

B/a+p

News from the School of Architecture and Planning
University at Buffalo

Fall 2013



Department of Architecture Advances Research into Local Industry

Partnerships with WNY Manufacturers include
Boston Valley Terra Cotta and Rigidized Metals.

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"B/a+p" is published by the School of Architecture and Planning, University at Buffalo, as a magazine for alumni, friends, faculty, staff and students. For more information, please contact Subbiah Mantharam, Associate Dean for External Affairs; editorial inquiries can be directed to Rachel Teaman, Communications Officer: 716-829-3794 or ap-alumni@buffalo.edu.

Are you one of our alumni?

Sign up for news, and update your profile at ap.buffalo.edu/People/alumni-update.html

/ COVER
Architecture faculty members Christopher Romano and Nicholas Bruscia examine the towering wall they built out of 152 panels of super-thin, deep textured steel. The project is the result of a research partnership between the Department of Architecture and Rigidized Metals Corporation. Photo by Douglas Levere

Welcome From the Dean

Robert G. Shibley
FAIA, AICP

Now in its third iteration, our B/a+p Magazine remains a core element of the School of Architecture and Planning's renewed efforts to tell the Buffalo School story. With the recent launch of our freshly redesigned website — ap.buffalo.edu — we bring even greater capacity to share news and, more importantly, engage you in this narrative of profound impact on research and practice in our disciplines.



Connect with us. Tell us what you think about our new magazine and website. Join our community on social media. Guide future architects and planners through our new mentoring program. Attend this semester's exciting lineup of lectures and events. And help us bring our new "Buffalo in..." alumni program to your community. Our school is in the midst of a vital period of growth — with your support and engagement, we can be even better.

In this issue are varied stories of new energy at the Buffalo School. We welcome new faculty, announce new programs, and report on distinguished members of our Buffalo School community. We take a look at productive new ventures generated by our engagement of the region as laboratory, including the Department of Architecture's collaborations with local manufacturers — an effort that has advanced new research, fostered industry innovation and built a new in situ pedagogy.

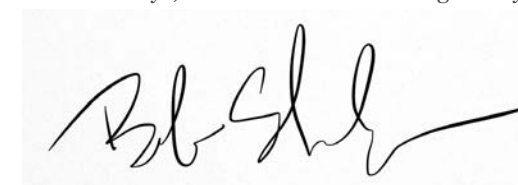
Our "Buffalo Matters" profile examines how school partner and New York City developer Anthony Kissling has invested in Buffalo's historic buildings to create a new market for urban living. Buffalo's architectural legacy also drew the 2013 Society for Architectural Historian's conference here last April, an event sponsored and chaired by the school and carried out by the volunteer efforts of faculty, students and alumni.

Scholars, alumni and partners of the school came to our campus for events that focused on the top issues in our disciplines today — including our 2013 commencement with climate activist Bill McKibben, a Chinese Urbanism Symposium on the explosive growth of China's cities, and MediaCities, an international conference on the confluence of digital media and urbanity.

Our profile of Ibrahim "Himi" Jammal, a central figure here for over 30 years, considers his impact on the international focus of our planning programs — a legacy that endures today thanks to the generous support of his wife, Viviane.

This issue's alumni profiles spotlight innovative models of practice from around the world, including art-infused architecture from an alumni-led firm in Rochester, NY, and a recent MUP grad's award-winning environmental plan for a reservoir in Puebla, Mexico.

The year ahead promises new adventures for our Buffalo School community. Stay up-to-date on our website and contact me anytime to learn more about our activities and programs. As always, I look forward to hearing from you.



In Brief

Honors and Awards



TOP LEFT
Subhashni Raj became interested in the issue of food security after joining the "Food Lab" and its grassroots efforts in the community. Here, she addresses the impact of climate change on agriculture at a farm in Niagara County. Photo courtesy of Subhashni Raj

TOP RIGHT
Buffalo School alumnus Luke Johnson (MArch '10, Architecture BS '05) works with BPS Discovery School students and teachers through the Architecture + Education program. Photo by Douglas Levere

BELOW
Associate Dean William McDonnell has received the 2013 SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Professional Service. Photo by Douglas Levere



Esteemed Arch + Education Program Receives National Award

The Architecture + Education program has received the American Institute of Architects' Diversity Recognition Program Award for introducing thousands of Buffalo grade schoolers to architecture over the past 13 years. The program, sponsored by the Buffalo Architecture Foundation, brings together local architects (including many Buffalo School alumni), architecture students and Buffalo Public School classroom teachers to expose schoolchildren to architecture through hands-on projects and a design-infused curriculum. The school's involvement is coordinated by Associate Professor Beth Tauke. The program is also chaired by Linsey Graff (MArch '10), who participated in the program as a student: "People cannot help but to be inspired by the passion and creativity that is generated as a result of the program."

Fulbright Scholar Named First Doctoral Fellow in Food Systems Planning

Fulbright scholar and climate activist Subhashni Raj (MUP '13) starts her PhD this fall as the first recipient of the school's Jerome L. Kaufman Doctoral Fellowship for the study of food systems planning. Associated with the new PhD in urban and regional planning, the program will train the next generation of food systems planners. Raj, who is interested in studying the linkages between food security and climate change, will work directly with Samina Raja, associate professor of urban and regional planning, and the Food Systems Planning and Healthy Communities Lab.

Up-and-Coming Scholar in Urban and Regional Planning

JiYoung Park, PhD, assistant professor of urban and regional planning, has received one of three 2013 UB Young Investigator Awards. This Exceptional Scholar Award celebrates a recent superior achievement of a scholar in his/her field of study that distinguishes the recipient as an up-and-coming scholar. Park researches urban economics and transportation modeling applied to natural and man-made environmental and security problems. He developed the National Interstate Economic Model, used to analyze economic impacts resulting from natural disasters such as Hurricane Katrina and hypothetical terrorist attacks.

Buffalo School Associate Dean Receives High Honor

Associate Dean William McDonnell has been recognized with the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Professional Service. Bestowed by UB's Professional Staff Senate, the award recognizes individuals who transcend the normal definitions of excellence in their efforts to improve themselves, their campus, and ultimately the State University of New York. McDonnell serves as chief financial officer, chief of staff, associate dean for research, facilities planning management officer and senior adviser to the dean of the architecture school. He has been with the School of Architecture and Planning since 2005.

RIGHT
MirrorMirror's design includes a simple forty-five-degree-angled gable roof made from mirroring panels. When combined, the units create a large barn-like structure for hosting gatherings within. Photo by Benoit Pailley

BELOW
Brozek, center, with team members for the 2013 Henry A. Panasci, Jr. Technology Entrepreneurship Competition. Photo by Nancy J. Parisi

Neighborhood Plan for Rwandan Capital Earns National Awards

A project co-directed by Korydon Smith, associate professor of architecture, has received three national awards for its holistic housing design approach for a neighborhood in Kigali, Rwanda's capital city. "Building Neighborhoods that Build Social and Economic Prosperity: Manual for a Complete Neighborhood" received the Grand Prize in the 2013 Congress for New Urbanism Charter Awards, the 2012-13 ACSA Collaborative Practice Award, and a Grand Award from the 2013 *Residential Architect* Design Awards. The collaborative project is coordinated through the University of Arkansas's Community Design Center. Smith is also co-author of a forthcoming book about the project.



Innovative Take on Tent Design Wins International Competition

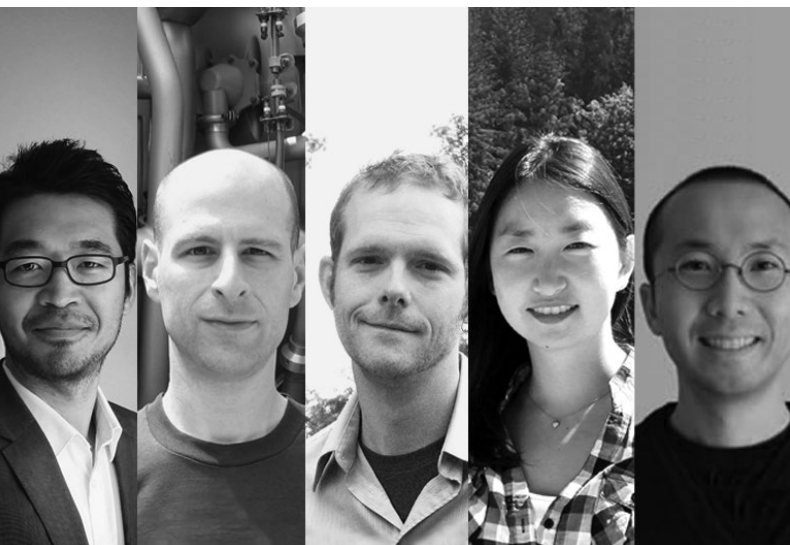
MirrorMirror, an inventive, mirrored street tent designed by architecture faculty members Georg Rafailidis and Stephanie Davidson, was the winner of an international competition to reimagine temporary tent structures as places for people to gather and engage in urban activities. MirrorMirror was selected from 81 entries from around the globe. The competition was sponsored by the Storefront for Art and Architecture, the New Museum and Architizer.

Buffalo School Graduate Student Wins Prestigious Entrepreneurship Competition

Dual MArch/MBA student Ann Brozek, along with two UB chemistry students, placed first in the 2013 Henry A. Panasci, Jr. Technology Entrepreneurship Competition sponsored by UB's School of Management. The team devised a business plan for a new, smart coating technology (developed at UB) that passively switches to reflect or transmit solar heat depending on ambient temperature. The team will receive \$25,000 in seed funding to realize their business plan and commercialize the coating. Learn more about Ann and the project at ap.buffalo.edu.

New Faces at the Buffalo School

The School of Architecture and Planning is pleased to introduce five new faculty members joining us this fall. Leading scholars and practitioners in their fields, they bring innovative research capacity in planning and public health, landscape architecture, digital design and fabrication and parametric façade design. “Our Buffalo School is in the midst of a transformative period of growth,” says Dean Robert Shibley. “These individuals are at the top of their fields and further our distinction as a vibrant hub of new research in architecture and planning.”



ABOVE /
New faculty: (from left to right)
Jin Young Song
Michael Silver
Sean Burkholder
So-Ra Baek
Bumjoon Kang.

Architecture

Jin Young Song, AIA, comes to us from SOM New York, where he received numerous awards for his work in health care design. His designs of parametric façade systems for large-scale projects have integrated structural, mechanical and representational elements, pursuing multiplicity and flexibility. He received his Master in Architecture from Harvard University, and a Bachelor of Science in housing and interior design, human environment and design from Yonsei University, Korea. He also runs the architectural practice Dioinno, pursuing innovation in architecture and urbanism in the framework of façade design and the tension between structure and ornament.

Michael Silver joins the Department of Architecture to pursue research in sustainable design, digital mapping, green composites manufacturing, high-throughput computing and proprietary software development. His current work explores remote sensing technologies, mobile computing and a variety of new robotic fabrication tools. He holds a Masters

of Building Design from Columbia University, and was both a LeFevre ‘29 research fellow for The Knowlton School of Architecture in Columbus, Ohio, and a Sanders Fellow at the University of Michigan. Silver currently directs an experimental design collaborative based in New York City that explores the intersection of advanced technology, environmental design, poetic consciousness, architectural theory, academic scholarship and the logistics of building construction.

Sean Burkholder will serve as the Buffalo School’s first professor of landscape and urban design. Burkholder spent the last decade dealing with projects of particular relevance to the Great Lakes region including urban vacancy, infrastructural re-purposing and dredge material management. Most recently, Burkholder served as assistant professor of landscape architecture at Penn State University. He holds a bachelor’s degree in architecture from Miami University and a Master of Landscape Architecture from the Harvard Graduate School of Design.

Urban and Regional Planning

So-Ra Baek researches the connection between public health and the built environment, and the role of race/ethnicity and acculturation in that relationship at the neighborhood level. She received her BS and MS in civil, urban and geosystem engineering at Seoul National University in Korea, and completed her Doctor of Philosophy in urban design and planning from the University of Washington, where she was awarded the 2012-2013 Faculty Medal Award for her exceptionally advanced understanding of design and planning through significant contributions in research or theoretical development.

Bumjoon Kang studies the relationship between built environments and health behaviors and outcomes, addressing such topics as food environments, time-geography (continuous spatial exposure), spatial statistics, and GIScience. His recent work on measuring walking through accelerometer data was published in Medicine and Science in Sports and Exercise. He holds a BS and MS in architecture from Seoul National University, Korea, and a PhD in urban design and planning from the University of Washington.

Both Baek and Kang will join an interdisciplinary initiative between the School of Architecture and Planning and the School of Public Health and Health Professions to investigate complex connections between the environments in which humans live, their health behaviors and ultimately their health outcomes. In addition to new research and faculty publications, the study will create a dual Master of Urban Planning/Master of Public Health degree program.

Perspectives from our New Faculty: Why the Buffalo School?

- SONG / I have met many visionary and creative faculty members and passionate students. Also, the interrelationships between different professions and the integration of studies, a strong point of the school, are becoming more important.
- SILVER / From the start it was clear that the school has a dynamic faculty, bright students, effective administrators and an extensive university infrastructure that can support advanced research. I was also intrigued by the blend at the school of various design-build practices and their engagement with emerging technology. This is certainly a potent combination. It’s something you don’t see very often.
- BURKHOLDER / 1) I love the Great Lakes region and the cities within it. Buffalo in particular has always been a favorite due to its rich history, manageable size and great post-industrial culture.
2) The program is tightly ingrained into the City of Buffalo.
3) My colleagues are an incredible bunch, some of the greatest minds anywhere.
- BAEK / The Buffalo School and its planning program are well known for collaboration across public health, architecture and planning, as well as for its research centers. I strongly believe that this is a community where I can learn and grow academically and also contribute to through my research.
- KANG / As a researcher in the emerging field of “Planning and Public Health,” I was strongly attracted by the university’s intense investments in this field as well as its collaborative environment.



Materials and Methods Shop Welcomes a New Shop Manager

Peter Russell will serve as the school’s instructional support technician and Materials and Methods Shop manager. A 2009 graduate of our MARCH program, Russell went on to earn his master's degree in urban design from the University of Strathclyde, where he is also a 2014 PhD candidate in architecture education. His research focuses on innovative teaching and learning methods for design education. Previously, Russell served as design instructor for the University of Strathclyde, where he taught studio and seminar courses and managed health and safety for design-build projects in the school’s shop.

The Buffalo School Names 2013-14 Peter Reyner Banham Fellow

Ludovico Centis is an architect, a founder and editor of the architecture magazine *San Rocco*, and a contributor to the website of *Domus* magazine. He was a partner at the architectural office Salottobuono from 2007 to 2013. He is a doctoral candidate in urbanism at IUAV University in Venice, Italy. As a Banham Fellow, his research will address the contemporary understanding and perception of monuments. He will teach a year-long seminar and undergraduate studio and culminate the fellowship with a book and exhibition on his research.

RIGHT /
Ludovico Centis



Announcements

Buffalo School Launches Master's Degree in Urban Design and Historic Preservation

The Buffalo School now offers a specialization in urban design and historic preservation through its MS in Architecture program. The MS is offered jointly by the Department of Architecture and Department of Urban and Regional Planning. Taking advantage of Buffalo's exceptional historic and cultural resources, the program offers a unique cross-disciplinary perspective to prepare students for professional practice in preservation.

We Have a New Website!

The Buffalo School recently unveiled its freshly redesigned website at ap.buffalo.edu. Features include student profiles, research news and a gallery of work. Explore our new website today.

Richard Yencer Concludes 23 Years of Service with 56th Habitat for Humanity Home

For over 20 years, Richard Yencer has served the school as instructional support technician and Materials and Methods Shop director, while coordinating the school's Habitat for Humanity building program. He retired with one final build over the summer on Buffalo's East Side.

[Visit us online to read more and view a photo gallery.](#)

Hayes/Crosby Project Update

Work continues on the School of Architecture and Planning's \$50 million restoration of historic Hayes and Crosby Halls. With abatement complete for Hayes Hall, steel bracing has been added to the building's interior and exterior walls to prepare for extensive demolition. Due to unforeseen structural issues, the State University of New York Construction Fund will rebid the project, with construction scheduled to resume in spring 2014. Faculty and students are expected to return to Hayes Hall by fall 2015, at which point our current surge space will be renovated and work will begin on Crosby Hall, now in the design manual phase.

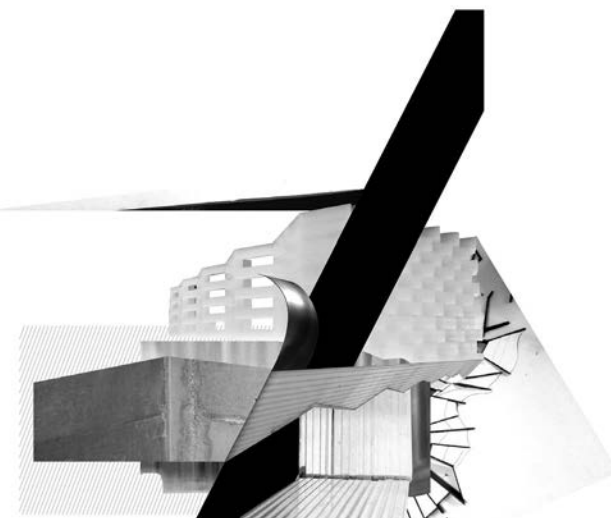


ABOVE TOP
Richard Yencer led his last Habitat for Humanity build over the summer. Photo by Michael Lempert

ABOVE BOTTOM
The restoration of Hayes Hall reimagines the spaces of our historic home while preserving architectural details of the late 19th century building. Hayes Hall's two-story story auditorium will be converted into third-floor studios and a new classroom on the fourth floor, while the original windows will remain to bathe the spaces in natural light. Photo by Douglas Levere

The Buffalo School is pleased to announce an exciting lineup of lectures, exhibits, workshops and seminars for its fall 2013 series of public events. The program brings leading thinkers and practitioners in architecture and planning to Buffalo to engage public dialogue on critical issues in the profession today. Visit ap.buffalo.edu for full details.

**Fall 2013
Public Programs
at the Buffalo School**



**Commencement 2013:
Environmentalism Bill McKibben Calls on Graduates
to Engage the Fight Against the Climate Crisis**

by Rachel Teaman

Bill McKibben, environmentalist and founder of the global grassroots climate action campaign 350.org, made clear his high expectations to the class of 2013 for the School of Architecture and Planning as they face the challenges of the climate crisis:

“Given the pace with which the climate is changing, my guess is that this crisis will be one of the central tests of your lives, a test of both your skill and of your character,”

said McKibben in his May 10, 2013, address to graduates.



Urging graduates to extend both their professional and civic acumen, McKibben added: “I have no doubt whatsoever that you will pass that test and that as you do, you will do this tired, overheated planet an enormous amount of good.”

He said the skills of planners and architects are needed today more than ever, as the effects of climate change demand radical thinking and action in how we design and build our cities, towns and buildings.

As part of commencement weekend, the environmental leader and author participated in an open forum with faculty and students, members of the UB community and regional leaders.

Organized by Dean Robert Shibley, the event mapped out current trends in regional development and discussed the school's research and community engagement on sustainability, including food systems planning, climate action planning, and a major federally funded initiative to develop a regional plan for sustainable development.

McKibben lauded this kind of tactical engagement with the challenges related to climate change. The author of a dozen books on the environment, McKibben gave rise to a global wave of political and civic action around the climate crisis when he founded 350.org in 2009. Since then, the grassroots campaign has organized over 20,000 demonstrations worldwide.

In recognition of McKibben's global impact on climate action and environmental leadership, Dean Shibley presented him with the 2013 Dean's Medal, the highest honor bestowed by the Buffalo School.

“Today we recognize Bill McKibben's tireless work to advance a more sustainable world through path-setting leadership and a lifetime of selfless actions,” said Shibley.

In fact, one of McKibben's 350.org protégés was among those receiving her diploma. Subhashni Raj (MUP '13), a Fulbright Scholar from Fiji who helped lead the 350.org hub for the Pacific Island Nations, says McKibben is the inspiration behind her climate activism.

For others who wish to join him, McKibben warns, prepare to fight. “There is no way this movement will happen nicely and neatly, because there are huge amounts of money at stake. The fight has got to be engaged.”

ABOVE
As part of commencement weekend, Bill McKibben (right) engaged faculty, students and local leaders in a conversation about research and community action for sustainability.

Other panel participants from left to right are faculty members Himanshu Grover and Samina Raja of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning; Bart Roberts, policy analyst, UB Regional Institute; David Lashway, partner, Baker & McKenzie, Washington DC; and Katherine Silverthorne, climate policy advisor, AnnDyl Policy Group, Washington, DC. Photo by Dylan Buyskes

Research Spotlight

Department of Architecture Fuels Innovation through Industry Partnerships

by Rachel Teaman

Boston Valley Terra Cotta, a leading manufacturer of architectural terra cotta, had long been considering a foray into digital tooling to streamline the age-old process of terra cotta restoration. Yet, without thorough testing, there was no way to know if the technology would compromise the company's defining hand craftsmanship. Meanwhile, some of its competitors were beginning to price them out of their own market.

Rigidized Metals Corporation develops deep-textured metals through a specialized rolling process that embosses patterns into sheet metal and then bends and forms panels for standard architectural systems. With a product portfolio that hadn't changed much since the 1960s, CEO Rick Smith was eager to experiment with new design possibilities for metals.



ABOVE LEFT / The Department of Architecture, in partnership with Rigidized Metals Corporation, has pushed the performance limitations of textured metals through a 20-foot-tall, free-standing wall at the gateway to Buffalo's Silo City. Photo by Christopher Romano



ABOVE RIGHT / Completed pieces of Dorothy, a 19-foot-tall terra cotta caryatid, are laid out at Boston Valley Terra Cotta. The project used digital tools including photogrammetry and digital laser cutting, which were introduced to Boston Valley by faculty and students in the Department of Architecture. Photo by Mitchell Bring

The two Western New York manufacturers were at a critical juncture — innovate, stagnate or, worse yet, fall behind.

Enter the School of Architecture and Planning. Omar Khan, associate professor and chair of the Department of Architecture, was interested in testing out a new educational model that would link faculty and students with local manufacturers to explore practice applications for its research and arsenal of new technologies in digital design and fabrication. He approached the companies with a proposal: “We have this capacity, and you're interested in new tools. Why not test them together?”

Over the past two years, architecture faculty and students have been deeply entrenched with the two companies, testing options to digitally enhance terra cotta restoration, pushing the limits of design and performance for metals, and working side-by-side with sculptors and metal fabricators in a rich exchange of knowledge. The partnerships have opened new realms of architectural research, created a unique pedagogy in situ with industry, and offered faculty and students immediate opportunities to test their ideas against real-world constraints.

Most of all, the academia-industry collaborations have unleashed a mutually reinforcing cycle of innovation. Both sides are pushing the other down paths they wouldn't have traveled alone, creating new knowledge and ways of working, and fueling growth in the region's industrial and research enterprise.

“Innovation is expensive. Here's a win-win scenario where our school can serve as a testing ground before companies make big investments in technology or process and product innovations,” says Khan. “At the same time, we're providing unique research and pedagogical opportunities for our faculty and students.”

Boston Valley Terra Cotta: Bringing 3-D Design and Fabrication to an Ancient Art

It was summer 2011, just before the National Trust for Historic Preservation conference in Buffalo. The Department of Architecture and Boston Valley decided to conduct an experiment. Could the school's digital fabrication tools replicate Boston Valley's restoration of the ornate terra cotta panels on Buffalo's Guaranty Building?

The two methods are radically different. Boston Valley, which has restored landmarks across the U.S., including San Francisco's Russ Building and Chicago's Rookery Building, employs an intricate restoration process that starts with draftsmen creating 2-D drawings of the terra cotta originals. Sculptors use these drawings to build a model of the object, which is then layered with plaster to create a negative mold. Finally, terra cotta is hand-pressed into the mold and carved by sculptors to create an exact replica.

The Department of Architecture's digital method started with photographs of the originals to generate 3-D digital models, a process called photogrammetry. Guided by these digital models, the school's 5-axis CNC machine routed a physical model out of foam. After a sculptor's hand detailing, the model was ready for the final mold-making step.

“Our interest in this partnership was to explore the potential of digital craft-based processes and technologies in streamlining their workflow, to free them up to focus on the craft side,” says Khan. “It's a question of 'how do craft and computing come together?'”

Boston Valley president and general manager John Krouse liked what he saw (the digitally produced panels were showcased at the conference) and advanced the project into a rigorous testing phase. Khan and Mitchell Bring, a retired software entrepreneur and UB adjunct professor, would lead the effort.

They began by embedding a student intern to study Boston Valley's workflow, production methods and equipment. Andrew Pries, who had just graduated from the BS Arch program, worked directly with the drafting department and mold shop to test the accuracy of laser scans and 3-D modeling in Rhino. He spent just as much time in the school's Digital Fabrication Laboratory (Fab Lab), working out the kinks in Rhino and running models through its laser cutter and CNC router.

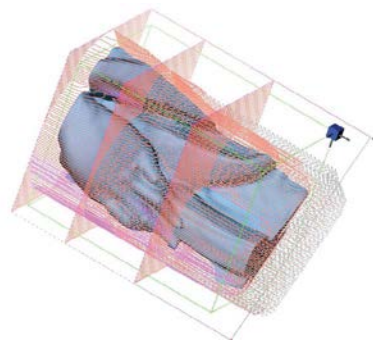
The effort moved rapidly from proof-of-concept to production. Krouse recalls the watershed moment when he saw the full design-to-fabrication test: “Everyone looked at each other and said, ‘this is a total game changer. We're never looking back. We are so sold on this technology.’”

Boston Valley's first full-scale effort with the new tools was the recreation of four 19-foot-tall caryatids suspended from the corners of a 21-story Beaux-Arts building in Manhattan. Dubbed “Dorothy,” the project pushed the partnership into a rapid and dynamic process of problem-solving and skills exchange.

Working out of a plywood-clad “Mesh Lab,” so-called after the fabric of digital modeling software, the Department of Architecture's team worked side by side with model-makers, sculptors and draftsmen to refine and deploy the tools.

Peter Schmidt, a student in the MArch program who has interned at Boston Valley since August 2012, says the co-location has been invaluable. “By working so closely, we are able to test and implement new design concepts quickly and drastically alter the way we design for fabrication.”

“It's a question of 'how do craft and computing come together?'”



ABOVE LEFT
A Rhino shaded mesh with CNC tool paths of Dorothy's hand.

ABOVE RIGHT
Completed hands of Dorothy.
Photos by Mitchell Bring

BELOW
The original caryatids hang from the corners of a 21-story Beaux-Arts building in Manhattan.
Photo courtesy of Boston Valley Terra Cotta



The school's Fab Lab, led by manager Lindsay Romano, also helped the company set up its first line of new technologies, including a laser cutter and scanner used for Dorothy's reproduction.

Adds Bring: "We are integrating a complete system of technologies into their process from beginning to end. This kind of day-to-day consulting has been essential."

In the end, the four 11,000-pound Dorothy's, who recently made their way back to New York City, were fabricated in less than half the time, allowing artisans to focus on details such as the folds of Dorothy's dress, or the curls of her hair.

As proof Boston Valley isn't turning back, it just acquired the centerpiece of its digital tooling enterprise — a 5-axis CNC machine that is one of the largest in operation across the U.S. The router, which cuts along five different axes and can carve more sophisticated, 3-D designs, has already turned out a range of new projects, including Boston Valley's restoration of the Alberta Legislature dome in Canada.

"This is opening up entirely new realms of architecture for us,"

says Krouse, adding that the Alberta Legislature dome project would have been cost-prohibitive without the new tools. The company can also rapidly create prototypes and scale-models that help win new assignments.

The digital enhancements are also building smarter labor. The MeshLab has been formalized into the "ARCH Design Lab," where draftsmen now man the CNC machine and artisans sculpt in Rhino and Grasshopper as well as clay.

Says Michael Fritz, senior sculptor for Boston Valley, it's the perfect marriage of computing and craft: "The purpose of 3D in art and manufacturing is to bring us closer to spatial reality in the earliest stages of design and invention. The closer that we are able to insert 3D modeling into the very beginning of our manufacturing process, the more competitive and streamlined the restoration process may be."

Khan says such digital craftsmanship is ripe with possibilities for architectural practice.

"For a long time, architects have had to concede to limits of manufactured products because customized solutions were unavailable or cost-prohibitive."

Digital craft provides an opportunity to alter manufacturing in a way that enables architects to more productively influence the products they use. There is great demand for this:

A new era of 'craft' may be in the works."

In addition to digitally "sculpting" the ornate details of the angel, the students have developed custom scripts to eliminate repetitive tasks, such as carving out the anchor holes and mortar joints that hold together Dorothy's 44 blocks. Schmidt recently began working on a set of mesh analysis scripts to increase the accuracy and speed required to process 3-D scans, a task that's introduced him to differential equations and complex kernel-smoothing algorithms.

The partnership has also set in motion a wave of innovation and new research.

Recently at Boston Valley, Guy Logel, assistant model mold/department manager, and Schmidt were pushing Rhino to render the mold of a terra cotta object with enough precision to skip the model-making step. For his master's thesis, Schmidt plans to build a specialized CNC machine for cutting extruded terra cotta.

"We're constantly trying to push our capabilities and the limits of what we can accomplish in the ARCH Design Lab. That culture of research has enabled me to vastly expand my knowledge of programming, fabrication, modeling and manufacturing," Schmidt says.

For Pries, now a graduate student in architecture at the University of Michigan, the experience has changed the way he thinks and designs: "I have gained an appreciation and adoration for terra cotta. The means and thought processes behind the production and manufacture of architectural materials (especially terra cotta) have taken the forefront of my design work."

Khan says he and Bring will continue to explore new pedagogical and research-to-practice applications for the partnership, with the Department of Architecture to remain embedded there for now. In October, the two partners will hold a workshop on digital terra cotta fabrication for an international audience at the ACADIA (Association for Computer-Aided Design in Architecture) Adaptive Architecture Conference, which the Department of Architecture is co-sponsoring.

Says Krouse, who's already expanding the digital technology from Boston Valley's restoration work to new terra cotta construction projects: "I don't think we could have done it without UB's help. Now that we're doing it, everybody sees the future."

Early Stage R&D in Metal Design and Structural Performance for Rigidized Metals

The School of Architecture and Planning and Rigidized Metals CEO Rick Smith have for years come together around creative endeavors. It began with a sponsored lecture. Then Smith, who also owns three grain elevators in "Silo City" along Buffalo's waterfront, opened their cavernous, gritty spaces to the school for studios, research and built works. After discovering a massive beehive in an abandoned building there, he sponsored a student design competition resulting in Elevator B, a 22-foot-tall permanent hive structure built by students with Rigidized's steel panels. The dedicated community-builder has also worked with faculty on planning efforts in the surrounding Old First Ward neighborhood.

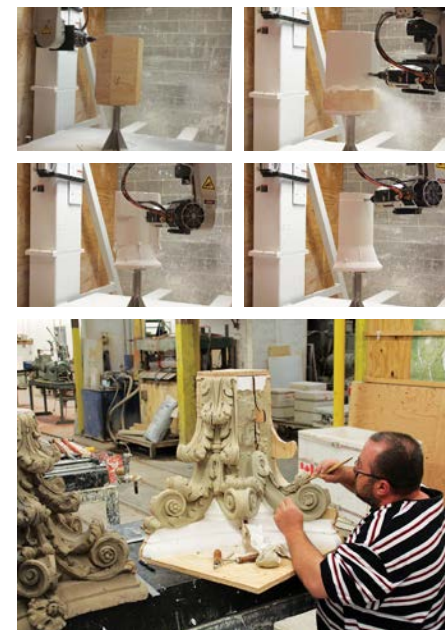
Thus, it seems almost natural that Smith would turn to the Buffalo School for what may become Rigidized's biggest R&D venture in decades. "We've been producing the same patterns for 50 years in pretty much the same way," says Smith of the company that was founded by his grandfather in 1940 and passed on to him by his father in 2000. "We've had great success, but we wanted young architects to help direct us to different ways of thinking for textured metal."

The company embosses sheets of metal with a diverse palette of geometric patterns to enhance their durability and appearance. Their architectural use is largely as ornament — interior or exterior cladding, kitchen surfaces, railings or even screening for parking garages.

Having worked with the material through Elevator B, Khan and his faculty were intrigued by its aesthetic qualities — the three-dimensional feel of textured metal, the way it reflects and refracts light — as well as its potential for structural applications such as façades. The school's digital technologies could also open new avenues for the product's design and manufacture.

"We wanted to ask, 'can the product do other things?'" explains Khan. "Can we explore its thermodynamic qualities, the aesthetic attributes of these metals, and opportunities to create 3-D effects that are interesting and quite beautiful?"

Architecture faculty members Christopher Romano and Nicholas Bruscia, both with research interests in design and fabrication with metals, jumped right in, directing two seminars in spring 2012 that had some students designing complex patterns and façade systems in Rhino and Grasshopper, and others bending and folding the metal in new ways.



ABOVE TOP
Boston Valley's new 5-axis machine routs out plaster backups for an ornate Corinthian capital for the Alberta Legislature dome.

ABOVE BOTTOM
Once the backup was complete, sculptor Paolo Lucente used the laser cutter and scan data of the original object to cut an accurate profile, freeing up his hands for the final sculptural details.
Photos by Andrew Pries



BELOW TOP
The prototype advances to Rigidized Metals, where fabricators stamp and fold some of the structure's 152 panels.

BELOW BOTTOM
Students assembled prototypes of the geometric wall first out of paper and then carbon steel, which was cut, folded and assembled in the school's Fab Lab and Materials and Methods Shop.
Photos by Stephen Olsen



The project quickly escalated into a single experiment that would test the performance and adaptability of textured metal: could super thin stainless steel panels be bent and fastened together to create a self-supporting, full-scale wall?

“The strength and aesthetics of texture, when looked at together, can create new ways of thinking about larger-scale structures that are super light, super thin and stunning in appearance,” says Romano, adding that the research could have implications for building skin innovations in how they shed water, handle wind and absorb energy.

Adds Bruscia:

“To our knowledge, a sheet metal system this thin and at this scale, performing as a completely free-standing vertical application, has not been done before.”

Such ambition was just what Smith was looking for: “This intellectual curiosity is beyond the norm of what occurs in a corporate environment. It’s not necessarily about creating a product we can sell. It’s just showing the design world that we’re capable of doing innovative and interesting things. And in so doing, perhaps we can change the entire argument about what stainless sheet metal can do.”

Now they just had to build it. By fall 2012, the professors, together with a group of students from the initial seminars, began spending more time on Rigidized’s fabrication floor, studying equipment and workflow, testing metal folding techniques, and experimenting with how the material behaves at different angles and tensions.

Indeed, the project would need to fold and interlock 152 panels into a 24-foot-by-20-foot trapezoidal scheme, requiring an almost machine-like level of precision. Sited next to Rigidized’s headquarters, near the entrance to Silo City, the permanent installation would also need to perform under high winds and winter weather coming off Lake Erie.

To make it work, Romano and Bruscia developed computational models and then built prototypes out of plain carbon steel in the school’s fabrication shop. “This allowed us to test how it would come together, to make sure we had it right before building a more expensive prototype with Rigidized’s material and equipment,” says Bruscia. This process turned out to be crucial — their initial mock-up failed, which led to the current design, Scheme 2, now fully installed at Silo City.

Rigidized’s team of fabricators and engineers helped take designs from drawing to production, teaching Romano and Bruscia about the material along the way — how the panel’s texture affects the folding process, for example, or how the gauge of the metal affects pattern depth, altering the intensity of specular reflection.

“These are things designers might take for granted. Without this knowledge of the material, we might have been designing a model that was ultimately inaccurate,” says Bruscia, adding he and Romano have begun to run the project and team as a sort of architectural practice.



ABOVE
The sculptural wall rises at the entrance to Silo City in Buffalo.
Photo by Christopher Romano

Daniel Vrana, a student in the MArch program who has helped take the project from concept to production, has experienced the value of this first hand. He visited Rigidized on a near daily basis during the project’s construction, to drop off drawings, review fabrication documents and observe production.

“This has probably taught me more than four years of studio on how the real world works,” he says. “I’m also seeing my work come back full scale. That’s something that doesn’t happen in studio.”

The knowledge exchange has gone both ways. Romano and Bruscia have pushed Rigidized’s team to bend metal into complex geometries, make intricate cuts and punches for fastening tabs, and, of course, understand completely new technologies.

“Manufacturing is usually about mass production, repetitive processes. Here we are coming in and totally customizing their workflow, inserting ourselves into the fabrication operation of Rigidized Metals,” says Romano.

But rather than back away from the challenge, the team has problem-solved together. “When we wanted to do something they’d never done before or were unsure about, we just had a conversation about how to make it happen,” says Bruscia. “Sometimes you just have to test things out because they’re difficult to predict. That’s when we both learn something about what we’re doing.”

Adds Smith:

“It’s taken the energy of Chis and Nick and their students to move us from ‘we can’t do that’ to ‘why not?’ Can metal behave as structure? No way. But if you bend it like that, then maybe it can.”

With new skills, confidence and curiosity, the Rigidized team is taking on work it wouldn’t consider before. “It’s already affected our business in the way our architectural sales group allows jobs to come in,” says Smith.

Looking ahead, Romano and Bruscia say there are dozens of research paths they hope to pursue with Rigidized, from exploring new textures and patterns to completing their almost scientific documentation of the specular qualities of Rigidized’s products. The Silo City installation recently received funding as a finalist for SKIN, a computational fabrication competition tied to the ACADIA conference. They are now building a second iteration that pushes the research forward by testing new pattern combinations and design details; it will be exhibited at the conference in October 2013.

For Smith’s part, he says he’ll stop working with UB when he stops having fun. “It’s interesting to see how good our interaction has become. If we sit down for an hour, we’ll go in all kinds of directions. Their curiosity feeds into mine. We have so many ideas right now. There’s no reason for this collaboration to stop in the foreseeable future.”

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Student Assistant Credits for Partnership with Rigidized Metals:

- Sandra Berdick
- John Brennan
- Philip Gusmano
- Kyle Mastalinski
- Stephen Olson
- Marek Patrosz
- Richard Stora
- Daniel Vrana

IDeA Center Improves Housing Design for All

The Center for Inclusive Design and Environmental Access (IDeA) is dedicated to making environments and products more usable, safer, and healthier in response to the needs of an increasingly diverse population, otherwise known as universal design. More information about IDeA Center activities is available at idea.ap.buffalo.edu

BOTTOM LEFT
Patriot Home

BOTTOM RIGHT
LIFEhouse™

Patriot Home

The Wounded Warrior Home Project is a U.S. Army initiative to increase the quality of life for active duty soldiers with disabilities at Fort Belvoir, VA. The IDeA Center consulted with Michael Graves & Associates on the Patriot Home's design, developing design guidelines, reviewing the design plans, identifying universally designed products and completing targeted research. After construction, the IDeA Center evaluated the prototype home through focused interviews with residents, visitors and other Wounded Warriors.

LIFEhouse™

The LIFEhouse™ is designed to be the complete universal design package. IDeA Center staff collaborated with New American Homes and Bloodgood Sharp Buster Architects and Planners to develop a business case, design and build a model universally designed home. Located in a Chicago suburb, the LIFEhouse™ includes many universally designed architectural features, hardware and appliances. Key features include an accessible front entrance that maintains a traditional appearance using a hidden ramp, a living space with an open plan to facilitate communication, a first-floor master suite and laundry and multiple levels of lighting. The IDeA Center will evaluate the features of the home to help the builder and architect develop a full line of LIFEhouse™ models.

Home Modification Design Services

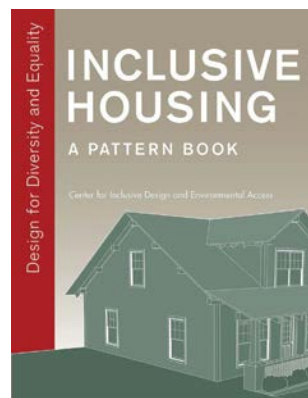
The IDeA Center provides design and consulting services for families and individuals, social service agencies and not-for-profit organizations. Over 600 projects have been completed in the Western New York area to date, making home entrances, bathrooms and living spaces more usable for people with disabilities. More information on our home modification design services can be found online at idea.ap.buffalo.edu/Services/HomeMods/index.asp.

Publications & Training

Universal Design: Creating Inclusive Environments (2012) by Edward Steinfeld and Jordana Maisel is the latest standard text on universal design, introducing designers to the principles and practices of designing for all.

Inclusive Housing: A Pattern Book (2010) by Edward Steinfeld and Jonathan White addresses trends with broad significance in the home building industry, demonstrating that accessible housing design is compatible with the goals of good urban design and sprawl reduction.

The IDeA Center offers several online continuing education courses related to the universal design of housing. Most courses offer 15 AIA CEU credits. For more information, including fees and registration, see udeworld.com/training/continuing-education.html.



Urban and Regional Planning Takes on Issue of China's Rapid Urbanization

by Rachel Teaman

Last semester, the Department of Urban and Regional Planning immersed itself in the planning challenges and opportunities related to China's rapid urbanization. In addition to co-hosting the Chinese Urbanism Symposium with UB's Confucius Institute, the department offered a joint course with UB's history program and saw new doors open for faculty research on the topic.

China is an ideal focus for the study of planning, says Ernest Sternberg, professor and chair of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning. "Some of the world's biggest urban challenges are playing out at a magnified scale in China. At the same time, China's swelling cities have global implications for the environment, socioeconomic equity and urban form," he said.

More than half of China's residents live in cities today, compared to only 20 percent in 1979. There are more than 160 cities in China with 1 million or more residents, and five "megacities" with more than 10 million inhabitants. With this trend expected only to accelerate, leaders in China and around the world are exploring new models in urban planning to manage the growth.

To advance this global dialogue, the department teamed up with UB's Confucius Institute last April to sponsor the Chinese Urbanism Symposium. The two-day event convened six internationally renowned scholars to discuss new research and policy solutions on issues such as transportation development, land control and China's push for greener cities.

Li Yin, associate professor of urban and regional planning and a lead organizer of the symposium, says the event has already fostered new directions in research on the issue. "Scholars across the U.S. and China have expressed interest in publishing output from the symposium," says Yin, adding that she is exploring new projects of her own in Shanghai and Beijing.

Eric Yang, executive director of the Confucius Institute, says it is the first of many such partnerships for the organizations:

"Our next step is to continue to collaborate with the School of Architecture and Planning to bring more distinguished and world-known scholars to the UB community to speak on Chinese cities, architecture and planning."

The event also culminated the work of students enrolled in a joint course with UB's history department. The international planning course gave 12 students in the master of urban planning program the chance to study Chinese cities alongside students of history, geography and political science.

Students helped to organize the symposium and presented their research to the invited scholars — an invaluable experience, according to Lucas Strittmatter (MUP '13), whose team developed a comprehensive plan for the City of Beihai. "The wealth of knowledge in the room was astounding. The scholars and professors offered meaningful and constructive criticism that made our plan a more polished product."

Laiyun Wu (MUP '14) says the interdisciplinary dialogue encouraged him to look differently at his project, a comparative study of China's "urban villages" and slums in developing countries. "The history students were focused on time, while we planning students focused on space."

Dean Robert Shibley, who participated in a panel discussion responding to student presentations, adds that the challenges of rapid urban growth play out in different ways for China's small- to mid-sized cities and can be informed by the school's planning work in Buffalo. "We can leverage this research and critical practice in our own region to support sustainable development in China."

The Buffalo School Experience

A Conversation with Beth Tauke

by Catherine Maier

As associate dean for academic affairs, associate professor of architecture and project director for the Center for Inclusive Design and Environmental Access (IDeA Center), Beth Tauke wears many hats at the Buffalo School. In addition to overseeing the school's enrollment, recruitment and diversity initiatives, Beth remains a dedicated teacher and mentor. At the IDeA Center, Beth researches design education and inclusive design's relationship to the senses. A fixture at the Buffalo School since 1985, Beth speaks about the culture and student experience of the school as someone who has been a part of every facet of it.



The lucky among us have encountered great teachers. They are the ones who lose themselves in their subject, who show unadulterated excitement, and who share their knowledge with the sole motive of instilling a similar drive and passion in each of us. Their subjects are diverse but their message is the same: great teachers challenge us to critically engage the world. Beth Tauke is one such teacher.

More than anything Beth leads by example. Critically engaging Buffalo herself, it's no wonder so many of the Buffalo School graduates have become advocates of the city, as well. Beth speaks openly about her interest in the city and the role the Buffalo School has had in the revitalization of Buffalo. She taught the first wave of design studios in the iconic Buffalo grain elevators, as a site of design for universally accessible bathrooms that would serve cultural or arts events. Beth continues to champion their significance and envisions Silo City to one day become a thriving arts, cultural and entertainment district.

Beth proudly explains how students at the Buffalo School play active roles in the community, from volunteer service with Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper to the Department of Urban and Regional Planning's initiatives to help bring windmills to the Lake Erie shoreline. The school's influence on the community doesn't end at graduation either; Buffalo School alumni are enduring city advocates. Evidence of this is the Architecture + Education program, which engages alumni, faculty and students to expose Buffalo grade schoolers to architecture. Beth also remarks that a number of alumni have bought houses at auction that were slated for demolition, renovating them and establishing "architecture neighborhoods" on the city's West Side and downtown districts.

"These students have decided to stay here for a good long time, and they are really contributing to the revitalization of the neighborhoods in this city."

Buffalo School students not only follow Beth's example of engaging the city but also the world. Beth believes in the importance of students taking full advantage of the school's study abroad program:

"We make sure our students travel the globe as part of their education. When we're traveling, we're not traveling as tourists. We are involved in a project that somehow contributes to the fabric of where we are. There's active immersion as part of our curriculum in every program."

When asked about the specific tick of the Buffalo School, the cogs start turning: "Perseverant, industrious, innovative, creative..." With each word she seems to flip through the rolodex of her mind, naming students in her head, paging through stories of students who have touched her with their ingenuity and spark.

BELOW
Beth Tauke (center) describes the Buffalo School community — its faculty, students and alumni — as "perseverant, industrious, innovative, creative."



BELOW
Beth Tauke (seated) at a studio review in one of her favorite spaces in Buffalo — the grain elevators of Silo City. Photo by Douglas Levere



Beth emphasizes the students' drive and gumption as she explains their 'can-do' attitude: "I would call our students 'can do students'—meaning pose a challenge and they can do it. They have this kind of scrappy spirit, which is really about 'don't tell me I can't do something.'"

Beth shares a particularly moving memory from her time at the school a clear example of this spirit. Two students, Anthony Dong (MARCH '99, BPS '96) and Sze M. Tong (BPS '02), collected maple tree leaves at their brightest red, pressed them and saved them. Then they waited until a snow storm in the middle of the winter to place the leaves around a tree as if they had just fallen. The effect was striking:

"They did it as a surprise for all the other students who were coming in the next morning. It was incredibly beautiful and so simple and thoughtful. It was 'Wow, how did that happen,' at first, but then, 'Oh my gosh, someone did this, someone made this.'"

An arguable definition of 'don't tell me I can't do something' would be to make leaves fall in the dead of winter.

Beth also captures the culture of the Buffalo School by explaining the give and take of the peripheral conversations that often come about during studio, as students break from their work. Beth believes these conversations can be the most important for young design students:

"Because we are so focused on the task at hand, the most wonderful meandering conversations arise about everything and anything and nothing. In those situations, students will tell me what they really think and ask the questions they don't want to ask in front of other students."

One could go on at length discussing all the memories and stories in Beth Tauke's mind. From her insight on what the school has to offer ("Where else in the world could you go where you can use a grain silo 120-feet tall and 30-feet wide to experiment with materials?") to her enduring connections to our students, Beth defines a truly great teacher: one who seeks to teach engagement and in turn looks to be inspired and taught by her own students.



Favorite building on campus:

Hayes Hall in its current raw state

Favorite building in Buffalo:

The Grain Elevator, Marine A: "So few places have such a pure spatial experience."

Favorite novel:

Immortality by Milan Kundera

Recommend architecture books:

Eyes of the Skin by Juhani Pallasmaa

Architecture and Disjunction by Bernard Tschumi

Buffalo School student advantages:

- 1 / Buffalo is your classroom and laboratory
- 2 / Work alongside world-class faculty on research projects in emerging fields
- 3 / Study abroad in some of the world's most progressive cities
- 4 / Get an interdisciplinary perspective, including dual graduate degrees
- 5 / Find support from faculty, staff, students and the family-like nature of the school
- 6 / Experience our world-class shop — we learn through building, we research through building
- 7 / Meet those at the top of the professions through lectures and exhibitions
- 8 / Enliven our city through diverse community service opportunities

Look Back

Spring 2013 Lectures and Events



TOP LEFT
Anne Lacaton guest critiques the third-year architecture studio.
Photo by Joyce Hwang



TOP RIGHT
Wrong Chairs displayed at the Buffalo School.
Photo by Thomas Kelley

BOTTOM LEFT
Participants at the MediaCities Pop-Up Gallery on Main Street.
Photo by Mark Shepard



Anne Lacaton, principal of Paris-based Lacaton & Vassal Architectes, was named the 2012-13 Clarkson Chair in Architecture. In March, Lacaton joined the Buffalo School for a week of engagement, including the Clarkson Lecture, design studio reviews and presentations on her firm's approach to inhabiting in a broad sense, with attention paid to the site, the surrounding landscape, and the idea that we always build upon the existing. The Clarkson Visiting Chair recognizes excellence in scholarship and professional practice and is made possible by the generous support of Will and Nan Clarkson.

As the 2012-13 Peter Reyner Banham Fellow, Thomas Kelley presented seven dining chairs in his Wrong Chairs exhibit in April. The chairs were adapted from John Kassay's drawings of 18th and 19th century Windsor chairs. The built set examined a medley of design what-not-to-do's. Thomas Kelley sought to push the visuality of illusions beyond basic trompe l'oeil styling and toward a projective form of vision, or cunning sight, that embraced visual error as both intuition and method. Also as part of the Banham Fellowship, Kelley organized the On Error Symposium bringing together 12 practitioners, theorists and curators from across the U.S. to examine the value of error, mistake-making, or wrongness through the lens of architecture.

Buffalo hosted the fourth MediaCities conference this past May. Organized by University at Buffalo architecture and media study faculty members Omar Khan, Mark Shepard and Jordan Geiger, the events examined how digital technologies shape the way people experience urban life and spaces. The international conference brought together 38 scholars and practitioners from 10 different countries and four continents to speak on topics such as the ability of digital media to create "public spaces" for socio-political movements like Occupy, and how new media technologies can raise, blur and erase boundaries between people. The event was distributed throughout Buffalo with 100 people visiting the opening exhibition. A detailed report of the proceedings is available at mediacities.net

BELOW
Paul Goldberger addresses 650 international guests convened at Buffalo City Hall for the Society of Architectural Historians annual conference.
Photo by David Schalliol for the Society of Architectural Historians

The Buffalo School played a lead role in the 2013 Society of Architectural Historians' annual conference, held in Buffalo last April. More than 650 architectural historians, architects, planners, preservationists and media critics from 26 countries gathered in Buffalo for five days to explore the city's architectural gems and discuss new scholarship in architectural history. Despina Stratigakos, associate professor of architecture, who campaigned heavily for years for SAH to come to Buffalo, served as local co-chair with Tom Yots (MARCH '02), executive director of Preservation Buffalo Niagara. The Buffalo School, through Dean Robert Shibley, was also a lead sponsor of the conference.

One important focus of the conference was how Buffalo uses preservation as a tool for long-term urban, cultural and economic sustainability. Shibley organized a day-long "Buffalo Seminar" inviting dialogue on how to use the city's architectural legacy for sustainable growth. Shibley and Catherine Schweitzer of the Baird Foundation also facilitated a conversation with Pulitzer Prize-winning architecture critic Paul Goldberger on the city's renewed efforts in preservation planning. Goldberger, who delivered the conference's plenary address, said Buffalo has established itself as a leader in historic preservation through its \$20 million restoration of Frank Lloyd Wright's Darwin Martin House. "The Darwin Martin House has been absolutely brilliantly restored, and it's the most ambitious restoration of a Wright building that I've seen."



A School Tradition Revisited: the Success of Atelier Week

by Catherine Maier

Graduate students Cristina Delgado (MUP '13) and Kristen Gabriele (Architecture BS '12), revived Atelier Week at the Buffalo School this past spring. A school tradition dormant since 2010, the week has since become synonymous with celebration. Although the form of the week is ever changing, the goal is one in the same: to showcase the hard work, ingenuity and energy of the Buffalo School student body.

The scene is set, Crosby Hall shines out into the stormy April night, a beacon in the rain, guiding the public inside. The heirloom Atelier banner streams from the front windows. The entryway warmly glows, transformed by Assistant Professor Gregory Delaney's "Going South" exhibit. Graciously leaving it up for the week's festivities, the exhibit is the perfect first impression for the hall. Gallery lights shine from above onto the meticulously crafted composition of photographs, sketches and descriptions. The exhibit tells the Buffalo School story in just the right tone: a mixture of laughter and scholasticism, of hard work and play. The photos presented in this first entryway provide the perfect foundation for the students' curated work above.

The atmosphere change in Crosby Hall is palpable. Students milling in the hallways look excited and proud. The crit rooms have been transformed into curated gallery spaces; student drawings cover each wall and models are set out on simple and elegant displays. The low rhythm of conversation rises up the staircases and invites visitors to explore. Students, faculty and staff are still — reverent to the work surrounding them. No one runs down the hall for a last-minute print, the computer labs are completely empty, and the studio rooms are only open for display. The all-nighters seem a distant memory as the work receives its proper validation — not a letter grade or praising critique, but to be looked at and talked about, appreciated for the hard work and thought of the student behind it.

Following a conversation with Research Assistant Professor Christopher Romano and Clinical Assistant Professor Nicholas Bruscia, both Buffalo School alumni, Delgado made it her mission to revive the Atelier Week tradition. Believing deeply in what past Atelier Weeks represented and the potential for what it could mean for future students, Delgado reached out to Gabriele to set the plans in motion. Representing both departments, Delgado and Gabriele first worked on reintroducing the annual Techne book, a collection of student-submitted work, published for free by students.

The handmade books are just one of the traditions preserved in the revival of Atelier Week. Along with the Atelier banner, the stamps used to decorate each Techne book were passed down from former students and current faculty members. Delgado remembers when Romano and Bruscia gave them the hand-crafted Techne stamps, it was a very literal symbol that the whole week was coming together. "The stamps were literal batons," recalls Delgado.

The community of collaboration was a second theme to Atelier Week. From student groups (UB's chapter of the National Organization of Minority Architecture Students, the Architecture Graduate Student Association and Alpha Rho Chi) to the local chapter of the American Planning Association, students, faculty and staff came together to carry it all off:

"If we didn't have the support that we had coming from this web, this matrix of different people, it wouldn't have happened," says Gabriele.

With regards to the student collaboration, Delgado and Gabriele can only hope for more. The two discuss how, as with any meaningful work, they enjoyed doing it.

Delgado explains: "People ask me, 'aren't you busy?' Of course I am but it's worth it. It's exciting to be a part of something that creates traditions, a culture of reverence toward work, collegiality and a space for dialogue about our work and how we see ourselves as a school, what we're capable of."

Gabriele shares the sentiment, fondly recalling the Pecha Kucha event, where students presented their work through 20 slides, each in 20 seconds.

"People were crying, they were laughing so hard. It was just a really good time, and it felt good to be surrounded by your peers and the faculty," she says. "We are a school together. Sometimes we get so swamped and studio seems like the only thing that exists. It was just a reminder that we're all here together, so let's celebrate everything we've been working so hard to do."

Their hopes for the next Atelier Week? More lights, more people and more work. After seeing the success and potential of the past event, Delgado and Gabriele hope they'll stum up more student and faculty involvement: professors as ambassadors of the program and students openly submitting work. The two would also like to make some very simple but incredibly beneficial aesthetic changes to transform Crosby into a gallery: specialized lighting and a fresh coat of paint in the crit rooms. A major emphasis will also be on advertising to local businesses and getting the public more involved — inviting local firms and Buffalo School alumni and friends to the week's events.

In some last thoughts on the behind the scenes Atelier experience, Delgado brought the culmination of a semester's worth of work full circle — explaining that it takes a certain kind of school to create an event like Atelier Week:

"My best times at the school have been when I am able to build the experience myself. You just need to go for what you want. Here, whenever I have presented a half-way thought-out idea with some support to the department or other students, I've never been turned down. This school is a place where there is that flexibility. It enables this kind of collaborated work."

BELOW
Dean Robert Shibley
talks with students before
the Pecha Kucha event.
Photo by John King



Alumni Profile

Jajeen Rose-Burney (MUP '07, BAED '05)

by Bradshaw Hovey

“I wanted to live in the middle of nowhere and plant trees,” Jajeen Rose-Burney recalls of his hopes for a stint in the Peace Corps. Instead, he wound up behind a desk in a big bureaucracy in Mexico’s fourth-largest city, Puebla.

“This,” he thought, “was exactly what I was trying to get away from.”

You don’t get to choose your own assignment in the Peace Corps, but Rose-Burney wasn’t ready to spend two years in an office at La Secretaria del Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales — or SEMARNAT — Mexico’s equivalent of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Then again, the search for “what I really want to do with my life” has never been cut and dried for Rose-Burney. It has been a thoroughly recursive process, one of trial and error, rinse and repeat. And even in places he thought he was trying to get away from, there were opportunities.

Rose-Burney, a 2007 graduate of the UB master of urban planning program, stuck it out in the big city.

“I’ve got two years,” he told himself. “How am I going to make the most of this?”

Not long into his tenure there — an assignment he shared with his wife, Ana Hernandez-Balzac, also an MUP grad — Rose-Burney came upon the Valsequillo Reservoir, a water body and wetland of more than 58,000 acres on the edge of the City of Puebla. His Mexican colleagues had told him the reservoir was dead, polluted, beyond repair.

But Rose-Burney saw something else: there were people fishing in the reservoir, farmers tending to fields on the banks of the reservoir, drawing water from it for their crops. And there were birds, lots of them, some that exist only in the region, some on their long migratory journeys north and south.

“It ain’t dead,” Rose-Burney told his supervisors. “You gotta think differently. This wetland, screwed up as it is, has all these values.”

He proposed to them that Valsequillo be nominated for The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, known as the Ramsar Convention and named in honor of the Iranian city on the Caspian Sea where the convention was established in 1971.

To his surprise, they said yes. Later, he urged them to consider a proposal that the reservoir be dedicated as a state park, and again, they agreed. But there was an enormous amount of work to do to achieve those goals, to demonstrate the value of the reservoir and to strengthen it.

One of the keys was to document just how many species of birds the reservoir supported. Rose-Burney, a lifelong birdwatcher, was well prepared to lead the effort. After a year-long study of the birds of the reservoir, he and some of his Mexican colleagues researched, wrote and illustrated *Las Aves del Municipio de Puebla* — the Birds of the City of Puebla — and got a grant from the U.S. Agency for International Development along with local funds to print 1,500 copies.

“I didn’t get to be in a National Park,” he said jokingly, “but I could create one.”

In a sense, Rose-Burney was always preparing for his work in Mexico. But he was also always readjusting his notions about what he wanted to do with his life.

As a child growing up in a nature preserve — his father, Jay Burney, was an environmental educator at the Beaver Meadow Audubon Center — he always loved the outdoors. As a child growing up in the city, he always wanted to help rebuild Buffalo. He went on to UB on an honors scholarship and, after a few wrong turns, found the Environmental Design program, from which he graduated in 2005, and then the master of urban planning program.

Near the end of his graduate study, Rose-Burney spent a summer at the school’s Sustainable Futures study abroad program in Monteverde, Costa Rica, working on planning projects to support eco-tourism development in the mountain “cloud forest.”

“It’s something that completely changed what I wanted to do with my life,” Rose-Burney recalled, and something that led to his time in the Peace Corps. “That’s where I wanted to be.”

Along the way, he provided student leadership in an undergraduate studio on the redevelopment of East Aurora’s Roycroft Campus. The Roycroft project was engrossing, Rose-Burney recalls, because it brought so many issues — history, environment, tourism, economic development, design, landscape and more — within a single frame.

His performance on the Roycroft project won him a job offer at the School of Architecture and Planning’s Urban Design Project, where he devoted much of his effort to producing *The Olmsted City — The Buffalo Olmsted Park System: Plan for the 21st Century*.

Earlier this year, not long after his return from Mexico, Rose-Burney accepted a position with the Western New York Land Conservancy, where he is working to preserve natural lands for posterity — like the Mill Road Scenic Overlook in East Aurora and the Stella Niagara Preserve in Lewiston. He’s also maintained his connection with the Urban Design Project, facilitating a working team on land use and development for the One Region Forward sustainability plan.

It is what Rose-Burney always wanted to be doing — for now.

BELOW
The Valsequillo Reservoir in Puebla, Mexico. Rose-Burney’s award-winning planning efforts through the Peace Corps have helped turn the water body and wetland into a National Park and birdwatching destination.
Photo courtesy of Jajeen Rose-Burney

BELOW
After discovering the Valsequillo Reservoir’s diverse bird population, Rose-Burney started a birdwatching club, offering Puebla residents young and old a chance to experience the natural beauty of the reservoir.
Photo by Ana Hernandez-Balzac



Smith+Associates Architects

Firm with strong Buffalo School connection infuses architecture with art through cost-effective creativity

by Rachel Teaman

Just take a walk through the offices of Smith+Associates Architects in downtown Rochester, N.Y., and the firm's design ethos is made abundantly clear: reuse, repurpose, reinvent.

President and founding Principal Kenneth Smith (MArch '85) purchased and refurbished the circa 1830s building, former home to the city dog pound, in 2005 to house his fledgling architecture and interior design firm. Seeking to create an artful space without breaking the bank, Smith made countless "pragmatically creative" solutions along the way. Walls around the dog-viewing area became windowed office partitions. A concrete bathtub for the dogs was converted into a chic coffee table.

Over the years, Smith, a woodworking and salvage art hobbyist, has layered the space with found materials — hammered scrap copper layered over an otherwise non-descript door, architectural drawings stowed in a once trash-bound chest of drawers. Guests enter the conference room through a set of antique doors he picked up at Buffalo's Antique and Architectural Circus salvage shop during his student days.

"I'm an opportunist," says Smith, a former executive at a large Rochester architectural firm who broke out on his own about nine years ago. "It's flow and function first, but artistic details make the difference. We work to infuse artfulness into architecture in a way that's purposeful and cost-effective."

The design principle finds its way into every line of work for the firm, whose portfolio includes multi-unit residential, corporate, retail and health care — the firm's largest business segment. Started out of Smith's living room, Smith+Associates now employs 16, including five other School of Architecture and Planning alumni.

Balancing artistry with a tight project budget isn't always easy, says Smith, noting that such creative details are usually the first things to go when construction budgets get tight.

Take for instance the firm's current renovation design effort for Diamond Packaging, a leading folding carton manufacturer. Hearing from some that the budget was too sparse for art, Smith challenged them to include artwork.

"I'll give you our most economical per-square-foot project and it's dripping with creativity," he says. For example, brass dies that the company once packed into 50-gallon drums for recycling will now be collaged into its renovated facility.

In the renovation concept of an operating room corridor for Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center, colorful, sculptured panels were artfully assembled over ceiling-mounted mechanicals that would have been cost-prohibitive to remove. Perhaps most importantly, Smith says, patients receive a calming view on their way to the operating room.

Much of this creative work is done by S2 Industries, the industrial and interior design studio Smith incorporated into the firm a few years back. The studio partners with an extended team of sculptors, painters, graphic designers and even signage specialists to integrate artistic elements into a project.



ABOVE
MRI room at Buffalo General Medical Center
Photo courtesy of Smith+Associates Architects



BELOW
Portraits of Smith+Associates' staff members hang in the entranceway as testament to the firm's artful touch.
Photo courtesy of Smith+Associates Architects

To work all this in cost-effectively, an efficient design process is key. The firm prides itself on its "design build" model, which involves tradespeople, contractors and the artistic team early in the process, smoothing the hand-off to construction and, most crucially, reducing documentation. Its hallmark is the hand sketch Smith completes at the outset of each project. Smith says the "quick and humble" hand sketch gets to the heart of design concept quickly with room for the design to evolve before formal documentation.

The design method was put to the test in Smith+Associates' renovation design of 1.3 million square feet for Kaleida Health's Buffalo General Medical Center. The ongoing effort, begun in 2006, has involved creation of a master plan and dozens of renovation projects, from the heliport to surgery rooms.

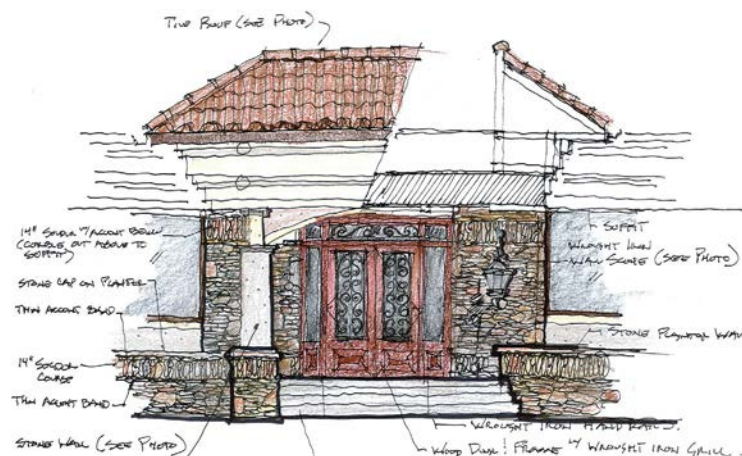
"Health care renovation is complex. I see it as 3-D chess on a moving table," says Smith, who managed the Buffalo General Medical Center effort with Thomas Huchzermeier, co-principal of the firm and a 1998 graduate of the BPS program.

For instance, the team orchestrated work on the sterile processing department, which manages infection control in hospitals, over five phases to minimize impact on daily operations. The loud machines in the MRI suite required copper shielding in the walls and strategic placement of waiting areas to minimize patient exposure. The firm has worked with a diverse team, including Kaleida Health's management and construction division, hospital staff and architects designing an addition to the facility.

Even in these complex health care designs, artistry comes into play, Smith says — from murals in children's waiting rooms to coves for artwork and sculpture.

Meanwhile, Smith+Associates' "pragmatically creative" formula is fostering growth. The firm's health care portfolio has gone national, while its presence in Buffalo will grow through new renovation projects for the Erie County Medical Center. And its residential, retail and corporate segments are diversifying.

Back at the office, Smith continues to practice cost-effective, artful design as he introduces new layers of art and salvage to the space. "I just keep adding to it. It's a passion that we try to bring to our client projects, on schedule and on budget."



ABOVE
An example of Smith's hand sketch — this for a new entry to the Irondequoit Country Club in Rochester, NY.

The Buffalo School Connection

Kenneth Smith, President and Founding Principal (MArch '85)

"I remember drawing columns in studio and fluting them like a Greek revival temple. I had critique with my studio and architectural history professor at the same time. This open environment and access to professors allowed me to tinker. It's quite literally what I encourage the staff to do here."

Thomas Huchzermeier, Principal (BPS '98)

"My participation in design charrettes with faculty and students broadened my understanding of architecture and opened the door to new possibilities."

Justin Hildreth, Architectural Designer (Architecture BS '05)

"I started school wanting to create great buildings, but left wanting to create great experiences."

Adam Noga, Draftsperson (MArch '12, Architecture BS '10)

"I loved the open studio environment. Walking around studio and talking with other students about their designs helped me grow."

Buffalo Matters

New York City Developer Anthony Kissling Brings Bold Vision to Buffalo

by Bradshaw Hovey

Buffalo Matters is an ongoing series that celebrates entrepreneurial leaders and partners of the school who are transforming Buffalo through creative investments in its people and places. Here we profile Anthony Kissling, a New York City developer who has tapped into soaring demand for urban living in Buffalo, amassing a portfolio of about 1,000 high-amenity units. Kissling is also a generous supporter of the Buffalo School, investing in our students and working with our alumni in the community. He also is a critical partner in our efforts to tell Buffalo's story of regeneration through visionary architecture, planning and urban design.

In the late 1990s, when Anthony Kissling was working to diversify his real estate interests beyond Manhattan, he got in the cockpit of his plane and flew around to places within 400 miles of New York City to check out the possibilities.

He went to Baltimore, Hartford, Providence, Pittsburgh, Rochester and half a dozen others. The 12th city was Buffalo and he saw something at that point that not everyone else was seeing: an unappreciated value in great old homes and apartment buildings, and a latent desire among city dwellers for something better.

“I saw a well-laid-out city,” Kissling recalls. “It had all the elements of a great city.”

It was on this beautiful lake with a waterfront largely yet to be developed. It was right across from Canada. It had incredible architecture. And not by the way, for an investor in residential real estate, it had a stock of apartments that were clearly undervalued. With some well-targeted investment in renovation and restoration, they could fetch a very worthwhile bump in rent.

“We looked at 50 buildings before we ever bought,” Kissling recalls.

He took the plunge into the Buffalo market with 2096–2108 Delaware Avenue, an unobtrusive three-story, 30-unit brick courtyard apartment building with a red tile roof and fine details just north of Amherst Street. He fixed it up, rented it out, and continued his search for other Buffalo investments.

That was 1999. Nearly fifteen years later, Kissling Interests LLC owns and manages about a thousand units, most of them in the heart of what used to be called Buffalo’s “silk-stocking district” — North Street, Summer Street, Linwood Avenue, Delaware Avenue and other demand addresses.

Along the way, Kissling demonstrated something important about markets. When you invest in markets, you change them. When you create supply, you evoke demand.

With other developers like Rocco Termini, Carl Paladino and Ben Obletz, Kissling has helped transform the in-city rental housing market since the 1990s by providing a bigger supply and broader selection of high-amenity apartments to a public that a few decades ago didn’t know it wanted that.

“People weren’t standing around waiting for this to happen,” said Myron Robbins, principal of Buffalo Management Group, as direct a Kissling competitor as there is in the local market. “The guy’s got good instincts. He’s bold. Very bold.”

Kissling still remembers in the early days when Rue Franklin proprietress DeDee Lippes would greet him mockingly, “here comes the drunken sailor.” But he knew he wasn’t squandering money in building his Buffalo portfolio. He was buying apartments at depressed prices in a depressed city knowing that it wouldn’t take much for them to double or triple in value.

Real estate was the family business. His great-grandfather was a baker when he arrived from Darmstadt before there was a unified Germany. He bought a couple of buildings for his own use.

“By 1870 he got out of the baking business and into the real estate business,” Kissling said. “Then my grandfather, my father, and now, me.”

When he joined the business out of college, all they did was manage other people’s apartments. By the mid-70s Kissling realized this was not the way to make money and he started investing in Manhattan properties, enlisting a couple of friends to put down a few thousand bucks with him, buying a building and fixing it up. Now his New York City portfolio numbers about 600 units.

Kissling is an improver. He talks about upcoming investments in buildings with enthusiasm and pride. The Ambassador at 175 North Street got new bathrooms, kitchens, hallways, roof, boiler, lobby, elevators.

“We research what the property looked like years ago and we try to restore it,” Kissling said.

/
BELOW
Old industrial buildings like the National Casket Co. on Virginia Street have been transformed into unique residential spaces.
Photo by Catherine Maier

/
RIGHT
Anthony Kissling on the roof-top garden at The Ambassador, which commands breathtaking views of the city.
Photo by Catherine Maier



At 401 Delaware (across the street from the Buffalo Club) that means stripping off old paint to reveal original bricks, restoring the 1910-era storefronts, and fabricating a match for a missing cornice from a 70-year-old photo.

Mostly, Kissling’s apartments bring moderate rents, typically under a \$1,000 a month. He likes to take five percent below the maximum the market would allow because it’s more important to keep his buildings full than to squeeze every last dollar out of each unit.



ABOVE / Kissling had a vision for urban living that took root in the old Remington Rand factory along the canal in North Tonawanda. Photo by Kissling Interests

More recently, though, Kissling has produced products that meet the diversifying appetites of Buffalo renters for space, and with those come higher rents. Former Buffalo Bills head coach Chan Gailey paid \$3,000 a month for his loft apartment in the converted National Casket Company building on Virginia Street.

The Remington Lofts in an old factory building on the canal in North Tonawanda (aided by historic preservation tax credits and brownfields financing) bring similar rents for the volumes, views and industrial materials that many tenants find so chic these days.

And the former Lake Hotel, just completed at 201 West Huron Street, demonstrates how the definition of a desirable location in Buffalo has expanded as young professionals and medical campus employees have flocked to urban digs.

The city market has to expand now, Kissling says, because everything in the neighborhoods where he invested has already been bought up. There’s nothing left between Richmond and Main Street. Only pioneers need apply.

Kissling gives thanks to his banker, who had confidence in his judgment when he was a pioneer. Michael DeWitt is Vice President and Relationship Manager for First Niagara.

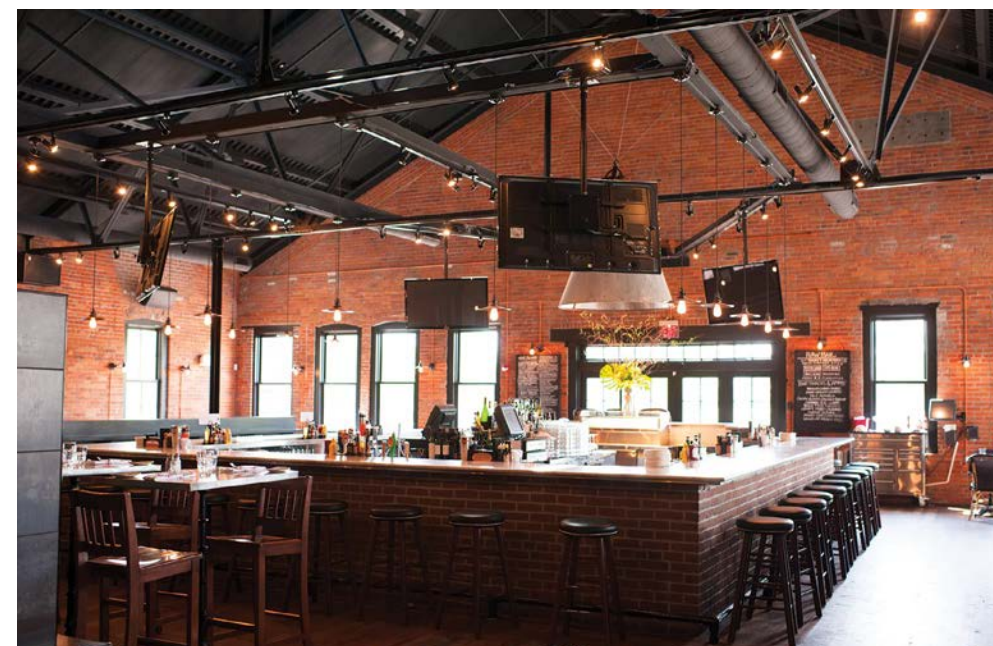
“He had a view for the potential of the properties he purchased,” DeWitt said, “when other people were looking to have nothing to do with downtown.”

“Tony’s challenging in a good way,” said Jon Morris, principal at Carmina Wood Morris, who has done much of Kissling’s design and historic tax credit work recently.

“He’s a visionary kind of person. He saw the Remington Rand building in the condition it was in and imagined what’s there now. He has a vision for urban living and he brought his New York City mindset to bear here in Buffalo.”

For Kissling it was simply a matter of appreciating the value in properties — and the city where they stand — that other people couldn’t see.

“You have to have the conviction that the city is getting better and better,” Kissling said. “Why would you invest in a city you think was going down?”



ABOVE / Kissling has worked closely with architecture firm Carmina Wood Morris, developing designs for luxury lofts and an upscale restaurant in North Tonawanda’s Remington Lofts complex. Two of Carmina Wood Morris’ principals, and six of its staff, are Buffalo School grads. Photo by Kissling Interests

Investing in the Future Architects of our Region

Buffalo architecture and engineering firm Carmina Wood Morris did a lot to help Anthony Kissling develop his portfolio — especially recently — and Kissling returned the favor.

They designed Remington Lofts and the Lake Hotel at 201 West Huron. They did the historic preservation tax credit applications for those two projects plus the Ambassador, the mansion next door, 249 North Street, and 298 Main Street, where four floors of old office space are being converted to 26 apartments, including two luxury penthouses.

Kissling, in turn, sponsored a UB student intern in their office who has become a valued member of their staff.

Carmina Wood Morris is steeped in UB blue. Eight professionals there, including two of the three principals, earned their degrees from the Department of Architecture. The third principal, Chris Wood, earned a degree in engineering at UB.

Danielle Johnson, a 2009 graduate of the MArch program, worked on the Remington Lofts as a student intern. She was getting ready to move back to her native Rochester after school when the opportunity at Carmina Wood Morris opened up — thanks to Kissling who paid for her position there.

“I came to work here and I didn’t want to leave,” Johnson said.

Johnson documented existing conditions on the old factory, produced schematic drawings, did renderings and modeled designs in Sketch-up. When she was done with her degree, the firm invited her to stay full time.

Now she is building her file for licensure as a Registered Architect, clocking hours in requisite specializations, and preparing to sit for her examinations sometime next year. She’s done a lot with the chance that Kissling gave her.

Still, she says, “he gave me a scholarship that led to this job. I don’t know if I would be here without him.”

Student Profile

Q&A with Dylan Burns, Architecture BS '16

Dylan Burns, a second-year architecture student at the Buffalo School, reflects on his first year in the architecture program and shares his experience as the first UB student to take part in the U.S.-U.K. Fulbright Summer Institute. Chosen for his academic achievements, dedication to his community and desire to be an ambassador, Dylan took part in the three-week program to explore academic, cultural and social prerogatives at the Nottingham Trent University. Fresh from his trip, Dylan candidly expresses the ethos of a young architecture student to fellow student Catherine Maier.

CM / What influenced your interest in architecture?

DB / From the time I was a toddler creating crazy Brio, Lincoln Log, and Lego structures, I always had a desire to build something of my own design. I don't know why I even kept the instruction packets! Growing up in Buffalo, I continued to foster this design ambition and developed a deep appreciation for the rich architectural history of the city. In this way, studying architecture simply became the clearest and most enjoyable choice for my design pursuits.

CM / Why did you choose to study at the UB School of Architecture and Planning?

DB / UB's and the School of Architecture and Planning's constant presence in the City of Buffalo was a major factor in my decision. I enjoy being a part of a program that enriches the city as part of its coursework. This strong sense of pride and giving back to the city is a major reason I chose the UB School of Architecture and Planning.

CM / What was the most challenging aspect of freshman studio?

DB / The most challenging lesson from this past year was finding the balance in design work, between perfecting and completing a project. Although projects can be tweaked and manipulated for ages, there has to be a stopping point to preserve sanity and move on to the next project with a fresh start.

CM / What was the most rewarding aspect of freshman studio?

DB / New relationships with professors and friends. There is such a wonderful family of support and melting pot of fresh ideas at the school. It's exciting to collaborate and develop such a high caliber of communal ideas.

CM / Do you have a favorite project from freshman studio?

DB / At the end of the spring semester, I worked on a group project where we created a clear span structure derived from the studio space. Each group had a different material (ours was paper mache') and we were tasked with creating a structure which would enclose the members of our group. It was an incredible learning experience that helped me appreciate the beauty of a structural system in its basic form. The process also taught me the importance of developing and nurturing concepts and ideas, planning and physical form.

CM / Tell us about the Nottingham program.

DB / The program focused on the city as our classroom. It was structured to accommodate the evolution of any creative ideas pertaining to the use of the city as a medium. The first week we explored culture and heritage by visiting historic sites around the region with specialists in the field. The second week focused on creative writing, so we explored the homesteads of some famous writers from the area, such as D.H. Lawrence and Lord Byron. We also did a fair amount of writing on our own, using the places as inspiration. The third week focused on fine art and the city, with looser parameters. For the last week, we focused on our final project and exhibition.

CM / What did you explore in your final project?

DB / The final project needed to capture some part of our experience in Nottingham and the U.K. I decided to get out of the whole architecture mindset for a while and focus more on environmental design. What started as more of an excuse to speak with the locals turned into a true sociological experiment. I developed questions I hoped to be thought-provoking and even uncomfortable since they were asked from a complete stranger and more so, a foreigner. I wanted to gain a brief snapshot into the lives of seemingly random people who are encountered but ignored daily. I posed the following questions: "If you knew no one would judge you, what would you do differently?" "What do you sometimes pretend that you understand that you really don't?" I also took a photo of each respondent. I presented my results visually at the final exhibition in a raw form, so that each story looks incomplete. Through the project I wanted to prove that you only get to know a person as much as you try to. And by approaching as many different people as possible, I wanted to show that everyone has an interesting story that shapes a place.

CM / Were there any sites/buildings you were particularly struck by during your visit?

DB / On one of our weekend road trips we visited Stonehenge. It was the oldest site I had ever seen and is a testament to the defiance of time and the elements. At the same time, I was struck by how relevant Stonehenge is today — we still use the same basic structural concepts. I also was enthralled by the various urban environments of the cities I explored.

CM / What have you taken away from the experience?

DB / I have a greater understanding of architecture, people and environment, and how they all relate and thrive together. I have gained many friends and contacts as well as a new perspective on life and day-to-day activities in general. I have soaked in a great amount of a foreign culture, which has further emphasized the importance of exploring people and activities that aren't fully understood.

CM / What is your next destination abroad?

DB / I hope to study somewhere drastically different from what I have experienced so far. I am fascinated with the elements and issues associated with countries experiencing rapid growth and would love to go to such a city in India or China.

BELOW LEFT
Dylan takes in the sites of London from the banks of the River Thames.

RIGHT
Dylan presents his final project from his time abroad, capturing a picture and quote of the people he met in his travels. Photos courtesy of Dylan Burns



Honor Roll

Ibrahim Jammal’s Legacy in Global Planning Studies Endures Thanks to Generous Support of Wife Viviane

by Rachel Teaman

As founder of the planning department, professor and world-renowned scholar of futures studies and international planning, Ibrahim “Himi” Jammal left an indelible mark on the field of planning during his more than 30-year career with the School of Architecture and Planning.



One of the school’s first faculty members, Jammal joined the then School of Environmental Design in 1969 to build its planning department. He would go on to design both the undergraduate environmental design and master in urban planning programs, both rooted in systems thinking and complex problem-solving, a new paradigm for design education at that time.

Perhaps one of his greatest contributions was the global perspective he brought to the program. “He was ahead of his time,” says Alfred Price, professor of urban and regional planning and associate dean of the school from 1977-1982, during Jammal’s time as chair of the planning department. “Himi was talking about global issues and global studies long before people started talking about the phenomenon of globalization.”

Still another contribution is the legacy of his teaching and advising. “He was the most caring professor I ever met,” recalls Ernest Sternberg, current chair of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning. “To our students, he was like an uncle, who easily spent hours advising individuals and always cared about their well-being, even after graduation.”

Jammal also led the school’s first push to internationalize its student body through recruitment and mentorship of foreign students. A native of Egypt, Jammal was an international student himself, immigrating to the U.S. in 1962 to attend the University of Pennsylvania for master’s degrees in both planning and architecture.

“He single-handedly led the charge that said we have got to encourage international students to apply and then support them when they’re here,”

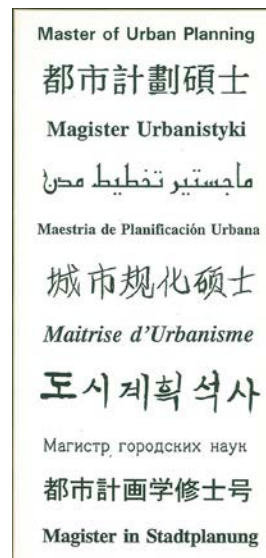
Price says, recalling how Himi would conduct an “exit interview” with each international student and then incorporate those insights into the program.

As an example of his sensibility, he developed a recruitment poster with “Master of Urban Planning” written in 11 different languages, recalls Donna Rogalski, who served as Jammal’s assistant during a portion of his tenure as chair. “I remember him saying, ‘how are people from other countries going to understand our message if it isn’t written in their language?’”

Himi’s commitment to global thinking in planning continued even after his retirement. In 2001, he and his wife, Viviane, established the Ibrahim and Viviane Jammal Fellowship to support scholarship, student research and public symposia on globalization, international planning and futures studies.



BELOW
Ibrahim “Himi” Jammal, a native of Egypt, traveled the world as a leader in global planning studies. His wife, Viviane, hopes to advance Himi’s legacy through her continued support of the Ibrahim and Viviane Jammal Fellowship. Photo courtesy of Viviane Jammal



ABOVE
Jammal was a constant advocate for international students. As a testament to his sensibility, he developed a recruitment poster in 11 different languages.

It is a vision Viviane has continued to advance since Himi’s death in 2007, generously donating to the fund every year. “I want to carry on his wish as much as I can. I want to help students spread the knowledge they gain here throughout the world,” says Viviane, who emigrated from Egypt to the U.S. with Himi.

Today the fund fosters global dialogue and leadership in planning through the annual Jammal Lecture and a scholarship awarded every year to an international graduate student in planning. Since 2001, more than 10 students from around the world — including Iran, India, China and Canada — have received the Jammal scholarship in recognition of their academic achievement and potential to advance planning at the global scale. The inaugural Jammal Lecture was delivered in 2007, shortly before Himi’s death, and continues to touch upon issues as diverse as global cities, third-world urbanization and comparative urban policy.

Recently, the program has focused on China and its explosive urban growth. In 2012, Gary Hack of the University of Pennsylvania’s School of Design addressed the effects of urban growth on rural China. Qing Shen, chair of the University of Washington’s Department of Urban Design and Planning, will discuss the dynamics of public transit in China’s sprawling cities for the 2013 Jammal Lecture.

“In China, the cities are thriving, but the rural areas are so poor,” says Viviane, recalling how moved she was by Hack’s presentation. “Through this fund, perhaps we can help push new information in planning to reach them.”

Laiyun Wu (MUP ’14), the 2013 Jammal scholar, intends to do just that by returning to China after graduation. “I think it’s the best way to make use of what I have learned here at UB.”

The Jammal Fund continues to play an integral role in the internationalization of the School of Architecture and Planning, according to Dean Robert Shibley. “Through the generous support of Viviane, we strive to build on Himi’s legacy to broaden discourse across social, cultural and political boundaries, and extend the opportunity to study and practice planning to promising students from around the world.”

Meanwhile, Sternberg says the Department of Urban and Regional Planning is further internationalizing the program through more global courses and studios and greater support for foreign students, which comprise nearly half of the fall 2013 incoming graduate class. “With an increasingly diverse student body and strong faculty research around the globe, we are poised to build the international character of our program with even greater energy and focus. This, too, is Himi’s legacy.”



Share your memories of Himi Jammal on our Facebook Page!

A Picture of Devotion

Those who remember Himi are equally likely to recall his generous spirit and personal connection with students as they are his visionary leadership.

“Himi gave a great deal of personal time to help shape the attitudes of our students. He loved nothing more than having a house full of people for a big meal and night of conversation,” says Price, noting Jammal’s talent as a gourmet cook.

“The school was always like family to him,” adds his wife, Viviane.

Bradshaw Hovey (MUP ’91) says Himi shaped the evolution of his education and career when he shared with him several articles on development in the Pacific Northwest, the eventual focus of Hovey’s doctoral research. “Himi was specifically thinking about me and my interests when he handed over that bundle of newspapers.”

Price says Himi’s devotion to students and global studies could be summed up by the scene he came upon as Himi packed up his office for retirement. “His shelves were lined from floor to ceiling with a copy of every thesis he’d ever supervised, with names of students and planning topics that spanned the world. It was an impressive sight.”

Alumni News

Buffalo in...NY!

by Catherine Maier

The Buffalo School is excited to report on the first meeting of the “Buffalo in...” series, a new program to build connections among alumni and engage our graduates in the energy and growth of our school. Taking place in New York this past May, the gathering brought together distinguished alumni from the New York City area to further define the program’s schedule for the upcoming year.

BELOW
Adrian De Silva (Architecture BS '11), Suzanne Musho (MArch '93) and Eric Brill (BPS '92) attend the UB Presidential Reception following the first Buffalo in New York meeting.

The tentative “Buffalo in New York” program will feature three annual gatherings focused around lectures, recruitment and networking. The first event, a continuing education lecture or seminar, will engage alumni and professional partners around critical topics in architecture and planning. A second event focused on professional recruiting will bring potential employers and current students together to connect the best and brightest in our school with top firms in the region. The final event will link alumni with prospective students through a series of tours, meetings with faculty and dialogue about the Buffalo School. The “Buffalo in...” series will also connect with the UB Career Services BullsEye Network to build alumni-to-student mentoring.

The Buffalo in New York event capped off with a cocktail reception with UB President Satish K. Tripathi, who completed his “20+ cities in 20 months” tour with a gathering with alumni and friends from around the world.

As the school continues to lay the groundwork for the “Buffalo in...” series, Dean Robert Shibley invites alumni to get involved: “In heading off this program in New York, our hope is to foster a new era of connection, collaboration and community among all who enrich the fabric of the Buffalo School. Join us as we explore new frontiers for our school and the disciplines of architecture and planning.”



Interested in learning more or leading a “Buffalo in...” series in your own city? Contact us today at: ap-alumni@buffalo.edu or reach out to: Subbiah Mantharam, Associate Dean for External Affairs, at 716-829-3793.

Class Notes

1970s / Clark Manus (BArch '74), FAIA, was among 16 distinguished alumni honored with the 2013 Distinguished Alumni Award at the University at Buffalo's 63rd Annual Alumni Association Achievement Awards. Manus is the CEO of Heller Manus Architects and the 87th President of the American Institute of Architects. His experience over the past 30 years encompasses



a wide range of new and reconstruction projects including residential, commercial, civic, rehabilitation and adaptive re-use, performance facilities, retail, and urban design plans in the San Francisco Bay Area and China. Manus is recognized for his expertise in complex urban, mixed-use buildings and master planning projects, especially in difficult approval environments. In receiving the award, Manus, among the first students of UB's “School of Environmental Design,” reflected on the impact of his education:

“In 1971 I enrolled in a pioneering and innovative program that nurtured my skills, interests and passions. My life has been enriched by that educational framework, and it has enabled me to excel professionally.”

1980s / Terry Sheehan (MUP '86), as regional emergency transportation representative and lead ESF-1 official (Emergency Support Function) for the U.S. Department of Transportation, helped coordinate evacuations for Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita. His work earned him the Secretary's Silver Medal for Meritorious Service, the second highest award attainable in the USDOT.

Joseph Barden (BPS '86), as a member for the HNTB Corporation, an infrastructure solutions firm serving public and private owners and construction contractors, helped plan the new Los Angeles International Airport terminal.

Robert Straccamore (BPS '88) is senior architect with Parsons Brinckerhoff Federal Design Division in Norfolk, Va. Straccamore recently designed two 200,000 square-foot Pre K — 8th grade prototype, multi-purpose schools for the Hampton, Va., community. One of those designs received a Platinum Design Award from the Virginia School Boards Association's Exhibition of School Architecture and was recognized by the 2011 Southeast Region Conference of the Council of Educational Facility Planners.

1990s / Safdar Abidi (MArch '91), higher education practice leader and vice president for Cannon Design, leads the firm's educational design practice for Ontario and the eastern Canadian provinces. He brings more than 20 years of international design and implementation experience to the firm's institutional projects. Abidi is a member of the Society of College and University Planning, the Toronto Society of Architects, and the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada.

Denise Juron-Borgese (BPS '93) has been promoted to director of development and planning with Ciminelli Real Estate Corporation. Juron-Borgese is currently overseeing the development of Conventus, Ciminelli's \$100 million medical office building on the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus.

Charles A. Benson (BPS '93) developed an Integrated Design Practice Business model strategy as the director of business development for Van H. Gilbert Architect PC. He also developed and directed the firm's sustainable and environmental design initiative. Benson took part in the AIA+2030 Challenge program in El Paso, Texas, and Albuquerque, New Mexico, as a lecturer on Sustainable Design and Green Building Practices.

Tricia I. Kerney-Willis (MUP '98) has been selected to serve as deputy director for the White House Council on Strong Cities, Strong Communities (SC2). SC2 is a White House initiative between 19 federal agencies that represents a new interagency approach to working with local communities—especially those challenged by a declining industrial base and population loss—to strengthen their foundations for economic growth. Kerney-Willis will be responsible for policy development related to emerging lessons, best practices and the identification of barriers from SC2's work in pilot cities.

Sean Beachy (BPS '98) was named associate principal with Wendel, an architectural and engineering firm. Beachy has more than 12 public transportation projects in his national portfolio.

Timothy Buckley (MUP '99), a foreign services officer with the U.S. Department of State, is currently assigned as a justice sector program officer in the International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs Section at the United States Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan.

2000s / Jason R. Sobieraj (MARCH '02, BPS 2000), project manager at Young+Wright Architectural, attained his professional license in architecture. Sobieraj has more than 13 years of design experience ranging from educational facilities to historic restoration/preservation projects. He has worked at the firm since 2005, with current projects including the Frontier School District, Cleveland Hill School District, Niagara Transformer and the Curtiss Hotel.

Thomas Yots (MARCH '02) was appointed executive director at Preservation Buffalo Niagara in March 2013. Yots is a board member of the organization and serves on its executive committee. Yots is also founder of Preservation Studios, a local historic preservation consulting firm dedicated to fostering historic preservation in the Buffalo Niagara region.

Timothy Burke (MARCH '02) joined Grater Architects, PC, after graduation. After receiving his professional license and completing his final term as a board member for the Cobblestone School Board of Trustees, Burke looks to once again become an active volunteer with the Rochester Regional Community Design Center.

Wendy L. Manhardt (Architecture BS '04) married former Buffalo School student John P. Manhardt. Both originally from New York City, the two have moved back to Buffalo. In March 2013, Wendy joined Foit-Albert Associates and is currently working on concept designs for a GI Suite Renovation and a Gift Shop Concept Study, both at Erie County Medical Center.

Darren Kempner (MUP '05) is manager of grants at the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority. In this position, Kempner oversees the Grants Department and is responsible for supervising the governmental assistance programs for all areas within the NFTA.

Tyler Balentine (MUP '06, BAED '03) was awarded the Rainmaker Award for the most outbound referrals with the Pyramid Brokerage Co.

David A. Deweaver (MARCH '06, Architecture BS '04) was named architectural technician with Foit-Albert Associates in December 2012. Deweaver previously worked at M+W Group of Watervliet, NY.

Mark Sadowski (Architecture BS '06) currently works in the New York City office of STV Group, Inc., as a project manager in the Construction Management group. Sadowski was married in May 2012, with his first son born in October 2012.

David P. Marcoux (MARCH '07, Architecture BS '05) was named an architectural technician at Foit-Albert Associates in December 2012. Marcoux previously worked at Sandberg Kessler Architecture & Engineering of Jamestown.

Brad Packard (BAED '07) was appointed development project manager with Ciminelli Real Estate Corporation in April 2013.

2010s / Kailee M. Neuner (MUP '10, BAED '08) serves as GIS urban planner in the Buffalo office of LaBella Associates, PC, an architectural and engineering firm. Neuner was previously research coordinator for the Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities — Buffalo Initiative, working with Samina Raja, associate professor of urban and regional planning.

Justin Pietrzykowski (MARCH '10, Architecture BS '08) joined Buffalo's Kideney Architects, PC, as an intern architect in September 2012, and is working on renovations to the Buffalo Veterans Administration Medical Center and Health Center. Pietrzykowski was previously employed at Cannon Design.

Daniel J. Chorley (MARCH '10, Architecture BS '08) is an intern architect with Watts Architecture and Engineering.

Michael Buckley (Architecture BS '12) is currently an intern at Atkin Olshin Schade Architects in Philadelphia and is pursuing his MARCH at the University of Pennsylvania.

Michael Sakalauskas (MUP '12) was appointed urban design technologist with the City of Toronto's Urban Design Department in February 2013.

Sandeep Nagpal (MARCH '12) has joined Parallax Design Studio in Mumbai as an architect.

Jonathan Bleuer (MUP '12, BAED '10) has been appointed junior planner for Clarence, NY. Bleuer, happy to stay local, thanks the staff, students and professors at the Buffalo School for their knowledge and preparation in his transition into the professional sector.

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