementally lessen greenhouse gas emissions and invest in existing building stock. Members of Congress were asked to support legislation (still being written) that amends the tax code to include energy efficiency improvement measures allowing building owners to write off a percentage of these improvements for their buildings.

- Helen Fantini AIA

## BEFORE + AFTER

BRADLEY ARCHITECTS, INC. POWERHOUSE LOFTS



The Powerhouse Lofts are ideally located in the downtown district of Pittsfield close to the hospital. Originally designed to house the electric generator fired by coal for the City of Pittsfield trolleys, this building was then transformed into St. Elizabeth's Church. Bradley Architects, Inc. worked with WDM Properties to convert the former church in to the Powerhouse Lofts. There are ten apartment units total over two floors.



## BEFORE + AFTER

BERKSHIRE DESIGN, INC. HISTORIC HOME ADDITION



An in-town house was in need of a sun room / studio addition that would integrate seamlessly with the existing historic details. Light washes the space through French doors, transoms and a semi-circular lantern above while providing sanctuary in a garden setting. Interior and exterior trim details help to blend this addition into the already exquisitely detailed home.



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## WMAIA AMHERST COLLEGE SCIENCE CENTER TOUR



On March 13, 2019, WMAIA members were treated to a tour of the new Science Center at Amherst College led by Tom Davies AIA, Amherst College's Director of Design and Construction and Senior Project Manager Mark Tassinari. Designed by Payette, the building, which opened in fall 2018, houses the departments of biology, chemistry, computer science, physics, and psychology. The tour provided insight into the planning and development of the 230,000 GSF building. Beautifully detailed, the science center accommodates today's technologies, equipment and pedagogies. The transparency through the building demystifies the science labs by allowing students and passersby in the common areas to engage visually with them.

In terms of campus planning, the new Science Center anchors the eastern edge of the campus. The large building mass is broken down into a collection of five distinct building components nestled into the Campus Greenway. The components—two high energy laboratory wings tucked into the hillside to the east, and three pavilions of low intensity uses extending west toward the hilltop academic core—are organized around a central commons and unified by a dramatic roof canopy. Energy conservation strategies were integral to the design. The Project EUI is 92 kBtu/S, a 75% energy reduction compared to the national average for laboratory buildings.



Group photo by Lorin Starr; all others © Chuck Choi, courtesy of Payette

MASS MoCA



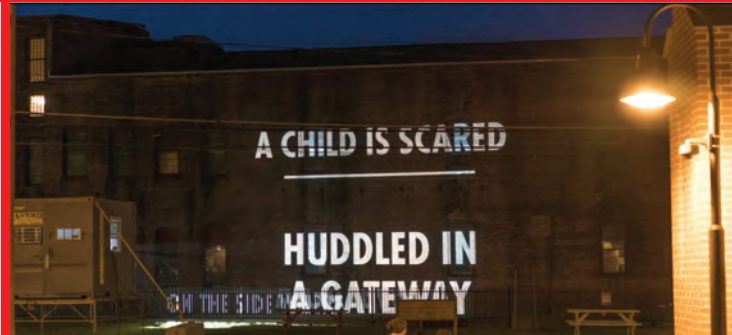
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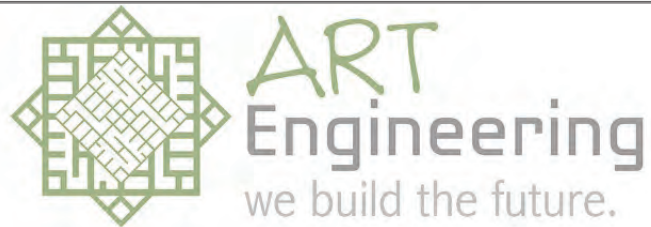
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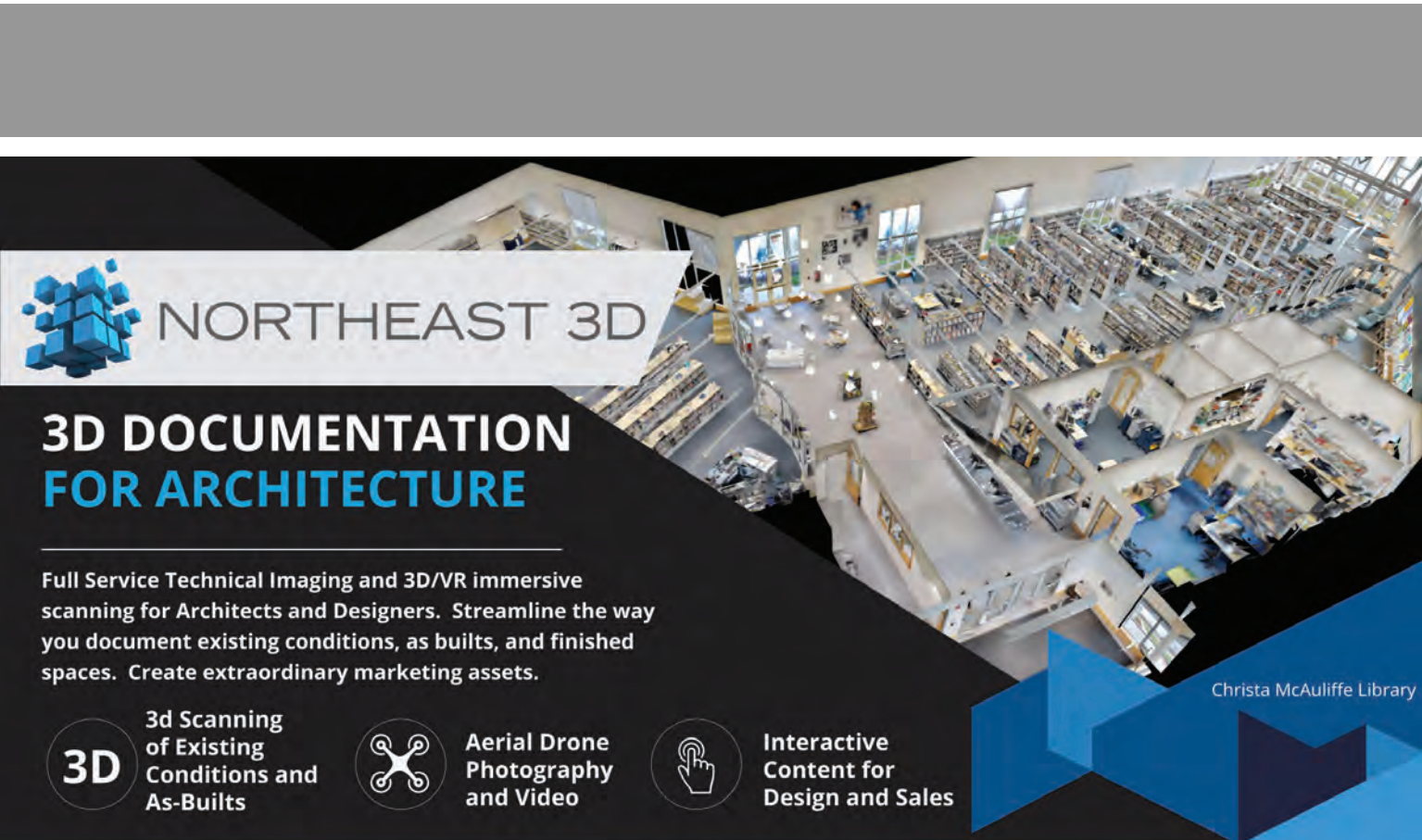
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## COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT: SPRING UPDATE

### BIG ENOUGH: PIONEERING THE SMALL HOME REVOLUTION IN WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS

The WMAIA COTE (Committee on the Environment) meets monthly to plan programs and engage in a casual, in-depth discussion that we call a "green bite." In March we were fortunate to be joined by Megan McDonough, Executive Director of the Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity. What follows is Megan's summary of the work we discussed:

Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity builds strength, stability and self-reliance through homeownership by building simple homes with volunteer labor and selling them with affordable mortgages to people with low incomes. For the past three years we have been working on a project to challenge ourselves and our community to push the boundaries on building small and green to help increase access to the dream of homeownership and the generational wealth building that comes with it.

To make ownership of small homes truly accessible to those earning less than \$50,000/year, good design and efficient construction alone are not the solution. We also needed to look at social acceptability and cultural expectations, financing and ownership, and regulatory barriers in zoning and building codes. The first step in this project was to convene local experts in four areas of inquiry and write up a summary report of our findings.



With the help of local architects Habitat is now in the pilot stage of project building:

A 650 sq ft 1-bedroom home designed by Dorrie Brooks AIA and Molly Clark of Jones Whitsett Architects

Three 1200 sq ft 3-bedroom homes designed by Simple City Studios.

Two of these homes built by modular home factory VerMod and one being built on site by Habitat

We plan to celebrate others working on strategies toward small efficient homes with a "Small Home Hero" award this spring and will be reporting out on our pilot projects at the end of 2019 with a report and public forum. We hope you will consider getting involved. You can start today by joining our Facebook discussion group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/BigEnough/> or reading past reports at <https://www.pvhabitat.org/big-enough/>

social and cultural	
design and construction	
financing small homes	
zoning and building codes	



Please join us of future meetings of the COTE Committee – the dates and topics are posted on our website and are circulated by enews. The May meeting will be on Tuesday the 21st at 4:30 PM (at the offices of Kuhn Riddle Architects) and will feature this green bite: Ben Weil applies lessons learned though a phased deep energy retrofit on his own 1790-vintage house to devise cost-effective deep energy reductions for municipal and commercial buildings.

**FEATURED ARTISAN:  
DIGITALLY FABBED - GREENFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS**

**HOW DO YOU WORK ON YOUR CRAFT WITHIN THE WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS COMMUNITY?**

I've got a digital fabrication shop in Greenfield. I have a small farm of 3D printers, along with several CNC machines. CNC machines are robotic cutting machines that can cut sheet materials and some softer metals. I typically use my large 4x8 machine to create furniture, arcade machines, phone booths, architectural panels and trade show booths.

**DOES SUSTAINABILITY PLAY A ROLE IN YOUR BUSINESS?**

Yes! One of the huge advantages of using digital cutting tools is that you can use up every bit of the material. After a typical plywood cut we're left with just slivers of the sheet left over because of the machine's ability to cut in any direction. Something else we always keep in mind is making things that last a long time. While it's always good to use recycled material, making anything once is better than making it multiple times.

**IS THERE A WAY IN WHICH YOU WOULD LIKE TO WORK WITH LOCAL ARCHITECTS AND DESIGNERS THAT HASN'T HAPPENED YET? WHAT WOULD THAT BE?**

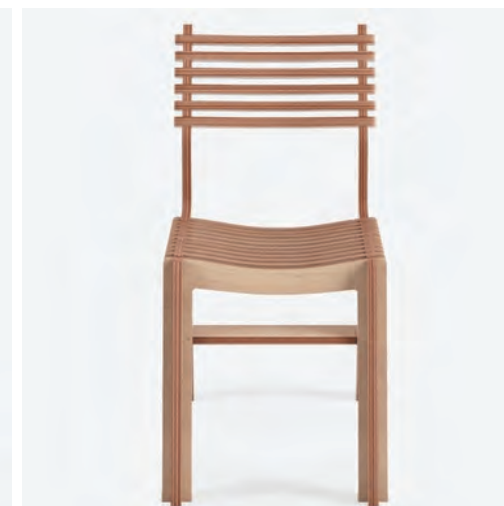
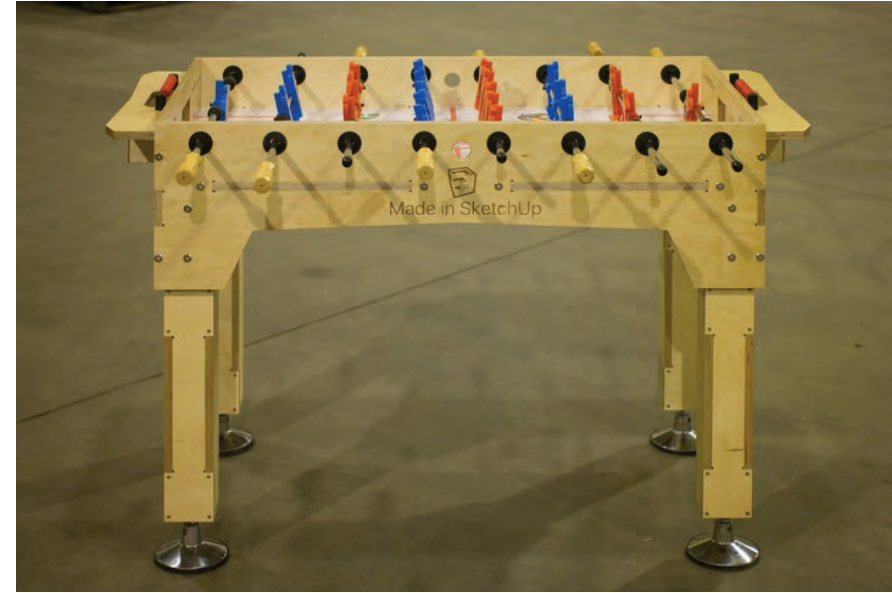
Absolutely! It's always good to add new tools and skills to your design arsenal. Designers and architects who aren't encumbered by entrenched thought processes can bring a new perspective and force me to "think outside the box" (even if we're building a literal box!). I've designed and built a few completely digitally fabricated prototype houses. I essentially used my CNC machines to create parts for a home that fit together like a big IKEA kit. While I'm good at the joinery part, it's architects and designers that can take an idea like that and turn it into a real project.

**WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE PART OF YOUR CREATIVE PROCESS? CAN YOU DESCRIBE YOUR PROCESS?**

My favorite part IS the creative process! This is typically how a job goes: Someone comes in with an idea for a cool project. We brainstorm, I typically get very excited about it and then go "Yes! We can totally do this!". The person leaves and I go "Oh crap, I need to figure out how to do this". After that is the fun part, I research and design a solution to a project and ultimately expand my horizon of skills during a build. It's led to great projects like the arcade machine that shoots smoke and a giant animatronic dinosaur to name a few.



**FEATURED ARTISAN:  
DIGITALLY FABBED - GREENFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS**



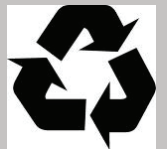




# AIA Western Massachusetts newsletter

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## WMAIA PROGRAMS SPRING 2019

### **COTE COMMITTEE MEETING:**

TUESDAY, MAY 21 | 4:30 PM | KUHN RIDDLE ARCHITECTS, AMHERST MA

GREEN BITE: BEN WEIL APPLIES LESSONS LEARNED THROUGH A PHASED DEEP ENERGY RETROFIT ON HIS OWN 1790-VINTAGE HOUSE TO DEVISE COST-EFFECTIVE DEEP ENERGY REDUCTIONS FOR MUNICIPAL AND COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS

### **SAVE THE DATE: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12TH, 2019**

SHIRE BREU-HOUS (IN THE FORMER CRANE PAPER FACTORY) DALTON, MA  
DETAILS SOON!

### **COMING THIS FALL....WMAIA IS HOSTING THE AIA NEW ENGLAND DESIGN AWARDS**

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