

W M | A I A



N  
E  
W  
S  
L  
E  
T  
T  
E  
R

DIETZ & COMPANY ARCHITECTS, INC.  
SARGEANT HOUSE  
NORTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS

SUMMER  
2021



**SKINS publication** Associate Professor Ajla Aksamija guest-edited the April issue of SKINS, published by the Facade Tectonics Institute, focusing on R+D and innovation. To read Aksamija's editorial article, a book review of Research Methods for the Architectural Profession, and two more articles relating to UMass about our collaboration with industry partners, and life-long learning opportunities for practitioners interested in a PhD program, please follow this link: <https://www.facadetectonics.org/skins/april-2021>



**Excellence in Teaching Award**

Assistant Professor Pari Rihi AIA was honored with a 2021 Outstanding Teaching Award from the College of Humanities and Fine Arts in recognition of her commitment to the art of teaching, passion for her subjects, and genuine concern for and interest in student success. Rihi's teaching inspiration began with one of her own academic mentors who she says expressed "sincere empathy for each and every student." Using that approach in her architectural design studio and theory courses, she has amassed accolades from many students who cite her "enthusiasm for the subject," "insight on architecture and the work that we do," "passion and wealth of knowledge," and ability "to meet each student where they are." As a practicing architect, Rihi enhances "student-centered learning by keeping the subject matter relevant and grounded" and by engaging students in projects and tasks that are authentic. One student's comment poignantly captures the impact of her teaching: "Pari's mentorship has opened the doors to unknown and exciting possibilities for me, that both contradict and complement my pre-conceived ideas of architecture and where my career can take me."



**2021  
AIA New England  
Design Awards  
October 16th**

**SAVE THE DATE!**

The 2021 AIA New England Design Awards Program, hosted this year by AIA Central Massachusetts, will be held on October 16 at Polar Park in Worcester, Massachusetts.

Renowned urban planner and longtime baseball consultant, Janet Marie Smith, will deliver the keynote speech at the Awards Dinner.

**IN THIS ISSUE:**

**ONE + TWO** WMAIA COMMUNITY NEWS

**THREE TO SEVEN** UMASS THESIS WORK 2021

**TEN** IN MEMORIUM: MARK LEDWELL

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

**THIRTEEN + FOURTEEN** BEFORE + AFTER: DIETZ & COMPANY ARCHITECTS, INC.

**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](mailto: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: DIETZ & COMPANY ARCHITECTS, INC.**

**THANK YOU!**

Every year, we feature the MArch Thesis Projects from UMass Amherst in the Summer Issue of the WMAIA Newsletter, as a celebration of the architectural education happening in Western Massachusetts. We want to acknowledge the students, the thesis advisors and faculty, as well as the many community members who serve as outside jurors during the Spring semester - thank you! See pages three to seven for a glimpse of the work presented!

**Jeffrey Blankeship** Hobart William Smith College

**Andrew Chin** Florida A&M University

**Ruth Connell AIA** Morgan State University

**Helen Fantini AIA** SMMA

**Blake Jackson AIA** Stantec

**Hyacinth G. John DP+** Studio

**Rob Markalow AIA** Kuth Ranieri Architects

**Jason Newman AIA** Dietz & Company Architects

**Derek Noble AIA** Shepley Bullfinch Architects

**Justin Pelland AIA** Cube 3 Architects

**Nada Shuaib** Shepley Bullfinch Architects

**Lorin Starr** Lorin Starr Interiors

**Brien Tal-Baker AIA** Simple City Studio

**Lindsay Comeaux Schnarr AIA**

**Department of  
Architecture  
2021 Graduate  
Architecture Thesis**



**WMAIA  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**PRESIDENT:**

KRISTIAN WHITSETT AIA

**PRESIDENT ELECT:**

GARTH SCHWELLENBACH AIA

**TREASURER:**

CHRISTOPHER NOVELLI AIA

**SECRETARY:**

CARYN BRAUSE FAIA

**PAST PRESIDENT:**

LUDMILLA PAVLOVA AIA

**MEMBERS:**

JODY BARKER AIA

KERRY BARTINI AIA

HELEN FANTINI AIA

MICAELA GOODRICH AIAS

MOHAMED IBRAHIM ASSOCIATE AIA

GARRISON PIERS-GAMBLE ASSOCIATE AIA

STEPHEN SCHREIBER FAIA

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:**

LORIN STARR

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR:**

RACHAEL CHASE

**EMERGING PROFESSIONALS**

**COORDINATOR**

GARRISON PIERS-GAMBLE ASSOCIATE AIA

**ARCHITECT LICENSING ADVISOR**

KERRY BARTINI AIA

**WEBSITE MANAGER**

JULIE WAGGONER HON. WMAIA

**SOCIAL MEDIA**

MICAELA GOODRICH AIAS

**FILM SERIES**

ANDREW BAGGE AIA

**DISASTER ASSISTANCE COORDINATOR**

JOHN ROBINSON AIA

**COTE COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS**

LAURA FITCH AIA

AELAN TIERNEY AIA

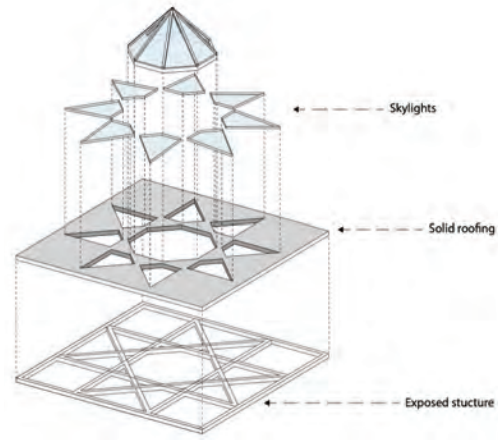
CONGRATULATIONS UMASS  
M.ARCH STUDENTS!

Department of Architecture  
at the University of Massachusetts Amherst

ALEESA ASFOURA

Thesis Advisor: Rob Williams AIA

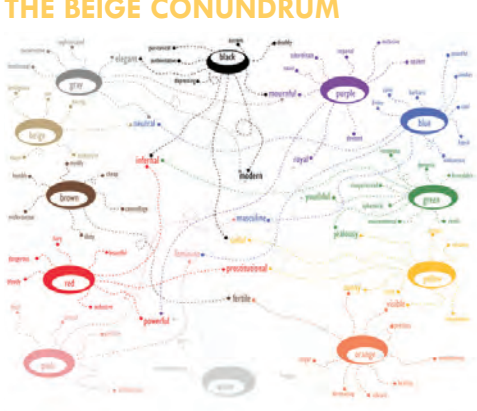
CREATING NEW CULTURAL HUBS IN AMERICAN CITIES: THE SYRIAN DIASPORA OF WORCESTER, MA



ALMA CRAWFORD-MENDOZA

Thesis Advisor: Tim Rohan

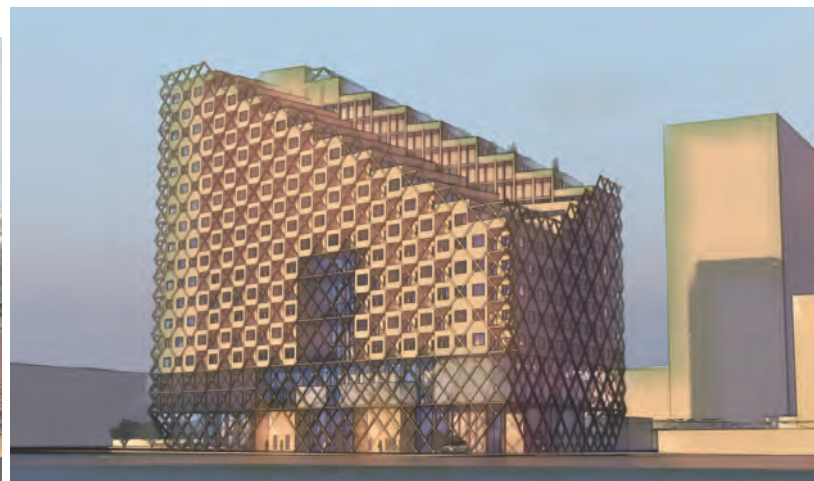
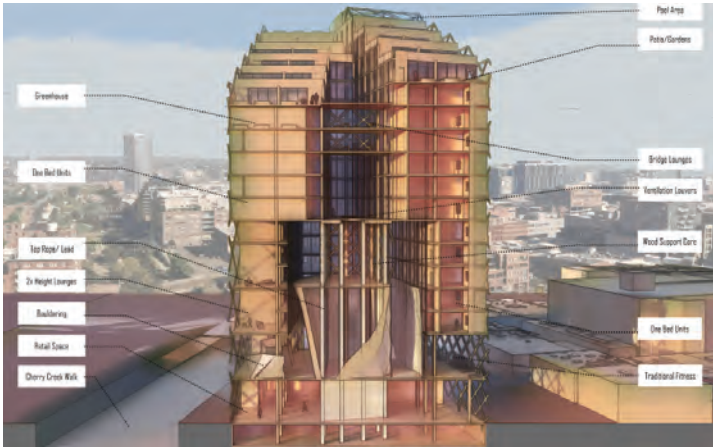
THE BEIGE CONUNDRUM



ANDREW WEULING

Thesis Advisor: Ajla Aksamija

TALL TIMBER IN DENVER



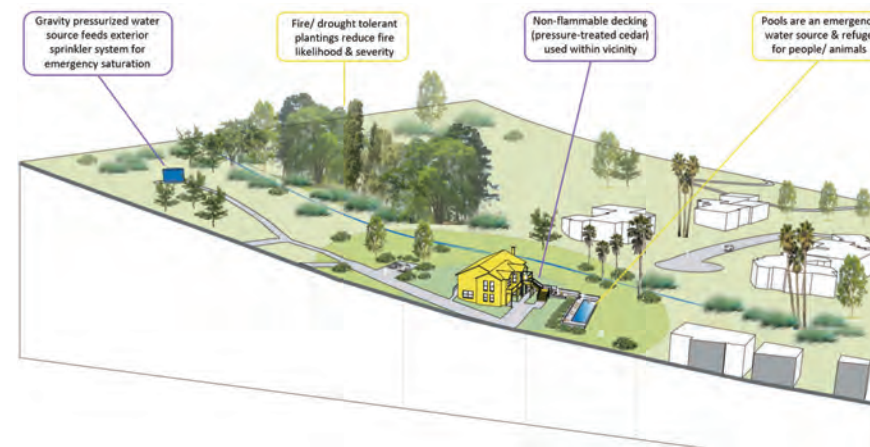
MASTER OF ARCHITECTURE

CONGRATULATIONS UMASS  
M.ARCH STUDENTS!

BRENDAN BAITCH

Thesis Advisor: Carey Clouse AIA

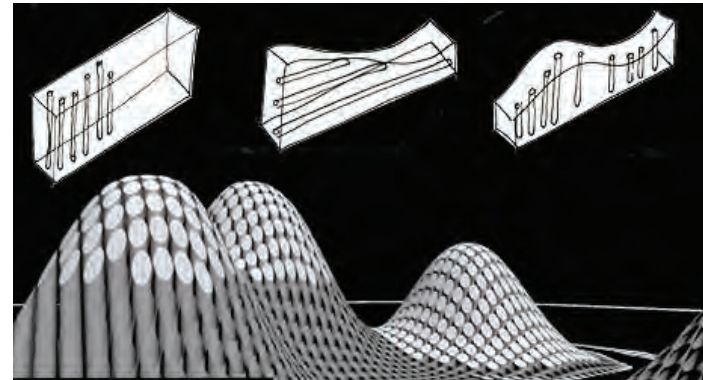
DESIGNING FOR FIRE-RESILIENT COMMUNITIES IN THE AMERICAN WEST



CONNER SLOVER

Thesis Advisor: Erika Zekos Associate AIA

EXPLORING THE USE OF COMPRESSED AIR ENERGY STORAGE IN THE URBAN LANDSCAPE



COURTNEY JURZYNSKI

Thesis Advisor: Carey Clouse AIA

THE HOMESTEAD HELPER HANDBOOK



# CONGRATULATIONS UMASS M.ARCH STUDENTS!

Department of **A**rchitecture  
at the University of Massachusetts Amherst

## ELAIN TANG

Thesis Advisor: Kathleen Lugosch FAIA

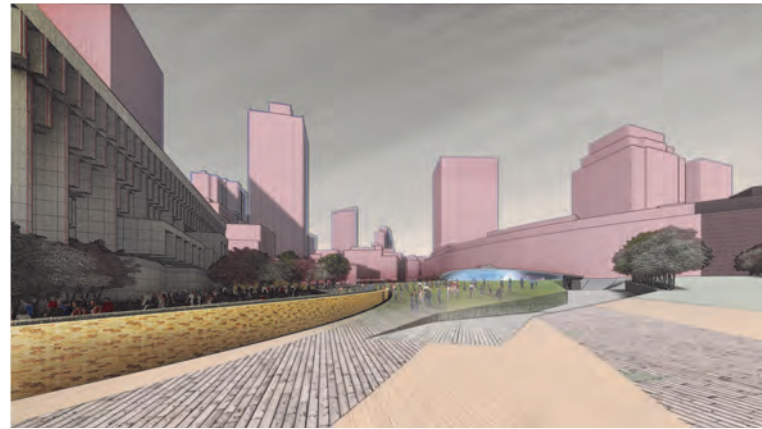
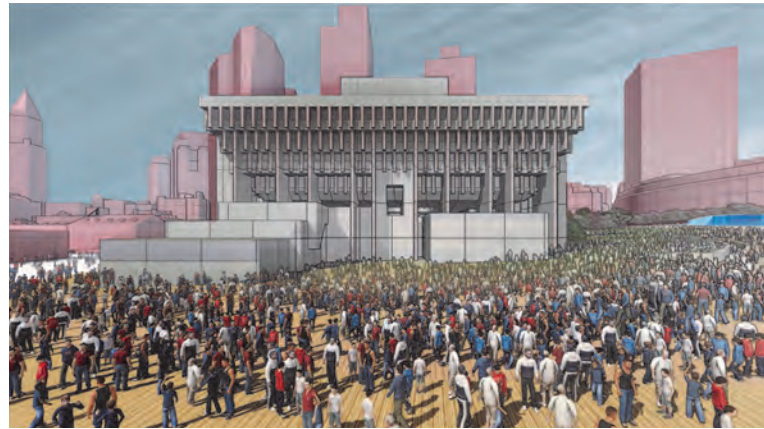
### RE-ENVISIONING THE AMERICAN DREAM



## KARITIKIYA SONKER

Thesis Advisor: Pari Riahi AIA

### BRIDGING THE GAPS IN PUBLIC CONVERSATION BY FOSTERING SPACES OF ACTIVISM: SPACES IN SEARCH OF PROTESTS



## MADISON DEHAVEN

Thesis Advisor: Eldra Walker

### CULTIVATING FOOD JUSTICE IN THE PIONEER VALLEY: EXPLORING PUBLIC INTEREST DESIGN PROCESS THROUGH A FOOD SECURITY & SUSTAINABILITY HUB



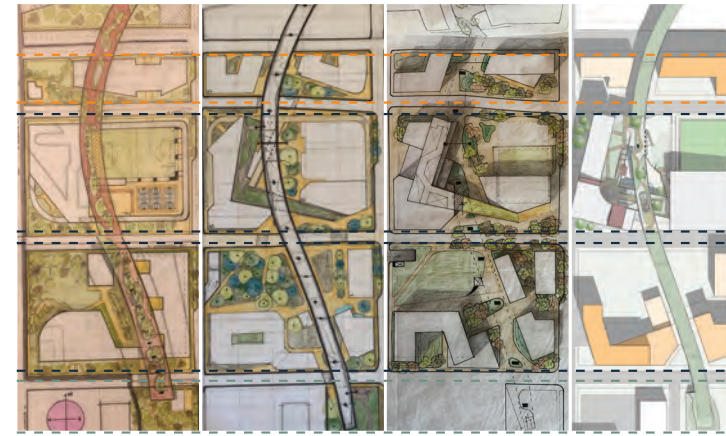
## MASTER OF ARCHITECTURE

# CONGRATULATIONS UMASS M.ARCH STUDENTS!

## MORGAN B. SAWYER

Thesis Advisor: Steve Schreiber FAIA

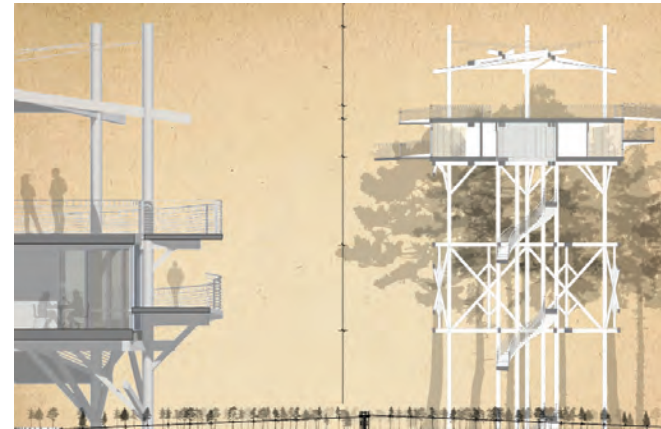
### FROM SANCTUARY TO HOME IN THE POST-INTERSTATE CITY



## NATE LUMEN

Thesis Advisor: Rob Williams AIA

### AN ARCHITECTURE OF A NEW STORY



## STEPHEN J FINK

Thesis Advisor: Erika Zekos Associate AIA

### PHYSICAL TO VIRTUAL: A MODEL FOR FUTURE VIRTUAL CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENTS



MASTER OF ARCHITECTURE

# CONGRATULATIONS UMASS M.ARCH STUDENTS!

TARA PEARCE

Thesis Advisor: Erika Zekos Associate AIA

HOUSING FOR ADULTS WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER: CREATING AN INTEGRATED LIVING COMMUNITY IN SALEM, MA



The Coach House | Northampton, MA | Built in 1900



Historical Renovation | Completed in 2019

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

# DAS

*Building History Since 1897*

www.dasullivan.com | 413-584-0310

Follow us online:   



Supporting  
the  
Architectural  
Community

ERIKA DEADY  
(413) 348-8566  
edeedy@pellasales.com



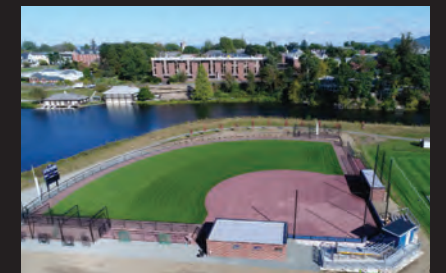
## VIEWED TO BE THE BEST.®

3306590



# KEITER

DEVELOP • BUILD • MANAGE  
Florence, MA • 413-586-8600 • Keiter.com



IN MEMORIAM  
MARK LEDWELL

**Mark Ledwell: February 9, 1953 – May 5, 2021**

We are a close family of designers and builders in this valley, and if you practice here as an architect, engineer or tradesperson, you would certainly have known Mark Ledwell. The 20 plus years he was a part of Wright Builders resulted in a legacy of buildings that many of us are familiar with; The Bement School Dormitories, Village Hill Townhouses, The Unitarian Universalist Society of Amherst (where he crafted hand-made benches from an oak that fell to make room for a new addition,) The Belchertown Day School, Green River Condominiums, The Hitchcock Center, and those are just a few.

The Hitchcock Center, along with the Kerns Center, were built contemporaneously by WBI, and are the second and third Living Building Challenge structures in this part of the country. The Hitchcock Center was Mark's project, and the level of passion, communication and people skills needed for this type of work is a rare commodity. In the words of Jonathan Wright, Mark's cohort and business partner over those many years, "Being a maker is not just a skill, or a vocation. It is a path through this world and beyond.... Mark could build anything. That's with a capital A. Buried in that kindly smile and broad shoulders was a fiercely quick intellect and math cognition that would shame a lowly computer. When he said, 'we'll figure it out'", it was not a cliché. It was a statement of problem-solving fact." Before joining Wright Builders, Mark built homes for John Bednarski, a brilliant valley architect with a yen for disappearing butt-glazed corners. "Tell me what it's supposed to look like and I'll put the wood where it is supposed go," Mark exclaimed.

Mark possessed the perfect blend of stature, experience, humor and discipline that is essential to this business. Design and construction is an industry where the risk/reward balance is often in flux. Mark was able to bring that dynamic into perspective by trusting and encouraging those around him while asserting his own knowledge and expertise, often with a wink to assure you he was on your side. His laugh would fill the room and was always the right antidote to a problem-solving moment; refocusing attention and mining solutions from the collective mind.

Mark recently worked tirelessly for the better part of a year renovating a home in Greenfield for the Children's Advocacy Center, an organization "based upon the fundamental premise that children have the right to be safe and protected from harm." Volunteering his talents for this cause, he also helped fundraise for the CAC and increase public awareness of their mission.



Those who knew Mark professionally are fortunate and the better for it. He was also a man devoted to his family, a husband and father of four children. He was a musician, a master woodworker, a gardener, an intellectual, a humorist, a man of exceptional talent who knew how to shape the physical world for the greater good. People who live and work in the spaces he helped build are surrounded by the care Mark applied to all his accomplishments. Mark's work will live on for generations, carrying his spirit and love of life and family forward, so others may benefit from what he added to this world.

- Charles Roberts AIA, Kuhn Riddle Architects

**mica blue**  
CREATIVE

Julie Waggoner  
Affiliate W/MAIA  
jwaggoner@micablue.com  
413-665-2280

Graphic Design  
Web Design  
Copy Writing  
Photography

Sustainability Leadership for Over Forty-Five Years

**WRIGHT** Inc.  
BUILDERS

Kuhn Riddle Architects

Bruce Coldham Architect

Low Embodied Carbon,  
Net Zero and  
Sustainable Construction

413.586.8287  
wright-builders.com  
Northampton, MA

**ENGINEERING VENTURES PC**

Vermont • New Hampshire • New York  
*Creative Civil & Structural Engineering Solutions*  
www.engineeringventures.com

**OTO**

Collaborating with Design and Construction teams, OTO provides

- Environmental Due Dilligence Studies
- Geotechnical Studies and Assessments
- Civil Engineering Support
- Pre-Renovation Hazardous Materials Assessment and Testing
- MCP Compliance and LSP Services
- Construction Support and Oversight
- LEEDS and IBC Indoor Air Quality Testing
- and more.

Industrial Hygiene | Geotechnical | Environmental

HELLO@OTO-ENV.COM  
413 . 788 . 6222  
WWW.OTO-ENV.COM

WBE

SERVING NEW ENGLAND AND BEYOND FOR OVER 25 YEARS, AND PROUD TO ANNOUNCE OUR NEW STATUS AS A MASSACHUSETTS CERTIFIED WOMEN BUSINESS ENTERPRISE



planning  
land surveying  
civil engineering  
optical alignment  
project management  
electrical engineering  
structural engineering  
mechanical engineering

You want a collaborative M/E/P partner.

**We understand.**

Since 1992, we've worked closely with the architectural community to ensure buildings perform the way they were envisioned.

We know your challenges and understand your needs.

We're proud to support AIA.

We're proud to support you.



(413) 743-9500 ♦ [hec@hesnor.com](mailto:hec@hesnor.com) ♦ [www.hesnor.com](http://www.hesnor.com)



50 Depot Street, Dalton, MA 01226  
(413) 684-0925 Fax (413) 684-0267  
[www.hillengineers.com](http://www.hillengineers.com)



DISCOVER WHAT MODERN DESIGN CAN DO

Marvin Signature® Modern windows and doors are stunning in both their design and engineering, letting you take the best of modern architecture - clean lines, narrow profiles, large expanses of glass - to create a purely modern aesthetic at an even larger scale.

Modern: Innovation inspired by you



Mike Klahr  
518-419-0153  
[MikeKlahr@marvin.com](mailto:MikeKlahr@marvin.com)

©2021 Marvin Lumber and Cedar Co., LLC.

**MASS MoCA**

**SHAUN LEONARDO  
YOU WALK...**



**You walk...** is an interactive installation by Brooklyn-based multi-disciplinary artist Shaun Leonardo. Translating his performance practice into a participatory installation, Leonardo offers a series of visual and textual prompts — drawing from themes present in exhibitions on view throughout the museum — to invite us to consider how we process and embody space, ideas, and connectivity.

Using visual elements like two-way mirrors and mock windowscapes, Leonardo creates a space that both reflects a shared physical present but also alludes to the differences that shape our individual perspectives. Text prompts throughout the space encourage visitors to relive memories of simple movements and gestures — walking down the street, averting your gaze from a stranger, holding someone's hand. These reflections draw awareness to experiences that can't be articulated as much as felt. By unlocking these physical narratives, Leonardo offers an opportunity to reflect on the ways we perceive ourselves and engage with others.

**THE CLARK**

THROUGH OCTOBER 17, 2021

Ground/work is free and open to the public, night and day. No tickets are required.



**Ground/work** highlights the balance between fragility and resilience that both nature and the passage of time reveal, while offering fresh experiences with every visit.

A reverence for nature and a desire to further enliven the surrounding trails, pastures, and woods inspired Ground/work—the Clark Art Institute's first outdoor exhibition. Building on a history of collaboration with contemporary artists, the Clark commissioned Kelly Akashi, Nairy Baghramian, Jennie C. Jones, Eva LeWitt, Analia Saban, and Haegue Yang to create new works of art in active dialogue with this specific environment.

The artists conceived their works in response to sites of their choosing, knowing that visitors would have access day and night for more than a year. Found in varied locations across the Clark's 140-acre campus, these installations are embedded in a landscape that is ever changing—both daily and seasonally.



38 Front Street FL 3 Worcester, MA 01608  
t. 508-797-0333 f. 508-797-5130

**About**

Sergeant House is an 1820s Federal, Italianate building located in the Pomeroy Terrace Historic District in Northampton, Massachusetts. The building was previously used for both single- and multi-family dwelling, as well as an inn. The latest renovation, completed in 2020, highlights a new addition, and an extensive renovation and restoration effort to restore its character. The building has reopened as multi-family housing, consisting of thirty-one efficiency units for single residency occupancy that serve the housing needs in the community.

**Historic Artifacts**

Antiquities and unique historic elements were discovered throughout the house during demolition, including sheathing in the attic which was observed to have imagery from a circus advertisement, old glass bottles from Brookside Dairy, Inc. formerly of Northampton, MA, and Hampden Brewing Company, formerly of Willimansett, MA, and old photographs found inside the historic mantles. In addition to those relics, the historic post and beam structure of the existing house was found to contain live edge hand hewn beams with bark still attached which remained intact throughout the renovation and, along with other materials, was left in place to be rediscovered in any future renovations.

**Reclaimed / Rebuilt**

Significant effort was put into maintaining the historic character of the building while updating and modernizing almost every area. The first-floor monumental stair to the second floor was intended to be salvaged, but due to its condition it was reconstructed in its entirety to replicate the existing historic features and the original banister was refinished and reinstalled.

The historic entry portico, a previous addition to the house, was structurally stabilized and reclad with all new PVC trim and wood decking which were installed to match what was existing; replicating railings, trim, and molding profiles in precise detail.

Additionally, two of the six existing fireplace mantles were salvaged and refinished for reinstallation in the community room. Both mantles were stripped and stained to match the first-floor stair banister and infilled with decorative period style tile. In the first-floor foyer adjacent to the stair, a historic decorative mirror was reclaimed, resized to fit the new ceiling heights, and resin was casted to repair a damaged foot. The glazing was replaced with safety glass, and it was painted and reinstalled in its original location.

**Modernization & Accessibility**

In addition to the reclamation of so many important historic features, the building was modernized to suit today's needs. The new three-story addition, replacing the existing 1986 two-story addition, increased occupancy and added an elevator that allowed the accessibility needs of the project to be met. The existing main entry did not meet accessibility regulations, so a new main entry was incorporated into the addition on the side of the building allowing easy access from the parking lot.

**Energy & Performance**

Sustainability played an important role in all aspects of the project from the building envelope to the mechanical systems, and the design and historic character was considered with every decision. All historic windows were replaced with architectural aluminum clad windows, which are triple-glazed with a low-E coating and argon filled for maximum performance. Historic decorative exterior window heads were custom fabricated to replicate the ones shown in historic photographs.

The approach to the exterior was to provide the building with a super insulated exterior envelope, and implementation of a smart interior air barrier and energy recovery ventilation units to keep the building efficient and comfortable. Due to the condition of the exterior studs, many of which were non-continuous or damaged, new 2"x6" framing was added in and around the post and beam structure while leaving as many of the existing studs intact as possible. The interior wall cavity was infilled with blown cellulose insulation in order to better fill gaps around existing studs and bracing, and exterior continuous mineral wool insulation behind the siding. Special attention was paid to air sealing each unit for additional energy performance and produced a HERS Index Score of 37 avg per unit.

The flat roof of the new addition, as well as the pitched roof of the connector section of the building, was designed to optimize an expansive 31KW photovoltaic array that substantially supplements the building with renewable energy.

**Interior Design & Amenities**

The interior finishes of the original house harken back to the Victorian styling of the historic district, while also providing comfortable and durable surfaces that will stand the test of time. Period style door hardware, decorative ceramic tile, light fixtures, wainscotting and paint colors were selected to fit the historic house's character. The building also provides tenants with a covered bike storage area with charging ports, a community room with original refinished fireplace mantles and a large back deck for outdoor enjoyment.

Developed By: Valley CDC and Way Finders

Constructed By: Western Builders, Inc.



BEFORE





71 SOUTH MAIN STREET SUNDERLAND MASSACHUSETTS 01375



## WMAIA COMMUNITY SUMMER 2021



**BSA presents Matter & Opinion – a series on Existing Buildings**

**WMAIA members can register at the member rate:**

**Use promo code WMAIAMO2021**

We cannot meet our future goals without utilizing our greatest built and cultural assets: existing buildings. Join the Boston Society for Architecture (BSA) every week from July 19 to August 30 for Matter & Opinion a 7-part program series on climate action and building the will. Each session will feature clients and designers from education facilities); workplaces and housing. Attend one session, a few, or all seven! Continuing education will be offered.

For more information and to register visit [www.architects.org](http://www.architects.org)

### Looking Ahead...

As we plan our late summer and fall programming you can expect a mix of in-person and remote programs.

Watch for updates in our enews.

### A note about WMAIA's enews:

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](mailto:director@wmaia.org)