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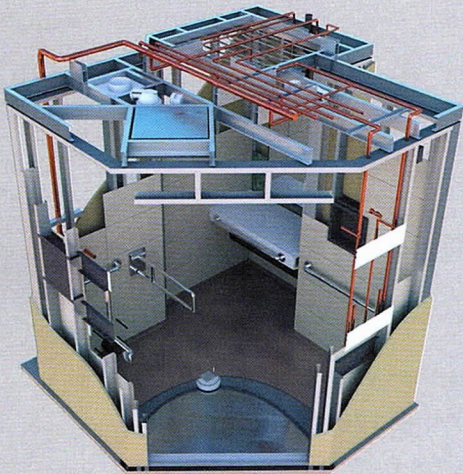
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Cover by John Lee

We welcome this issue highlighting stories about members of our chapter who are studying architecture or beginning their careers in this incredible field.

A couple of poignant quotes speak to me about this early phase in one's practice. Helen Hayes' saying "*The expert in anything was once a beginner*" comes to mind for me when working with younger members of my staff, particularly when reflecting the early years of my career.

Benjamin Franklin's "*Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn*" speaks directly to the need to engage people in the process of doing our work for them to truly learn how to do it themselves in the future.

Mentorship is key throughout all careers, but it is without a doubt crucial to the growth of young architects. Our chapter's Bridge program, which pairs Fellows with Associates and young architects, will be entering its seventh year this fall. Over that time, Bridge has become a model for programs around the country with testimonies to the benefits for both mentees and mentors. I want to extend thanks to all who have been involved over the years in the creation and ongoing success of this program.

The Bridge article in this issue also looks toward the pressing topic of the future of the

profession. Changing work practices and rapid development of our design tools is forcing a hard look at the traditional practice methods of the past. What is not in question is that we must still capitalize on the power of the design process thinking that comes from our architectural training. Joe Weishaar's editorial on his path to winning the National WWI Memorial competition illuminates the drive that most of us share to leap into design problems to find solutions. This passion is our greatest strength.

Experience comes also through the many volunteer opportunities available to architects in our communities, schools and professional organizations. As we look to the future of our profession, perhaps the best opportunity to engage future architects — today's middle and high school students — is through our AIAS, Associate and YAF members. The Community Interface Committee's Architects in Schools program is a model for knowledge sharing that looks forward: it is not just participating in the design process but becoming a teacher or mentor oneself that can bring true meaning to Ben Franklin's idea, "*...involve me and I learn.*"

Dawn Schuette, FAIA



Chicago Architect, the primary outreach tool 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.

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# Time Saver

## Give Kids the World Towne Hall, Kissimmee, FL

Architect: C.T. Hsu & Associates, Orlando  
General contractor: Welbro Building Corp., Maitland, FL  
Installing contractor: Hartford South, Orlando  
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Donny Cammenga, project manager, Hartford South

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the Greatest Gift: Time for Reflection  
After School

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A New Ongoing Feature of *Chicago  
Architect Magazine*

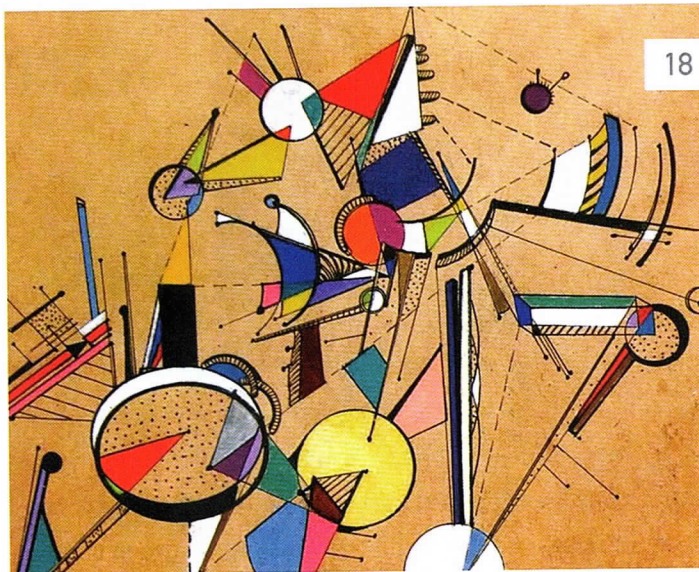
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EVERYONE GAINS WHEN YOUNG  
ARCHITECTS DRIVE GOOD DESIGN  
FOR ALL



ON THE COVER  
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Architect: Johnson Braund Inc.





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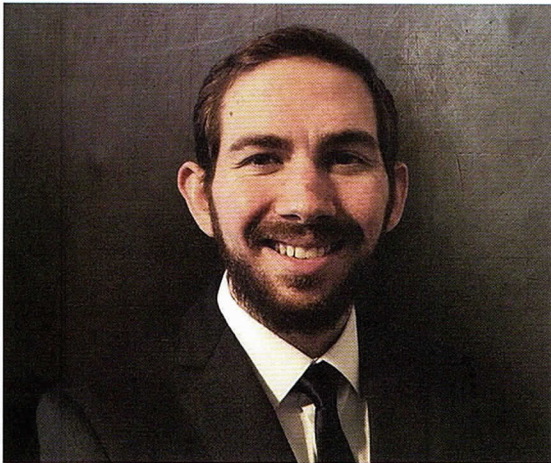
excludes brazil



# TWO LEAPS, TWO VOIDS

## YOUNG ARCHITECT JOE WEISHAAR TALKS ABOUT HIS PATH TO WINNING THE NATIONAL WORLD WAR I MEMORIAL COMPETITION

BY JOE WEISHAAR



I can't say that I've exactly had the most traditional path through architecture, but hopefully I can share some of my thoughts and experiences thus far.

I began like any other eager, freshly graduated architecture student from the University of Arkansas. I spent hours working on a portfolio and figuring out what I wanted in an employer and then I hopped on a flight out to Portland and Seattle to seek my fortune. I quickly discovered three hard truths for new hires in the traditional architecture job market: 1) Knowing somebody who works at the particular firm you're applying to helps; 2) Already living in the city you want to work is

important; and 3) Sometimes you just have to fill a niche, so it's OK to be different.

The best advice I could give new architecture graduates is to just start somewhere, otherwise you're not going to get anywhere. I started where I knew I could find work — old professors. I can't say it was terribly glamorous work, but I got an income and I was practicing architecture. I was the only employee in a small firm and most of our clients wanted remodel work. While this wasn't

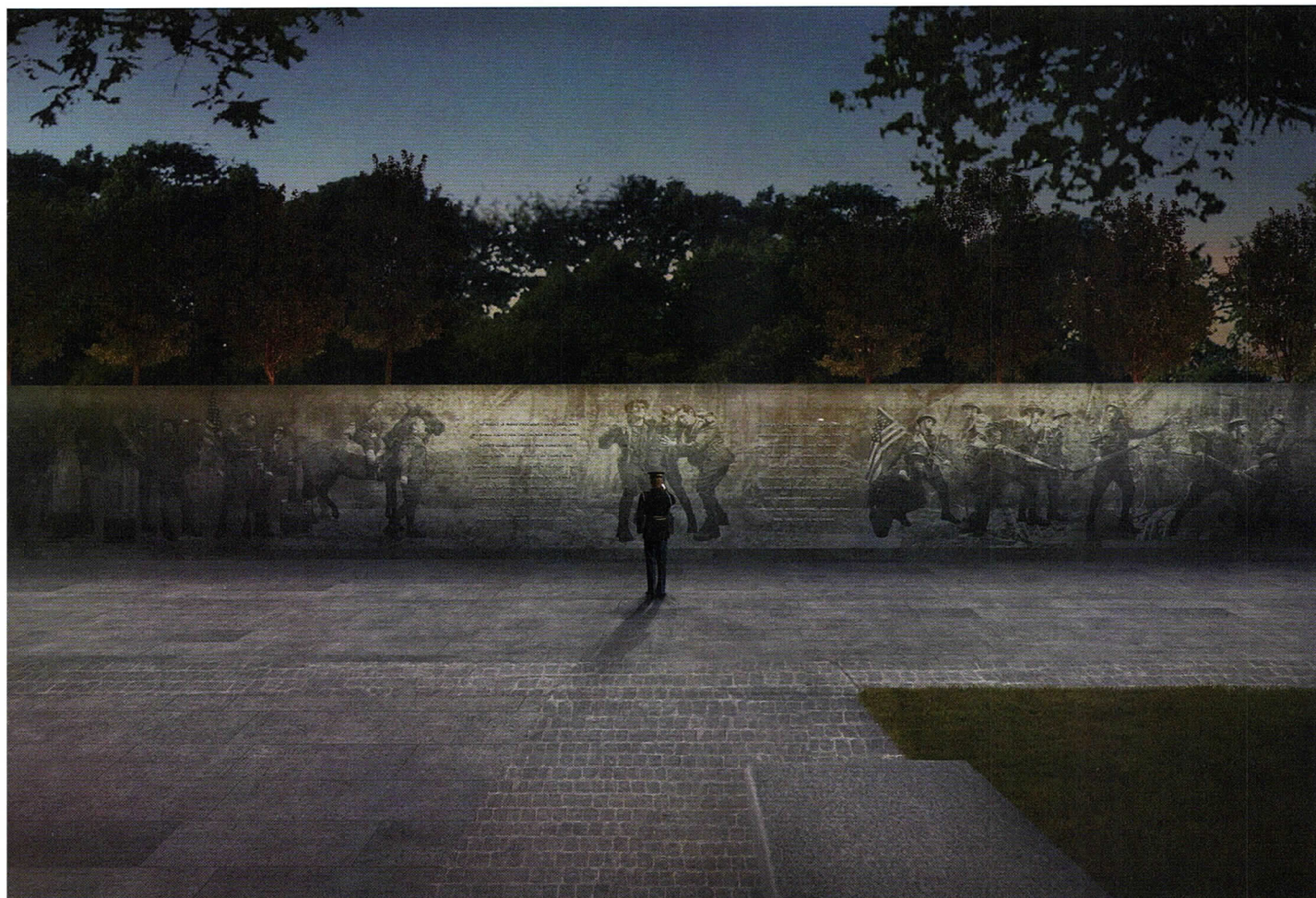
the kind of work I always wanted to do, working through these small projects was a way I could step up all of my skills.

During this time, I also offered to help out anyone I could who called. I was still a friendly face around town, and people would occasionally ask me to help with a rendering, a poster or a software question. After eight months of asking around like this, I was the sole employee for three different architecture firms, freelancing work between

all of them on a daily basis. I worked 11-hour days, six days per week. And in those eight months, I worked on roughly 12 projects, became Revit and Photoshop proficient and had a house project about to start construction. The one thing all of my employers agreed on though was, if I were going to make it, I needed to move past the small project.

As I said before, starting somewhere, anywhere, is very important. Coupled with that is a





good leap into the occasional void. My first leap came when an old classmate posted on Facebook asking if there was anyone needing a job with a good architecture firm. After a few phone calls and some emails, I had an actual full-time job. I was in Chicago four days after sitting at a desk and living on a couch. The subsequent year and a half that I spent working full-time at Brininstool+Lynch was the closest I've come to a traditional architecture career path, and it was a great experience.

I can't say for certain what made me want to go looking for an architecture competition to work on, but, when I came across the competition to design the National World War I Memorial, I was hooked instantly. I set up shop in my bedroom closet and worked on it after work.

Two months later, I was selected as one of five finalists as the only non-professional entrant. At this point, I made my second career leap into the void: I was passionate about the

competition but still needed to pay my rent. For anyone considering this career path, let me preface it by saying that the void is considerably more work. I continued my job at Brininstool+Lynch, worked on the stage II portion of the competition and started pushing through the paperwork for a rendering business license.

The hard part of taking the risk of the unknown is still having a plan for what happens if it doesn't all work out. I was

beyond fortunate to walk away as the winner of the competition, but, if I hadn't been so lucky, I still had a plan — a good relationship with the firm I was working for and rendering clients. This hasn't been a typical path to licensure or a career yet, but I can tell you now that if you're passionate about the work, can plan for the highs and lows, and have the drive to keep throwing yourself into the void, it's all worth it and will take you as far as you want to go. **CA**



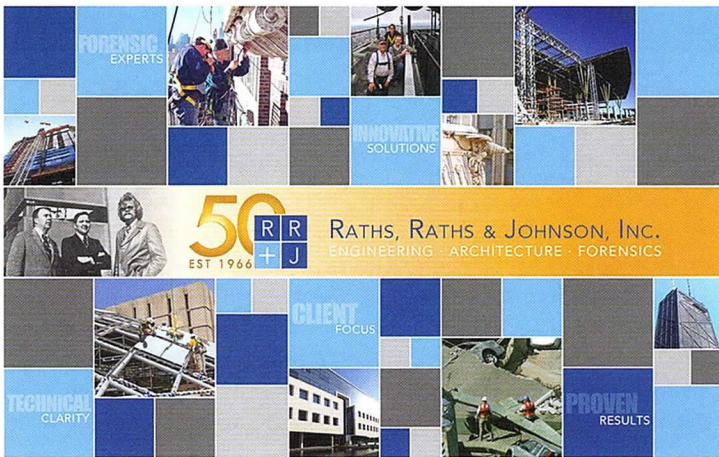


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**Julianne Scherer, AIA**, has been promoted to principal at **Nagle Hartray Architecture**. Scherer has been with the firm since 1995 and has been associate principal since 2005. She has been influential in such projects as the Latin School of Chicago, Valparaiso University Campus Ministries Building, Catherine Cook School, DeKalb Public Library and Fountaindale Public Library.

The Rosewood Park project is located on the shore of Lake Michigan in Highland Park and was recently awarded the Illinois Park and Recreation Association's Outstanding Facility Award. **Woodhouse Tinucci Architects** led the \$4.5 million restoration, which included built-in lounges, a one-of-a-kind beachfront Interpretive Center and amenity buildings all connected by a winding boardwalk. The restoration not only improved the beach for recreational and educational purposes but also restored the shoreline and local ecosystem.



**Raths, Raths & Johnson, Inc. (RRJ)**, a national engineering, architecture and forensics consulting firm, has opened a new downtown Chicago office. With its corporate headquarters and laboratory in Willowbrook, Illinois, this new location expands RRJ's presence within the Chicagoland market.



bKL Architecture brought on two new team members: **Paul Hagle, AIA**, as associate director/interiors technical leader and **Jon Gately** as associate.

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## YOUNG ARCHITECTS



For the past five years, **Max Komnenich, AIA**, (CannonDesign) has worked on some of Chicago's largest recent health care projects — including the Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin's Center for Advanced Care and Advocate Christ Medical Center's East Patient Tower. Komnenich was recently elected to the firm's NEXT Council — a group charged with advancing ideas and innovations from frontline designers to the firm's top levels and advocating for the next generation of CannonDesigners.



For the fourth year in a row, **Meghan Dyer, AIA, LEED AP BD+C**, (Lothan Van Hook DeStefano) has been the co-house captain for Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago in charge of mobilizing a team of volunteers to work in partnership with the community to repair the homes and improve the neighborhoods of elderly, disabled and low-income residents.



**Nicholas Cecchi** has been named *NewCity's* architecture and design critic.



**Jeremy Helfert, AIA, LEED AP**, has been promoted to Associate at IA Interior Architects. Currently leading the architectural efforts for the Motorola Solutions and William Blair headquarters projects in Chicago, he's dedicated to changing the workplace. Jeremy is heavily involved in mentoring other young architects at IA, both locally and firmwide.



**Andrew Vesselinovitch, AIA, AICP**, is now a licensed architect in the state of Illinois.





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Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill Architecture has been named as the Design Architect for The Yard at Chicago Shakespeare Theater, a new flexible theater and lobby that connects with the existing Chicago Shakespeare Theater at Navy Pier.

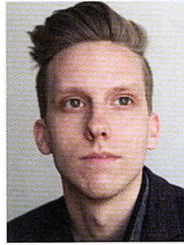


Developer Sedgwick Properties has broken ground on a 60-unit luxury apartment building in Chicago's Old Town neighborhood, expected to deliver in the spring of 2017.

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## YOUNG ARCHITECTS



Ryan Gann, Assoc. AIA, started his two-year term as the Illinois Regional Director on the National Associates Committee. As the representative of Associate members of the AIA, the NAC aspires to be the catalyst for progress within the institute and profession. Additionally, Ryan will finish his current term on the National Architectural Accrediting board this fall.



Krista Simons Gliva, AIA, LEED AP, is participating in "On the Table Evanston," an initiative by the Chicago Community Trust and inspired by the 50th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s march through Marquette Park on Chicago's west side. On The Table Evanston honors the larger legacy of the Marquette march by hoping to inspire thoughtful discussions about issues of race, justice, and equity.



Under the direction of the project and firm's leadership, the 1060 project team at VOA includes a number of young architects who are in pivotal roles on a number of different projects, including the Wrigley Field ballpark renovations, the Plaza Basement (including the new Cubs Clubhouse), the Office Building, the Outdoor Plaza and the Hotel.

Team members include Paul Bryant, AIA, LEED AP; Nathan Sonoskey, AIA, LEED AP BD+C; Natalya Falk, AIA, NCARB; Shannon Piatek, AIA; Adam Szajner; Breah Page, Assoc. AIA; and Shuang Jiang, Assoc. AIA.



## PEOPLE + PROJECTS



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Baily Edward has announced several promotions and new additions. **Omar H. Bailey, AIA, LEED AP**, and **Kent W. Locke, Jr., PE, NCEES**, have been named associate principals; **Nick Klever, AIA**; **James Auler, AIA**; and **Neil Nigos** recently received their licenses.



**J.J. Tang, AIA, LEED AP, HDR Federal Program Principal**, has been selected to receive the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) 2015 President's Medal. As a practitioner, he has worked on various building types, including highly secure command and control headquarters; mission-critical data centers; training, housing, aviation, and laboratory facilities, with construction value exceeding \$2 billion, touching on four continents in the last 15 years. Tang received the President's Medal during a special ceremony at the 2016 SAME National Conference in May of this year.

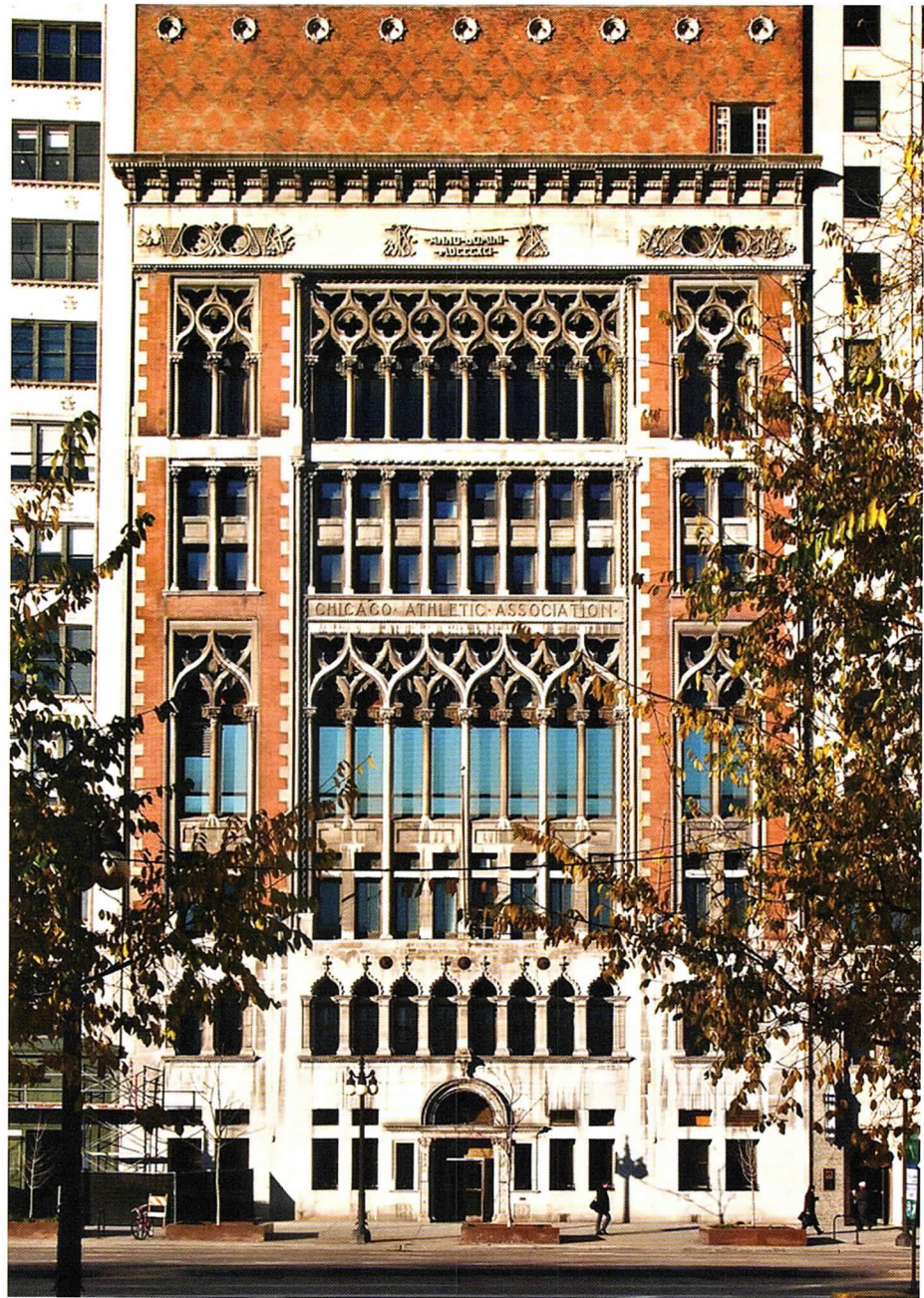


Habitat for Humanity Chicago has partnered with **Jeanne Gang, FAIA**, founding principal of **Studio Gang Architects**, for its fourth annual Women Build event. Women Build is a high-energy five-day build that brings together a community of over 300 Chicago women to fund and begin building an energy-efficient home for a Habitat Chicago female-led household, using sustainable building practices. Learn more at [chicagowomenbuild.org](http://chicagowomenbuild.org).





Heehhan Partners, Ltd. has added seven members to its growing team. Senior staff include Ute Tegtmeyer, AIA, LEED BD+C, and Rafael Tudor, AIA; junior staff include Erald Lulla, Qetuwrah Reed, Julio Larin Garcia, Zoe Cloonan and Michael McDow.



Hartshorne Plunkard Architecture (HPS) has announced several new promotions in their Chicago office. Timothy Holleran, AIA, LEED AP BD+C, has been elevated to principal, and will continue to serve as HPA's director of planning.

Promoted to project architect are Andrew Becker, RA, LEED AP BD+C; Michael Prohov, RA, LEED AP BD+C; David Siegel, RA, LEED AP; Julija Vallee, RA, LEED AP BD+C; and Krista Weir, RA.

HPS was also recently recognized as Architect of the Year at the Chicago Commercial Real Estate Awards, where they were given a second award for the Chicago Athletic Association, which won "Comprehensive Redevelopment of the Year."



# MENTORSHIP AND THE FUTURE OF THE PROFESSION

Mentorship has long been a keystone of architectural practice and an integral component in a young architect's professional development. In the past, young architects worked alongside a master architect and learned by listening, observing and participating.

Recognizing an opportunity to facilitate a mentoring dialogue and nurture the next generation of leaders through the AIA Chicago professional community, Mark Schwamel, AIA, LEED AP BD+C; Brett Taylor, AIA; and I conceived the Bridge program in 2009. Bridge was created to bring members of the College of Fellows (FAIA) and a select group of young architects together in mentoring relationships. This pairing bridges the gap between a young architect's need for mentorship and the ability, knowledge and experience of AIA Fellows.

This program is organized around a series of informal group discussions where participants collectively discuss past experiences, career advancement and the future of architectural practice. Throughout the four-month program, the mentors and mentees also meet in a one-on-one setting to discuss specific professional goals while further developing and strengthening their relationship. Now entering its seventh year, this signature AIA Chicago program has helped guide the careers of over 100 emerging architects from recent graduates to new firm owners and inspired more than 40 local Fellows to reinterpret and evaluate the trajectory of their practice.

Bridge represents a cross section of current and future leaders in our design community. The dialogue instigated by Bridge provokes a robust conversation informed by the diverse experiences of each participant. We asked past mentees and mentors to share their perspectives on the future of architectural practice and invite you to join our conversation.

— Matt Dumich, AIA, AIA Chicago Vice President/President-Elect

*Interested in applying to the 2016/17 Bridge program? Applications will open July 5. Deadline is August 5.*





# THE FUTURE OF ARCHITECTURE



Carl D'Silva, FAIA



Dan Wheeler, FAIA

*What does the future of practice look like — both from a firm organizational structure and physical office space?*

**Dan Wheeler, FAIA:** Physically, frankly, I am scared of it, where it seems to be headed, into a paperless place. I hope there is still a physicality to it, in stuff, drawings, models, books. Personality.

**Robert Forest, FAIA:** I see the physical architect's office space becoming more flexible — spaces that allow and promote collaboration. Spaces that can easily convert to group or individual spaces; handle computer work; or handle team model building; or a virtual reality space.

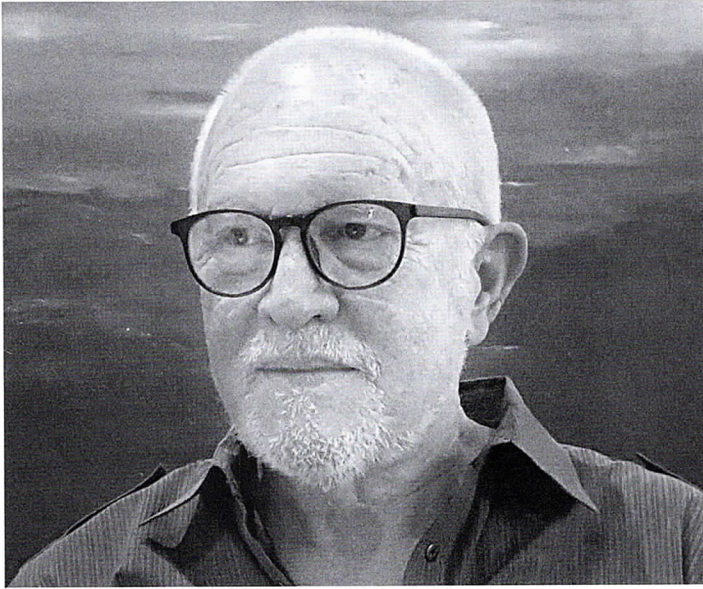
*Who are the employees of the future architecture office? Are they all architects or other design professionals? Is there an evolution that needs to occur at an educational level?*

**RF:** Variety will enhance collaboration and expand the design process. The future will have a mix of various design and outside related fields. We are already seeing a variety of educational backgrounds playing a valuable role in our office — our director of sustainability has a PhD in zoology, and he is the one questioning the way we design spaces for humans! This is important to us as he does not have a preconceived idea of what the spaces should be and is “free” to question what we do.

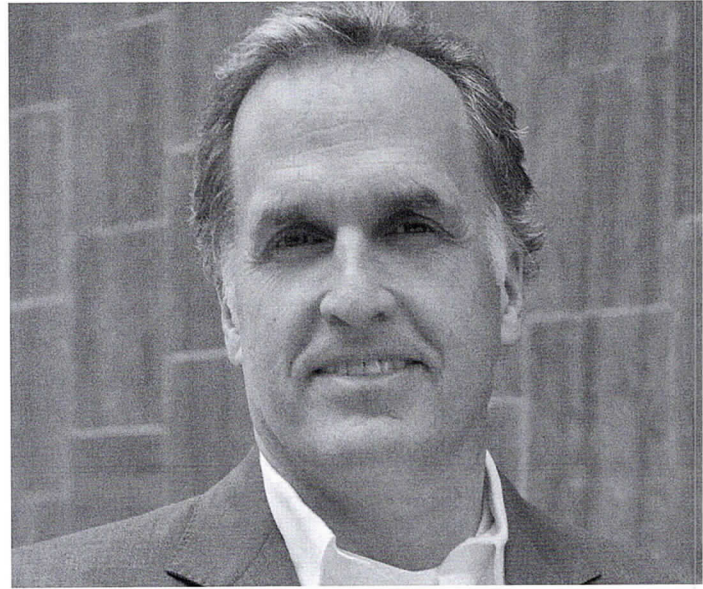
*How does the architect fit into an evolving construction industry? How will our role change in the next 10 years, and how does that affect the current practice?*

**Phil Castillo, FAIA:** In our practice, as commercial architects, we have always been interested in the assembly of the systems in our buildings. For this, the architect needs to have an understanding of how the industry approaches “construction.” As this type of building continues to present economic challenges, the architect will either succumb to what is commonly





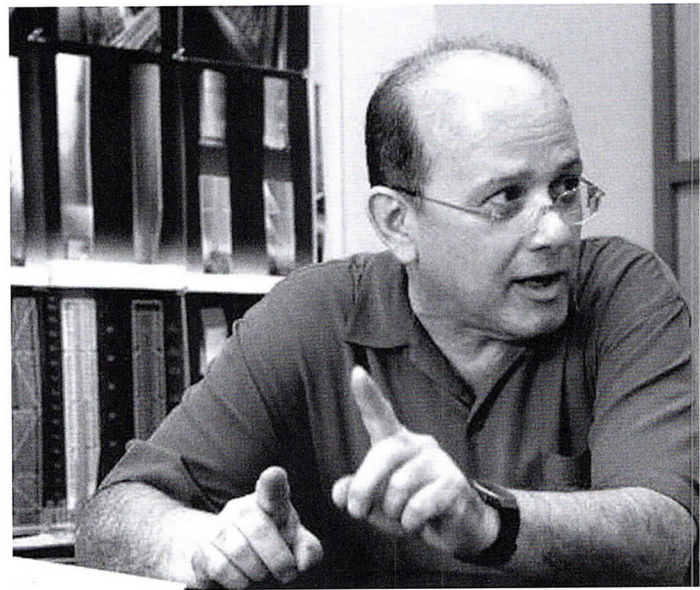
John Nelson, FAIA



Mark Sexton, FAI



Julie Hacker, FAIA



Phil Castillo, FA

done or will work with the industry to advance design and technology. I hope it is the latter.

**How does the adoption of technology affect the “craft” of the profession?**

**Julie Hacker, FAIA:** As an architect who still draws and makes physical models to explore space and communicate with clients, I would say that technology should be used in conjunction with hand-drawn drawings and hand-built models. I do

believe that the craft of designing should not solely be “computer driven.”

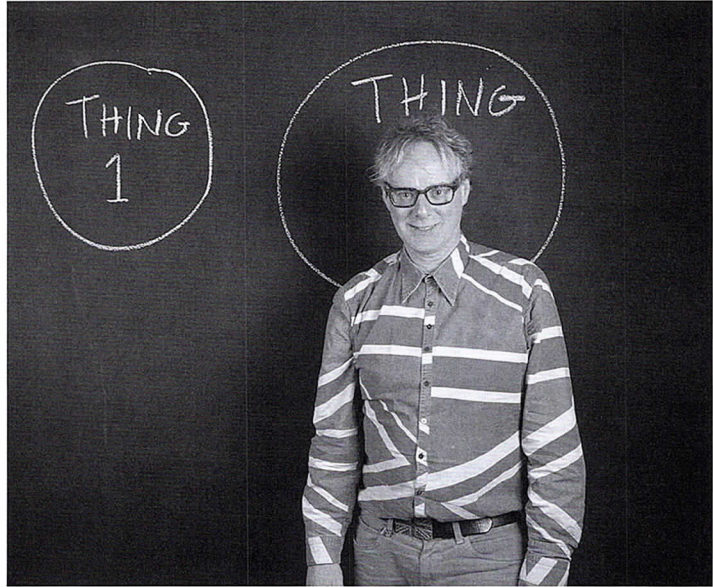
**How do we “design” our practice? How do you stay true to the intent/big idea throughout your office culture/values?**

**John Nelson, FAIA:** Those values need to be practiced and stressed by the firm leaders. If they veer off course, the rest will follow.





Robert Forest, FAIA



Peter Exley, FAIA

**Mark Sexton, FAIA:** We developed a strategic plan that essentially is the master plan for how we want the office to operate, what projects we want to design and how we want to grow.

**DW:** Remember that respect of each individual in the common pursuit of defining the ideas of a practice and a project is the ultimate goal. You can't do this if you are talking.

*Describe how our services/roles outside of the realm of traditional architectural practice are being challenged.*

**JH:** As a residential architect, I am not convinced that the practice has dramatically changed. First and foremost, clients want to be heard and understood. Many of them can't understand drawings but better respond to physical models. Our practice has always been about working with a team, be it landscape architects, low-voltage consultants or lighting designers.

I think as a responsible, responsive architect, we are operating the same way we have always operated. The challenges remain trying to control an architectural process, which can so easily veer into chaos.

The current dynamics of the profession have redefined the initial apprenticeship structure of architecture.

*What steps are you or your firm taking to help advance the future of the profession?*

**Peter Exley, FAIA:** We are continuing to be supportive, inclusive and advocates through projects, teaching methodology, mentorship and our involvement in AIA.

The work of Architecture Is Fun has always been about informal learning. Play and place are key — good design for all as expectation versus exception. Every architect in America can participate in a grassroots effort to take architecture to our children in their schools. By making ourselves available and relevant to every child in America, a more diverse group of kids will grow up wanting to be architects and embrace architecture in their lives and communities.

*What are your biggest challenges of the current profession, and do you think there is a way to resolve it?*

**JN:** They are the same challenges we have faced for years: diminished role, very tight schedules, tight budgets, etc. Hopefully, technology will improve the way we deal with some of these issues. Other issues may be resolved by the answer in question one.





Evan Forrest, Assoc. AIA



Laura Crane, AIA

**MS:** The biggest challenge is time. Clients request a complete vision of a design before you have the appropriate time to think through the issues. *Moby-Dick* in a week.

*We view ourselves as agents of change in the world, yet we are rarely invited to the table to discuss the big issues in our communities. How can architects position themselves to become more relevant and communicate the value of design to the general public?*

**DW:** Speak up. Do good work.

**MS:** First, have a big vision for how to solve a basic problem, and then learn how to speak the language of communities and the general public rather than the language that only architects understand. This doesn't mean an abdication of design ideals, only that they are communicated so that a fifth-grader understands them.

**What does mentorship mean to you?**

**PC:** In the simplest terms, I am not done learning yet. Mentorship is a two-way street where we can share



Jonathan Meyer, AIA

ideas and learn from each other. There is no one answer or approach to anything.

**Carl D'Silva, FAIA:** While the main focus of mentorship is to help shape and guide the next generation of the profession, there is also a significant benefit to the mentors themselves. In addition to staying involved in the responsibilities of, and challenges for, younger architects, discussions often force the mentor to organize and clarify their own thoughts.





John Marusich, Assoc. AIA



Chad Fisk, Assoc. AIA

## MENTEES

*What does the future of practice look like — both from a firm organizational structure and physical office space?*

**Sean McGuire, Assoc. AIA:** Physically, we are going through a backlash against open offices. There is a renewed focus toward creating communal focus spaces, as distraction becomes an accepted norm in

collaboration-centric open offices. Organizationally, the hierarchal, top-down command structure is giving way to a practice that speaks more toward empowering employees at all levels of experience. But that could be my millennial hubris speaking.

*Who are the employees of the future architecture office? Are they all architects or other design professionals? Is there an evolution that needs to occur at an educational level?*

**John Marusich, Assoc. AIA:** The role of the architect is expanding, for better or worse, and I believe firms will start hiring to accommodate those expanding roles. I think the backgrounds of employees hired within the office will gradually change to where some people are hired to fulfill the needs/roles outside the “traditional” architectural realm, and others will be architects with a variety of additional skill sets in a related field creating a more integrated practice of architecture.

*How does the architect fit into an evolving construction industry? How will our role change in the next 10 years, and how does that affect the current practice?*

**Evan Forrest, Assoc. AIA:** The profession of architecture is moving closer to resembling a managerial role in the design and construction industry with the amount of risk and responsibility we have relinquished to contractors and consultants. Heading down this road, we run the risk of becoming technicians who simply choreograph our consultants.

*How does the adoption of technology affect the “craft” of the profession?*

**Todd Mackinson, AIA:** Is there an “Uber for architecture” app yet?

**Jonathan Meyer, AIA:** In my opinion, the “craft” of our profession exists as an idea — a way of seeing things differently than others see them. To this extent, architecture as a craft is not the ability to draw, do math or use computer software but rather is a way of thinking that can approach and address problems. With changing technologies, our tools to execute and realize this “vision” are changing, but the “craft” as an intangible thought process, will remain unchanged.





Sean McGuire, Assoc. AIA



Todd Mackinson, AIA

*How do we “design” our practice? How do you stay true to the intent/big idea throughout your office culture/values?*

**Laura Crane, AIA:** A part of our jobs as architects is an unwritten requirement to always be inspired, be creative, stay curious. I think this is a skill that takes time to be developed. As architects, we all love to travel to get inspired, but I think it is a special talent to be able to be inspired by the everyday.

*Describe how our services/roles outside of the realm of traditional architectural practice are being challenged.*

**Chad Fisk, Assoc. AIA:** An architect’s basic service will always be to design shelter for occupants to safely occupy. Today, we are challenged to provide more than just shelter. We must acknowledge the consequence of our actions, from the amount of resources used to build, operate and maintain our building for not just its operational life but for the entire life cycle of its constituent parts, including the natural environment. Every architect must ask her or himself, “Is this design necessary enough to justify

what we must destroy in order to replace what previously existed?”

*The current dynamics of the profession have redefined the initial apprenticeship structure of architecture. What steps are you or your firm taking to help advance the future of the profession?*

**J. Meyer:** Our office is quite remarkable in the amount of responsibility it allows younger architects to take on. In allowing younger team members to “step up” and take on larger roles on projects, they’re able to rise to the challenges presented to them. In a profession where the best way to learn is by “doing,” younger members of the team are able to “do” a lot.

*What are your biggest challenges of the current profession, and do you think there is a way to resolve it?*

**Timothy Zelazny, Assoc. AIA:** Meeting the AIA Architecture 2030 challenge. The initiative will want to set annual reduction targets and penalize firms when





Carl Sergio, AIA



Willie Chandler, AIA, LEED AP

they are not being met. We have a long way to go to reach carbon-neutral buildings by 2030 on ALL new buildings and major renovations. I worry that too many firms will wait until the last minute, or worse, be unprepared when more stringent energy codes are required in the nearer future.

**TM:** I worry the most about the stratification of architecture and society. Innovative and thoughtful design seems to be reserved for wealthy clients and

institutions, while public projects become less inspiring. Meanwhile large portions of our housing are developed with strictly financial goals, omitting consideration for larger community benefits, such as cultural identity, sustainability and placemaking. Obviously there is no simple solution to these concerns, but advocacy and promotion of the profession can help raise public awareness and appreciation.

*We view ourselves as agents of change in the world yet we are rarely invited to the table to discuss the big issues in our communities. How can architects position themselves to become more relevant and communicate the value of design to the general public?*

**Willie Chandler, AIA, LEED AP:** We need to talk about architecture with non-architects! People outside of the profession will only understand and appreciate the value of architects if they become more familiar with what services architects actually provide. Our work goes deeper than designing buildings. We craft creative solutions to difficult problems and help our clients achieve their goals in spite of the significant challenges they may face. Talk about architecture with non-architects.

**What does mentorship mean to you?**

**LC:** A mentor is anyone who encourages you to reach farther, think bigger or try something you never thought you were capable of. It is not necessarily a significant person or action; I think that it can be a simple nudge, suggestion, or conversation that in hindsight had a significant impact on your professional practice.

**J. Meyer:** Mentorship is about an on-going conversation with someone whose opinion you respect and trust. To me, this is about an open dialogue where crucial guidance and experience can be conveyed. Good mentorship should look at establishing long-term and short-term goals, planning where you want to be and why you might want to be there.

**Carl Sergio, AIA:** Perhaps retrospectively providing what you would have benefitted from. Not only providing wisdom and experience and encouragement but also forming a relationship, because we all know that relationships are everything in the professional world, and many people have very few and lack the knowledge or ability to form more. **CA**

Young architect photos by Jason Schumer and edited by John Lee



# COMMUNITY INTERFAC

EVERYONE GAINS WHEN YOUNG ARCHITECTS DRIVE GOOD DESIGN FOR ALL

Students at Cameron Elementary present their final designs for a nearby vacant lot. Alderman Roberto Maldonado (26th Ward) photographs the presentations.





# COMMITTEE

**W**ith the first Chicago Architecture Biennial behind us, the city has calmed down from the architecture craze that absorbed residents and visitors for the latter half of 2015. For a group of young, local architects, however, the task of creating a high-energy, curiosity-inducing buzz around the built world is an ongoing one.

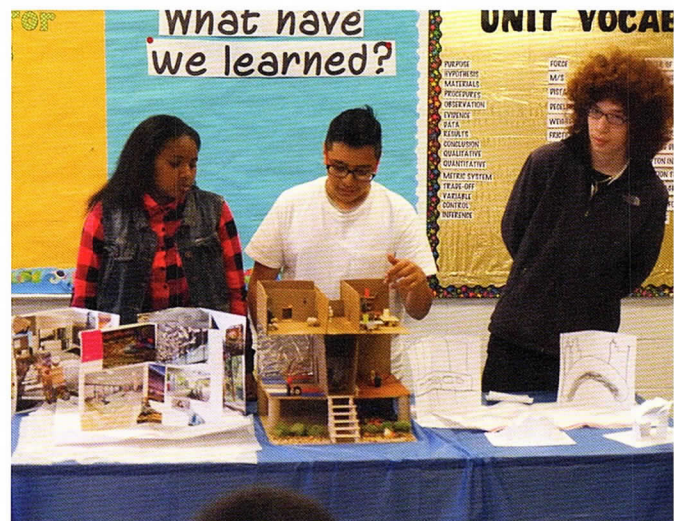
AIA Chicago's Community Interface Committee (CIC) is a Knowledge Community led by Alexis Stumpf, Assoc. AIA, EDAC (2015-16 CIC Co-Chair); Kaitlin Streyle, AIA (2016-17 CIC Co-Chair); Chey Hsiao Taylor, AIA, LEED AP (2014-15 CIC Co-Chair); Eunkyoo Choi, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP BD+C; Matthew McGrane, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP; and Maya Bird-Murphy, Assoc. AIA, LEED GA. The group plans and delivers programming, tours and lectures that bring the experts (architects) into the public, allowing them to communicate design learning and principles to young people and the public.

According to the group, its mission is "dedicated to increasing architects' knowledge of and participation with community groups and non-profit organizations."

*The Committee will act as:*

1. A network and forum for exchange of knowledge related to public interest work
2. A point of contact for community groups looking for design-based solutions
3. A liaison between the AIA and established pro-bono design groups
4. Support for architects' involvement in civic activities

The committee's most recent initiative went into the classroom. Architects in Schools allows members of the CIC to meet and work with elementary and middle school



students at Cameron Elementary on the northwest side. Taylor explained, "We have been working to increase CPS students' exposure to architecture and design thinking, as a means of communicating the value of design to the larger community."

In the six-week program, students were challenged to use process and creativity to devise solutions to the design challenge: What would you design/create to improve your neighborhood? "The students have been so engaged and interested in learning about what architecture is and coming up with really thoughtful ideas and solutions," Streyle said. Local alderman, Robert Maldonado, attended the program's final presentation session to hear more about community needs and student-designed solutions.





Future architects brainstormed, collaged and finally constructed their designs.

In many ways, Architects in Schools — and arguably much of the programming led by the CIC — is fueled by a youthful motivation and the belief that young architects can dig deeper into the communities that they serve. “Much like the advent of the sustainability movement, architecture is beginning to acknowledge that the built environment directly affects people and communities. Young architects are on the forefront of this realization,” Stumpf said. She echoed a lighthearted sentiment that architecture is “an education in idealism,” and continued, “Combined with the general feeling that we are approaching a social, political and environmental tipping point, and encouraged by the broadening definition of community and neighbor through social media, young architects are experiencing a desire to leverage our skills to effect social change.”

According to the team, there are many reasons why young architects tend to be leaders in community activism; individuals in the CIC leadership team tend to cite varying reasons. Stumpf attributed evolving understandings of neighborly action via social media; Taylor noted, “Young architects simply have more time to participate.” Streyle, however, saw it as a result of the recession. “After struggling during the recession, young architects started looking at the other kinds of struggles outside of the

architecture sphere and applied the critical thinking and design skills in these other realms.”

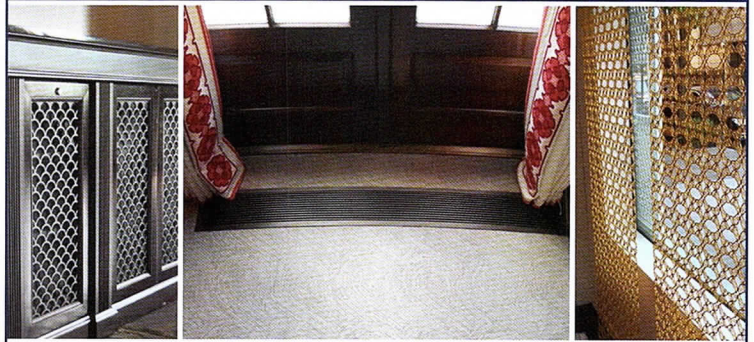
Although it is often difficult to measure the radiating impact of work in communities, it is nonetheless important to the development of healthy neighborhoods. The group has plans to do more programming in schools and to develop further initiatives to connect architects with design initiatives across Chicago and nearby regions.

While the CIC serves these communities, it is also serving the future of the profession. “There is general public confusion regarding what it is that an architect does,” McGrane said. “It has been said that only 1 percent of buildings are designed by architects, and consequently approximately 99 percent of people have never had reason to engage an architect. Truthfully, our natural capacity as problem-solvers gives architects an innate ability to help people. We can do this in ways beyond signing and sealing a set of drawings.”

Communities, the future of the field — even individual architects — benefit from this work. Streyle said, “We want to increase architects’ awareness, understanding and involvement in their communities. Not always in the capacity of an architect, but just as another human that is trying to make things a little bit better.” CA

AFTER STRUGGLING DURING THE RECESSION, YOUNG ARCHITECTS STARTED LOOKING AT THE OTHER KINDS OF STRUGGLES OUTSIDE OF THE ARCHITECTURE SPHERE AND APPLIED THE CRITICAL THINKING AND DESIGN SKILLS IN THESE OTHER REALMS.





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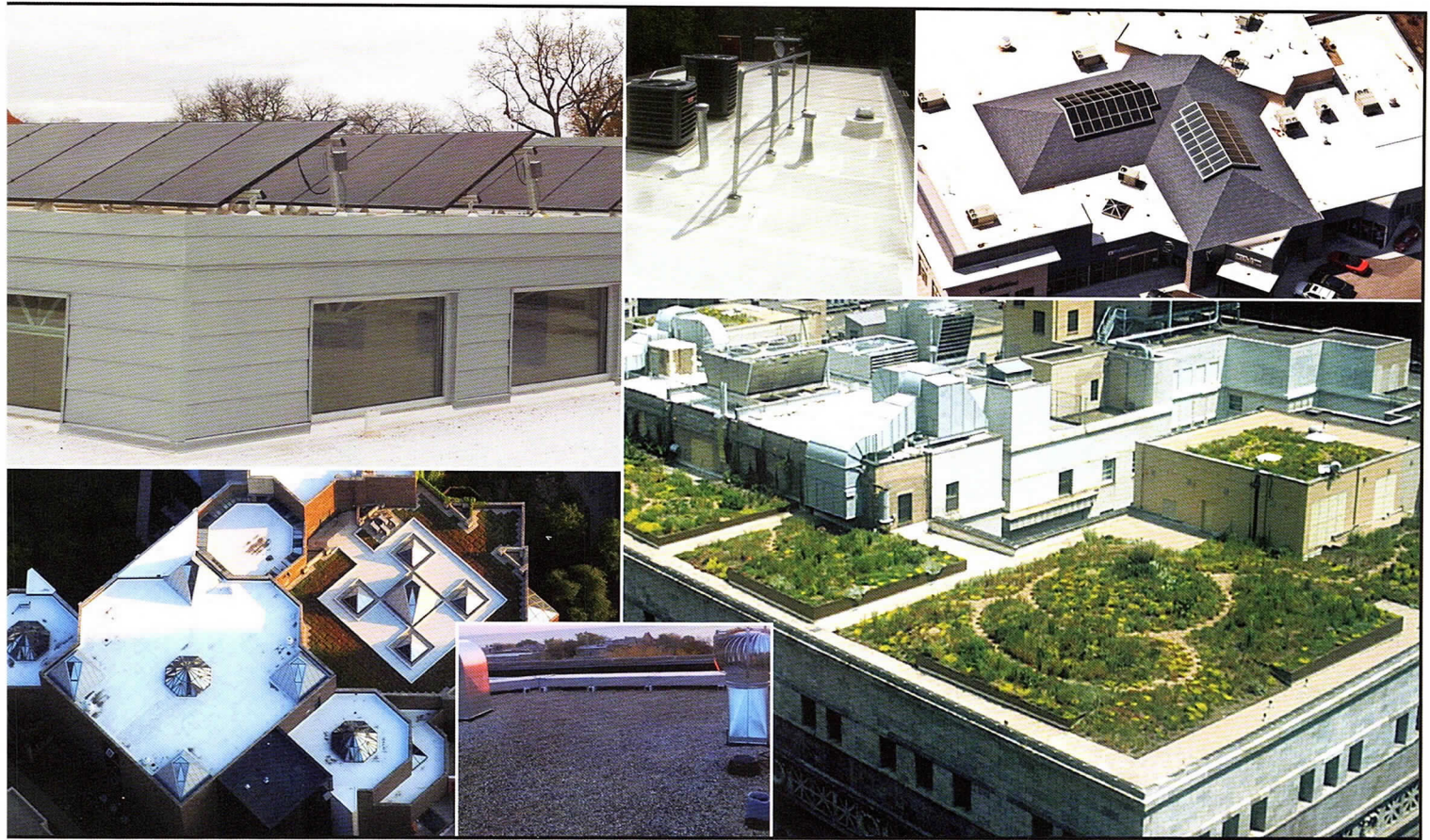
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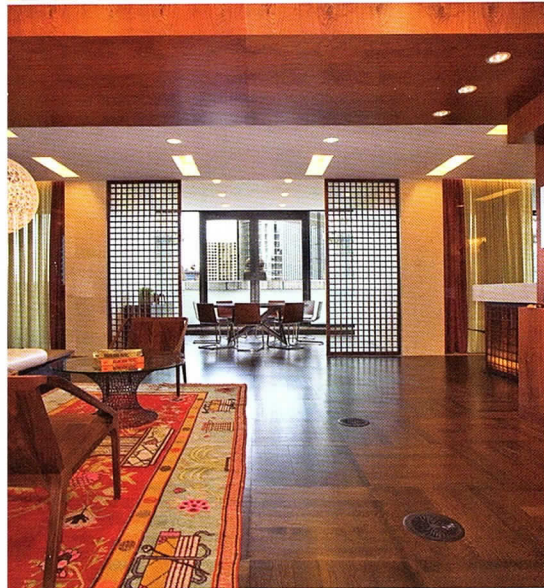
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