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TRUTH BOX ARCHITECTS
LOUTTIT SITE REDEVELOPMENT
PROVIDENCE RHODE ISLAND

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2021...it could not have come soon enough!

I hope this finds you well. For anyone who has suffered either personally or professionally due to the pandemic, my thoughts are with you and please let me know if there is anything the chapter can do to support you.

Nothing could have prepared us for the changes that took place in March of 2020. As a chapter, we quickly retooled to an online platform and I am pleased that over the course of the year we were able to carry on with nearly all our regular programming. From continuing education programs, to our film series, to committee meetings, to meetings with state legislators and capping off 2020 with a virtual awards program, our focus has been on providing resources and information as well as retaining our sense of community. I hope we succeeded!

As we look ahead, we know that we are realistically online through the spring and perhaps into next fall. In the coming months you can look forward to resumption of Building Construction Technology (BCT) programs from UMass, and the film series. Our Committee On The Environment (COTE) group will have monthly meetings (open to all), and we just launched a new monthly EP Hour offering casual conversation for all things Emerging Professional, moderated by Kerry Bartini AIA and Garrison Piers-Gamble Assoc. AIA. Our Women in Architecture (WiA) committee will host a program this spring and several other programs are in the works – stay tuned!

While we are likely all suffering from some level of Zoom fatigue, we have discovered that virtual programs have made participation across the chapter easier for some members. It has also enabled us to engage speakers who are farther flung. So, going forward, we will likely explore hybrid programs that include a mix of in-person and virtual. If you have input or suggestions on how we can help make the chapter more accessible to you, please contact me. We are always open to new ideas! Similarly, if you have ideas for programs or speakers, let me know.

Wishing you the very best for 2021,

Lorin Starr

Executive Director

director@wmaia.org

ARCHITECTS' CHOICE

FITCH ARCHITECTURE & COMMUNITY DESIGN



Raven's Roost was shaped by the residents' deep love for Alaska's beauty; by a fluid relationship to environment, seasons and light; and by residents' desires for Aging-in-Place. The sun-filled common house sits centrally, at the intersection of two housing types serving different needs. The front doors of the 12 units within the atrium building open onto an indoor street, connected directly to the common house -- giving residents easy access to shared community space in all types of weather. Other townhouse units, separated from the common house, are clustered around the common green where residents have established native and edible plantings. In winter, people live in their homes' south sides. Shed roofs and high windows let meager winter light penetrate deep into buildings. In summer, people live outdoors in interstitial spaces; the gardens, paths, common house courtyard and barbeque deck – as integral to the community as the buildings themselves.

1 At our first ever virtual awards event, we voted for the 'Architects' Choice' award, and Raven's Roost, a project by Fitch Architecture & Community Design in Anchorage, Alaska, was selected.

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FOURTEEN HONORARY WMAIA: JOSEPH KRUPCZYNSKI

FIFTEEN WMAIA PROGRAMS

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.

THE EDITOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT OR REVISE MATERIAL AS SPACE AND SUBJECTIVE OPINION PERMIT.

COVER PHOTO: JASON WESSEL

WMAIA 2020 DESIGN AWARDS

The WMAIA 2020 Design Awards program was held in conjunction with the Western Massachusetts Section of the Boston Society of Landscape Architects, and was sponsored by Pella Products and Keiter Builders. This year's awards were juried by members of neighboring chapters in the AIA New England region: Susan Phillips-Hungerford AIA (New Hampshire), Andrew Schlatter AIA (Vermont) and Kathryn Wise AIA (Maine). Any building type or landscape project anywhere in the world completed at any time in the last seven years (after January 1, 2013) was eligible if the architecture firm/architect-of-record or landscape architect currently has its principal office in Western Massachusetts, which is defined for the purposes of this program as Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden and Hampshire counties or if the architect having a lead project role (i.e., Project Principal, Project Designer, Project Architect, Project Manager) is a member of WMAIA. The sole criterion of the program is design excellence. WMAIA received 14 entries. Two Honor Awards – the highest award category – were presented; two Merit Awards were given, and two Citation Awards were presented. **Projects are shown with Jury Comments over the next several pages. For additional drawings + photographs of all projects, please visit www.wmaia.org**



WINDOWS & DOORS



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HONOR AWARD: LOUTTIT SITE REDEVELOPMENT

TRUTH BOX ARCHITECTS

The redevelopment of the former Louttit Laundry site at 95 Cranston Street in Providence, RI is an innovative model for sustainable urban infill development. Located on a former brownfield site, within walking distance of public transportation and downtown, the project comprises two buildings: grocery co-op and 30-units of low-income and workforce housing. Located in a food desert, the Urban Greens Grocery Co-Op is the first community-owned grocery in the city and provides vital access to food, including fresh and local produce, for the neighborhood.

The Upton Residences is a pilot “workforce” housing development that provides income-restricted housing to low and middle-income residents. Both buildings employ many passive house strategies and substantially exceed code minimum energy efficiency requirements by incorporating super-insulated, air-tight building envelopes, extensive daylighting, high-efficiency mechanical systems, and rooftop solar.



JURY COMMENTS

- + Project is making a significant contribution to the urban environment for this town
- + Jurors thought the Co-op portion was the stronger design element
- + Nice Interiors - housing is well done considering the cost-per-SF
- + Appreciate the overall benefits to the community and how the parking was integrated
- + AIA Framework: bringing healthy food to a food desert
- + AIA Framework: equitable communities
- + AIA Framework: remediating a Brownfield site

HONOR AWARD: VILLAGE OF SIDNEY GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STREETScape

PLACE ALLIANCE

The Streetscape at a Glance



JURY COMMENTS

- + This upgrade to the streetscape was “transformative” and “welcoming,” and “inviting”
- + A great job of integrating the stormwater features
- + Jury loved the graphics illustrating the infrastructure elements
- + Budget was modest for extensive project scope
- + AIA Framework addressed with water controls/infrastructure
- + “Thoughtful, hearty, vibrant” plantings
- + Many elements of this project are “replicable” (a big plus)
- + This project was “both/and” – functional and so much more
- + “Great project”

Following devastating flooding from Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee in the Village of Sidney, New York, PLACE Alliance helped lead recovery planning effort through an intensive multi-day design workshop, engaging with local stakeholders and state and local regulatory officials.

The streetscape project focused on a green infrastructure system that collects stormwater from Main Street and the adjacent sidewalk into a network of pre-treatment catch basins, rain gardens, and a subsurface stormwater reservoir. Main Street now captures and temporarily holds 190,000 gallons of runoff.

Strategically located bump-outs and narrowing the street width help slow traffic, create safer pedestrian crossings, and space for larger rain gardens. Plant species were chosen for their ability to tolerate drought, flood, freezing, and salt.

The project is a catalyst to spur economic development and help revitalize the downtown commercial area.

WMAIA DESIGN AWARDS 2020

MERIT AWARD: DIAL/SELF YOUTH HOUSING

JONES WHITSETT ARCHITECTS

This four unit microhousing project for DIAL/SELF Youth and Community Services provides a needed option to young adults living in Northampton who might otherwise be at risk of homelessness. Located along Locust Street in Northampton, the new building shares site and parking resources with a renovated residential property, also owned by DIAL/SELF, that has been converted into four two person apartments. The 4 new micro units are 240 and 300sf apartments with built-in furnishings and shared amenities. The facility also includes a drop-in center and staff offices to support DIAL/SELF's outreach efforts in the Northampton area. The design presents a modern take on vernacular, farmhouse architecture fitting in to the predominantly single family neighborhood. Postconstruction analysis by the Center for Energy Technology estimated total EUI of 20.5.



JURY COMMENTS

- + Appreciated that this project does not have an institutional feel; feels "warm"
- + Respectful and well-executed project
- + Retained the vernacular feeling of home which is what these teens need
- + Project has "good bones"
- + Well-integrated into the neighborhood
- + Appreciated embrace of the AIA Framework, especially walk-ability and energy efficiency
- + Nice exterior materiality and massing
- + Smart space planning accommodating 4 micro apartments and common spaces
- + All jurors loved the quilt and mission

WMAIA DESIGN AWARDS 2020

MERIT AWARD: TAKAHASHI-HARB LOFT + LIBRARY

NAOMI DARLING ARCHITECTURE, LLC



The Takahashi-Harb Loft and Library is an interior renovation and conversion of an existing ground floor walk-out basement and two-car garage into one-bedroom loft-style mother-in-law apartment and separate library workspace. The biggest challenge was to bring in light and open the rooms to the exterior for natural daylighting and a connection to the greenery beyond. The design strategically located large windows and divided the existing eleven-foot high ceiling into three registers to accentuate the feeling of spaciousness.

To maintain the tight budget, almost all of the existing conditions were retained, which helped to organize the living space into three simple sections while maintaining the library as a separate space within the former garage.

The project enables an inter-generational family to live together, and apart.

JURY COMMENTS

- + Well-done interiors project
- + "Charming"
- + Impressed that so much of the existing conditions were retained in the project keeping costs low
- + Great "ceiling-scape"
- + Appreciated the natural and borrowed natural light
- + Library portion is "stunning"
- + Nice continuity of materials throughout the project



The Coach House | Northampton, MA | Built in 1900



Historical Renovation | Completed in 2019

Design by Juster Pope Frazier Architects
Photo by CHODOS, Inc.



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CITATION AWARD: SOLAR TIME INSTALLATION

NAOMI DARLING ARCHITECTURE, LLC



On the Fine Arts Center Plaza at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Solar Time transformed a standard 20' shipping container into a space focused on telling the time through the sun's movement over the course of a day, over several months.

Inside, light was directed through an oculus oriented directly south. An ovoid beam of light falling onto the CNC milled clock enabled visitors to interpolate the time on any given day.

Aside from the milled "clock", the container was empty, a calm and meditative space allowing one to reflect on the power of the sun as the giver of light and life.



JURY COMMENTS

- + Interesting project – did its job inviting people in
- + High contrast between exterior and interior was noted
- + Appreciation for cost-efficiency
- + Praise for the public, educational aspects of this project
- + "Blurs art and architecture while focusing on one of the biggest pillars of sustainability – the sun"

CITATION AWARD: NEW VALLEY BANK & TRUST

ARCHITECTUREEL, INC.



New Valley Bank & Trust approached ArchitectureEL for the design of their first branch bank, and first new bank in the Pioneer Valley in over ten years.

New Valley acquired a former bank building to refurbish, and wished to establish a contemporary brand with a fresh take on modern banking.

ArchitectureEL's design addressed key elements of the existing building, re-shaping its unflattering roof and reorganizing the interior to better meet the needs of the site and modern banking requirements. The interior is organized around a revitalized banking concourse, featuring exposed brick and a dramatic ceiling that defines the circulation sequence. A large expanse of windows provides daylight and reinforces the open and accessible nature of the New Valley brand.

On the exterior, the broad overhang of the roof is complimented by perforated metal mesh marquee pylons. The existing brick was preserved, and topped with a new metal plank cladding system.



JURY COMMENTS

- + Appreciated seeing a commercial project
- + A "successful adaptation"
- + "Serious, modern upgrade"
- + Liked the opened-up interior
- + Architects really breathed new life into this mundane building
- + Recognized the challenge of retaining the exterior shell and feel as if the exterior was well-executed
- + Reuse of the building is a more challenging and sustainable approach



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PLACE ALLIANCE

WMAIA DESIGN AWARDS 2020



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THINGS TO DO + SEE IN WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS

MASS MoCA

BLANE DE ST. CROIX
HOW TO MOVE A LANDSCAPE

How to Move a Landscape is artist Blane De St. Croix's largest and most ambitious exhibition to date, exploring the geopolitical landscape and environmental issues. De St. Croix's research-intensive art involves years of field work and collaboration with leading climate scientists. How to Move a Landscape features drawings and sculpture alongside newly commissioned large-scale installations that incorporate new scientific findings about the Earth's dissolving permafrost layer.



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WMAIA STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS 2020

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This is the 13th year that we have been able to offer scholarships to local students. Submissions are judged for design excellence, clarity of presentation and community and/or University engagement by the applicant. The 2020 WMAIA/AIA National Student Scholarships were presented to two UMASS Amherst students in the M. Arch program: to Micaela Goodrich (right), honoring her design for renovation and addition to the American Museum of Tort Law in Connecticut, and to Brenden Baitch (left) for his design of a U.S. Consulate Building for Rio de Janeiro. Congratulations!



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HONORARY WMAIA DENNIS O'ROURKE

PELLA PRODUCTS



WHEN DID YOU START WORKING FOR PELLA: I began my career July of 1982 in Pittsfield where I managed one of Pella Products Inc.'s first window stores.

WHAT CHANGES HAVE YOU SEEN IN THE FIELD OF ARCHITECTURE OVER THE YEARS? Saving our planet has become priority one. Contributing positively to the environment has required re-thinking the types of materials used in construction, how waste is recycled, how overall building envelopes can be improved. I would recommend you continue to challenge your window/door suppliers to learn what they are doing towards developing products to meet the sustainability demands of the next several decades.

WHAT HAS BEEN THE MOST REWARDING PART OF YOUR JOB? Being truly welcomed into the offices of architects across western and central Massachusetts along with state of Vermont. The professionalism of the individuals I've met has been second to none. I never felt dismissed in any way. Representing a quality product seems to go hand in hand with the strong relationships that have developed over the last 38+ years.

WE HAVE CERTAINLY TAKEN NOTE OF YOUR ENGAGEMENT WITH THE ARCHITECT COMMUNITY – HOW DO YOU THINK ARCHITECTS CAN MAKE THE MOST OF THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH REPS? Referencing an article from a dear friend and co-worker found in a recent Vermont AIA chapter newsletter I would say:

- 1) Take advantage of available services from your window supplier; demand more from your reps, request preliminary installation details, value engineering options and ask for product samples to show your clients.
- 2) Life is short so be quick to be kind. Say thank you with a smile as it will go a long way.

WHAT ARE YOU PLANS FOR THE FUTURE? I've got 4 grandgirls waiting for PopPop to be available to play so my wife, Kathy, and I plan to spend a lot more time with them here in South Deerfield along with our "camp" in Wells, Maine this summer. In addition, I've already been asked to play tennis 4 days a week so I think I'll start with just 2. Finally, I want to think about giving back to the community some way so research is in the works as how I want to volunteer my time. There is no doubt in my mind that I will be very, very busy....

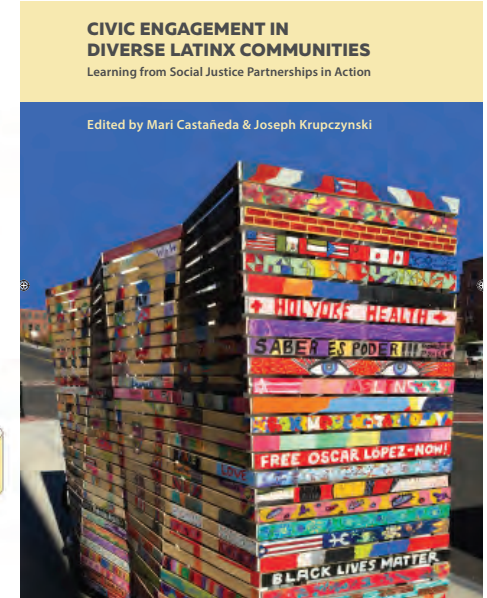
CONGRATULATIONS DENNIS!

DIRECTOR / CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & SERVICE-LEARNING, UMASS/AMHERST

HONORARY WMAIA JOSEPH KRUPCZYNSKI



UMass Amherst Architecture Professor Joseph Krupczynski is a designer, public artist and educator whose work and scholarship promotes imaginative community partnerships, crafts participatory platforms through creative place-making, and brings social justice approaches to sustainability. He is a founding director of The Center for Design Engagement, a non-profit design resource center in Holyoke MA dedicated to progressive design, public art and civic engagement strategies in collaboration with underrepresented communities. As the director of Civic Engagement and Service-Learning at UMass Amherst he supports life-long learning, democratic engagement and builds the capacity for communities, students, faculty and staff to work collectively for a more just world.





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Are you receiving our regular enews?

The enews is sent several times a month and is used to communicate information about programs and other opportunities. If you are not receiving this information, please contact director@wmaia.org