

IN REVIEW 2018

AIA INDIANAPOLIS



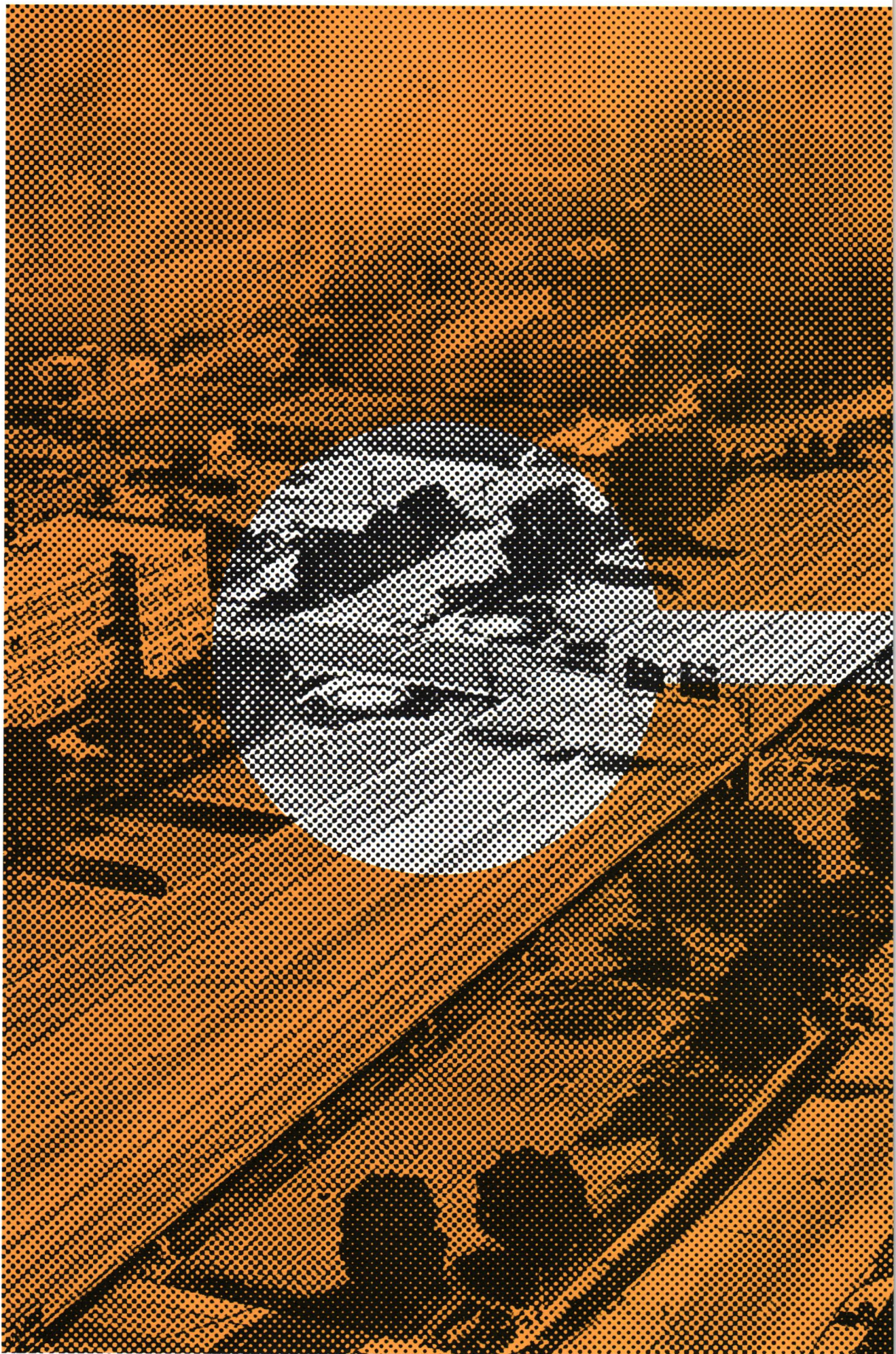
DISRUPTING THE STATUS QUO

AIA INDIANAPOLIS

YEAR IN REVIEW 2018



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## Disrupting the Status Quo

### *A Message from the President*

Meeting deadlines, balancing family time and other obligations, it's all too easy to lose sight of the impact of our work. What we do as architects, whether we're designing houses or office buildings, hospitals or schools, has a lasting impact on our communities.

Design matters. In fact, it's critical to our society.

One of AIA Indy's 2018 goals was to *insist on and fight for quality*. As an organization of more than 500 architects and associate architects, we have leveraged our broad areas of expertise to become advocates for design. Community leaders sought our advice. They valued our opinions. In early 2018, INDOT was ready to expand lanes and build walls through urban neighborhoods to rebuild I65-I70. AIA Indy believed we could be better. We advocated for INDOT to rethink its plans. It wasn't easy, but through multiple meetings, media interviews and grassroots efforts led by Mark Beebe, AIA, we succeeded in getting the state to re-evaluate its plans. Perhaps the best way to sum up AIA Indianapolis in 2018, is that we've disrupted the status quo.

As we continue to fight for improved building codes and better design in our communities, I urge you to continue to be involved. Invite your colleagues to get involved. Your voice, your perspective is needed. We all must be advocates for quality design, both inside our firms and out in our communities. Keep speaking up, offering new ideas and continue disrupting the status quo.

I am humbled and thankful to our executive director, all of board members, committee members, members and sponsors who shared their time, talent and resources to making 2018 a great year.

Jeremy Welu, AIA / President

AIA Indianapolis

A Chapter of the American Institute of Architects



# All Roads Point to Better Design

AIA Indianapolis was concerned about INDOT's plan to tear down and expand I65-I70 that slices through the city. Architects also had concerns about the design of a mixed-used development across the street from the War Memorial District. Instead of standing on the sidelines and hoping designs would change, the organization stepped up and spoke out about the importance of better design.

The result of AIA's efforts: Improved designs.

After public presentations, media interviews and grassroots efforts – including the formation of the 65-70 Coalition – and an independent study, INDOT agreed to scale back the interstate plan and work with architects and community leaders on a better design that could help move Indy forward (below).

AIA Indianapolis used a much different strategy to convince the city to deny a proposed design on a \$15 million, seven-story apartment and retail project on the site of the former Essex Hotel (bottom). The project is across the street from the five-block Indiana War Memorial Plaza Historic District home to a museum, three parks and 25 acres of monuments, statues, sculpture and fountains. Only Washington D.C. has more space and monuments dedicated to veterans. What is built around the district matters.

The proposed design didn't fit within this context, and the AIA Indianapolis Board of Directors drafted a petition and proposed design changes to Indianapolis Department of Metropolitan Development, which agreed. AIA's efforts helped ensure the development at the corner of Vermont and Penn will fit within Indianapolis' landscape.

