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After many months of negotiations, Governor Baker and the Legislature agreed to a compromise on the long awaited climate change bill that sets specific benchmarks toward achieving carbon emissions reductions. The bill was signed by the Governor on March 26th in a public ceremony that belied the contentiousness surrounding the bill's negotiations. For architects, attention was focused primarily on changes to the Board of Building Regulations and Standards (BBRS), net zero building code provisions and specifically the creation of a municipal opt-in net zero stretch energy code.

For many years AIA MA has opposed legislative fixes to building code regulatory issues. Our state building code is intended to provide uniform construction regulations and contains a prescribed process for review and amendment, as well as for variance and appeal. As such, for over a year we had been working with the BBRS to adopt the Zero Code Renewable Energy Appendix that was written by AIA National, and adopted as an appendix to the 2021 IECC. Concerned with the measured pace of code development, the legislature began pressing for a new stretch energy code – including net zero provisions - that could accelerate progress toward reductions in Commonwealth's carbon emissions.

During the stretch energy code negotiations between the Legislature and the Governor, AIA MA's Board of Directors, including WMAIA members Ludmilla Pavlova-Gilham AIA, Dorrie Brooks AIA and Chris Novelli AIA, directed our professions advocacy efforts. These efforts resulted in the final bill requiring the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) to promulgate net zero performance standards on a timeline that mirrors the BBRS's expected promulgation of the 10th edition of the state building code in late Fall/early Winter of 2022.

Now that the bill has been signed into law, and acknowledging the significant role the agency will play in developing energy codes, AIA MA is focusing its efforts on strengthening its relationship with DOER. We will also continue to support WMAIA member Kerry Dietz AIA, who represents us on the BBRS, as the board adapts to the new requirements of the climate bill: including greater transparency and responsiveness, and additional seats for experts in commercial building energy efficiency, residential building energy efficiency and advanced building technology.

## CARYN BRAUSE FAIA



Please join us in kudos for Associate Professor Caryn Brause who was recently elevated to the College of Fellows by the American Institute of Architects. Brause is recognized for her contributions to architectural education, research, and practice.

### CONGRATULATIONS, CARYN!

This year the American Institute of Architects (AIA) elevated 102 members to its prestigious College of Fellows, an honor awarded to members who have achieved a standard of excellence in the profession and made a significant contribution to architecture and society on a national level.

#### About the College of Fellows:

*The AIA College of Fellows seeks to stimulate a sharing of interests among Fellows, promote the purposes of the Institute, advance the profession of architecture, mentor young architects, and be of ever-increasing service to society.*

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**THREE + FOUR** GRASSROOTS 2021

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**EIGHT** THINGS TO DO + SEE IN WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS

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**THIRTEEN** BEYOND PARTICIPATION: RETHINKING SOCIAL DESIGN

**FOURTEEN** IN MEMORIAM: NORTON JUSTER

### 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.

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COVER PHOTOS: BERKSHIRE DESIGN INC.

## COVER PROJECT : BERKSHIRE DESIGN INC.



After much anticipation, Gould Farm has unveiled it's brand new Red Barn Community Center as the Rev. Hampton E. Price Community Center. "Gould Farm, founded in 1913, is the first residential therapeutic community in the nation dedicated to helping adults with mental health and related challenges move toward recovery and independence through community living, meaningful work, and clinical care." We were honored to help bring their vision of many years to fruition.

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**Grassroots is AIA's premier leadership training event. This year's theme—Bring It Home—addressed critical issues facing the architecture profession, including COVID-19, climate change, and racial equity.** As always, it was packed with keynotes, breakout sessions, workshops, and the opportunity to advocate for AIA's legislative agenda with Members of Congress. Since it was a virtual event, instead of the usual one or two participants, WMAIA was able to "send" several of our board members (at no cost!). Thanks to Caryn Brause FAIA, Garth Schwellenbach AIA, Kristian Whitsett AIA, Dorrie Brooks AIA, Garrison Piers Gamble Assoc AIA, Chris Novelli AIA, and Ludmilla Pavlova-Gillham AIA, who all took the time to attend sessions on behalf of the chapter. Here's a little bit of what we learned:

**LEGISLATIVE VISITS**

A key component of the Grassroot conference is visits to our congressional delegation. In the "before times" that would mean quite a bit of power walking, crisscrossing the Capitol from office building to office building. This year we visited from the comfort of our homes and offices via Zoom. The experience was not quite the same, but we still had the attention of our Senators and Representatives on the key issues the AIA identified for this year. Working in conjunction with our colleagues from Central Mass and the BSA, and with the leadership of AIA Massachusetts Executive Director John Nunnari, we visited all members of our delegation. Here is a summary of the issues addressed:

With anticipation of the Biden administration putting forth an infrastructure bill, this year's focus was on

**GREEN BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE.** AIA's definition of green building infrastructure is investment in carbon-smart construction and the retrofitting of public buildings (including schools, civic centers, hospitals, and federally-backed affordable housing). Building accounts for roughly 40% of greenhouse gas emissions. AIA is calling on Congress to make sure any infrastructure package includes:

- \$300 billion over 5 years for green building infrastructure
- Prioritization for projects that pledge to follow the latest published building codes, including the 2021 IECC Zero Code Appendix

With the Grassroots theme of "Bring it Home" in mind, our conversations with our Senators and Representatives focused on these issues with some local perspective, including the 5.2 million square feet of net zero construction currently underway in Massachusetts; the need to target under-privileged communities; a discussion of embodied energy; and that renovating and upgrading existing buildings should be a priority. The members present discussed the importance of net-zero buildings and gave examples within the educational, affordable housing and federal defense sectors. We also shared updates on the climate / net-zero code legislation in Massachusetts. Members of the local AIA chapters shared information about projects they are working on: Garth Schwellenbach AIA of c & h architects described their work with the City of Northampton and the substantial renovations and efficiency upgrades to the public buildings within the city; and Ludmilla Pavlova-Gillham AIA discussed current initiatives on the campus of UMass Amherst. In general, the AIA "ask" was well received. Interestingly, newly elected Congressman Jake Auchincloss (4th district) pushed back a little and made the case for infrastructure dollars to be put into socio-economic programs and not just the physical.

**KEYNOTES:** Grassroots is full of interesting presentations – here's a recap of two of the keynotes:

**Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging with speaker Stacey Abrams**



Stacey Abrams is one of those people who has changed the world for the better and is extremely inspirational in her motivation to encourage us all to do the same. The basis of her message was that anyone can make the world better, but we as Architects can and should use our positions of power and influence to really make a difference.

Ms. Abrams has three key actions we should all take:

3

**Speak up: We have significant platforms, and if we are silent, we are not doing our jobs.**

**Show up: Volunteer, help, show up in spaces where we're not expected. Speak not for others, but with others to find solutions.**

**Stand up: There is a danger in being engaged and curious. When you stand up you will be hit by the elements, but you will be celebrated by the ones that need it.**

She encouraged us to start small. She did not set out to save the country and change Georgia, she just wanted registered people to vote. The goal is not to fix the world, but to fight for the world by picking one small problem close to home, address that problem and fight for the change we need to see. The important part is that we're doing something, not how big that thing is.

Stacey's recommendations for improving the equity, diversity and inclusion in Architecture focused on the outsized role of funding requirements.

You need funding to participate, and this funding requirement usually results in student debt. Advocating for student debt relief and supporting more funding for education are keys to the goals of equity, diversity, and inclusion in Architecture. She also encouraged finding ways to work with children in lower income schools, so they understand what an Architect does, and get them interested in the field.

**She finished her inspirational keynote with a point particularly relevant to Architects: humility is a key part of leadership. Don't pretend to know everything; talking about things we don't know reduces our value. A person who thinks they know everything will eclipse the person who may actually know more but is overpowered by the other.**

Finally, we don't need to be optimistic or pessimistic, we just need to be determined.



**Design Thinking—Tackling Challenges of the Built Environment with speaker Dan Roam.**

Dan Roam specializes in using simple drawings to communicate complex ideas; his fifteen minutes of fame was the result of him using simple drawings to explain how the Affordable Care Act (Obama Care) worked.

**Dan's key point is that pictures supported by words are the best method of communication for human brains.**

**If you lead with the eyes, the mind follows.**

Dan's keynote was essentially a power point, but instead of merely talking over the slides, he used a pen to highlight the points he was making, which was an extremely good example of how his theory works.

We've all been in presentations where the presenter is talking, and a slide is showing something related to the topic, but our eyes wander around the slide, and before we know it we're thinking about something completely different.

**By simply noting the slides while he spoke, he was able to keep the audience's attention exactly where he wanted it.**

His points were both interesting and empowering. As Architects we know better than anyone the power of a drawing, and we're expected to be able to draw our thoughts. Even if you are not always confident in your own sketching abilities, Dan's point was that a drawing doesn't have to be "artistic" to get the key points across, it just needs to be clear. A clear drawing shows: what, where, how many, when, how and why. As he showed over and over this information can be easily conveyed using stick figures and simple lines. Don't miss a chance to communicate a point with a simple sketch.

**Dan ended with a great quote from Le Corbusier, "I prefer drawing to talking. Drawing leaves less room for lies."**



4





AFTER



BEFORE



DURING CONSTRUCTION

Kroka Expeditions, a non-profit wilderness expedition school and organic farm which brings young children, school classes, and gap-year college kids out into the wilderness, had been administering their dynamic program out of an outgrown 200-year old farmhouse that was poorly insulated and uncomfortable. Because the building is a historic part of the rural landscape and otherwise loved, Kroka wished to pick-up and move the original building 20' back from the highway onto a new foundation. At the same time, they would tear off and rebuild an unfinished ell with a larger super-insulated structure.

The Farmhouse Addition and Renovation at Kroka Expeditions is the most uniquely green project that Fitch Architecture and Community Design (FACD) has worked on. FACD helped the diverse board and staff come to consensus on a design that addressed their ambitious program including a mix of administrative offices, camp lodge (dining and commercial kitchen) and support functions (showers, laundry, and expedition packing) and green mechanical systems. The project was designed to be phased in such a way as to minimize disruption to their year-round programming and was built during Covid while the outdoor programs were still fully enrolled.

By utilizing craned-in-place, pre-manufactured panels (engineered and constructed by Bensonwood) for the addition, the new envelope was enclosed against winter conditions within a week, just after the farmhouse was moved. This enabled Covid-masked students and staff to occupy the addition while the old farmhouse was being restored.

The Owner has contemplated a post-construction application for Living Building Challenge. Typically, a wood-fired boiler (for heating) would disqualify the application. In this case the boiler and tank were included to meet the commercial kitchen loads (allowed by LBC), which are highest during the summer programming and therefore utilizing the same system for hydronic heating in the winter, just makes sense.

The project was constructed entirely by friends, students, and local neighborhood professionals. This addressed equity (with female interns learning alongside local trades people), the local rural economy and ecology (with reduction in the transportation footprint).



AFTER

**Green Systems Include:**

- A south-facing orientation for passive solar gain and a photovoltaic solar array
- Locally and sustainably sourced materials, much of the lumber was harvested from the Kroka site
- A super insulated, pre-fabricated, building envelop
- The re-use of the existing timber frame and beams from the demolished ell
- Deep Energy Retrofit (DER) of existing farmhouse
- Day-lit offices
- Rainwater and greywater storage and distribution systems
- Composting toilets
- A super-efficient, wood-fired, gasification boiler and
- 800 gallon hot water storage for radiant heat and commercial kitchen, showering and laundry



THINGS TO DO + SEE IN WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS



The Coach House | Northampton, MA | Built in 1900



Historical Renovation | Completed in 2019

Design by Juster Pope Frazier Architects  
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MASS MoCA

JAMES TURRELL  
SKYSPACE

"I can make the sky any color you choose." — James Turrell

Thirty years in the making, James Turrell's largest free-standing circular Skyspace opens on the MASS MoCA campus in May 2021. Measuring 40 feet in diameter and 40 feet high, this repurposed concrete water tank transforms into one of Turrell's signature immersive light installations, carving out a small piece of the sky and framing it as a canvas with infinite depth. An aperture in the ceiling opens during dusk and dawn, exposing the sky while subtle interior lighting creates the illusion of bringing the sky to just beyond the viewer's grasp. During the day, the dome will be sealed and will be transformed into a tightly-controlled multisensory environment, with light projected across the cylindrical interior walls and domed ceiling, and sound altered by the contours of the architecture.



TARYN SIMON  
THE PIPES



Taryn Simon's large-scale outdoor sculpture The Pipes will be on long-term view on the MASS MoCA campus starting May 29, 2021. What began as an oversized concrete instrument for a cacophony of global mourning in Simon's work An Occupation of Loss (The Armory, 2016) will be populated by the sounds, collective call and response, and movements of a living public. The 11 structures that make up the installation — which Simon designed in collaboration with Shohei Shigematsu of architecture firm OMA — are an immersive experience, offered to the public as a sacred space for reflection, impromptu performance, and stargazing.

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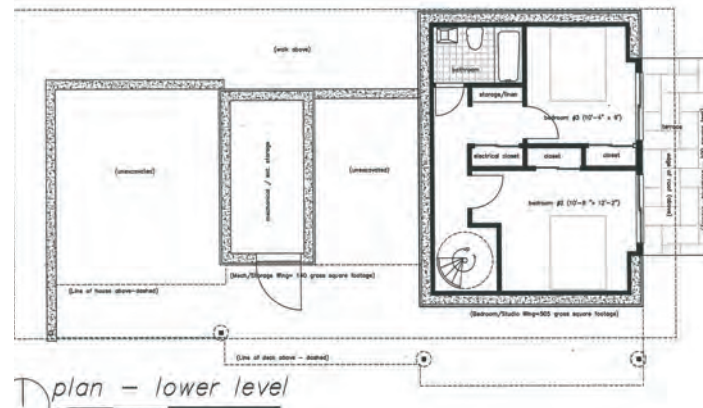
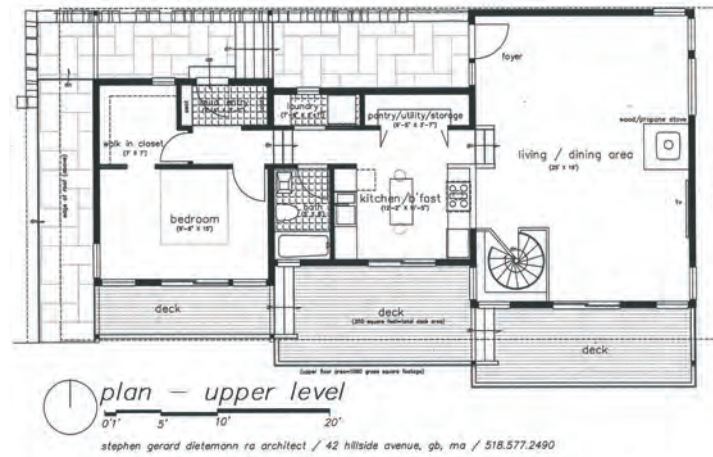
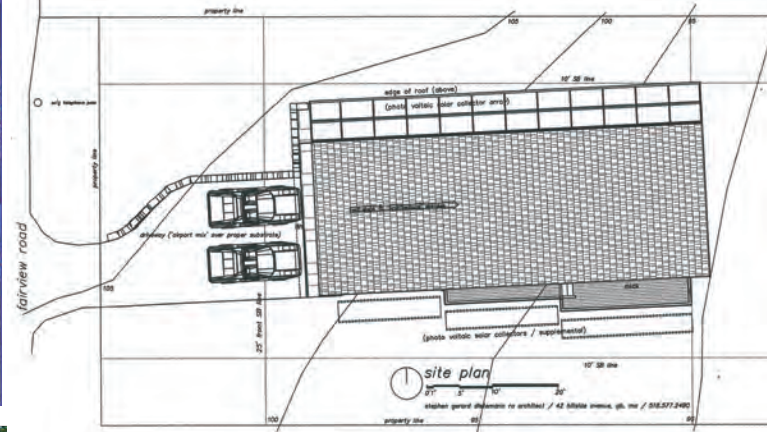
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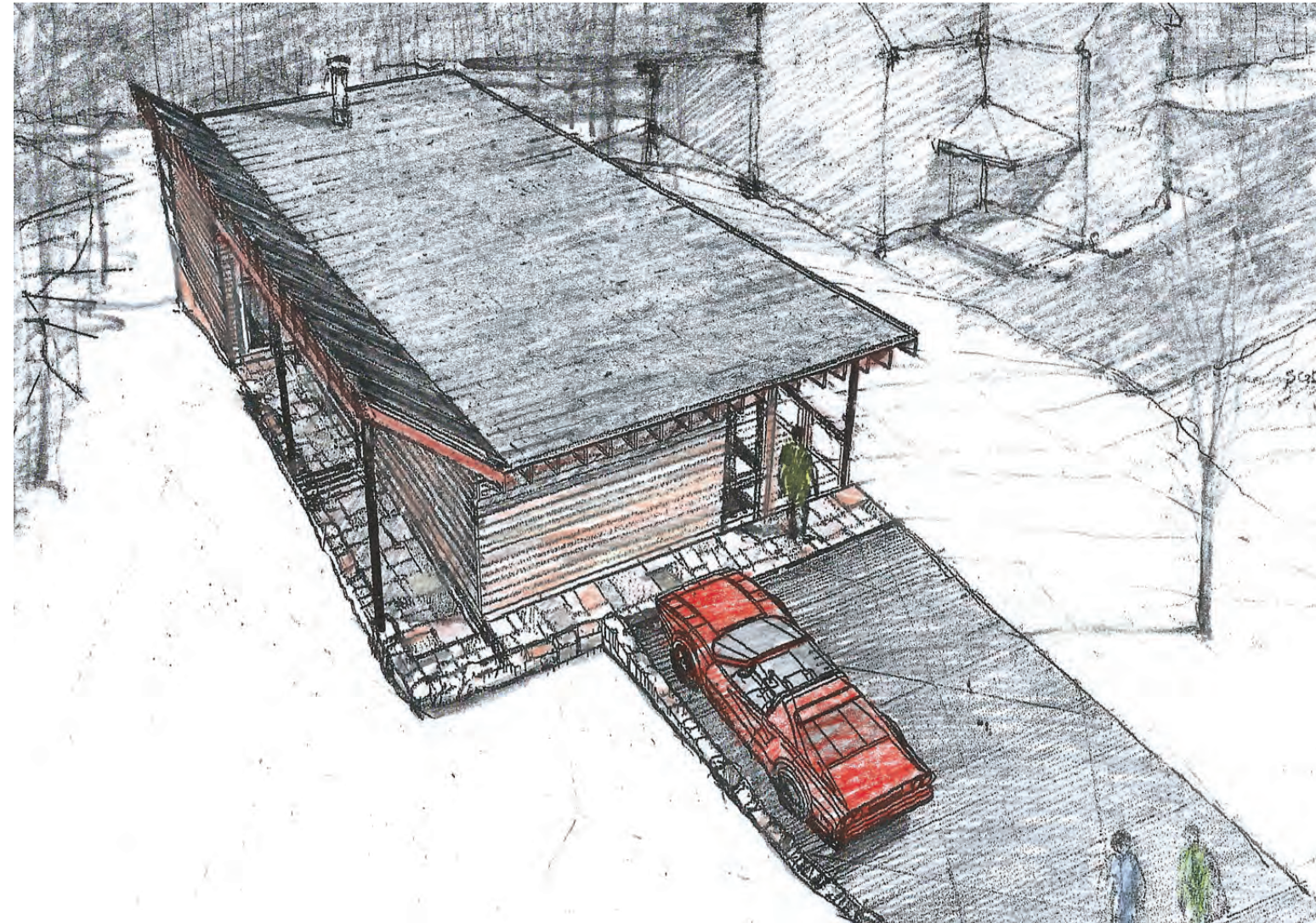
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# IN THE WORKS

## STEPHEN DIETEMANN AIA



Schematic Design drawings for a 1,600 sf 'net-zero' house on a small site in Housatonic, MA





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# 2021 ACSA JAE SCHOLARSHIP OF DESIGN AWARD

## BEYOND PARTICIPATION: RETHINKING SOCIAL DESIGN

Amherst College Professor Gabriel Arboleda was awarded the 2021 ACSA JAE Scholarship of Design Award, which recognizes the best paper published in the previous year by JAE, the Journal of Architectural Education. JAE is the journal of ACSA, the organization that oversees all of the accredited professional degree programs in architecture in the US and Canada.

The annual ACSA awards are a recognition given to architectural educators who “inspire and challenge students, contribute to the profession’s knowledge base, and extend their work beyond the borders of academia into practice and the public sector,” as described in ACSA’s official announcement.

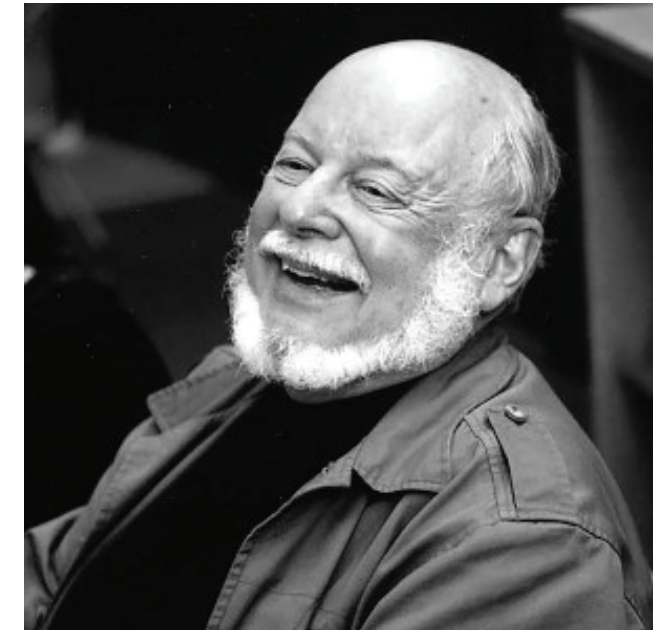
The paper, titled “Beyond Participation: Rethinking Social Design,” deals with the topic of social design in traditional rural communities in poverty. The paper studies issues of water and housing access among indigenous communities in Guyana, including the Arawak, Macushi, Wapishana, and others. I have carried out participatory design work in these communities for over a decade, and this paper reports on the results of that work. In particular, the paper offers the rationale for a bottom-up participatory design approach in which people design by and for themselves. Thus, this approach relies upon human agency as the keystone of an architectural design process. I call the approach ethno-architecture, using the prefix ethno- in the anthropological sense of “the perspective from the other side.” That is, the people’s own perspective on their problems and design solutions.

The ACSA awards was presented at the ACSA 109 Annual Meeting in March 2021. Congratulations, Gabriell!



# IN MEMORIUM

## NORTON JUSTER



Writer, teacher, and architect Norton Juster passed away on March 9, 2021; he was 91. Best known for his book *The Phantom Tollbooth*, you can read about his myriad accomplishments in obituaries posted on *The New York Times*, *NPR*, *The Boston Globe* and many other publications. Here we offer more personal remembrances of a friend, colleague and founding partner of *Juster Pope Frazier*.

I was a (mostly) stay-at-home mom with a toddler in tow when a package arrived in the mail from my cousin. The note read, “a professor recommended this as the best children’s book so I thought Jacob should have it.” The book: *The Phantom Tollbooth*. That same week I received an (unsolicited) phone call asking if I might be interested in interviewing for a job. The caller was the book’s author, Norton Juster, and the job was at the eponymous *Juster Pope Frazier*. Was this merely a coincidence? Of course it was, but it was also my introduction to the magical Norton Juster.

So I got the job and thus began a 10-year stint at JPF. The first order of business was to shadow Norton and learn the ropes. Norton and I embarked on several day trips. Traveling with Norton, a self-described “amateur cook and professional eater” always involved a detour to some place “he knew” – like a bakery or – a favorite -- a cannelloni place in Leominster. \* One of these pastry stops involved a very questionable U-turn in downtown North Adams. Fortunately, I shared Norton’s enthusiasm for food. We also came from the same Brooklyn neighborhood. We bonded and a friendship began.

Norton soon retired from the practice. Still, he’d come into the office from time to time, to visit or to work on one of his many projects. He’d regale us with his stories – from his navy days, a cross country trip (and date with Liz Taylor) the pranks he played on illustrator (and housemate) Jules Feiffer—he was quite the raconteur, always quick with a pun or witticism, and spending time with him was an invitation into an enchanting world.

Over the years I would run into Norton (you’ll see a pattern here) at Stop and Shop, or Whole Foods, or going in or coming out of the Dim Sum place in downtown Amherst. We’d catch up and he would always delight in teasing my children. Ever welcoming, I would visit with Norton and his wife Jeanne, his daughter and granddaughter at their home in Amherst. I marvel that I somehow had the good fortune to cross paths with Norton, develop a friendship with the Juster family and enjoy the opportunity to know such a uniquely warm and engaging man. Magical indeed.

At some point Norton autographed that copy of *The Phantom Tollbooth* (he asked – are you sure? Right now you have a rare unautographed copy). The inscription captured his wish for his readers and my wish for Norton’s next journey: “I hope you have many trips to ‘the Lands Beyond.’”

- Lorin Starr, Executive Director WMAIA

“Norman” was inspired in every sense of the word. Though universally loved and acclaimed as a writer, he always referred to himself as an architect. I suspect it was to some degree a way to be modest about his success, everything about Norton lands on several different levels at several different times. Some of our finest moments we shared as a firm were in telling stories over lunch and laughing, laughing, enjoying ourselves together. I’ll never quite be able to think of a tomato in the same way.

I sat down to develop our mission statement once JPF followed into my hands and came up with attributes of the three architects, Norton, Jack and Earl, who mentored me. Nort was first on the list: Live inspired. I still go back to YouTube and revisit some of his interviews and when I learned of his death I spent some time with him there on the web. He was and is something else. I chuckle at the familiar stories of our time at JPF. Norton would appreciate the word chuckle and understand its use.

He was desperately in love with his dear wife Jeanne, literally transforming into a puppy dog when she entered the studio every once in a while. They were wonderful together and I can’t sit back and think of one without thinking of the other and I think that’s just how this should close.

- Kevin Chrobak AIA, Principal Architect, JPF

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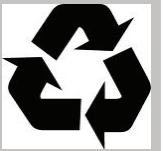




# AIA Western Massachusetts newsletter

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## WMAIA COMMUNITY SPRING 2021

### WMAIA Women in Architecture (WiA) presents:

Tuesday, May 18 | 5:00 PM | Zoom 1LU

### PRIZED DESIGN

The founders of WMAIA's Women in Architecture Committee, Kathleen Lugosch FAIA/Ann McCallum FAIA / Margo Jones FAIA/ Sigrid Miller Pollin FAIA, present and discuss award-winning work of 2020 Pritzker Prize recipients Grafton Architects (Yvonne Farrell and Shelley McNamara) and Studio Gang (MacArthur Fellow Jeanne Gang)

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