

CHICAGO ARCHITECT



A Good Balance

A TO Z

CHRIS-ANNMARIE SPENCER, 2015 DUBIN FAMILY
YOUNG ARCHITECT AWARD RECIPIENT // 42

BONNE TERRE: SOCIAL LEARNING
AS INSPIRATION AT THE LYCÉE
FRANÇAIS DE CHICAGO // 28

FUTURE FIRM SEEKS BALANCE
BETWEEN INNOVATIVE AND
PRACTICAL // 34



THE POSSIBILITIES
ARE **ENDLESS**

Our team has been trusted for over 40 years to provide technical expertise and project support in the exploration of segmented paving product options.

Optimizing color, finish, texture and size, we do what it takes to bring your vision to life.

PROJECT: Hudson Valley Office Complex, Tarrytown, NY

DESIGN: W Architecture and Landscape Architecture
Perkins + Will

PRODUCT: Promenade™ Plank Paver

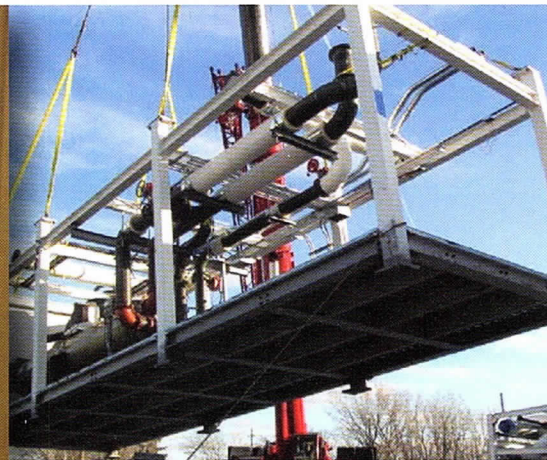
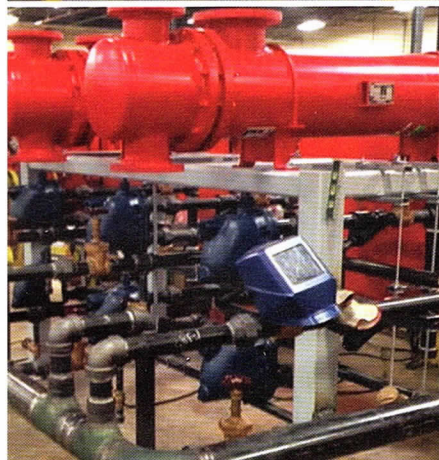
Contact your Unilock Representative for samples, product information and to arrange a Lunch & Learn for your team.

UNILOCK
DESIGNED TO CONNECT

UNILOCK.COM 1-800-UNILOCK



MODULAR SOLUTIONS



View our modular process

hillgrp.com



1891 - 2016

Distinguished by our history, not defined by it.

Bulley & Andrews celebrates its 125th year in 2016. Four generations of family ownership. Professional relationships lasting decades, some even a century. Literally thousands of projects. But while these distinctions can be counted, they can never be measured. The real story of Bulley & Andrews is carried in the expertise and craftsmanship of these generations. It's in the solid foundation of trust and in the dedication to quality, stewardship and skill, the hallmarks of every Bulley & Andrews project.

BULLEY & ANDREWS

Building Matters®

Chicago | Indianapolis

www.bulley.com

PUBLICATION DIRECTOR

Richard Esposito
resposito@aichicago.org

EDITORS

Julie Rao
jrao@aichicago.org

Katharina Strange
kstrange@innovativepublishing.com

DESIGNER

Matt Wood

ADVERTISING SALES

Innovative Publishing
advertise@innovativepublishing.com
4.423.7272

Cover photo by Darris Lee Harris

AIA
CHICAGO

Innovative
PUBLISHING

Chicago Architect, the primary outreach journal of AIA Chicago, is published six times a year as an authoritative resource for architects, the larger design community and the public about architecture and related issues of interest to Chicago architects. The magazine communicates industry trends, the value of high-quality design and the role of AIA Chicago and its members in the world of architecture.

facebook.com/chicagoaia
aichicago.tumblr.com
twitter.com/aichicago
vimeo.com/aichicago



I would like to begin my year as AIA Chicago Board president by wishing you a healthy, happy and prosperous 2016!

Looking ahead at the year to come, I begin by looking back. Specifically, I reflect on the value of my involvement in AIA and the opportunities and connections that have helped shape my path, professionally and personally.

Beginning with my sporadic engagement with AIAS during my time at the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT), my entry into AIA took root through the personal connections with faculty and work mentors. Their introductions to people in the organization started me on a path of gaining knowledge and experience that continues through present-day.

Most of all, I have admired the willingness of architects to give their time and share their knowledge outside of their professional work. There is a particularly strong tradition of this in our Chicago chapter, where our members engage in civic work, assist organizations in our region that provide much-needed community support, and teach in our K-12 schools and higher education institutions.

A particularly memorable experience for me of an architect giving a bit of his time happened when I was a student at IIT. Our AIAS chapter decided to ask Stanley Tigerman to speak at our campus. Being relatively new to the Chicago area, I did not realize the tensions that had arisen roughly 10 years before were still smoldering as intensely as they were, so I did not hesitate to call him. His positive response was a bit of a shock to many at IIT, but his willingness to talk and the subsequent conversations about the different opinions on modern architecture's trajectory

were exactly the type of conversations that were important to students at the time. We should all strive to ensure that such conversations continue in our schools and among AIA Chicago members today.

We all have stories of architects reaching out to lend their support or catalyzing dialogues about architecture. In this coming year, I would like to challenge all of us to become engaged — to share our talents and expertise beyond our daily practice and connect with others. Let's ask ourselves if we can do more to:

- Share our expertise and talents through involvement with AIA Chicago — our diverse Knowledge Community committees are always looking for new voices
- Become advocates for our profession with civic leaders and community groups
- Educate those outside our profession on what it means to work with an architect
- Visit schools to reach out to potential future architects or to share an architect's approach to problem-solving with those who will follow us and shape our future

In whatever way you can, I urge you to become involved. If you do not know where to begin or are interested in becoming involved in new ways, do not hesitate to reach out to me or other Board members, KC leaders or our chapter staff. We then want to know what you are doing to share with our members throughout 2016. Your actions can encourage others to see potential pathways to their own personal engagement. Small actions — even accepting an invitation to speak — can have major impact.

Dawn Schuette, FAIA

Moving Walls

800-746-8273

DOORS

- SHOPPING CENTERS
- OFFICE BUILDINGS
- RESTAURANTS
- AVIATION



HYDRAULIC

"One-Piece" DOOR

OR

BIFOLD

STRAP-LIFT and auto-latch

- FASTER
- SAFER
- QUIETER
- PROVEN

Say **YES...** to Strap-Lift Doors

Say **NO** to Cable Lift

SCHWEISSDOORS.com

One-Piece

2016 AIA CHICAGO DIRECTORY

CHICAGO ARCHITECT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thomas Braham, AIA
 Peter Exley, FAIA
 Peter Schlossman, AIA
 Linda Searl, FAIA
 Brett Taylor, AIA
 P.K. VanderBeke, AIA
 Cynthia Weese, FAIA
 Thomas Zurowski, AIA

AIA CHICAGO 2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT
 Dawn Schuette, FAIA

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT/ PRESIDENT-ELECT
 Matthew Dumich, AIA

PAST PRESIDENT
 Anthony LoBello, AIA

VICE PRESIDENT, ADVOCACY
 Catherine Baker, AIA

VICE PRESIDENT, SPONSORSHIP
 Robert Forest, FAIA

VICE PRESIDENT, HONORS & AWARDS
 Philip Castillo, FAIA

TREASURER
 Craig Cernek, AIA

SECRETARY
 Craig Brandt, AIA

DIRECTOR
 Nootan Bharani, AIA
 Laura Garcia, AIA
 Jessica Figenholtz, AIA
 Edward M. Peck, AIA
 April Hughes, AIA
 Jennifer Park, AIA
 Michael Pfeffer, AIA

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
 Vuk Vujovic, Assoc. AIA
 Laura Crane, Assoc. AIA

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATE DIRECTOR
 Fred Berglund, Affiliate AIA
 Avraham Mor, Affiliate AIA

STUDENT DIRECTOR
 Emma Camilleri, AIAS

AIA ILLINOIS DELEGATE
 Fred Brandstrader, AIA
 Janeen Harrell, AIA
 Ellen Dickson, AIA

2016 KNOWLEDGE COMMUNITIES

COMMUNITY INTERFACE COMMITTEE
 Chey Hsiao Taylor, AIA, co-chair
 Alexis Stumpf, Assoc. AIA, co-chair

DESIGN
 Gregory Klosowski, AIA, co-chair
 Katherine LaCourt, Assoc. AIA, co-chair

DESIGN FOR AGING
 Steven Montgomery, AIA, chair
 Heidi Dahle, AIA, co-chair

EDUCATION
 Lynn Sorkin, AIA, chair
 Peter Schlossman, AIA, chair

ENVIRONMENT
 Darren Hoppa, AIA, chair
 Susan Heinking, AIA, co-chair
 Jason Sippel, Assoc. AIA, co-chair
 José Rodriguez, Intl. Assoc. AIA, 2030 Working Group

HEALTHCARE ARCHITECTURE
 Candace Small, AIA,
 EDAC, co-chair
 Chuks Okwuje, Assoc. AIA

HISTORIC RESOURCES
 Tim Scovic, AIA, co-chair
 Carolyn Andrews, Assoc. AIA, co-chair

PRACTICE MANAGEMENT
 Ben Johnson, AIA, chair

REGIONAL & URBAN PLANNING
 Susan Hickey, AIA, chair
 Steve Wilson, AIA, co-chair

SMALL PRACTITIONERS GROUP
 Craig Cernek, AIA, chair
 Laura Garcia, AIA, co-chair

TECHNICAL ISSUES
 Peter Stutz, AIA, co-chair
 Nick Niedospial, AIA, co-chair

YOUNG ARCHITECTS FORUM
 Scott Schumaker, Assoc. AIA, chair
 Laura Crane, Assoc. AIA, co-chair

CHAPTER STAFF

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
 Zurich Esposito

PROGRAM DIRECTOR
 Joan Pomaranc

PROGRAM MANAGER
 Allison Garwood Fre

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR
 Anjolie Rao

FINANCIAL MANAGER
 Kathy Jessen

MEMBERSHIP MANAGER
 Steve Riforgiato

EVENTS MANAGER
 Kelsey Kirkley

OFFICE MANAGER
 Nina Dew

SPONSORSHIP COORDINATOR
 Debora Donato

Subscription to Chicago Architect is included in AIA Chicago membership. Non-members may subscribe by signing up at: www.aiachicago.org

Additional copies of Chicago Architect are available for \$7.50 per issue and can be obtained by contacting Chicago office at 312-677-7770. If you are interested in purchasing a large number of issues, contact AIA Chicago about group sales.

The American Institute of Architects is the voice of architectural profession and the resource for its members and service to society.

Chicago Architect is printed with zero-VOC ink on 10-percent post-consumer waste stock.



PROUDLY FEATURING

MARVIN 
Windows and Doors

Built around you.

OUR ATTENTION TO DETAIL

GOES WELL BEYOND OUR PRODUCT.

Our knowledgeable dealers provide personal attention and individual solutions for each of your projects, because we know that every job counts.

Contact your local Marvin dealer today.

MARVIN DESIGN GALLERY by Estates Windows, LTD.

930 North Shore Dr.
Lake Bluff, IL 60044
847-615-1003
MarvinByEstates.com

Ashland Millwork, Inc.

5 Messner Dr.
Wheeling, IL 60090
847-465-8101
AshlandMillwork.com

Auburn Corp.

10490 W 164th Place
Orland Park, IL 60467
877-978-2606 | 708-349-7676 x16
AuburnCorp.com

Blue Ribbon Millwork

Woodstock - 815-338-8900
Algonquin - 847-658-9998
BlueRibbonMillwork.com

Creative Millwork

3700 Illinois Ave.
St. Charles, IL 60174
630-762-0002
CreativeMillworkLLC.com

Door & Window Super Store

Downers Grove - 630-969-7454
Orland Park - 708-349-0405
Sycamore - 815-899-3667
DoorWindowSuperStore.com

Evanston Lumber Company

1001 Sherman Ave.
Evanston, IL 60202
847-864-7700
EvanstonLumber.com

Lee Lumber & Building Materials

Chicago North - 773-509-6700
Chicago South - 773-927-8282
Highland Park - 847-681-0300
Merrillville, IN - 219-736-2055
LeeLumber.com

Maher Lumber

301 W Irving Park Rd.
Wood Dale, IL 60191
630-766-8440
MaherLumber.com

Midwest Window and Door

1001 Aucutt Rd.
Montgomery, IL 60538
630-966-1071
MidwestWindowAndDoor.net

Midwest Window & Supply

800 Hicks Dr.
Elburn, IL 60119
630-365-5772
MidwestWindow.com

Searls Windows and Doors, Inc.

16260 Essington Rd.
Plainfield, IL 60544
815-436-3196
SearlsWindows.com

Woodland Windows & Doors

25 W 355 Lake St.
Roselle, IL 60172
866-838-3667
WoodlandWindows.com

REUSE, REJUVENATE, REIMAGINE: DODGE SCHOOL'S ADAPTIVE REUSE



ALL PHOTOS BY STEINKAMP PHOTOGRAPHY

The transformation of Dodge Elementary, a 1960s era school, into modern offices was an aggressive goal for Chicago Public Schools (CPS), needing to decommission existing space and to move administrative staff. It was a vacant, run-down building in Chicago's gang-infested Garfield Park community — not a likely choice for rejuvenation into appealing, vibrant offices. Nor was the project likely to be supported by the local community. RADA Architects and CPS succeeded at both.

considerable challenge was to transform the old-school, cave-like corridors into a modern workplace environment. The low ceilings and the numerous stacks of mechanical ductwork were removed or reconfigured to stream light into the building and to allow for flexibility in planning. New, better solutions for infrastructure provided a “clean slate” for design. Entrances and common spaces were completely updated. Naturally, the added challenge was to accomplish the redesign on a low budget and on a fast-track project schedule.

The new, reimagined space was opened to abundant daylight and internal vistas. Brightly colored carpets define the circulation within the building guiding people through the space. The office plan is based on the concept of creating “neighborhoods” of departments with collaborative areas along the central “main street” spine, offset from the center. In this manner, 30 departments were accommodated on three floors, with a total of 30 workspaces. Conference and training rooms were clustered around a new elevator core, with shared facilities and informal gathering spaces, creating a new comprehensive training site for Chicago Public Schools. The gym was preserved for staff, after hours and community use. Similarly, the community benefited from a new play field within the school boundary.

The design’s embrace of affordability, modest use of materials and finishes is evident throughout, and the accent is on attractive color splashes guiding the visitor through the facility. Possible is the approach to preserve and reuse, in particular in bringing



existing furniture for the new conference rooms. Student work in the building was salvaged and reused where possible. WPA art from the extensive CPS collection was strategically placed in gathering areas. Adorning the main entrance lobby is Keith

Haring’s panel from the 480-foot Pinnacle mural he painted with 500 CPS students in 1989.

This project was transformative to the site as well. The former parking lot was converted into a plaza-like area, covered with permeable pavers and lined with

benches and trees, where employees enjoy breaks in good weather. The building brings new life to the area; with the increased presence of people and feeling of safety, the site has become an urban center and is an active attribute to the renewal in Garfield Park. **CA**

DANGEROUS YEARS

Richard Cahan and Michael Williams published a new book on Richard Nickel, focusing on documents and images revealing the legendary preservationist's true commitment to his field.

The story of the late Richard Nickel lives infamously; it's the stuff of Chicago's urban legends. The Polish-American architect was best known for his life's contributions to preserving the works of Louis Sullivan. However, his death lives in infamy — crushed when a

portion of the derelict Chicago Stock Exchange collapsed during a solo venture to recover the building's artifacts.

Authors Richard Cahan and Michael Williams wrote about Nickel's life in the book, *Richard Nickel's Chicago: Photographs*

of a Lost City, published in 2006. Within, they discuss Nickel's contributions to the preservation field and his relationship with Chicago.

In their most recent book, *Richard Nickel: Dangerous Years*, the authors offer a deeper look into his more personal life. The oversized, hardback book features over 250 archived letters, photos, telegrams and other ephemera. The beautifully rendered images paint a new dimension of this historic and unusual figure.

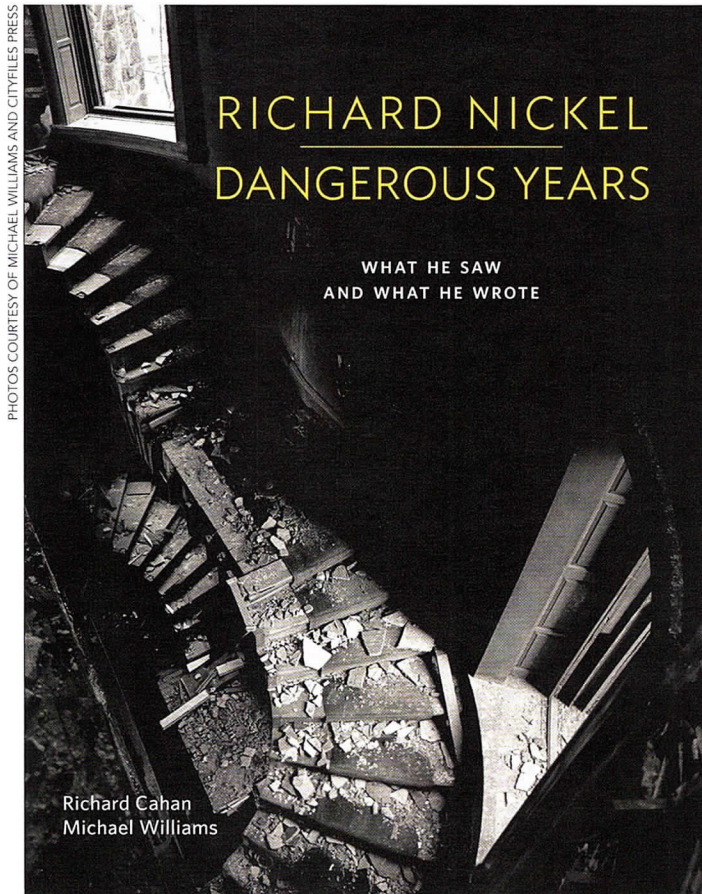
The book truly is a feat of research, passion and good fortune. States Cahan, "I first saw this material in 1979. Nickel had died seven years earlier, and I was a young journalist determined to write a magazine article or even a book about Nickel because I was entranced by his commitment and enthralled by his photography."

At that time, Nickel's archives were in the basement of John Vinci, FAIA, who was a friend and "architectural scavenging partner," as Cahan calls him. Vinci was originally given those notes by Nickel's brother, Donald, on his wish that Vinci finish a book on Adler and Sullivan that Nickel started long before.

"As soon as I started delving through the boxes, I — like many others — was drawn in by the



beauty of the photographs, and understood from reading the letters and notes that Nickel was an eloquent man. But it wasn't just what he wrote. I was fascinated by the paper and the marks on the paper. We still wrote letters during those years



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MICHAEL WILLIAMS AND CITYFILES PRESS

ut you could see from the annotations, the scratches, the tears that Nickel poured his heart out on these papers," Cahan says.

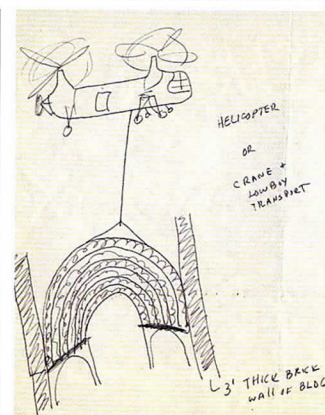
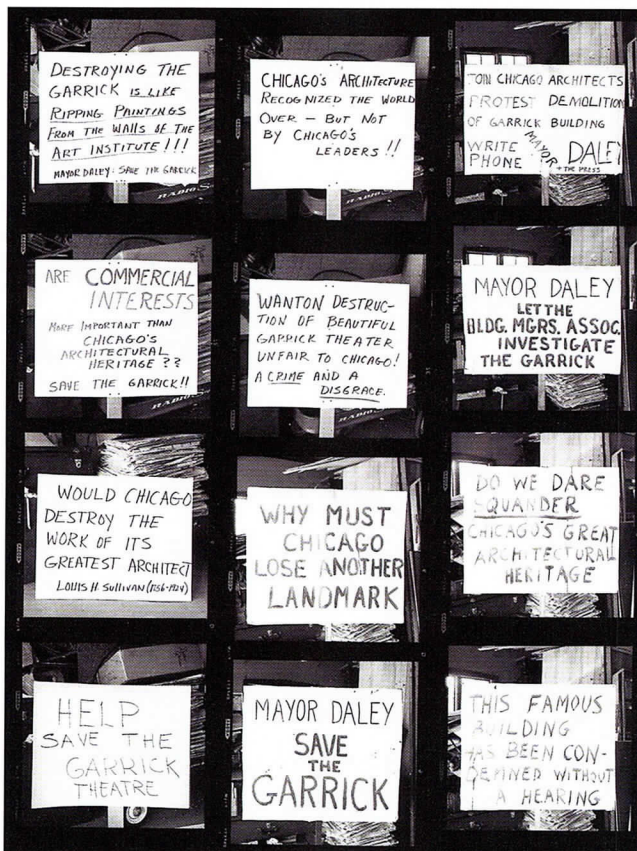
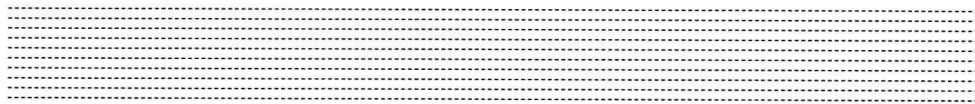
Those letters — which totaled around 15,000 — along with his photographs and notes, were donated to the Art Institute of Chicago Ryerson and Burnham Library after Vinci completed his book, *The Complete Architecture of Adler & Sullivan*, and were scanned and catalogued thereafter. Cahan could then set out to choose those documents that told Nickel's story. Williams matched Cahan's selections with photographs from the time period to create a complete narrative of Nickel's work and relationships.

The results are stunning. Pages of yellowed letters — some, according to the authors, have never been sent — and photos of allies for historic structures reveal the depths of his passion. They also reveal his charming nature: as the book's end approaches the time of his death, Nickel's letters begin addressing his impending obligations with Carol Sutter. A long friendship-turned-romance cut short, the book's end is filled with warmth, a happy ending to his far-too-early demise.

Ultimately, Cahan's goal in writing this book is not necessarily to provide a holistic or historical perspective on Nickel's life, nor to present an architectural perspective. Truly, he hopes that readers will begin to examine the idea of

commitment. "I want them to see how hard it is to buck society," he says. "What attracted me to Nickel from the start was his determination to change things. He believed that America was

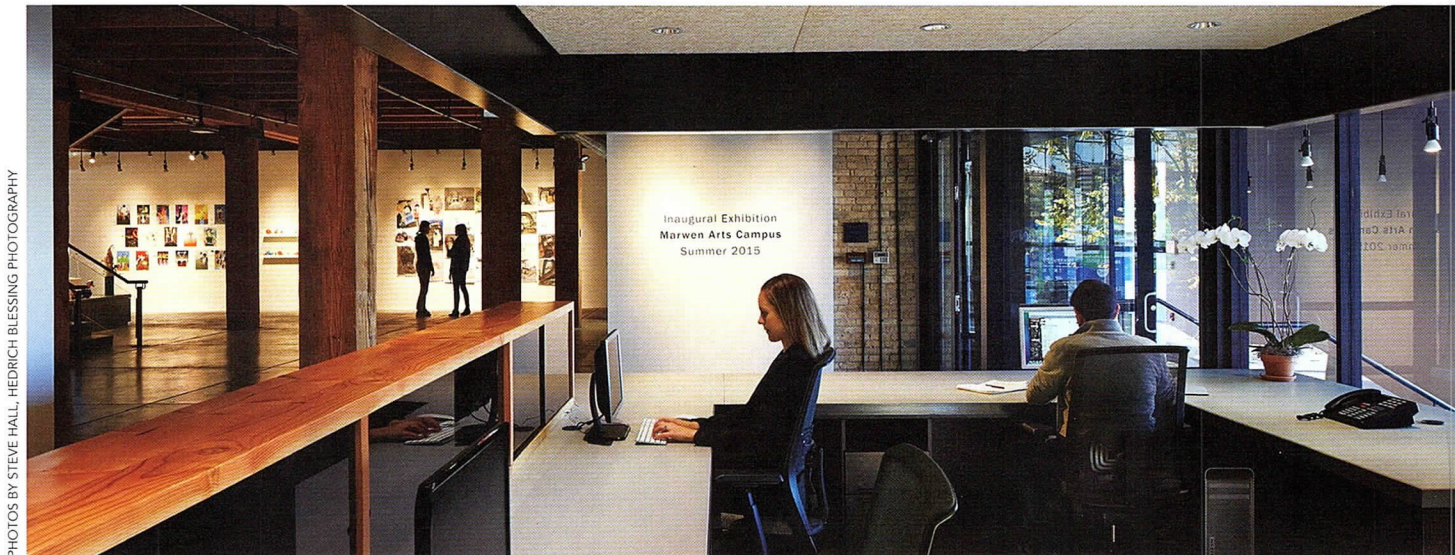
making a mistake by ignoring its architectural past — and he worked against this most every day of his adult life. It is a book about what a single person can do if he or she works tirelessly." CA



"I FIRST SAW THIS MATERIAL IN 1979. NICKEL HAD DIED SEVEN YEARS EARLIER, AND I WAS A YOUNG JOURNALIST DETERMINED TO WRITE A MAGAZINE ARTICLE OR EVEN A BOOK ABOUT NICKEL BECAUSE I WAS ENTRANCED BY HIS COMMITMENT AND ENTHRALLED BY HIS PHOTOGRAPHY."

— RICHARD CAHAN

NEW DOORS, BRIGHT FUTURES: MARWEN'S EXPANSION OPENS DOORS TO CHICAGO YOUTH



PHOTOS BY STEVE HALL, HEDRICH BLESSING PHOTOGRAPHY

Fifteen years ago, Wheeler Kearns Architects gutted two floors of an old heavy timber-manufacturing warehouse in Chicago's Near North Side Neighborhood. The client, Marwen, worked with the firm to build a space that suits its organization's mission: teaching free fine arts classes to students from underserved schools. In those 15 years, Marwen has purchased the building and some of the surrounding land, expanding its space and impact. The partnership with Wheeler Kearns has expanded along with its square-footage; this year, the firm grew Marwen's campus 15,000 square feet.

The project — led by Joy Meek, AIA; Dan Wheeler, FAIA; and Dung Luu — included a new entryway, HVAC system, a window, a roof, a loggia and a parking lot, as well as new and renovated working studio spaces. The building was "mined for its beauty." The firm describes, "The structure was gutted to reveal the raw materials to complement existing brick and wood structure."

Marwen provides art instruction free of charge to high school students from across the city, who do not receive these opportunities within their own schools. Many of these students travel tremendous distances to attend classes, and some lack support systems. The students are

dedicated to the act of making, and Wheeler Kearns has worked closely with Marwen to ensure that the space encourages this kind of dedication through creating a safe space for experimentation, exhibition, constructive critique and socializing.

Wheeler Kearns has expanded Marwen's space to include a new entrance and a loggia. Framed by greenscaped walls (planted in the fall of 2015), students are welcomed by the building before going through the front doors. Proceeding into an open, ordered space that emphasizes artworks displayed in the entryway gallery, the firm calls this an "aspirational" walk. Students view the exhibited

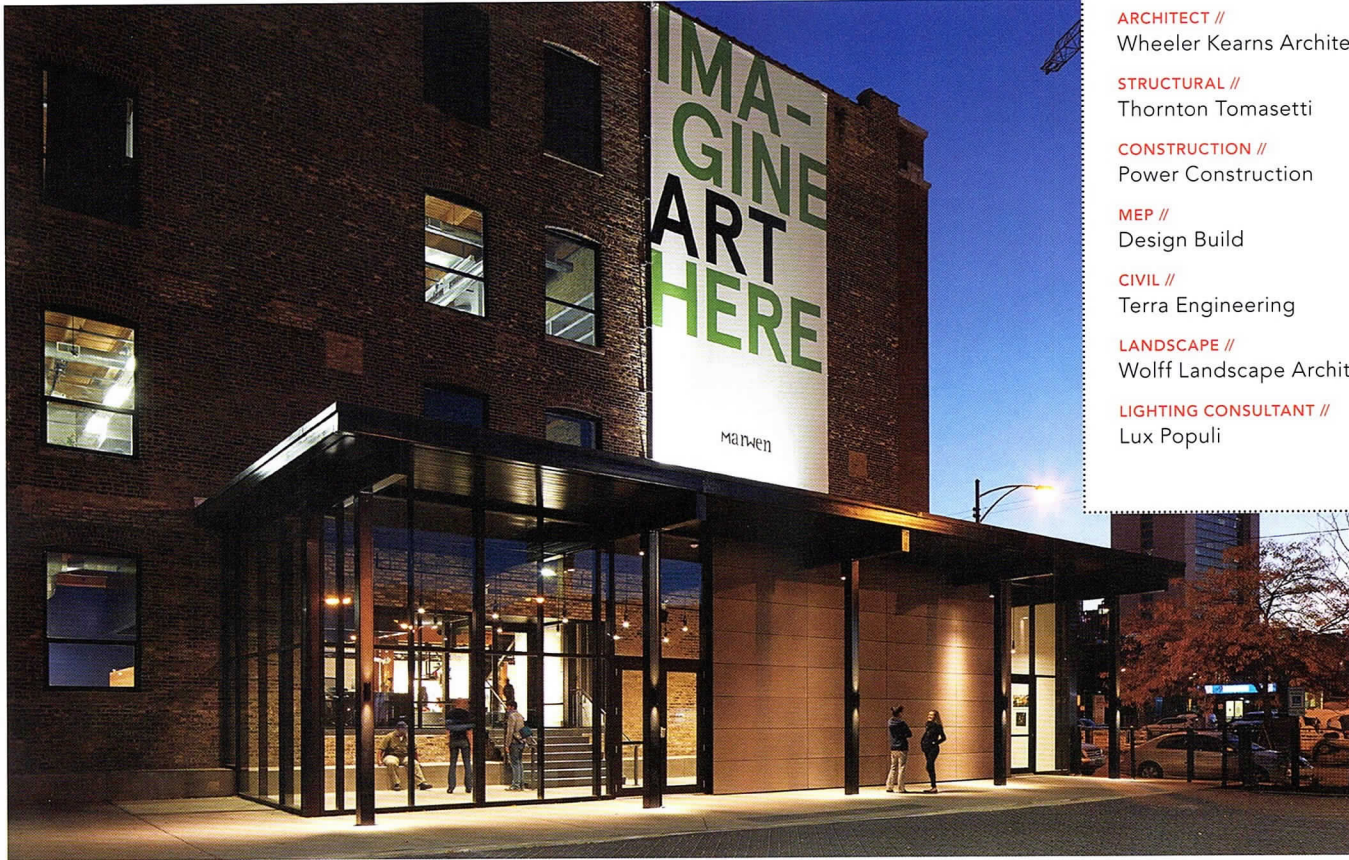
work of their peers before continuing to their classrooms. The loggia is more than a gallery, however. It can be used as a social gathering space for informal or formal hangouts or as a spot for students to display their work for critiques and gallery openings.

Moving through Marwen's new loggia is an expansive, dynamic and inspiring process — not unlike art-making. The firm states, "From this formalized heart, paths lead to idiosyncratic critique spaces, studios and dispersed offices of Marwen staff, providing imperfect places for interaction and production."

Most importantly, however, Wheeler Kearns emphasizes that

the new space's materials and physical elements become "a part of an instructional language that intended to be 'read' by future generations of artists, designers and architects." The firm notes that, for many of Marwen's students, this will be the first consciously designed space that the students have encountered. "As architects," states the firm, "we must have the optimism to hope that a structurally reduced and artfully expressed stair, a thoughtfully placed piece of ductwork, the proportioning of the warm palette of the building to the cool, grey, sound-deadening concrete floor, will be absorbed by the inhabitants, whether explicitly or implicitly." C

FAÇADE



ARCHITECT //
Wheeler Kearns Architects

STRUCTURAL //
Thornton Tomasetti

CONSTRUCTION //
Power Construction

MEP //
Design Build

CIVIL //
Terra Engineering

LANDSCAPE //
Wolff Landscape Architecture

LIGHTING CONSULTANT //
Lux Populi



www.darrisharris.com

312-718-4469

darris lee harris
dh
darris lee harris photography

2016 AIA CHICAGO BOARD



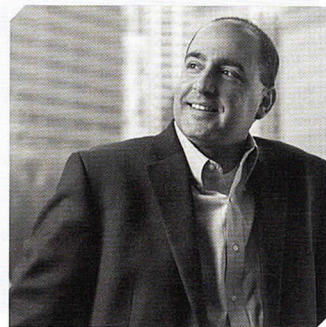
Dawn Schuette, FAIA
PRESIDENT

TERM ENDING 12/31/16



Matthew Dumich, AIA
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT/PRESIDENT-ELECT

TERM ENDING 12/31/16



Anthony LoBello, AIA
PAST PRESIDENT

TERM ENDING 12/31/16



Catherine Baker, AIA
VICE PRESIDENT, ADVOCACY

TERM ENDING 12/31/17



Robert Forest, FAIA
VICE PRESIDENT, SPONSORSHIP

TERM ENDING 12/31/16



Philip Castillo, FAIA
VICE PRESIDENT, HONORS & AWARDS

TERM ENDING 12/31/16



Craig Brandt, AIA
SECRETARY

TERM ENDING 12/31/16



Craig Cernek, AIA
TREASURER

TERM ENDING 12/31/17



Nootan Bharani, AIA
DIRECTOR

TERM ENDING 12/31/16



Jessica Figenholtz, AIA
DIRECTOR

TERM ENDING 12/31/18



Laura Garcia, AIA
DIRECTOR

TERM ENDING 12/31/18



April Hughes, AIA
DIRECTOR

TERM ENDING 12/31/16



Jennifer Park, AIA
DIRECTOR

TERM ENDING 12/31/18



Edward M. Peck, AIA
DIRECTOR

TERM ENDING 12/31/17



Michael Pfeffer, AIA
DIRECTOR

TERM ENDING 12/31/17



Fred Berglund, Affiliate AIA
PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATE
DIRECTOR

TERM ENDING 12/31/16



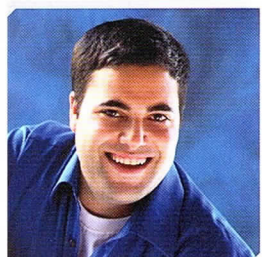
Laura Crane, Assoc. AIA
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

TERM ENDING 12/31/17



Vuk Vujovic, Assoc. AIA
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

TERM ENDING 12/31/18



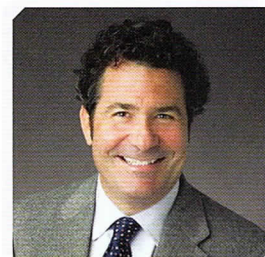
Abraham Mor, Affiliate AIA
PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATE
DIRECTOR

TERM ENDING 12/31/17



Emma Camilleri, AIAS
STUDENT DIRECTOR

TERM ENDING 12/31/16



Fred Brandstrader, AIA
AIA ILLINOIS DELEGATE

TERM ENDING 12/31/18



Ellen Dickson, AIA
AIA ILLINOIS DELEGATE

TERM ENDING 12/31/16



Janeen Harrell, AIA
AIA ILLINOIS DELEGATE

TERM ENDING 12/31/16

AIA Chicago Foundation Board

Grant Uhler, AIA, president
 Diana (JinHwa) Paradowicz, AIA,
 vice president
 Christopher Chwedyk, AIA, CSI, secretary
 Fred Brandstrader, AIA, treasurer
 Timothy Brown, AIA, CSI, ALA, past president
 Peter Schlossman, AIA, trustee
 Walter Street, III, AIA, NOMA, trustee
 Patricia Maria Schiffrin, FAIA, Esq., trustee

Laura Fisher, FAIA, trustee
 Jayshree Shah, AIA, trustee
 Lisa DiChiera, public trustee
 Mary Woolever, public trustee
 Roberta Feldman, PhD, public trustee
 Paul Lurie, Esq., emeritus
 Zurich Esposito, Hon. AIA Chicago, ex officio
 Matthew Dumich, AIA, ex officio

Ex-Officio Members

Dawn Schuette, FAIA, AIA Chicago Board president
 Zurich Esposito, Hon. AIA Chicago executive
 vice president
 Paul M. Lurie, Esq., emeritus member

DESIGNIGHT 2015 + ANNUAL MEETING & HOLIDAY PARTY



PHOTO BY WITTEFINI STUDIOS

Richard H. Driehaus received the 2015 Lifetime Achievement Award and is accompanied here by Anthony LoBello, AIA, and Elizabeth Chu Richter, FAIA, 2015 AIA National President.



Winning firms received their awards in the middle of a packed house at Navy Pier.



Our emcee Milos Stelik of Facets Multimedia told the story of architecture through film.

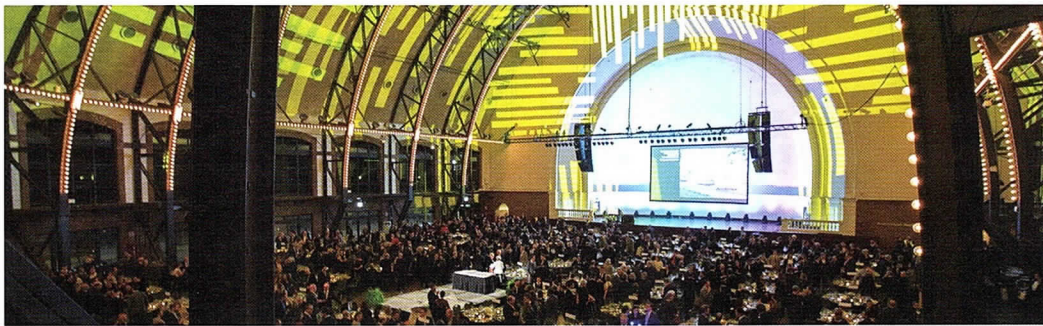


PHOTO BY WITTEFINI STUDIOS



Mary Woolever poses with Zurich Esposito after receiving her Distinguished Service Award.

AIA Chicago celebrated 60 years of Design Excellence Awards this year with a packed house in the Navy Pier Ballroom. The event sold out weeks beforehand as architects, friends and colleagues gathered to celebrate winning projects designed in Chicago and built around the world. Local winners included The Theatre School at DePaul University by

CannonDesign, Epstein | Metter Studio's Ignite Glass Studios, and the stunning, copper-cladded Genevieve and Wayne Gratz Center by Gensler.

Later in 2015, AIA Chicago recognized recipients of the Professional Excellence Awards, recognizing one firm whose work demonstrates the breadth and depth of projects over time; and

the Dubin Family Young Architect Award, which honors one early-to-mid career architect making waves in the field.

This year, the committees chose Perkins+Will as the firm of the year. The jury, comprised of Peter Landon, FAIA (Landon Bone Baker Architects); Michael Kaufman, AIA (Goettsch Partners); and Eric Penny, AIA (Nagle Hartray Architects), noted the complexity of the firm's projects contrasted with the elegant planning and execution. "Many of the projects are elegantly planned," Kaufman said. "They are more grounded on specific sites, not just playing on the vernacular of the field."

The Dubin Family Young Architect award recipient is Chris-Annamarie Spencer, AIA, of Wheeler Kearns Architects. Originally from Jamaica, Spencer's work in Chicago has ranged from the socially innovative Inspiration Kitchens in East

Garfield Park to the Goodman Theater's new space for theater education, projects for which she served as project architect. Read more about Spencer's career and ambitions in her A to Z interview on page 42.

AIA Chicago also awarded two Distinguished Service Awards to members of the greater architecture community whose work has supported and promoted the field of architecture in countless ways. Julia Bachrach, planning supervisor at the Chicago Park District and prolific author of books on Chicago's history of parks and green spaces; and Mary Woolever recently retired from her highly respected role as archivist at the Art Institute of Chicago's Ryerson and Burnham Libraries, are this year's honorees.

AIA Chicago celebrated these tremendous individuals at the Annual Meeting and Holiday Party on December 9 at VenueOne. **CA**



PHOTO BY ROBERTO LOPEZ

AIA Chicago recognized recipients of the 2015 Professional Excellence Awards, Distinguished Service Awards, 25- and 50-year members, as well as newly licensed architects.

TINY HOMES GAINING AS AN APPROACH TO HOUSING FOR THE HOMELESS

BY TRACY BAIM

Just as thousands of units of affordable housing apartments are coming offline and switching to market-rate across the country, and as many cities are facing backlash for harsh treatment of people living on their streets, advocates for tiny homes for the homeless are pushing for new solutions to America's housing crisis.

The much-praised “housing-first” solution to house homeless people, developed by Sam Tsemberis of Pathways to Housing in New York City, shows successful outcomes for people who are homeless will not happen unless there is low-threshold access to housing.

Enter the tiny-home movement, which varies from city to city and town to town, but basically incorporates independent living in small-footprint homes, ranging from 50 to 400 square feet, some with full amenities, some with just a sleeping space and shared facilities.

Cities that have vast empty spaces and strong transit networks can take advantage of this movement the most. That's why Chicago, which has thousands of vacant lots and properties and an expansive bus and train network, is among the most likely cities to benefit from this solution to housing.

But where there is a way, will there be the will?

The main approaches to providing affordable housing have been large-scale public housing complexes, single-room occupancy (SRO) buildings, smaller apartment complexes, or rent

vouchers to subsidize rents in a geographically dispersed model.

But all of those approaches are far more expensive than building tiny homes. In the first case, large-scale developments are a thing of the past. They are not just expensive (in Chicago, close to \$400,000 a unit) and take a long time to get approved and build, but warehousing people creates a multitude of problems. SROs, meanwhile, are also being snapped up by developers in Chicago's gentrifying neighborhoods. Smaller apartment complexes are a more practical solution, but still expensive. And finally, rent vouchers, while needed, are expensive and often subsidize sub-standard landlords — and they are isolating for individuals living far away from people they know.

Tiny homes, depending on how elaborate, can be built from \$5,000 to \$80,000 and grouped in smaller footprints (perhaps 12 to 15 at a time) along with a community center space for nonprofits to provide services. Once this model is approved in a city, it can be used for community college students, veterans, seniors or myriad housing needs,

even for those young college graduates and aging baby boomers who want to live a more environmentally conscious life but still in the city. They can also take just weeks to build and can even be pre-fabricated.

This initiative in Chicago grew out of a Homeless Youth Summit hosted by *Windy City Times* newspaper. At that summit, youth spoke about their own needs for a safe place to land but still in a communal setting. Chicago has more than 20,000 unstably housed youth, many of them in high school and community colleges. If there is a solution that can help the youth from becoming adult homeless, society not only benefits financially but also in many other ways.

Dozens of studies have shown the large expense it costs cities to stick with the status quo of allowing a large number of people to remain homeless. There are the costs of police, emergency rooms, prisons and social service providers, not to mention the high cost to the individuals. The housing-first model has worked, from places as diverse as New York City to Salt Lake City. Now, Chicagoans hope to bring this model to the Windy City, and

TINY HOMES, DEPENDING ON HOW ELABORATE, CAN BE BUILT FROM \$5,000 TO \$80,000 AND GROUPED IN SMALLER FOOTPRINTS (PERHAPS 12 TO 15 AT A TIME) ALONG WITH A COMMUNITY CENTER SPACE FOR NONPROFITS TO PROVIDE SERVICES.

prove the city of Big Shoulders can also be the city of Tiny Homes.

The Tiny Home Design Competition, sponsored by Alphawood Foundation, runs through January 30, 2016, with leader sponsors AIA Chicago, Pride Action Tank, Landon Bone Baker Architects and *Windy City Times*. See www.tinyhomeschicago.org. CA

////////

Tracy Baim is publisher of Windy City Times, an LGBTQ newspaper, and one of the organizers of the Tiny Home Design Competition in Chicago.



PLEASE SEND YOUR NEWS TO:
info@aiachicago.org



Glen Ellyn-based PPK Architects recently merged with California-based KTG Architecture + Planning, establishing the firm's first foray into the Midwestern market. Craig R. Pryde, AIA, LEED AP, and David M. Kennedy, AIA, LEED AP, who have been designing residential and commercial projects in Chicago and its suburbs for more than two decades, are now bringing the expertise and resources to the windy city.



Ralph Johnson, FAIA, global design director, has been elected to the prestigious National Academy, a 190-year-old institution promoting and preserving visual and fine arts in America. Johnson, whose work is widely recognized and honored in the United States and abroad, will be among such National Academicians as Chuck Close, Winslow Homer, Frank Gehry, Jasper Johns, I. M. Pei and Carrie Mae Weems.



Holabird & Root is pleased to announce the promotion of Mat Strack to the role of project architect. Strack has been with Holabird & Root for the past four years. He has been influential in serving such clients as East-West University, Harper College, Knox College and St. Francis University



Northwestern University broke ground in November on the Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Fieldhouse and Mark and Kimbra Walter Athletics Center. The design by Perkins+Will includes state-of-the-art training spaces, indoor and outdoor practice and competition fields, natatorium expansion and administrative offices.

ALL IMAGES ARE COURTESY OF THE FIRM, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED. LEED AP STATUS IS INDICATED ONLY IF REPORTED BY THE FIRM.



Carol Ross Barney, FAIA, of Carol Ross Barney Architects, was awarded the AIA Illinois 2015 Gold Medal, Illinois' highest honor for outstanding lifetime service to architecture. Her work is notable for emphasis on public accessibility and civic participation.

DS+R collaborated with ORNL Researchers to design and 3-D-print a 32-foot-by-12-foot-by-13-foot building that changes power wirelessly with a 3-D-printed vehicle. Called AMIE (Additive Manufacturing Integrated Energy), the structure demonstrates the potential for future off-grid living, zero-waste construction, and integrating building and automotive energy streams.



The University of Chicago has selected Diller Scofidio + Renfro to design the David M. Rubenstein Forum. Targeted for completion in 2018, the Rubenstein Forum will host conferences, workshops, lectures, ceremonies and more. The building will be DS+R's first building in Chicago.

WIND AND SOLAR WITHIN REACH

THE FUTURE IS IN YOUR HANDS

solar | wind | energy storage

Windfree is a NABCEP certified installer and was rated #1 solar contractor in the Midwest by Solar Power Magazine in 2015.

WINDFREE SOLAR

1538 N Western Ave, Chicago, IL / 312.588.6953 / www.windfree.us



PLEASE SEND YOUR NEWS TO:
info@aiachicago.org



Cordogan Clark & Associates is designing the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy's new project, IN2: The Steve and Jamie Chen Center for Innovation & Inquiry. Led by John Clark, AIA, the project went through phases of collaboration with the school's students, faculty and staff, followed by a design charrette. The resulting space is a flexible learning environment that emphasizes making conversation and collaboration.

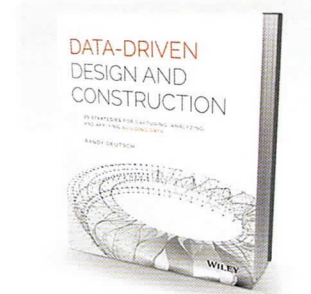


Matthew Larson, Assoc. AIA, has rejoined Goettsch Partners as chief marketing officer, relocating from Atlanta, where he was vice president of business development for John Portman & Associates. He worked for Goettsch for 10 years prior and has also worked in business development and marketing capacities for RTKL, ZGF and Holabird & Root.



RTKL's Presence Center for Advanced Care at Saint Joseph Hospital opened in October. The firm worked to provide greater accessibility and patient care. By connecting two buildings via skybridge, the firm was able to consolidate the hospital's outpatient services and provide a physical connection between medical professionals in different buildings.

ALL IMAGES ARE COURTESY OF THE FIRM, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED. LEED AP STATUS IS INDICATED ONLY IF REPORTED BY THE FIRM.

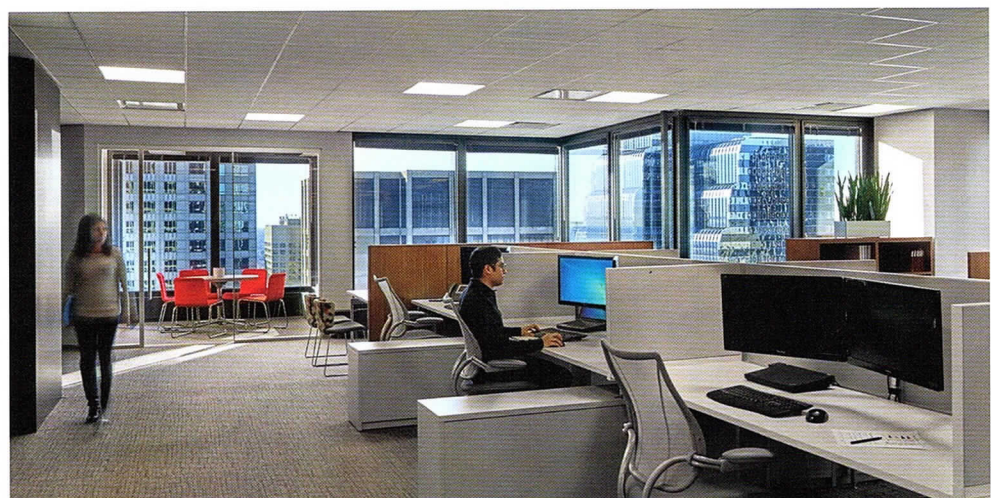


Written for architects, engineers, contractors, owners and educators, *Data-Driven Design and Construction: 25 Strategies for Capturing, Applying and Analyzing Building Data* (Wiley, 2015) by Randy Deutsch, AIA, LEED AP, associate professor at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, addresses how innovative individuals and firms are using data to remain competitive while advancing their practices, helping design practitioners and their project teams make better use of BIM, and leverage data throughout the building lifecycle. With a foreword by James Timberlake, FAIA.

The New Trier High School expansion/renovation concept, designed by Legat Architects and Moore Ruble Yudell Architects Planners, received the 2015 American Architecture Award from the Chicago Athenaeum: Museum of Architecture and Design and The European Centre for Architecture Art Design and Urban Studies. It was the only high school project and the only Illinois project to win the award.



JKessler Associates was named LEED® Proven Provider™ by the Green Building Certification Institute.



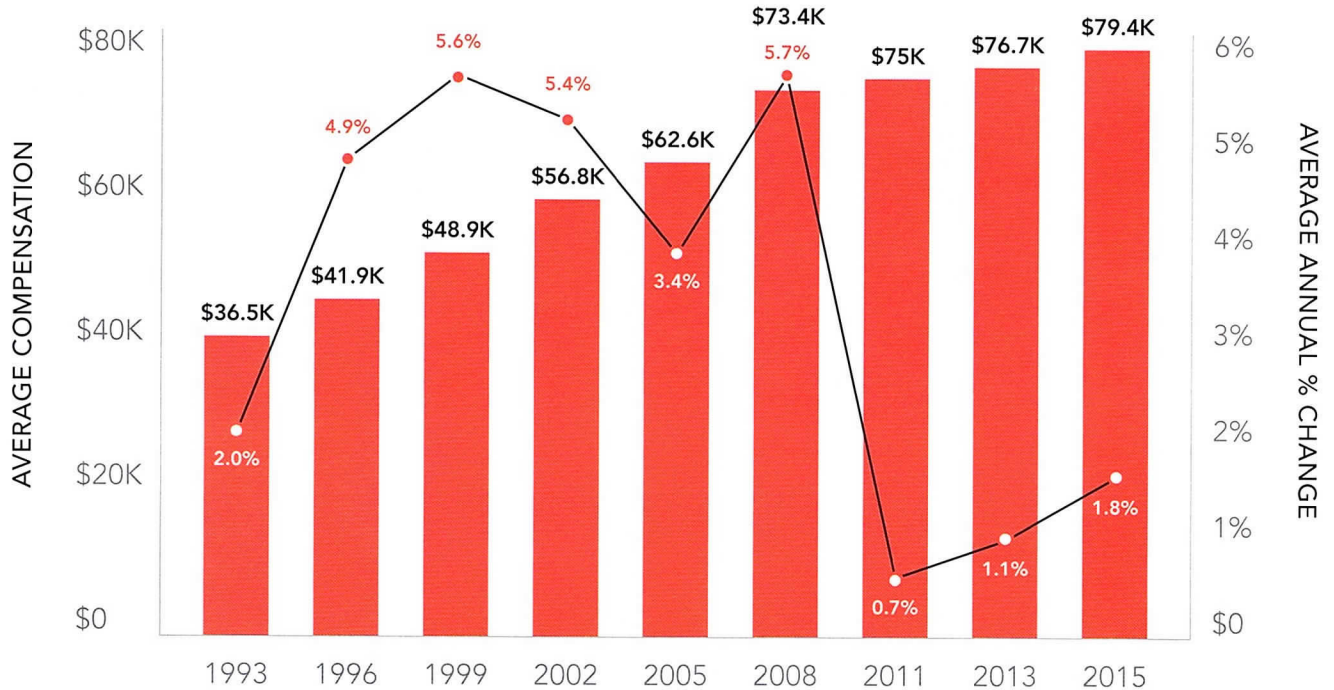
Searl Lamaster Howe Architects recently completed a large expansion of Waterton Associates' headquarters at 30 S. Wacker. Principal in Charge Pam Lamaster-Millett, AIA, organized the new open plan around a spine of glass-enclosed conference room, phone rooms and collaboration spaces screened by a translucent graphic of a stylized skyline. The imagery is a nod to the company's real estate holdings and its views out the windows opposite.

AIA COMPENSATION REPORT 2015

BY ABBY CALLARD

Architect compensation gains beginning to accelerate as construction sector recovers

Average compensation including overtime, bonuses and incentive compensation for staff architectural positions at U.S. architecture firms.



Before the recession hit, Myefski Architects employed 10 people in its downtown Evanston office. During the worst of the recession, the firm fell to six employees, says President John Myefski, AIA. But now, the office has doubled to 21 full-time employees.

During the recession, a survey by AIA found that architecture firms were forced to cut employment by about a third — a statistic that fits with Myefski’s experience. Nationwide, less than 20 percent of those jobs cut have been recovered, found the 2015 AIA Compensation Survey, which analyzed compensation information from

almost 1,000 architecture firms across the country.

For firms that emerged from the recession, revenue and salaries are up, and business has looked strong over the past two years. Revenue increased \$11 billion from 2010 to 2014. The AIA Architecture Billings Index (ABI) averaged 52.1 in 2013 and 52.2 in 2014. A score of 50

represents stability, so those scores suggest healthy growth in the industry. Nationwide, salaries across the board saw a steady but modest increase of 1.8 percent from 2013 to 2014.

The architecture industry is certainly rebounding from the recession, but that doesn’t mean there aren’t challenges. “In 2008

or 2009, half the industry was on the street — at least in Chicago,” says Avi Lothan, FAIA, design principal at Lothan Van Hook Destefano Architecture in Chicago. “It has recovered significantly since then, but it’s no what it was in 2006, for example.”

Lothan says a large part of a generation of architects was

Growth in architecture staff compensation has been lagging economy-wide averages in recent years

Index: Q1 2002=100; all figures for first quarter of year



ushed out of the profession during the recession, and that's left a gap. "The people who were most likely to be pushed out of the market during the recession are the ones most likely to have the skills that we want," Lothan says. That demand for architects with five to 10 years of experience is pushing the salaries of those positions up, Lothan says. Myefski, 30, says he's had a hard time finding that missing link.

Timothy Connor, AIA, an associate at Sheehan Partners, has also noticed a tightening in the job market. When the firm would post an open position a few years ago, they would receive up to 90 applications. When the firm posted an open job a few weeks ago, they only received 40 applications.

The compensation survey breaks down salary information by region, state and metro area. While Chicago area salaries for more senior positions were ahead of the averages for the East North Central region — which includes Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin — the salaries for interns and starting architects fell below.

The starting salary for an intern with less than two years of experience in Chicago at \$39,500 is 4.8 percent lower than the national average — the fourth lowest of the 20 metro areas analyzed in the 2015 Compensation Report. The highest starting salary was in San Francisco at 49,000, and the lowest was in St. Louis at \$38,800.

For licensed architects with five to eight years of experience, the average salary of \$55,700 in Chicago was 15 percent lower than the national average of \$64,200 and 9 percent lower than the East North Central region average of \$61,300. Architects in Chicago continue to earn less

than their national counterparts as they advance their careers, though the gap is not as large.

Architecture firms located in the city of Chicago rather than the suburbs offered higher salaries in most positions, but the difference was highest in project manager and project designer roles. The salary for a project designer in the city was 58 percent higher than the salary for a project manager in the suburbs. The salary for a senior project designer in the city was 36 percent higher in the city than in the suburbs.

But compensation is about more than just base salary. Firms are using other incentives to attract and retain employees, such as increased benefits and referral bonuses.

Meg Brown, the chief talent officer at Perkins+Will — a

global firm with 1,800 employees in 24 offices across the world and 200 in Chicago — says innovative benefits have become more important. Perkins+Will recently began offering paid parental leave, for both mothers and fathers and for adoptions and foster care — not just births. "Compensation is important, but I think workplace culture is equally important," she says.

AIA's Compensation Report found more than half of firms with more than 20 employees offered sign-on bonuses in 2014 to attract and retain employees. Myefski says that his firm has started offering an employee referral program to boost recruitment.

The makeup of total compensation has been shifting as well. Base salary now makes up a smaller

percentage of total compensation, with bonuses and other cash filling in. Nationwide, the base salary for a CEO/president is less than 70 percent of total compensation. For interns, however, base salary makes up more than 95 percent of total compensation. John Myefski, who says base salaries increased 4.6 percent from 2013 to 2014, also says his employees receive bonuses of 5 to 10 percent of their base salary.

The architecture industry as a whole was hit hard by the recession, but steady growth suggests an industry regaining its footing. But it's clear that architecture still has some catching up to do — both in terms of recovering lost positions and keeping pace with the growth of the economy as a whole. **CA**

ARCHITECT OF RECORD //
STL Architects

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER //
ARUP Chicago

MEP ENGINEER //
McGuire Engineers

CIVIL ENGINEER //
Kimley Horn and Associates, Inc.

GENERAL CONTRACTOR //
Bulley & Andrews

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT //
STL Architects + Culliton Quinn

LIGHTING DESIGN //
ARUP Chicago

ACOUSTICS //
ARUP Chicago

KITCHEN DESIGN //
Edge Associates

OWNER'S REPRESENTATIVE //
PMA (Project Management Advisors)

BONNE TERRE



SOCIAL LEARNING AS INSPIRATION AT THE LYCÉE FRANÇAIS DE CHICAGO

BY TROY PIEPER

PHOTOS COURTESY OF IGNACIO ESPIGARES @ STL ARCHITECTS

THE SCHOOL GAVE STL ARCHITECTS A DIRECTIVE TO PLAN NOT JUST A SCHOOL BUT AN ENTIRE CAMPUS, WHICH AT THE MOMENT INCLUDES THE BUILDING WE SEE TODAY, A PLAYGROUND, A SOCCER FIELD AND A GARDEN IN WHAT IS PHASE ONE OF THE PROJECT.

The Lycée Français de Chicago opened its new building this fall in Chicago's Ravenswood neighborhood. The finished product was a bit of triumph, its designers will tell you, because it so well matches the school's international student body and heritage of French education practices in a structure both elegant and cost effective.

Located on a 3.8-acre campus, the 86,000-square-foot building accommodates more than 700 students from a dozen different countries. The size of the site is unusual in a city where land is a scarce commodity, but the buildings of the Ravenswood Hospital that once stood here were much larger than the Lycée is. The school gave STL Architects a directive to plan not just a school but an entire campus, which at the moment includes the building we see today, a playground, a soccer field and a garden in what is phase one of the project.

The firm was given what they called an "uncommon" freedom to explore programmatically and put into practice much of the philosophy they have developed through years of research and building other schools. "Many educators, parents and even students think of the school as a double-loaded corridor with lockers on either side," said Principal Luis Collado, AIA. "We wanted to help them think of the school as something more complex and interesting than a factory of education and more as a house of learning."

The firm has been thinking about educational environments for a long time, focusing on educational initiatives that grew out of the progressive movement of the early 20th Century. Founded in 1996, STL has been influenced by Hans Scharoun's school at Marl, by architect Herman Hertzberger's, Hon. AIA, Montessori schools and by Eero Saarinen's work in the





LEARNING MUST
BE IN HARMONY
WITH THE CHILD'S
GROWTH AND
DEVELOPMENT,
AND THE SCHOOL,
LIKE THE HOME,
MUST STAND AS
EVIDENCE THAT
THE EARTH IS A
GOOD PLACE TO
WELL."

HANS SCHAROUN



steel, which changes how the façade is lit as the day progresses. At night, windows not visible through the veil show warmly when lit from within. This dual reading of the building was a pleasant result of a

materials decision that was motivated in large part by cost. At \$230 per square foot, STL accomplished a great deal on a tight budget. With the help of contractors and project managers, many design decisions were informed by opportunities to purchase larger quantities of fewer materials.

Concrete, both polished and unfinished, defines floors and stairwells, contributing to the interior's minimal design. Apart from strategic accents of color — green in the common areas, bright yellow graduating to deep red from the first to the fourth floor, coding the grades — the inside of the Lycée is all white. STL developed a full graphic design package for the school, and its palette has a decidedly European feel. Motivated again by the project's budget, the design of the interior focuses on things that are free or low-cost like light proportions and a reduced palette.

As important as the environment it creates for students are the building's effects on the environment around it. It is a dramatic improvement to the streetscape over a vacant hospital building. Its four stories fit with the surrounding buildings, and many of the students and staff walk or bike to school, activating a somewhat peripheral area of Lincoln Square.

Broadly speaking, what the Lycée building accomplishes can be heard in something Scharoun said: "Learning must be in harmony with the child's growth and development, and the school, like the home, must stand as evidence that the earth is a good place to dwell." CA

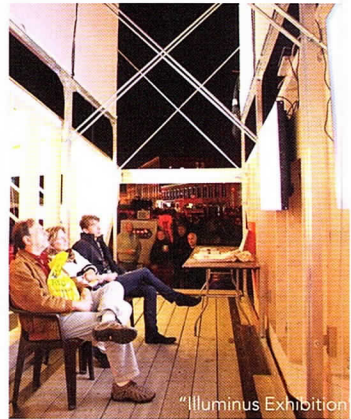


IMAGE CREDIT: CIRCUS FOR CONSTRUCTION

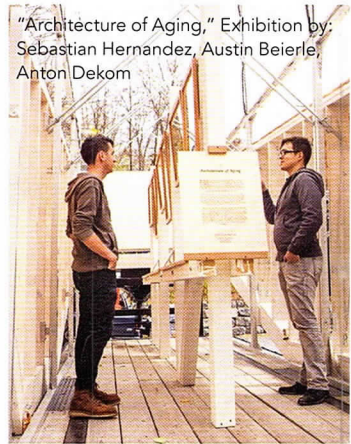
Circus for Construction



"Boston Manual: A Participatory City Design," Artist: Michaël Lee



"Illuminus Exhibition"



"Architecture of Aging," Exhibition by: Sebastian Hernandez, Austin Beierle, Anton Dekom

IMAGE CREDIT: MICHAEL PEGUERO (PHOTOGRAPHER); CIRCUS FOR CONSTRUCTION



Panel, "Circus Ballyhoo: Local Applications, Global Implications," Organizer: Jen Krava



Circus for Construction in East Boston, MA

IMAGE CREDIT: CIRCUS FOR CONSTRUCTION



Circus for Construction in Ithaca, NY

Circus for Construction team: Ann Lui, Craig Reschke, Larisa Ovalles, Ashley Mendelsohn, Ben Widger



THE CIRCUS OPERATES AS A MOBILE GALLERY, LABORATORY AND URBAN INTERVENTION. BUILT ON A CUSTOM TRAILER AND TOWED TO A VARIETY OF EVENTS ALONG THE EAST COAST, THE PROJECT SEEKS TO PROVOKE ARCHITECTURAL DISCOURSE THROUGH THE ACTIVATION AND ENGAGEMENT OF COMMUNITIES BEYOND THE REACH OF TRADITIONAL CULTURAL AND DISCURSIVE INSTITUTIONS.

Lui's vision for her practice has grown over the course of several collaborations with Reschke, only recently blossoming into a formal practice. Obama Drone Aviary, an entry to Chicago Architecture Foundation's Obama Library Design Competition, announced in 2011 and Reschke's presence in the Chicago architecture scene with a striking political and spatial commentary, both of the competition and of Obama's presidency. This project showed paper architecture at its best: charged, political, unbuildable and utterly alien to traditional sensibilities about decorum and process in

architecture. A project that would make Eyal Weizman or Piranesi proud, the library consists of an archive of objects and information from the Obama presidency that can be accessed through an app, and delivered directly by drone. This project allows a multiplicity of readings, not only as an innovative organizational structure for a presidential library, but as the locus of a vast and omnipresent panopticon, which may, years from now, be one of the defining features of the Obama presidency. The towering central node for the drones is rendered in graphics that meld Bob Somol's distinguished

linework with more contemporary corporate graphic sensibilities. In presenting a convincing vision of what paper architecture should accomplish, the project throws into sharp relief the limp pallor of other recent design competitions destined to exist only on paper, both in Chicago and elsewhere.

Another of Lui and Reschke's joint collaborations, Circus for Construction, originated as part of Worldwide Storefront, a project of New York's Storefront for Art and Architecture. A collaboration between Lui, Reschke and several other talented young designers, the Circus operates as a mobile gallery, laboratory and urban

intervention. Built on a custom trailer and towed to a variety of events along the East Coast, the project seeks to provoke architectural discourse through the activation and engagement of communities beyond the reach of traditional cultural and discursive institutions. It is this sensibility around the creation of projects that engage with public space that informs much of what Lui hopes to accomplish with Future Firm. Lui reflects on this idea of self-directed practice, "Joyce Hwang [whose work was featured in SAIC's recent 'Outside Design' exhibition] has been talking about this idea of 'beyond patronage' —

MODELING CHICAGO'S FUTURE

ComEd offers a new wave of tools for your next new construction project

BY SANDRA HALL HENRY, COMED, AND DAVID VIGLIOTTA, SEVENTHWAVE

When discussing a new building design with a client, an architect's initial thought isn't to connect with the local utility. ComEd, the electric utility that serves Chicago and northern Illinois is working to change that.

In 2007, Illinois joined other states in passing energy legislation that requires investor-owned utilities to reduce end-user energy consumption. The following year ComEd launched *Smart Ideas*® to help businesses and residents save energy. The New Construction Service, a Smart Ideas offering for new buildings and major renovations, supports architects, engineers and their clients by helping them design buildings that are even more energy efficient than required by code.

Despite the construction downturn in 2008, ComEd recognized that new buildings provide an ideal opportunity to influence building energy efficiency. "In the early stages of design, all stakeholders are providing input into what makes a great building," says George Malek, director of energy efficiency services at ComEd. "It is during this time we can convince owners, developers and designers to include energy efficiency measures in a building."

ComEd engaged Seventhwave (formerly Energy Center of Wisconsin), a nonprofit energy and sustainability think tank with offices in Chicago, Madison and Minneapolis, to administer the program and provide design assistance. The New Construction Service offers energy-modeling services to support the design team's decision-making process.

Financial incentives are provided to the building owner to offset the cost of installing energy-efficient equipment and technologies. Architects can also earn a financial incentive for active participation.

"The biggest hurdle is to get the team and client to buy into it. They are skeptical because it sounds too good to be true," says Duane Carter, Assoc. AIA, director of sustainability and building performance at Solomon Cordwell Buenz. It's not only about the incentives, describes Carter, "Getting an energy model at no cost and having an independent third party review the drawings with a sustainability lens is a big benefit."

Working with a dedicated architect or energy engineer at Seventhwave to assist in answering design questions and providing recommendations on energy-saving opportunities is a primary service of the program. Susan Heinking, AIA, director of high performance and sustainable construction at Pepper Construction expresses, "It's always good to have a peer review from someone who is not on the project — outside expertise looking at the design and saying, 'have you thought about this, have you thought about that?' Just kind of raising questions."

Since inception, the New Construction Service has blossomed to support more than 300 projects and 45 million square feet of commercial and multifamily space. In recognition of its success, ComEd received the Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance's Inspiring Efficiency Impact Award in 2014.

The New Construction Service is flexible and supports design teams that work on projects of all shapes and sizes. Smaller firms that don't have in-house modeling capabilities can leverage the program to help reach these goals and learn the latest trends in high performance design. The program has supported Wrap Architecture and Revolution Brewery in transforming an abandoned warehouse into an award-winning brewery operation, and has also worked with SCB on Related Midwest's ultra-high-end 500 Lake Shore Drive. Another flagship project was supporting the Walgreens net zero energy store in Evanston — the country's first net zero retail store.

With the steady increase in energy efficiency through adoption of more stringent energy codes (IECC 2015 is currently pending in Illinois), the New Construction Service offers customized solutions to support each project's sustainability goals. Jose B. Rodriguez, Intl. Assoc. AIA, associate principal of sustainability at Willoughby Engineering, states that the New Construction Service serves as an educational platform when it comes to applying different tools. "It's not only an opportunity to provide incentives for clients but a learning tool to understand how our projects behave and a resource to answer the 'what-if' questions." Rodriguez continues, "Seventhwave is transparent and open to sharing models — they teach as they go."

The best time to get a project involved in the New Construction Service is while the project is early in design — architectural concept

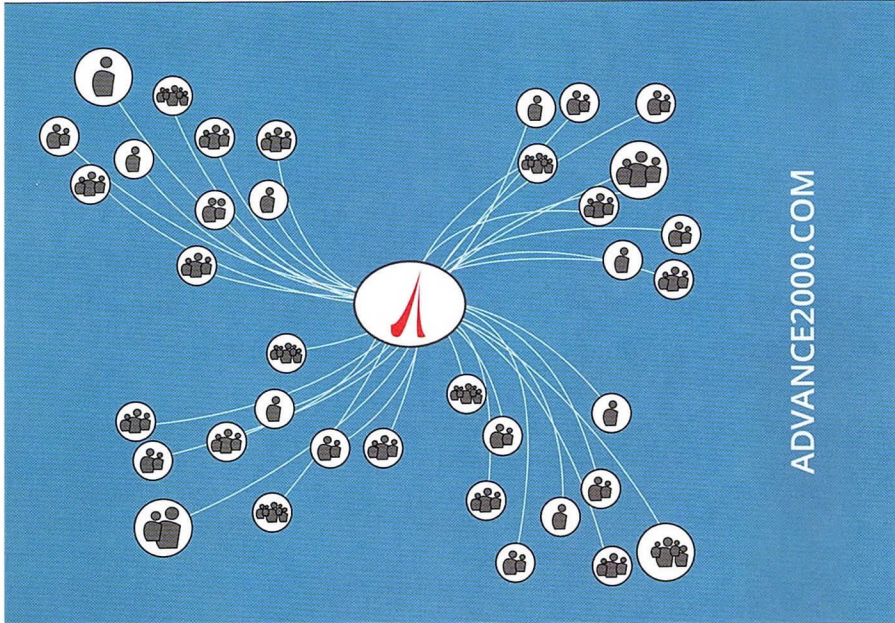


or schematic design is best. Technical staff can complete several modeling iterations to answer design questions that come up at different points in the design process. According to Heinking, the analysis offered by the New Construction Service helps her clients see the benefits of sustainable design. "The modeling report makes it very clear, especially to the owner, to show what the energy savings is over time."

In order to qualify, projects must be a private or nonprofit facility that is early in design and located in ComEd's northern Illinois service territory. A program representative can meet with you and your client to explain the participation process or host a lunch and learn presentation at your firm. More details including case studies can be found online at www.ComEd.com/NewConstruction.

As Carter simply puts it, "Yes, people really get checks. Yes, it works." **CA**

Sandra Hall Henry is a senior energy efficiency program manager at ComEd, and David Vigliotta is the director of marketing and strategic partnerships at Seventhwave.



ADVANCE2000.COM

NEED A BETTER WAY TO COLLABORATE ON YOUR PROJECTS?

We can help!



Chicago Architect is published six times a year by Innovative Publishing.

Photocopy permissions where necessary, permission is granted by copyright holder for those registered with Copyright Clearance Center (CCC), 222 Rosewood Drive, Danvers, MA 01923, www.copyright.com to photocopy any article herein for personal or internal reference use only for the flat fee of \$2.00 per copy for each article. Send payment to CCC. Copyright 2016 AIA Chicago.

The information contained within has been obtained by AIA Chicago and Innovative Publishing from sources believed to be reliable. However, because of the possibility of human or mechanical error, AIA Chicago and Innovative Publishing do not warrant the accuracy or completeness of any information and is not responsible for any errors or omissions or for the results obtained from use of such information. The editor reserves the right to censor, revise, edit, reject or cancel any material not meeting the standards of Chicago Architect. The information and opinions published in Chicago Architect represent the views of the authors and not those of the publication or AIA Chicago, unless otherwise stated. The acceptance of advertising does not reflect endorsement of products or services by this publication, AIA Chicago or Innovative Publishing.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: Chicago Architect gladly accepts all signed, dated letters to the editor. We reserve the right to edit for style and any potentially libelous content. Letters should be no longer than 250 words. Submit letters to CA@aiachicago.org.

STORY IDEAS AND SUBMISSIONS: Chicago Architect welcomes your story ideas and your written article submissions, whether about your projects or about business trends and issues. Email us at CA@aiachicago.org.

- facebook.com/chicagoaia

 twitter.com/aiachicago
- aiachicago.tumblr.com

 vimeo.com/aiachicago

INDEX OF ADVERTISERS

Advance 2000.....41
www.advance2000.com

Bulley & Andrews.....4
www.bulley.com

Chicagoland Roofing Council.....IBC
www.chicagoroofing.org

Clark Dietrich Building Systems.....39
www.clarkdietrich.com

Leopardo Companies.....BC
www.leopardo.com

Marvin Windows & Doors.....7
www.marvin.com

Petersen Aluminum Corp.....8
www.pac-clad.com

Schweiss Doors.....6
www.schweissdoors.com

The Hill Group.....3
www.hillgrp.com

Unilock Chicago.....IFC
www.unilock.com

Windfree Solar.....21
www.windfree.us

A GOOD BALANCE

AIA Chicago's Zurich Esposito recently met Chris-Annmarie Spencer, AIA, NOMA, the recipient of the 2015 Dubin Family Young Architect Award, at Inspiration Kitchens in Chicago's Garfield Park neighborhood. A project architect with Wheeler Kearns, Spencer was project architect for the 80-seat social enterprise restaurant that helps individuals gain skills and experience that lead to employment in the food-service industry.



Zurich Esposito: *When did you decide to become an architect, and how did you act on that decision?*

Chris-Annmarie Spencer: As a young person entering high school in Jamaica, where girls are typically steered into home economics and the boys are herded into technical fields, I expressed interest in going into the technical drawing program and asked to enroll. I was the only girl in the class, and I did very well. From there, I went to the Caribbean School of Architecture in Kingston for my undergraduate degree. After graduating in 1998, my parents, siblings and I moved to the U.S., to Boston, before I turned 21.

ZE: *Were you ready to join a firm when you moved to the U.S.?*

CS: I had never worked at a firm, and computers were not a large part of my undergraduate training in Jamaica, so after working an office job for two years, I moved to Chicago to go to University of Illinois Chicago for graduate school. I was hired by Wheeler Kearns in 2004.

ZE: *Does the life you lived in Jamaica influence your work?*

CS: It doesn't influence the style of the work, but it influences the type of projects I'm excited about. I can identify with projects that are for people who are in need, because I grew up in need but not knowing that I was, until I saw my life from another perspective after moving here.

ZE: *Of the projects you've worked on at Wheeler Kearns, which are some of your most rewarding?*

CS: I identify with projects like Inspiration Kitchens, because of the role they have in changing the lives of young people who might not otherwise have an opportunity. Luckily our firm does a lot of community-based projects. I'm project architect for a current project for the Goodman Theater: The Alice B. Rapoport Center for Education and Engagement will provide outreach programs for students and seniors. They're teaching kids to act and a lot more; it's awesome.

ZE: *You work on a variety of project types at your firm, from social service agencies to high-end residences. Are they equally rewarding?*

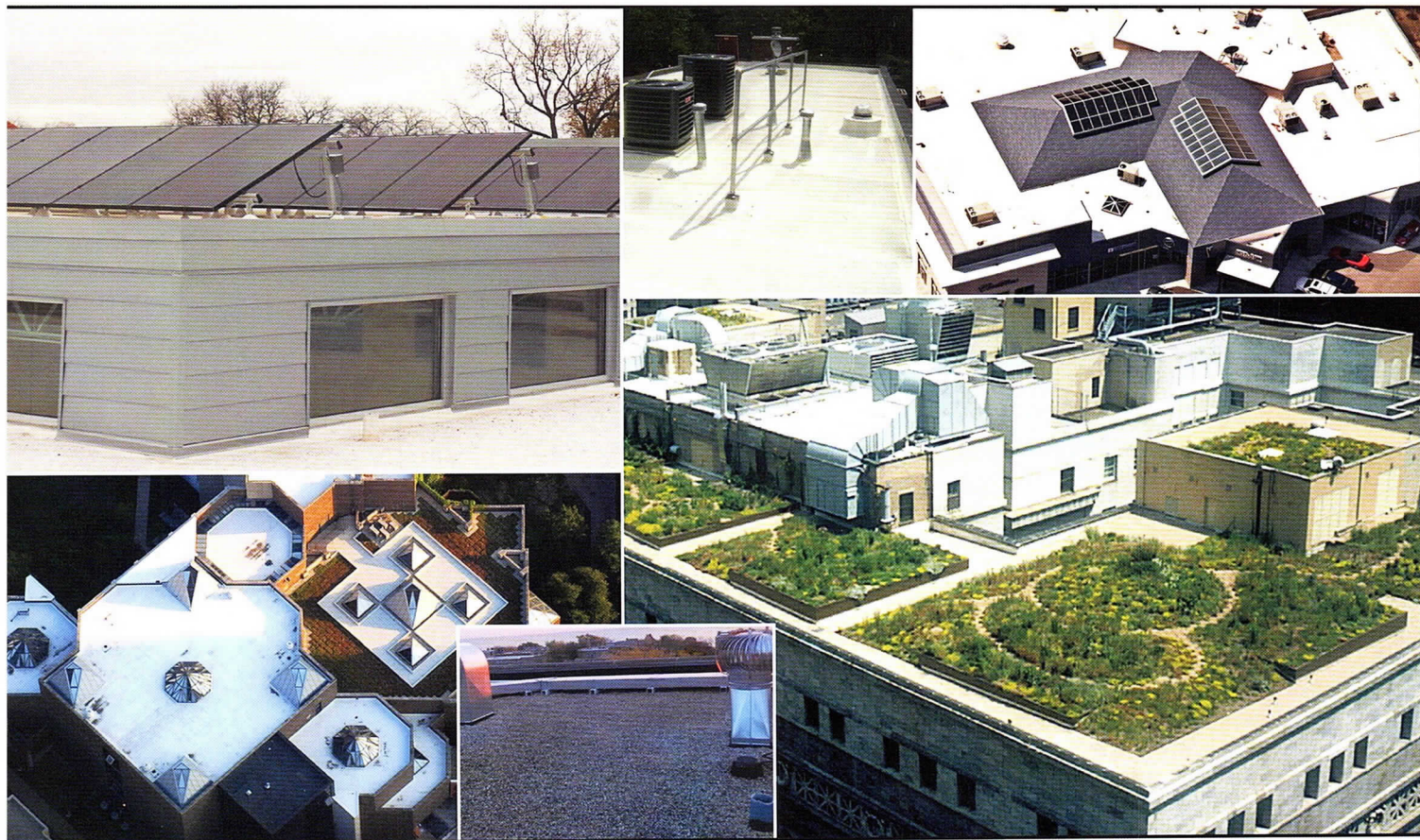
CS: They are all valuable experiences. All of the work informs subsequent work. The residential work of our firm that might be considered high end often enables a deep level of experimentation and might allow for more time to develop ideas, while nonprofit work is often schedule-focused. Big picture, these different types of projects are actually pretty complementary in a valuable way, since what's developed or executed in one project informs and might be expanded on in work that comes later.

ZE: *What goals do you have for yourself and your career?*

CS: A challenge to practicing as an architect is trying to find a good balance. My husband, Gran Gibson, is also an architect, so we are two architects trying to raise two children, and it's really difficult to find a good balance. I'd like to do a better job being an architect, a mom and a wife. Sometimes I feel like I have to choose between those roles. To be a complete person, and a good architect, I need to have a balance across the board.

ZE: *And what kind of goals do you have for the work you'll do during your career?*

CS: I hope to work on more projects that are meaningful and contribute to the lives of people who are not as fortunate as I've become. And it's not that I'm saying that I've achieved a lot more than others, but from where I started, this is certainly not the life I imagined, as a teenager in Jamaica, that I'd have. This is beyond my wildest dreams. I've lived in the U.S. for more than 15 years, and every day I still walk down the street and think to myself, "I can't believe I'm walking down the street in Chicago." If I could choose the projects I'm working on, I'd choose the ones that contribute to the greater community that I'm part of. **CA**



Great Roofs Save Money

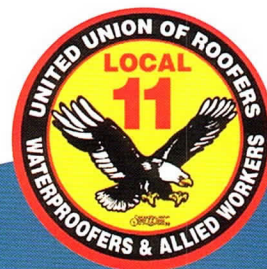
The Building Envelope keeps people dry and protected from Mother Nature's fury. Without roofs, rain, snow, sleet and hail find their way to your place inside. And, water soaked insulation no longer provides energy savings.

Chicagoland Roofing Council Contractors work with building owners and managers every day to help them keep mother nature out and comfort in. They build roofs that keep buildings dry and provide energy savings too. Chicagoland Roofing Council Contractors guide you through the selection

process for the best value, energy efficient and longest lasting roof possible.

Chicagoland Roofing Council Contractors—One Call, Single Source Responsibility, for everything on top of the roof and a building envelope system that works too.

Call 708.449.5266 or visit www.chicagoroofing.org to find the best Roofing Professionals.



www.chicagoroofing.org



Leopardo

People are drawn to Leopardo by our distinctiveness — both who we are and what we do.

People see joining our team as their dream job: a place to achieve their personal and professional goals. Industry partners prefer to work with us because we truly value collaboration and team work.

Clients seek us out as their trusted partner, saying we deliver fewer problems, greater value and better decision making. Leopardo. Passionately pursuing construction excellence.

