

The Buffalo
School
Embedded
in the World

B/a+p

/
News from
the School of
Architecture and
Planning

University at
Buffalo

February 2013



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/ Cover Image
Students gather along the Cliffs
of Moher in Ireland during a 2011
architecture study abroad program.

/ Photo by Richard A. Stora III

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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.

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ap.buffalo.edu



From the Dean

From neighborhood development in Buffalo to global studios in Barcelona, the Buffalo School is embedded in our world, directly engaging with the planning problems and design opportunities of our time. As we celebrate the new year with this second installment of our school magazine, we explore our impact on the built and social environment at home and abroad through research and practice.

**Robert G. Shibley,
FAIA, AICP**

Buffalo — an international city with rich architecture and urban design legacies and a community ripe for change — remains our primary site of investigation. From envisioning the reuse of a former hospital along a key gateway to designing the \$85 million restoration of a vacant office building downtown, our school is a key factor in the city's rebirth. And across the region every day, we're building and testing our ideas to create better places.



/ Photo by Douglas Levere

Yet the impact of our work extends far beyond the borders of our region. In the following pages, you'll read about how Samina Raja's Buffalo-rooted research on food systems planning will now extend to 20 communities across the U.S. Two faculty members just had their work exhibited at the prestigious Venice Architecture Biennale.

We're also experimenting with globally relevant issues here on our own campus. In October, we brought some of the world's most distinguished thinkers and practitioners in architecture together for a symposium on the shifting landscape of patronage and practice.

As UB's campus architect, I have had the privilege of overseeing the recently completed UB Solar Strand. The ground-mounted solar array is not only a source of renewable energy, art and place-making for our campus, but an important contribution to the design vocabulary for solar installations around the world. Of

course, the restoration of our own Hayes and Crosby Halls is our statement to the world on sustainable design, historic preservation and 21st century educational facilities for architecture and planning.

Read on to explore our study abroad program, the largest at UB. Last summer we sent nearly 50 students to programs in Japan, Estonia, Barcelona and Costa Rica alone. Through immersive global studios and seminars, students broaden their perspective as future architects and planners and enrich our school community. With support from generous donors like Roy Euker, profiled here, we continue to expand our global study of architecture and planning.

/
**Our
community is
truly global**

An increasingly international student body brings the world into our programs and supports a culture of inclusiveness. At the same time, our more than 4,400 alumni, scattered from Buffalo to Shanghai, take a part of our school with them as they shape the world through inspirational practice.

As we enter 2013, our school is on a strong trajectory of growth, with new degree programs and research endeavors, and ambitious goals to grow our faculty and enrollment. With the potential for even greater global impact, it is certainly an exciting time to be a part of our community. I welcome you to join us — enroll, donate, volunteer, mentor, share your story — as we work together to create a more beautiful, healthy and ecologically sound world.

In Brief

Research & School News

PhD in Planning

The school has launched a new doctoral program in urban and regional planning, the first in the State University of New York system. The new program will emphasize research and learning in areas in which the school and its planning faculty have garnered international distinction, from assisting declining cities and distressed urban communities to advanced technology, information systems and methods in planning.

[Learn more at: ap.buffalo.edu/planning](http://ap.buffalo.edu/planning)

/ Photo by Douglas Levere



Restoration of Hayes and Crosby Halls

Work is progressing on the School of Architecture and Planning's \$50.5 million restoration project for historic Hayes and Crosby Halls. The project will bring the buildings up to code, install state-of-the-art building and environmental systems, advance accessibility features and, primarily through the reclamation of the building's fourth floors, allow the school to consolidate its studio spaces into Hayes and Crosby Halls while giving students more work space.

To date, abatement work has been completed in the core and south wing, with those efforts now shifting to the north wing. The building is expected to be completely out of abatement by April 2013. Steel bracing has been added to the building's interior and exterior to prepare for extensive demolition work that will bring the final design one step closer to reality.

The School of Architecture and Planning expects to begin its move back into Hayes Hall in summer 2014 to be ready for the fall 2014 semester. Once the school is back in Hayes Hall, the surge space we have occupied will be renovated for studio use by December 2014, when the school will vacate Crosby Hall. The Crosby Hall project is in the design manual phase, with a committee of faculty and staff working with CJS Architects to design a state-of-the-art studio and support-services building.

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FINISHING THE JOB

UB has partnered with New York State to fund the project's \$50.5 million construction budget, but we need your support to create and complete the learning spaces inside. The school needs to raise an additional \$3.5 million to finish the job.

[Learn more at: giving.buffalo.edu/schools/architecture](http://giving.buffalo.edu/schools/architecture)

Hitler at Home

Despina Stratigakos, associate professor of architecture and an award-winning scholar of modern German architecture, is at work on the first in-depth study of the aesthetic and ideological constructions of the "domestic" Adolf Hitler. She has received a prestigious two-year Marie Curie Fellowship from Germany's Gerda Henkel Foundation to support her research and writing of the book, Hitler at Home. Stratigakos says the work will span the fields of architectural history, social history and politics and explore how the Fuhrer's domestic spaces became a part of the national cultural imagination. "I am investigating the many ways in which Hitler's domestic spaces were packaged to sell the Third Reich to the German people and international audiences," she says.

/ Despina Stratigakos, an award-winning scholar of modern German architecture.

/ Photo by Douglas Levere



/ Dennis Maher's Fargo House,
Wardrobe Room.

/ Photo by Biff Henrich



Fargo House

Dennis Maher, assistant professor of architecture, has been selected as the Albright-Knox Art Gallery's 2012–13 artist-in-residence. The distinction is an evolution of his work on Fargo House, Maher's house on Fargo Avenue in Buffalo, which he has transformed using discarded materials from demolition sites in Buffalo. His project for the gallery, "House of Collective Repair," has engaged community members and local tradespeople in exploring the intersection of demolition, construction, art and architecture, with their work incorporated into the final installation, which opened in January 2013.

Beau-Fleuve

Beau-Fleuve is a media architecture installation and website that explores Buffalo's increasing cultural diversity by mapping the city's immigrant and refugee paths from all over the world. Developed by Jordan Geiger, assistant professor of architecture, along with students and recent graduates, the installation is part urban spectacle and part recording booth, as children climb in to answer questions about their migration stories. The soft geodesic structure wirelessly produces voice transcription and translation, and mines oral history responses to plot points onto an online map. The project was commissioned as part of the Fluid Cultures program of the UB Humanities Institute and will receive further funding with a fellowship from the Techne Institute for Arts and Emerging Technologies.

/ A young Buffalonian explores Jordan Geiger's installation, Beau-Fleuve, a fabric tunnel wired to record and map the city's immigrant and refugee stories.

/ Photos by Jordan Geiger



New Home for Wounded Vet

Beth Tauke, associate professor of architecture and associate dean for academic affairs, was a lead team member of a second LIFEhouse™, a universally designed home in Antioch, IL, which was donated to a wounded veteran and his family. The keys to the house were given to Purple Heart recipient Nick Mapson and his family at a ceremony in August. The project was sponsored by the Center for Inclusive Design and Environmental Access along with the Home Builders Association of Greater Chicago, the NFL Retired Players Association and New American Homes.

Outstanding Student Project

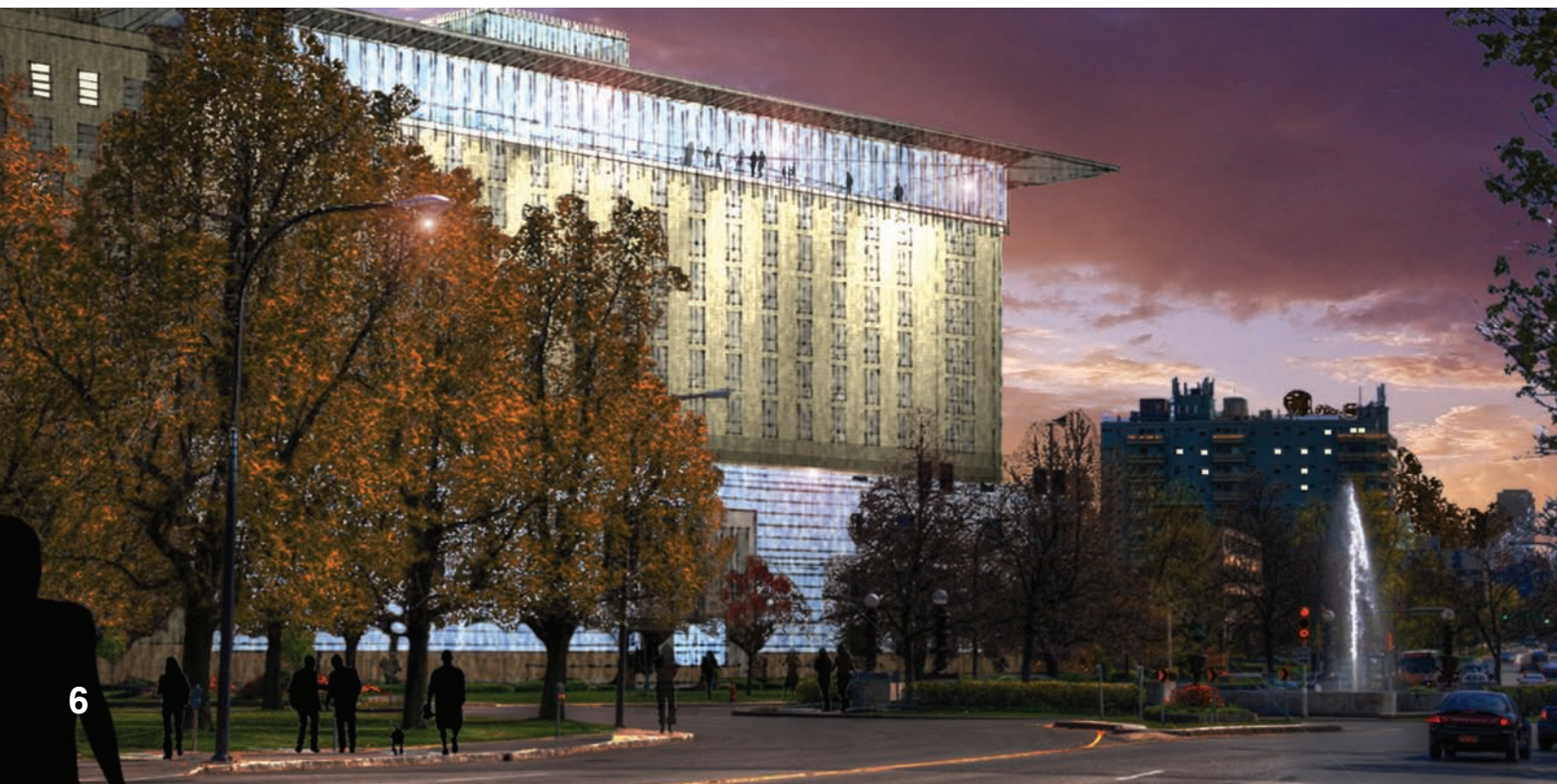
The New York Upstate APA Chapter has selected “Against the Grain: A New Direction for the Old First Ward” for the 2012 Outstanding Student Project Award. The project was developed by 11 Master of Urban Planning students under the direction of Kerry Traynor, clinical associate professor of urban and regional planning, for the program’s Preservation Planning Studio. The project outlined a conservation district plan for the historic neighborhood located along the Buffalo River in the city’s former industrial corridor.

Millard Fillmore Gates Hospital Reuse

The School of Architecture and Planning continues to play a lead role in the reuse of the Millard Fillmore Gates Hospital in Buffalo. Dean Robert G. Shibley led a jury of community leaders and Kaleida Health officials in judging the international designer/developer reuse design competition, and now two architecture faculty members — Hiro Hata and Harry Warren — are part of the development team that won the competition with a \$65 million adaptive reuse proposal for a veterinary school.

/ Rendering of the proposed School of Veterinary Medicine at the site of the former Millard Fillmore Gates Hospital in Buffalo.

/ Image courtesy of HWG/Studio and BMS/Studio





/ Visitors to the International Garden Festival of Les Jardin de Métis explore Laura Garofalo's installation, "Buoyant."

/ Photo by Robert Baronet

Buoyant

A garden installation designed by Laura Garofalo, assistant professor of architecture, was featured at this past summer's 13th International Garden Festival of Les Jardin de Métis (also known as Reford Gardens), in Quebec, one of the most important events of its kind in North America. Titled "Buoyant," the installation features a trellis supported by cloud-inspired balls, which allow the structure to ebb and flow with the wind. The system, entwined in vines, alludes to nature's dependence on the stewardship of the community that nurtures it.

Smart Growth in Buffalo

Buffalo's Larkin District and its development and planning team, including Dean Robert G. Shibley and The Urban Design Project (UDP), has been recognized for its smart growth achievements by the Environmental Protection Agency. The project was one of seven — and one of only two in the Main Street or Corridor Revitalization category — from across the U.S. to be cited by the EPA this year. The honorable mention recognizes the district's transformation from a decaying industrial site into a thriving urban village through a master plan created by the UDP for Howard Zemsky's Larkin Development Group. Kevin Connors (MArch '88) also partnered on the master plan's development.

Green Dwelling

Omar Khan, associate professor and chair of architecture, and Laura Garofalo, assistant professor of architecture, won Second Place in the Second Annual Modern Atlanta Prize Competition/Green Dwelling. Their winning entry — "Home Spun" — explored design concepts in water harvesting prefabrication for urban housing in the Great Lakes region and was exhibited at the 2012 "Design is Human Week" in Atlanta. The jury looked for "projects that critically consider today's notions of sustainability as applied to the modern dwelling." Khan and Garofalo participated through their design practice, Liminal Projects, along with Abhishek Mathur and Trinadh Kumar Pydipally.



/ "Home Spun" design concept by Khan and Garofalo wins Green Dwelling award.

/ Image courtesy of Liminal Projects

In Brief

Faculty Honors & Awards

Professor Edward Steinfeld, an international pioneer in the field of inclusive design and environmental access and director of the Center for Inclusive Design and Environmental Access (IDeA), has been awarded the title of SUNY Distinguished Professor, the highest rank in the State University of New York System.



/ SUNY Distinguished Professor Edward Steinfeld heads the internationally renowned Center for Inclusive Design and Environmental Access.

/ Photo by Douglas Levere

Daniel B. Hess, associate professor of urban and regional planning, has received the 2012 Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching in recognition of his creative and energetic teaching, dedication to his students and continued professional achievements.

The University of Pennsylvania's Netter Center for Community Partnerships has awarded Professor Henry Louis Taylor, Jr. with the Lee Benson Activist Scholar Award, recognizing his leadership in urban planning, scholarship and work in the community as director of the Center for Urban Studies, which he founded in 1987.

Dean Robert G. Shibley has received the Robert and Louise Bethune Award, the highest accolade that the American Institute of Architects' (AIA) Buffalo/Western New York chapter bestows. The lifetime achievement award recognizes Shibley's contributions to the profession of architecture over the past 30 years through practice, mentorship and community leadership.

/ Dean Robert G. Shibley has won the AIA Buffalo/WNY Chapter's lifetime achievement award.

/ Photo by Douglas Levere



In Brief

Select scholarly publications from faculty at the School of Architecture and Planning

Why Architects Need Feminism

an essay by Despina Stratigakos, associate professor of architecture, published in Places: Design Observer, an online journal of architecture, landscape and urbanism.

Introducing Architectural Theory: Debating a Discipline

edited by Korydon Smith, associate professor of architecture, presenting common architectural subjects — from tectonics to use — as theoretical conversations across original, reflective and philosophical texts.

Albright-Knox Art Gallery

by Brian Carter, professor of architecture, documenting the design and construction of the Albright-Knox Art Gallery by Gordon Bunshaft of SOM Architects in New York, one of Buffalo's most important examples of Mid-Century Modern architecture.

Dawn of the Dead City: An Exploratory Analysis of Vacant Addresses in Buffalo, NY 2008-2010

in the Journal of Urban Affairs, by Mark Silverman and Li Yin, associate professors of urban and regional planning, and Kelly L. Patterson, assistant professor of social work at UB. An examination of Buffalo's long-term vacant and abandoned structures, or "zombie properties," and related socioeconomic factors.

Partnering Strategies for the Urban Edge: 2011 Rudy Bruner Award for Urban Excellence

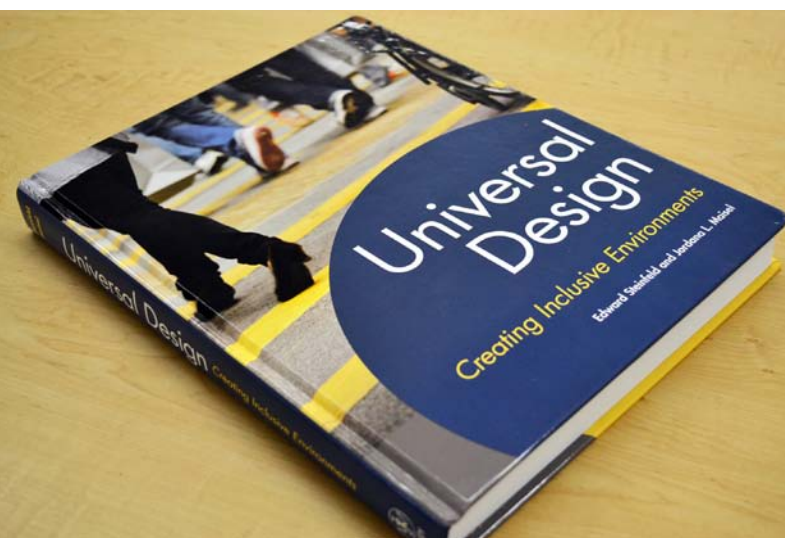
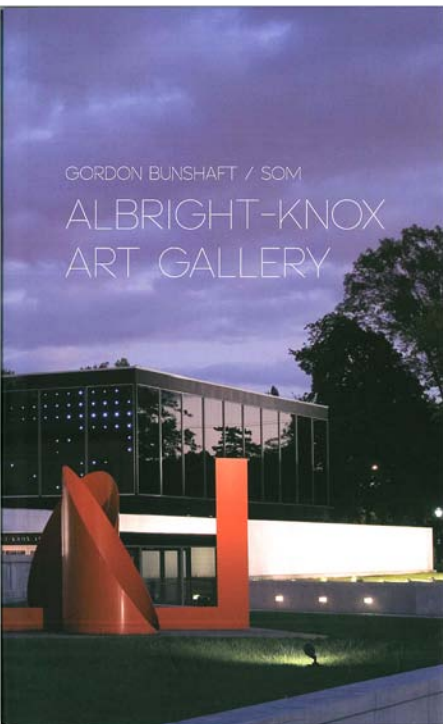
by Dean Robert G. Shibley et al, presenting five case studies of award-winning urban design that consider social, economic and environmental issues in addition to form, with a concluding analysis of partnering strategies for the urban edge.

Walking to the Bus: Perceived Versus Actual Walking Distance to Bus Stops for Older Adults in Transportation

by Daniel B. Hess, associate professor of urban and regional planning, examining the relationship between transit ridership and proximity to fixed-route transit stations for older adults in Buffalo and Erie County.

Universal Design: Creating Inclusive Environments

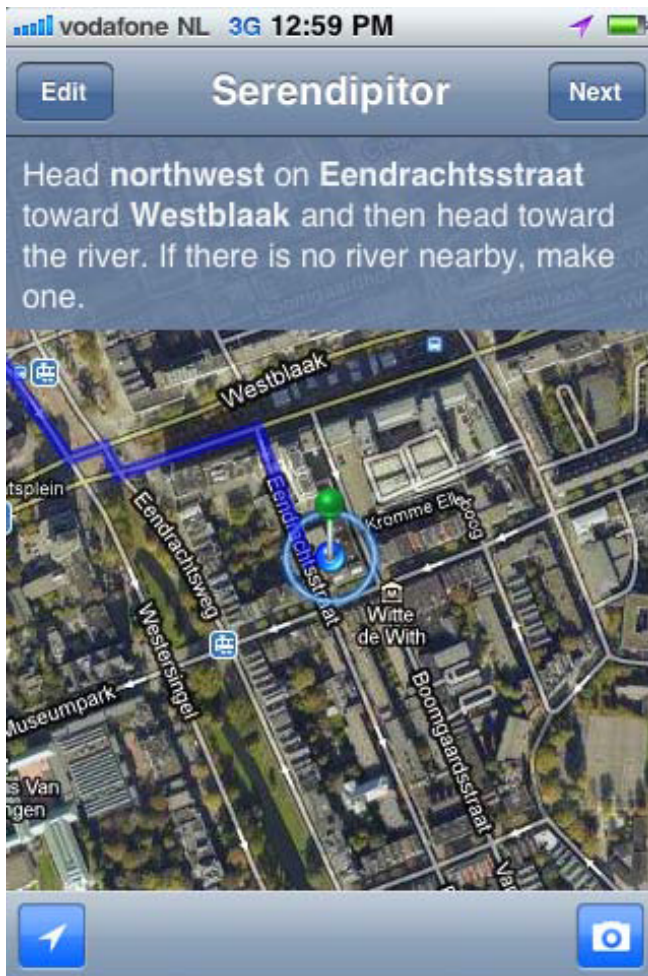
a new textbook on universal design, edited by SUNY Distinguished Professor Edward Steinfeld, director of the Center for Inclusive Design and Environmental Access, and Jordana Maisel, the center's director of outreach and policy studies.



Buffalo in Venice

A conversation with Mark Shepard and Joyce Hwang on “Spontaneous Interventions” and the Venice Architecture Biennale

Two of our faculty members — Mark Shepard, associate professor of architecture and media studies and co-director of the Center for Architecture and Situated Technologies, and Joyce Hwang, assistant professor of architecture — participated this past summer in the 2012 Venice Architecture Biennale, the most prestigious architectural exhibition in the world. Their projects were featured as part of the award-winning U.S. Pavilion, “Spontaneous Interventions: Design Actions for the Common Good,” which investigated the future of the American city through a series of 124 small-scale urban interventions. We sat down with Mark and Joyce to learn more about their research and get their take on this year’s American exhibition.



/ Mark Shepard leads a walk in Venice last summer guided by Serendipitor, an alternative navigation app for mobile phones that helps you find something by looking for something else. Shepard’s project was featured in the U.S. Pavilion at the 2012 Venice Architecture Biennale.

/ Photo by Kelly Loudenberg

"Spontaneous Interventions" exhibited 124 socially-minded projects — small-scale, temporary and unplanned — designed to address areas of urban life undermined by conventional practice. What problematic urban situation does your project address, and what solutions does it propose?

/ MS Both of my projects address the projections and promises of the so-called "smart" city and critically examine the implications for everyday urban life. The Sentient City Survival Kit is a collection of playful and ironic artifacts for survival in this near-future city. Serendipitor, one item in the Kit, is an alternative navigation app for mobile phones that helps you find something by looking for something else.

In the near future, finding our way from point A to point B will not be the problem. Maintaining consciousness of what happens along the way might be more difficult.

The app combines directions generated by a routing service (in this case, Google Maps) with instructions for movement and action inspired by Fluxus, Vito Acconci and Yoko Ono, among others. Enter an origin and a destination, and the app maps a route between the two. You can increase or decrease the complexity of this route, depending how much time you have to play with. As you navigate your route, suggestions for possible actions to take at a given location appear that are designed to introduce small slippages and minor displacements within an otherwise optimized and efficient route. Here, the intent is to re-introduce forms of play and mobility in the city that are at risk of being undermined by this highly optimized, ever-more efficient and over-coded city.

The Venice Mussel Choir addresses the question: what if the "smart" city we are promised by corporate interests and government agencies turns out to be not so smart after all? Building self-contained models or other representations of irreducibly complex urban ecosystems is neither the only nor the most strategic way to exploit sensors and the computational opportunities of the 'Internet of Things'. Yet the promise and projects of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to produce intelligent systems has led to certain cultural expectations and misreadings of the critical opportunity we face. Natural Intelligence (NI), by comparison, is a paradigm that couples feedback from natural systems into social systems for ongoing interpretation and information. NI locates and displays the information within the community for whom it is most relevant — rather than being first and foremost for the centralized databases of government agencies and regulatory bodies.

The Venice Mussel Choir is a water-quality monitoring system that "sings" daily water-quality readings taken from a canal bordering the Giardini Pubblici. Using a scientifically proven technique involving a hall sensor and a rare earth magnet attached to the shell of the mussel, it is possible to detect changes in the gape of its shell over time and subsequently extrapolate its response to local water conditions in situ. The public workshop we conducted in Venice introduced the issues and challenges related to water-quality monitoring, and demonstrated how to build a water-quality sensor using mussels. A prototype system incorporating an array of these mussel sensors was submerged into the canal near the Riva dei Partigiani pedestrian bridge. Data from these sensors was used to generate a song performed by synthesized voices (the Choir), vocalizing changes in the water quality of the canal. My collaborators on the Venice Mussel Choir were Natalie Jeremijenko (director, Environmental Health Clinic, New York University) and David Benjamin (director, Living Architecture Lab, Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation).

/ Read more about their work:
Mark Shepard / serendipitor.net / vimeo.com/14205709
Joyce Hwang / antsoftheprairie.com



/ Joyce Hwang's "Bat Cloud," installed at Tiff Nature Preserve in Buffalo, is an eco-sculpture that provides habitat for bats and brings attention to an illness that is decimating the bat population. The project was among 124 socially-minded design interventions featured in the American exhibition of the 2012 Venice Architecture Biennale.

/ Photo by Sze Wan Li

/ JH My project, Bat Cloud, addresses the condition of habitat loss in cities. As human populations increase and cities develop, we as human beings have been destroying the habitats that support ecologies of animals, plants, and organisms — many of which are extremely beneficial, even critical to our ecosystems. Bat Cloud is located in Buffalo, which is a city that is not currently growing in population. But the issue of habitat loss is still relevant.

In urban environments, city dwellers have a tendency to view most forms of urban wildlife as undesirable. Buildings and other structures are typically designed and constructed in ways to prevent animal inhabitation.

Just look, for example, at all of the artifacts that are produced just to keep birds off of buildings: spikes, wires, netting, etc. Bat Cloud proposes a way to create structures that support bat (and other urban wildlife) habitation. It also suggests that these types of structures do not need to blend invisibly into the background (like most bat houses tend to do); rather, they should invoke curiosity, attract visitors and increase awareness of the presence of animals.

**This new design ethos is often participatory and open-source.
How does your project engage the community in this process of
remaking our city?**

/ MS Both of my projects are built upon open-source technologies and involve participatory models of interaction for their realization. Each is fairly specific in the way that participation is structured, and how the different communities are engaged. In the case of Serendipitor, the app builds on conventions of interaction with GPS navigation systems and lodges its critique within these very conventions, as enacted by the participant as they move throughout the space of the city.

The Venice Mussel Choir locates and displays information — “natural intelligence” — on local water quality within the community for whom it is most relevant,

rather than being first and foremost for the centralized databases of government agencies and regulatory bodies. Doing so puts the information in the hands of those who can take actions directly informed by it.

/ JH Bat Cloud engages the community by encouraging them to recognize the value of urban ecologies, specifically in thinking about urban wildlife habitats. The project’s presence in Tifft, as well as in the media, has provoked interest and curiosity from the public. For example, I have received emails from people in Buffalo who — after seeing the project — are now interested in removing bats from their houses in a humane manner (rather than exterminating them), which is already a huge improvement from what typically happens to animals that are considered to be ‘pests.’ Also, I’ve received messages from school children (as far away as Spokane, Washington) who are interested in building something like this in their hometown.

I think that instigating curiosity is the first step to ‘remaking’ the city.

The actual process of ‘making’ Bat Cloud engaged quite a number of UB students and alumni (with special thanks to Sze Wan Li, MArch '12, Architecture BS '09), and also involved collaboration from specialists from several disciplines, including Associate Professor of Biological Sciences Katharina Dittmar. The process of fabricating the project could certainly engage members of the community. As long as there is at least one design professional managing the process, anyone with basic skills in using simple tools and hardware could help put the project together. It has been designed so that the assembly process could be explained and carried out with relative ease and without a lot of specialized machinery.

/ Putting “Natural Intelligence” in the hands of the people: Mark Shepard and his collaborators observe the Venice Mussel Choir, a water quality monitoring system that “sings” daily water-quality readings taken from a canal, at last summer’s biennale in Venice.

/ Photo by Kelly Loudenberg



Spontaneous Interventions — in fact, this year’s entire biennale — reflects a sense of optimism about the power of the architect and designer to effect change by deploying unconventional tactics that create more meaningful, accessible and sustainable places. Do you agree? How do you see this movement happening around you — here at our school and in Buffalo?

/ MS I think we see with exhibitions such as Spontaneous Interventions that architecture is a very broad field occupied by specialists and non-specialists alike. Many projects exhibited in the U.S. Pavilion were not produced by architects but by teams of artists, activists and citizens who have taken matters into their own hands and are shaping the city in perhaps small but significant ways. This is especially evident in places like Buffalo where organizations such as People United for Sustainable Housing (PUSH Buffalo) are doing great work on the West Side. **What we are seeing is a shift from top-down, centralized to bottom-up, distributed initiatives that are proving in many cases to be more agile and effective in achieving a desired outcome.**

/ JH There are many examples of this movement happening in Buffalo. Generally speaking, I think that Buffalo provides a great urban landscape for these kinds of small-scale experiments. Its abundance of underused or vacant properties allows architects to find opportunities for intervention. Its socio-economic climate forces us to confront difficult questions — for example, how we construct cultural values, given our tendencies toward consumption.

Small-scale interventions have been a ‘mode’ of operating among many faculty members for quite some time. Brad Wales’ ‘Small Built Works’ projects, Frank Fantauzzi’s work over the last decade, as well as projects by Mehrdad Hadighi and Shadi Nazarian stand out as examples. There are many recent examples, as well—from the design-build studio work in our architecture program to the efforts of faculty, students and alumni. As part of our “Beyond Patronage” symposium (see page 16), I organized an exhibition titled “Reconstructing Practices,” which featured projects by local architects and designers along these lines. The “Hive City” Habitat Design Competition is a great example of how a small-scale intervention can introduce excitement and change in how we define productively working in the city. The thesis project by two recent MArch graduates, Matthieu Bain and Andrew Perkins — “Dwelling on Waste” — is another poignant example. Dennis Maher’s work looks anew at demolition debris and unwanted artifacts. Sergio Lopez-Pineiro’s snow landscape project asks us to creatively rethink both standard snow plowing practices as well as ways of occupying an underused parking lot.


Can you take a moment to share with us the origins of your project, and how this work emerged? What are future directions for this research?

/ MS This work emerged out of a body of research that examines the various entanglements of mobile, embedded and pervasive technologies with everyday urban life. I’m currently focusing on an aspect of this I’m calling ‘minor urbanism,’ something I write about in the Venice Biennale catalog (architectmagazine.com/design/notes-on-minor-urbanism.aspx). As with minor literature, minor urbanism involves speaking in a major language from a minor position. Contrary to major architecture and urban planning strategies that dominated 20th century urban development, minor urbanism emphasizes local, networked and distributed interventions that shape our collective experience of the city and constitute its varied cultural topography. While small in scale and local in extent, these interventions have an aggregate impact on larger urban systems. Often entangled with (and enabled by) contemporary media, communications and information technologies, minor urbanism engages techno-social practices common to everyday life in the modern city. Yet rather than reifying existing power relations embedded in technologies designed for the frictionless consumption of goods and services or the effortless control and management of urban space, practicing minor urbanism involves re-configuring, re-circuiting and re-directing these normative systems and infrastructures in ways that open them up to alternate social and political dynamics.

/ MS I'll be conducting a graduate design research studio on this subject later this spring that takes the City of Buffalo as both site and context for a series of experiments in minor urbanism conducted by students from UB's Department of Architecture and Department of Media Studies, together with students visiting from the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar, Germany, within the framework of the new International Media Architecture Masters Studies Program (IMAMS). The studio will also engage in a collaborative workshop with iDAT, a lab for creative research, experimentation and innovation across the fields of digital Art, Science and Technology at the University of Plymouth, UK. Outcomes from the studio's research will be featured at MediaCity 4: MediaCities, an international conference exhibition and set of workshops to be held in Buffalo from May 3–5, 2013, which I am organizing together with my colleagues in the Department of Architecture and Center for Architecture and Situated Technologies: Omar Khan, associate professor and chair, and Jordan Geiger, assistant professor.

/ JH As a graduate student at Princeton University, I took a seminar which focused on relationships between architecture and biology, taught by Professor Catherine Ingraham. Later in graduate school for my MArch thesis project, I designed a 'Zoological Laboratory' — that is, a project that cross-bred the program of a Zoo with that of a Genomics Lab. Both of these experiences urged me to grapple with the conflicting logics between nature and culture, which have profoundly influenced the way I think about the work I am doing now.

I would also say that living in Buffalo has really affected the way I have been developing my current projects. In Buffalo, it is hard to not notice the abundance of urban wildlife all over the city. For example, birds build nests not only in trees but also in 'unmaintained' buildings. Areas that seem like 'abandoned' tracts of land can also be seen as wildlife refuges. Yet, there is still much discomfort and anxiety among city dwellers regarding urban animals, and the possibility of 'infestations.' Partially in response to this sentiment, I am developing a series of projects that aim to incorporate wildlife habitats into the built environment and bring visibility to their presence. Bat Cloud is the second installation in this series.



"Buffalo provides a great urban landscape for these kinds of small-scale experiments. Its abundance of underused or vacant properties allows architects to find opportunities for intervention. Its socio-economic climate forces us to confront difficult questions — for example, how we construct cultural values, given our tendencies toward consumption."

— Joyce Hwang, assistant professor of architecture

Architect as

Advocate, Organizer, Detective,

Speculator, Performer, Visionary...

/// By Rachel Teaman

2012 Martell Symposium explores changing landscape of architectural patronage as activist architects engage new modes of practice

A growing movement among architects and designers to address social, political and environmental issues has seen them take on new roles, from activist to advocate — a trend that is reshaping the landscape of architectural patronage, prompting new forms of practice and creating powerful design outcomes.

To explore this trend and its implications for the future of the profession, the School of Architecture and Planning invited eight internationally distinguished architects, scholars and designers to campus in October for “Beyond Patronage: Reconsidering Models of Practice,” the 2012 Martell Symposium.

“

Engaging faculty, students, alumni and local practitioners in a series of seminars and panel discussions, the two-day event generated a palpable buzz across the school about the potential of architects to effect change and empower diverse communities through unconventional tactics.

As a school formed out of this kind of radical thinking about the role of our profession in society, we saw this event as an opportunity to push the boundaries of research and practice during a time of great change and opportunity for our discipline.

— Dean Robert G. Shibley

“

“We’ve become wary of taking risks, and it’s in this environment that we see architects begin to take on personas such as advocate, initiator, organizer, speculator and performer” says Omar Khan, associate professor and chair of the Department of Architecture.

“There are different opportunities that come from acting in the world as opposed to representing the world. It’s risky, but it’s also very powerful.”

— Omar Khan

Making it Happen: The Organizing Team

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The concept for the symposium originated in 2009 when Joyce Hwang, assistant professor of architecture, and Shannon Phillips, assistant dean for graduate education and head of the school's diversity initiatives, began seeking funding to invite some of the world's top female architects and designers to campus to address critical issues in the profession. The program for Beyond Patronage evolved with the engagement of Assistant Professor Martha Bohm, and with organizing support from graduate student Gabrielle Printz.



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Joyce Hwang, assistant professor of architecture:

"Architects and designers are confronting the norms and priorities of our discipline. 'Beyond Patronage' is about the opportunities that come out of this, not only for architecture and design but for the communities we serve."



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Martha Bohm, assistant professor of architecture:

"Architects must constantly reconcile design with socioeconomic, ecological or even geopolitical constraints. Design approaches that go 'Beyond Patronage,' turn these constraints into opportunities and allow for new and more responsive types of architecture."



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Shannon Phillips, assistant dean for graduate education and head of the school's diversity initiatives:

"'Beyond Patronage' is about empowering historically excluded populations to influence design agendas and reshape our communities in ways that are accessible, sustainable and equitable. This has the potential to reinforce diversity in the way we study and practice our discipline."



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Gabrielle Printz, MArch '14

"As students of architecture — and future designers — we can use our research to instigate normative means of practice and push them 'Beyond Patronage.'"

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The symposium was generously supported by Christopher M. Martell (MARCH '01, BPS '96) and his wife, Sally, who for years have brought internationally distinguished practitioners and scholars to UB to teach, conduct public lectures and produce scholarship. Additional support was provided by the School of Architecture and Planning and the UB Gender Institute.

To all our sponsors, thank you for your visionary support.

Student as Instigator

The symposium opened with a student-led discussion about the emergent role of the architect, viewed through the lens of student work. Reversing the traditional format of lectures and seminars, students organized and directed the discussion, while the panelists and faculty responded with questions and comments.

Lead organizer Gabrielle Printz, along with five other graduate and undergraduate architecture students — Micaela Barker, Brijhette Farmer, Michael Lempert, Jesse Pringle and Joseph Swerdlin — designed the session as an opening exhibition of sorts, with students posing a question about how their work elicits new ways of practicing. Participants could engage verbally or in writing. A live Twitter feed projected questions and comments on the walls of the event space. “We wanted to create an exciting and charged atmosphere,” says Printz.

“We flipped roles with the speakers and led the discussion based on our research interests. The panelists pulled it all together. The reaction was, ‘wow, the students have the power here.’”

— Brijhette Farmer, MArch/MS Engineering '15

“It was helpful to see the innovative business and design models the speakers have created and are finding success in. As a graduating senior looking to work, the symposium as a whole was energizing and inspirational.”

— Joseph Swerdlin, Architecture BS '13



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STUDENTS TWEET and then see their comments projected on the walls during Beyond Patronage’s opening event at the Darwin Martin House’s Greatbatch Pavilion.

/ Photo by Jennifer Wisinski-Oakley



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EXHIBITIONS OF STUDENT WORK, including that of Micaela Barker (left), generated lively debate about the role of the architect.

/ Photo by Jennifer Wisinski-Oakley



/ From left to right: Juliette Spertus, Lola Sheppard, Georgeen Theodore, Natalie Jerimijenko, Linda Taalman, Robert G. Shibley, Martha Bohm, Joyce Hwang, Omar Khan, Hansy L. Better Barraza, Yolande Daniels and Lori Brown.

/ Photo by Dylan Buyskes

Reconsidering Models of Practice

The symposium's eight invited panelists are some of the most innovative thinkers and practitioners in the field today.



/ Above: Georgeen Theodore
/ Below: Yolande Daniels
/ Right: Lori Brown

/ Photos by Dylan Buyskes

Linda Taalman, principal of Taalman Koch Architecture, internationally known for the "itHouse," a line of prefabricated minimalist houses that support off-the-grid, sustainable living. "Design is a process of exchange and collaboration. If you do it really well, my instinct is you will not be able to see the role of the architect in the final product."

Hansy L. Better Barraza, principal of Studio Luz Architects, associate professor at the Rhode Island School of Design, and co-founder of BRACE: Building Research + Architecture + Community Exchange, a nonprofit collaboration of artists, designers and community members.

Juliette Spertus, architect, writer and curator whose recent exhibition, "Fast Trash," articulates the beauty and ingenuity of Roosevelt Island's underground, pneumatic garbage system.

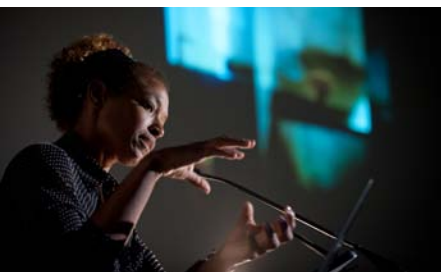
Georgeen Theodore, whose firm, Interboro Partners, worked with the Museum of Modern Art on "Holding Pattern," a project exploring institution-community connections and recycling through a temporary public space outside the museum. "Good design emerges through journalistic research, good detective work and the suspension of judgment."

Natalie Jeremijenko, director of xDesign Environmental Health Clinic, and an artist, engineer and scholar whose work explores the interface of society, the environment and technology.

Lola Sheppard, principal, Lateral Office, which has partnered with Canada's Nunavut Territory to design the Arctic Food Network in support of food security, safe navigation and ecological restoration for this remote, transitioning community.

Yolande Daniels, principal of Studio SUMO, whose award-winning work includes the design of ethnic museums and a culturally sensitive housing project in Miami's Little Haiti. She discussed BLINDSPOTS, a series of projects that explore the intersection of race, architecture and the city.

Lori Brown, professor of architecture, Syracuse University, whose work operates in both traditional realms and social, political and institutional arenas where architects are not typically present. "If we as architects and designers are going to change the world, I argue this will be from the ground up. We must move beyond mere form-maker, recognize the complexities inherent in our world and capitalize on their potential as agents of change."



THE UB SOLAR STRAND

Artist, Landscape Architect Walter Hood and Dean Robert G. Shibley, UB's Campus Architect, Reflect on Design Process Behind UB's New Ground-Mounted Solar Array

/// By Rachel Teaman

A group of architecture students gathers in an open field, between a stand of old-growth oak trees and the first of 3,200 gleaming black solar panels that stretch one-quarter mile into UB's North Campus to form the UB Solar Strand.

To Walter Hood, the Oakland-based artist and landscape architect who designed the ground-mounted solar array, this is a perfect start for his tour.

"When we started this, we asked ourselves, 'can we bring some of that wildness, that messiness in?'" says Hood, sweeping his arm from the craggy trees and the vernal pools beneath them to the clean lines and rigid steel frames of the solar panels.

A statement of engineering and technological innovation, the Solar Strand has also been carefully woven into the fabric of the surrounding campus landscape — a balance that gets to the core of Hood's vision for the Solar Strand.

"That's what we're talking about here, the dialectic over time between humans and place. We're in this landscape," said Hood, founding principal of Hood Design and professor and former chair of the Landscape Architecture Department at the University of California-Berkeley.



/ Students gather under old-growth oak trees for their tour of the UB Solar Strand, designed to respond to and connect with the larger campus landscape.

/ Photo by Douglas Levere

Selected through an international design competition, Hood was in town for a site visit as the Solar Strand, powered on last spring, receives the finishing touches before opening to the public. On this crisp October morning, Hood and Dean Robert G. Shibley, who oversees the project as UB's campus architect, prepare to reflect on the Solar Strand's evolution with 12 graduate architecture students and their instructor, Assistant Professor Martha Bohm.

"Every decision of this process has sought to balance functionality with beauty, sustainability, accessibility and a broader sense of place," says Shibley, who directed the project's design competition and chaired the artist selection committee.

The project began in 2009 when the New York Power Authority gave the university \$7.5 million to build a large-scale solar field on its campus. Shibley and university leadership, however, saw an opportunity to do something more, leading to the international design competition and an intensive design and construction process engaging the university community, artist values, NYPA, and dozens of contractors and local suppliers.

"The result is a solar array that at once serves as a land art installation, an iconic campus gateway, a powerful and practical energy resource, and one of the most publicly accessible large energy production sites in the world," Shibley continues.

Indeed, the 1,250' x 140' array generates 750 kilowatts of renewable energy, enough to power hundreds of on-campus student apartments. Its 3,200 panels, arranged into three rows, entwine like the molecules of a strand of DNA arrayed in gel packs — Hood's nod to UB's research mission.

The Solar Strand is also integrated into the campus through walkways, public gathering spaces and the creation of new habitat for native plant and animal species. It is envisioned as a classroom and laboratory for the university and the region.

As the tour begins, Hood beckons the students onto the strand's central pathway. "We really made a core decision early on that this place needs to be occupied."

He points to two steel pipes that run the entire length of the pathway. They collect — and protect — the solar array's vast network of wiring. But they also provide visitors a place to pause and rest their feet (several members of the group have already discovered this function).

"We see the strand begin to relate to us. It's a functional thing that becomes aesthetic," Hood says.

Gathering spaces embedded in the array include an open-air chamber paved with concrete sidewalk slabs recycled from another university construction project. On the north end of the array, a grouping of its tallest panels forms a slanted roof over three outdoor "social rooms." In another section, the steel piping is set back so visitors can get up close to some of the site's largest panels.

"The Solar Strand will serve as an active laboratory, both in respect to how solar energy happens, and how solar and the landscape are part of the larger system together — from issues of design and accessibility to engineering technology to biodiversity and ecology," says Shibley.

The university was drawn to Hood's thoughtful response to the history and geography of the campus space, including careful consideration of how the Solar Strand would relate to the "Building UB" master plan, which Shibley helped to develop. For instance, walkways running between the Solar Strand's rows of panels connect to local roads, the Center for Tomorrow and naturally generated meadows and wetland areas for the public to enjoy.

"Walter came to this project with the sense not that it would be its own thing, but that it would be part of the larger campus landscape," says Shibley, looking through the array to the meadows beyond. "The columns are spaced so that the structure seems to float in the field. In effect, Walter has made the horizon part of the site."

Matthew Ryberg, a second-year student in the school's Master of Architecture program, says he appreciates that the Solar Strand is not "just plopped down."

As he trudges through mud and tall grasses to grab a photo, he says: "It kind of celebrates messiness, its place and location. So you get a little muddy, but it's a real, visceral response."

Hood points out that the Solar Strand reflects humans' delicate relationship with nature and the landscape. For instance, "weeds" have begun to creep into the site and its naturalization will allow native plants and animals to thrive. A fallen tree from the stand of oaks has been hewn into seats in the strand's open-air chamber. The uneven edges of the recycled concrete pavers have been left. And the university will minimize mowing by turning mowers into "artists" to create six-foot pathways echoing the geometry of the strand for walking and navigating the site and the surrounding meadow.

"There's something prophetic about letting things go to a certain degree," Hood says. "But we also objectify our landscape."

Martha Bohm notes that the strand's relationship with the landscape also creates a different perception of time. "Photovoltaic is always monitored for its hour-by-hour performance. But the Solar Strand adds a more seasonal perspective. Its technology is fixed but the landscape changes around it."

The tour lets out on the north end of the site, where pine trees line a pathway that crosses Audubon Parkway to the heart of North Campus. Hood notes the sparse landscape across the road, and that no tree rises above the two-story student apartment buildings.

But that can change, he says. In the same way the Solar Strand brought the "messiness" of nature in, it can also send it back out. "It's about allowing this," he says, gesturing to the thick pines and solar panels, "to change the order of business for that side."

Shibley is hopeful the impact of the Solar Strand will extend even further. "In the end, the Solar Strand establishes a new design vocabulary for solar installations. We believe this can promote the acceptance and use of renewable energy sources well beyond the boundaries of our campus."



/ Hood and Shibley emphasize the Solar Strand's human scale and educational potential as a space to be occupied, engaged and explored.

/ Photo by Douglas Levere

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There's something prophetic about letting things go to a certain degree.

But we also objectify our landscape.

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Planning for Sustainable Development

School to Train Next Generation of Food System Planners through Doctoral Fellowship. For the better part of the last decade, the School of Architecture and Planning has sat at the forefront of food systems planning, led by Samina Raja, associate professor of urban and regional planning and head of the only research laboratory in the United States dedicated to the field.

Now the school will train the next generation of food system planners through the country's first doctoral fellowship in food system planning. The Jerome L. Kaufman fellowship honors the intellectual legacy of Jerome L. Kaufman, FAICP, widely regarded as the "father of food systems planning." Through the school's PhD program in urban and regional planning, Kaufman Fellows will examine the role of planning in building healthy and equitable food systems. The three-year, fully supported program will have fellows work directly with Raja and her Food Systems Planning and Healthy Communities Lab.

Raja says Kaufman, who recently passed away, was a visionary practitioner, scholar and teacher whose career included 30 years at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. "He had a knack for raising questions about issues ahead of their time, from planning ethics to central-city planning to his most notable legacy, food systems planning," says Raja, a protégé of Kaufman as a doctoral student at the University of Wisconsin.

Indeed, it wasn't until the late 1990s when the food system even entered into planning discussions, largely due to the work of Kaufman. Today, it is a prominent issue for the professional planning community as well as local governments and academic institutions across the U.S.

Interested?

Fellowship candidates may apply by May 1, 2013.

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

More info: contact Samina Raja / sraja@buffalo.edu or visit the Food Lab online: foodsystemsplanning.ap.buffalo.edu

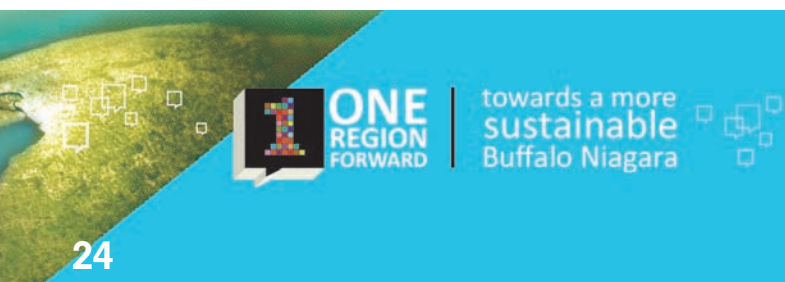
Raja, of course, has been a major force behind the field's emergence. Her research focuses on the influence of the food system and built environment on obesity and physical activity. Since 2003, the Food Lab has tracked the impact of urban agriculture on children's health in the Buffalo region and is now working on a related study with the UB School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences that has received over a million dollars in grants from the National Institutes of Health.

"One Region Forward" Builds Regional Plan for Sustainable Development in Buffalo Niagara

The UB Regional Institute and Urban Design Project are playing a lead role in a nearly \$2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to develop a practical roadmap for Erie and Niagara Counties to improve mobility, promote efficient land use patterns, assure broad access to healthy food, protect housing and neighborhoods, and mount a regional response to global climate change.

The three-year HUD Sustainable Communities effort will culminate into a Regional Plan for Sustainable Development, a federally recognized document giving the region priority status for funding opportunities. UBRI and UDP, formally designated as the "Regional Sustainability Team," are working with a broad consortium of public and private partners to develop the plan and will create a citizen planning school, online tools and technical assistance to support implementation. A series of "Community Congresses" are now engaging the public across the region.

Join the conversation: oneregionforward.org



Revitalization Plan for Buffalo's Perry Choice Neighborhood Launches Comprehensive Attack on Sources of Decline

The Center for Urban Studies is working to transform a distressed Buffalo neighborhood by linking physical improvements with education, health, transportation and even urban agriculture. In partnership with the Buffalo Municipal Housing Authority, the center has received a \$240,000 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Choice Neighborhood Initiative grant focused on Buffalo's "Perry Choice Neighborhood" near the Old First Ward and Buffalo's former industrial corridor.

In addition to the demolition of about 412 public housing units and the construction of 600 new housing units, the plan will emphasize smart growth, green housing and design, as well as access to transportation, healthy food and employment training. The goal is to turn the Perry Choice Neighborhood into a vibrant mixed-income community. Henry Louis Taylor, Jr., professor of urban and regional planning and director of the center, says: "If we expect positive outcomes, then the only approach to take is one that comprehensively attacks social, physical and educational deficiencies." Taylor is leading the effort along with Jeffrey Kujawa (MUP '95), assistant director and research associate with the Center for Urban Studies.

The effort has engaged residents through workshops, an academic summer camp for middle school students and a Planning and Information Center offering computers, job training and after-school programming.

The plan will be submitted to HUD in 2013 to compete for a \$30 million implementation grant.

/ Planning faculty and students from the Center for Urban Studies helped Perry Choice Neighborhood middle schoolers grow urban gardens as part of an academic summer camp.

/ Photo by Douglas Levere



Buffalo

Abroad:

Summer 2012

The study abroad program at the School of Architecture and Planning is the largest at UB. This past summer, the school sent dozens of students to Barcelona, Estonia, Costa Rica and Japan for global studios in architecture and planning.

Barcelona, Spain

Director: Dennis Maher, clinical assistant professor of architecture

Working out of studio space in Barcelona's Gothic Quarter, 12 architecture students spent two months immersed in the city's distinctly Catalan culture and rich architectural history.

The group created a collective reinterpretation of the city focusing on the Rambla, a tree-lined pedestrian mall in central Barcelona. Assembling five layers of information — including sketches, photography and three dimensional elements — into a 20' x 5' drawing, the students translated their dialogue with the city into new forms, boundaries and spatial possibilities for the city.

Students spent their final weeks considering the drawing as a utopian urban condition, translating it into a vertical tower and proposed installation for the southern end of the Rambla.

/ Working out of a studio in Barcelona's Gothic Quarter, students assemble sketches, photos and other media into a 20' x 5' drawing of the Rambla, a bustling pedestrian mall and the city's most famous street.

/ Photo by Michael Lempert





/ Saira Siddiqui (Environmental Design BA '13) explores a medieval stone doorway in Tallinn, the capital of Estonia.

/ Photo by Sara Siddiqui



/ Chenhong Zhu (Environmental Design BA '13) climbs the ruins of Viljandi Castle in central Estonia.

/ Photo by Lucas Strittmatter

Estonia

Director: Daniel B. Hess, associate professor of urban and regional planning

Eleven graduate and undergraduate planning students used Estonia and post-Socialist Baltic cities as their site of investigation in studying the relationships among the built, social and natural environment.

Hosted by the Tallinn University of Technology, the course included guest lectures, tours, hands-on exercises and site visits. Student projects focused on the evolution of the built environment, comparative urbanization patterns and sustainable planning.

With a home base in Tartu, the students also visited other Estonian cities such as Tallinn, Pärnu and Viljandi and took a two-day trip to Riga, Latvia.

Daniel B. Hess, director of the program and associate professor of urban and regional planning, was a 2010–11 Fulbright Scholar at the Tallinn University of Technology, Tartu College, where he studied the transformation of Estonian built environment over the past century.

Monteverde, Costa Rica Sustainable Futures 2012

Directors: Martha Bohm, assistant professor of architecture;
Christopher Romano, research professor of architecture

For nearly 20 years, the Sustainable Futures program, founded by Professor Emerita Lynda Schneekloth and Dean Robert G. Shibley, has placed students in the center of a rural but rapidly developing and intensely biodiverse region on the Pacific slope of Costa Rica. The 10-week service learning program in architecture, landscape architecture and planning focuses on community-identified projects that support an ecologically and socially just future for this region.

This year, 10 architecture and planning students from UB, along with students from the University of Maryland, University of Wisconsin and University of Oregon, worked with local stone masons to design and build a series of dry-stacked, terraced stone walls for a new outdoor classroom at the Monteverde Institute (where the program's studios and classes are held). Other projects included a proposal for a wastewater treatment center that would support ecosystem stewardship and a master plan for a community sports complex.

/ Students gather on the terraced stone walls they designed and built over the summer at the Monteverde Institute in Costa Rica. Erected with the help of local masons, the space will serve as an outdoor classroom for the community.

/ Photo by Anibal Torres



Tokyo

Directors: Nicholas Bruscia, clinical assistant professor of architecture;
Jordan Geiger, assistant professor of architecture

Tokyo's dense layering of urban activity manifests as information, events, incidents, overlapping programs, technology and infrastructure, and served as the foreground for this summer studio. Twelve students engaged in an immersive experience through in-situ coursework, dispersed living arrangements and various travel opportunities.

Design studio and seminars embraced the group's position as visitor, focusing on research through direct observation, mapping, critical fictions and research into theories of the Metabolists and current technologies for seismic design and interaction.

The school's fourth trip to Japan in recent years, the studio included a week-long excursion through southern Japan to visit some of the country's most significant historic architectural sites. Destinations were: Ise, Nara, Kyoto, Osaka, Hiroshima and Fukuoka.

/ Final reviews in Tokyo's Shibaura House, the group's studio space for the summer.

/ Photo by Jordan Geiger



Buffalo

Matters

A Beautiful Blue Building

Note from the Dean

The School of Architecture and Planning has for decades played an active role in the reimagining of Buffalo, through research and built works in the community, leadership of planning initiatives across the region, and the professional endeavors of our alumni. Today, a group of visionary, entrepreneurial developers, investors, architects and planners are propelling these plans into action as they build on Buffalo’s ‘good bones’ and invest in the region’s urban core. Through our “Buffalo Matters” series, we are committed to celebrating the difference we make together for the people, places and the future of Buffalo and our region.

Here we profile Avant, an \$85 million adaptive reuse in Buffalo that today stands as one of the city’s crown jewels. Led by Uniland Development Company with design by Stieglitz Snyder Architecture (a firm led by one of our school’s first faculty members and three of our alumni), the project is a visionary example of sustainable design and — at full occupancy — a resounding statement of a strong Buffalo marketplace.

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/// By Bradshaw Hovey,
Research Associate Professor and Fellow, UB Regional Institute/Urban Design Project

David Stieglitz remembers, as a young architect working downtown, watching the old “new” Federal Building going up on Delaware Avenue in Buffalo and hoping to have an opportunity someday to fix that monstrosity.

That was 1970. Stieglitz’ long-awaited chance to redesign “the most hideous building in Buffalo” came in 2006 when Uniland Development Company bought the old hulk at auction with ideas about transforming it into a modern mixed-use complex in a resurgent part of downtown.

Michael Montante and his brother, Carl Montante, Jr., offered the commission to redesign the building through a competition. Concepts by Stieglitz Snyder Architecture were Uniland favorites and Stieglitz partner, Robert Shepard (BPS ’85), began work on what became known as Avant.

As you can imagine, retrofitting a nearly 40-year-old building is a rather different challenge than designing a building from scratch. One project starts with just a site. The other is a puzzle, really, of how to fit a new program and new technologies into an existing structure and site that will get a new personality.

Was it hideous? Maybe, Shepard said. In any case it was “vintage 1970s federal architecture,” with a waffle-pattern skin of pre-cast concrete panels that was a study in monotony.

Stieglitz, who was a founding member of the faculty in UB’s then-named School of Architecture and Environmental Design, hypothesizes that the building actually faded from public consciousness exactly because it was so offensive to the eye. It was so ugly people simply refused to see it.

/ Uniland Development Company’s \$85 million investment and Stieglitz Snyder Architecture’s visionary design turned ‘vintage 1970s federal architecture’ into today’s glass-wrapped Avant. The fully occupied mixed-use building is key evidence of downtown Buffalo’s resurgence.

/ Photos courtesy of Stieglitz Snyder Architecture



Even worse, for those required to inhabit the building, was the cave-like feel of offices that had windows not much bigger than portholes on a destroyer. Plus, the structure was riddled with asbestos, the main reason the U.S. General Services Administration decided to peddle the building.

It is the particular genius of developers, however, to see value where none is readily apparent. There was a structure of significant height, Michael Montante explained, with unobstructed views of downtown, neighborhoods and Lake Erie. There was space. There was a great underground parking garage.

Not incidentally, the development aligned with the “Queen City Hub” plan authored by the school, especially the stated aspirations for Delaware Avenue that the City of Buffalo published in 2003.

Sustainability-minded architects know there is energy embedded in existing buildings. Developers know there is money embedded there, too, especially in the costly excavations and concrete that make below-grade parking.

The Montantes knew from the start that the building needed a mix of uses. Four hundred fifty thousand square feet comprised of one use would have been too much for the local market to absorb. Class A office space is Uniland’s “bread and butter.” There’s a surprisingly deep market for housing in downtown Buffalo. And if the housing is upper-end and the office space Class A, the “flag” of a hotel would need to be prestigious, too. “Once we landed Embassy Suites,” Michael said, “things just started falling into place.”

They knew that the hotel would be on the lower floors. The upper floors with the best views would be reserved for condominiums. Office space would go in the middle of the sandwich. Careful testing of the market determined how much of each they would build — the top three floors condos, nine through 12 offices, and two through eight for the hotel.



Avant’s transformation was led by Uniland Development Company’s Michael Montante (second from right) and Carl Montante Jr. (center), with Stieglitz Snyder Architecture’s David Stieglitz (right), Robert Shepard (second from left) and Delia Valdis (left) guiding the restoration’s design.

The first order of business in design was to give the building light.

The pre-cast panels would come off. Every slab and column was scrubbed clean of asbestos and the structure stripped down to its bones. "Vision" glass would open the interiors to far more daylight than before. Spandrel glass would cover the inter-floor spaces in the same color — but what color?

The team — developers and designers — went on tour to Manhattan and elsewhere to see products in place and to evaluate colors. They chose a unitized system that allowed them to glue glass panels to a frame and attach the frame snugly to the building. And why that color? "I really like the blue," Shepard said simply. "I thought it wasn't something we had in Buffalo." The result is a building that subtly changes hue with the weather. On sunny days it is bright blue. On darker days it is more the color of sea or steel. Clouds float by reflected in the glass. Nor is the skin of Avant perfectly smooth. The cells of glass are distinct and together express a kind of texture.

A second element in the makeover of the former Thaddeus J. Dulski Building, named for the long-time Buffalo Congressman, was to shake some of the squareness out of its image and give it a front on Delaware Avenue. Shepard fashioned a sublime swooping projection on the east face of the building by extending each higher floor slightly farther out than the one below it — just a difference of one degree per story — and wrapping the glass around. If the old building still exists beneath the new facade, it is the perfect disguise.

The Stieglitz Snyder team also hoped to give the building a top, too, and imagined a kind of rooftop projection in the shape of a number seven, a feature they named in-house "the diving board." Alas, it was easy to picture but harder to justify on the bottom line, and Avant never got its little cap. No matter, the results are still stunning, especially from the inside. All but the lowest floors have commanding views of the city and the lake. The vantage point from upper-story condos is nothing short of breathtaking — on a clear day all the way to Toronto. Prices for these aeries were similarly breathtaking, demonstrating a residential market few believed existed in Buffalo. The first three sold for more than a million dollars each before they were done. All sold at between \$325 and \$527 per square foot. And as the planning went on, the number of units was reduced as their size increased, evidence of the demand for space and quality. The smallest is 1,300 square feet; the largest 3,800.

Says Michael Montante: "The marketplace has told us clearly that there is a place for a project of this scale in our community."

There were many other puzzles to solve along the way for Shepard and his colleague Delia Valdis: how to segregate entrances for condo, hotel and office tenants; how to thread 21st century mechanicals through 1970 spaces; how to brace the building for contemporary seismic standards; how to shoehorn a swimming pool into the second level fitness center; how to meet updated building codes, and more. There were scary times after the financial meltdown of 2008 when Uniland was laying out a million dollars or more each month. Ultimately, they put \$85 million into the project, of which the \$6.2 million purchase price was a small fraction.

But today, the office space is full, the hotel is busy and the condos are nearly sold out. Riding the wave of momentum for downtown development, the Montantes continue to build value in and around Delaware Avenue and across the central business district. And they are not done. Most strikingly, for now, a beautiful blue building has replaced a dowdy old gray one in one of downtown Buffalo's newly thriving districts.

/
**Uniland
Development
Company
Bullish on
Buffalo**

Over the past 38 years, Uniland Development Company has built over 12 million square feet of offices, schools, churches and industrial buildings across Western New York. But in recent years the company has become increasingly focused on downtown Buffalo.

Prior to the Avant project, Uniland erected the Niagara Center on South Elmwood Avenue, in the shadow of City Hall. Then in 2007, the company built a five-story office building at 285 Delaware. Most recently, the firm purchased the century-old Delaware Court building just north of Avant and is considering development options that would preserve the building's historic façade. On the other side of the central business district, on a gateway parcel to downtown, Uniland is partnering with Stieglitz Snyder to design and build a \$46 million headquarters for Catholic Health.

Michael Montante says that the resurgence reflects the confluence of several factors: imaginative projects that build on the city's 'good bones' and emphasize sustainable design, cooperation across the public and private sectors, investment in the city's infrastructure and streetscape and, of course, the changing tide of the marketplace.

"There's no silver bullet that will transform downtown Buffalo. It's a series of successes large and small that connect and build the fabric of the community," says Montante.

/
**Stieglitz Snyder
Architecture**

Led by UB architecture grads, firm carries commitment to place-making from school to practice

Like a lot of architecture firms in Buffalo, many of the principals of Stieglitz Snyder Architecture got their training at UB. Shepard (BPS '85), Philip Snyder (BPS '82) and Jeff Kloetzer (MArch '05, Architecture BS '03), a fourth partner in Stieglitz Snyder, all graduated from the School of Architecture and Planning. Of course, Stieglitz helped found the school in the late 1960s and was one of its first faculty members.

He recalls all of the places the school has inhabited over the years — space at Buffalo State College, the telephone building at Canisius College and the "Meter Building," aka Bethune Hall, now in conversion to loft apartments, before settling into Hayes and Crosby halls.

"We moved around a lot," Stieglitz said. But wherever they were, the school provided a repository of place-making knowledge for the community, a site of intellectual encounter for those concerned about the city and a fount of architectural talent.

Since forming Environmental Design Associates in Buffalo in 1970 to improve the built and natural environment, Stieglitz has adroitly transferred those principles into practice. In the 1980s, Stieglitz partnered with Robert Snyder to expand the practice's work across New York State and the eastern United States. Maintaining its "green" roots, the firm now works throughout the U.S. as well as Latin American and Canada. The firm is now internationally known for its sustainable design and green building practices, particularly evident in Avant, the largest recycling project of clean materials and building reuse in the region's history.

In addition to Avant, the firm's work downtown includes the new Catholic Health headquarters with Uniland and a major role in planning for Buffalo's waterfront.

Looking back, Stieglitz says the school has played a significant role in his professional work and in the continued transformation of Buffalo: "I don't think I would have stayed in this city without the School of Architecture and Planning."



Buffalo in Europe

Architect Roy Euker honors wife, Phyllis, with generous endowment to support students' first-hand experience of European architecture, reinforces school's commitment to global education and study abroad

/// By Rachel Teaman

Roy Euker, a New York architect, and his wife, Phyllis, were an adventuring couple, traveling across nine countries in Europe to explore landmarks from the Guggenheim Museo Bilbao in Spain and Paris' Villa Savoye to the Victor Horta House and Studio in Brussels and Rietveld Schröder House in the Netherlands.

In 2008, when his wife suddenly passed away, Euker wanted to honor her memory by giving young aspiring architects the same opportunity to explore the continent's rich architectural history and diverse cultures.

He found in the School of Architecture and Planning a perfect match for his philanthropic aspirations. Committed to public education, Euker was inspired by the school's historic facilities and academic programming after a visit to our campus in 2007. The school also has UB's largest study abroad program, sending dozens of architecture students overseas every year, many traveling to Europe through global summer studios in Barcelona, Paris and Rome, and exchange programs in Denmark, Germany and Belgium.

Since establishing the Phyllis Euker European Architecture Travel Fund in 2009 through a generous endowment, Roy Euker has already helped send 11 students to Europe, including five who traveled to Barcelona this past summer to live and work in the city's Gothic Quarter. Last summer, the fund supported four students' explorations of architectural and cultural landmarks along the Irish coastline, while two 2010 recipients visited Barcelona as part of that annual global summer studio.

Together the school and its steward of European travel are providing students with life-changing experiences that not only shape their development as future design professionals, but foster a lifelong sense of adventure and appreciation for history and place.

On a recent trip to New York, Dean Robert Shibley sat down with Roy Euker to reflect on their personal inspirations and commitment to the global experience of architecture at the School of Architecture and Planning.

Says Shibley, who founded the school's "Sustainable Futures" study abroad program in the rain forests of Costa Rica more than 20 years ago and has returned nearly every year since then: "There is the idea that place has a life over time, that is made, that is managed, and that changes. As architects, we can lose touch with that because we often do the work and then go get the next job," says Shibley. "What study abroad does is take us to places that were made in a snapshot in time, but that have had a life after that. So you are always rooted in a place that's becoming. When you design with that understanding, you design differently."



/ Phyllis Euker

“What study abroad does is take us to places that were made in a snapshot in time, but that have had a life after that. So you are always rooted in a place that’s becoming. When you design with that understanding, you design differently.”

— Dean Robert G. Shibley



/ This year, the Phyllis Euker European Architecture Travel Fund supported five students in their travels to Barcelona for a global summer studio. Students lived and worked on the city’s Gothic Quarter and traveled to cities across Spain, Germany and France. Recipients meet Roy Euker (right) at our 2012 Scholars and Patrons Luncheon: (from left to right) Xiaonuan “Kim” Dai, Kathryn Hobert, Alexander Nowak, Katie Heritage and Michael Lempert.

/ Photo by Dylan Buyskes

“Whenever I go to Europe, it’s like an escape into another world. It’s always an adventure,” adds Euker, who only recently retired from a career in architecture that spanned more than 50 years, most of that as head of his own practice in mid-town Manhattan.

He says his interest in European architecture was fostered by a professor at the University of Michigan’s architecture program who “didn’t care about dates,” as well as several European exchange programs he experienced while studying at Michigan.

Without his beloved travel partner, Euker remains devoted to his European expeditions — most recently traveling to Germany to visit Munich, Dresden and Marburg, where his father’s family grew up. He prepares for each trip by reading about the architects, buildings and people of the places he will visit, and then often befriends cab drivers or locals to really get to know a place.

“I do a lot of preparatory work — I am just fascinated by the people of these places. I want to get as much out of these trips as I can.”

— Roy Euker



/ Students touring Barcelona

/ Photo by Xiaonuan "Kim" Dai

Shibley says the school similarly values this kind of careful preparation for its programs abroad, including those sending students across Europe.

"We work hard to send students abroad with a prepared mind. There is that sense of adventure and discovery — the book of postcards, if you will — and then there is the 'I am coming to see something in particular because it fits a puzzle that I am trying to solve,'" he says. "We think it is important to have enough of both in the study abroad experience."

For instance, the study abroad program's in situ studios and seminars give students a distinct sense of having lived in and experienced a city or place, while extended breaks allow students to travel and explore on their own.

Euker's generous endowment provides students with the opportunity to do both. In addition to defraying the cost of study abroad, the scholarships support their scholarly wanderlust as they roam across Europe's great historic cities and take in their architecture and culture.

Indeed, Alexander Nowak, an MArch student who traveled to Barcelona this past summer, says the program has helped him better understand how people from different cultures interact with and use their built environment.

"In Barcelona, my peers and I were afforded the opportunity to immerse ourselves in the fabric of the city. Following visits to various historic and cultural sites, we later reflected and discussed how these serve as important monuments to the people of Catalonia."

Nowak says his scholarship from the Phyllis Euker European Architecture Travel Fund supported his explorations of Morocco, where he visited the cities of Marrakesh, Fez and Tangier.

/ RIGHT
Roy Euker came to the School of Architecture and Planning in 2009 with a generous scholarship endowment that would honor his wife, Phyllis, and her love of European architecture. In its first three years, the fund has helped send 11 students to Europe.

Xiaonuan "Kim" Dai, a senior in the Bachelor of Science in Architecture program, shared in this sense of adventure. She says studying and working in the center of Barcelona made for a "very real" learning experience, while the scholarship supported her travels to Munich and Venice.

"This week of travel...not only proved to me my ability to be an independent person, it also consolidated and focused my interest in architecture in relation to people," she says.

Euker says he is moved by these reflections and other letters and cards from students — expressions of deep gratitude for supporting life-changing travels across Europe. "It's so nice to hear that. I just want these students to see Europe.

Working in an office is a grind. Going to Europe is fun."

For his part, Euker is at 27 trips and counting, and he doesn't intend to stop anytime soon. He is already preparing for his next trip, which will take him to Warsaw and Cracow in Poland, as well as Vilnius, Lithuania.



Q&A with Buffalo Scholars

Paria Negahdarikia

Just two years ago, Paria Negahdarikia was a planning practitioner in Tehran, Iran. Today, the MUP candidate is a community organizer and youth mentor in some of Buffalo’s most distressed neighborhoods. She recently sat down with Shannon Phillips, assistant dean for graduate education, to share her story.

/ Program

Master of Urban Planning, class of 2013

/ Research Interests

Community development and transportation planning (her thesis will explore the relationship between transportation behavior and land use patterns through a case study in Tehran, Iran)

/ Activities

Senator, Graduate Planning Student Association at UB; in Iran, she was a member of Mahak, a charitable organization supporting children diagnosed with cancer, and the Women on Streets Society, which empowers women of low-income families in Tehran.

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You began your studies of urban planning as an undergraduate student at Tehran University in Iran. What inspired your interest in this area of study, and why did you decide to pursue a graduate degree in planning?

/ In the beginning I wanted to be an architect. But then I realized I like to work with people, so I began to lean toward urban planning, taking a range of urban planning and urban design courses at Tehran University. After gaining professional experience [working for engineering consulting firms in Tehran], I knew I wanted to learn new things, and to see what is going on beyond the borders of Iran.

What attracted you to the School of Architecture and Planning and its Department of Urban and Regional Planning?

selection, I read through all the professors’ profiles and was drawn to the research of Dr. [Samina] Raja and Dr. [Daniel] Hess here at UB. Also, it might not seem important, but the way the staff treated me was a major factor in my decision. They were responsive to my questions and always friendly. I wanted to go somewhere that would appreciate me. This is particularly important when you are attending a program outside your country — you do not want to feel like a stranger.

/ I was admitted to six universities in the United States. In making my

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I don’t believe that you have to aim for big things, but that you start first with individuals.

— Paria Negahdarikia



/ Paria Negahdarikia (first on the left), a native of Tehran, Iran, found her passion for community development after joining UB’s Master of Urban Planning program. Through an internship with the Center for Urban Studies, she spent her summer helping middle school students in Buffalo’s Perry Street community improve their neighborhood through projects like this model of a redesigned local park, which the students constructed themselves.

How have your research interests evolved during your first year and a half in the MUP program?

/ When I started the program, I was looking for some immediate experience in the field. I was placed in an internship with the Center for Urban Studies, teaching concepts in urban design to 5th–8th grade students at the Futures Academy, a public school in Buffalo’s Fruit Belt neighborhood [part of the Center for Urban Studies’ work on a revitalization plan for this distressed neighborhood near downtown Buffalo that centers on a strong link between school and community]. I began to see that what I am really interested in is community development.

You are out in the field every day. How do you feel you are making a difference in revitalizing these neighborhoods?

/ This past summer, I served as a master teacher in a summer camp for the Perry Choice Neighborhood Initiative [working with middle school students, this “Academic Summer Camp on Neighborhood Development” had students design artistic panels to cover windows and doors of abandoned homes, build a model of a redesigned neighborhood park, and draft plans for an urban garden]. Through this program, we try to teach kids how to use the knowledge they learn in school in a real-world setting, to show them they can make changes in their neighborhood and their living environment outside the school. This ends up affecting the whole community, because when you teach something to a child, it affects the whole family.

I don’t believe that you have to aim for big things, but that you start first with individuals. For instance, I see my students who did not have self-confidence before, now feel they can change their community. So if I can make a change in one or two people that would be enough for me. Everyone at the Center for Urban Studies shares this attitude, so together as a team we make an even bigger difference. What I admire most about the Center for Urban Studies is that Dr. [Henry Louis] Taylor Jr., its director, is doing something different — he works to both improve the physical environment and invest in the people. And all the people in the community love him.

What have you learned from these experiences?

/ When I started teaching at Futures Academy, I was a little intimidated. I did not have confidence in my English speaking skills. But then I started to learn a lot of new things from the students. I began to relate to them. When they make fun of my accent, I say, “I am going to teach you how to design a city and you will teach me how to speak English.” This is a part of the Buffalo community that I would never have been exposed to if it weren’t for this internship.

Your hard work has paid off — last year you received the school’s Alumni Scholarship and this year the Ibrahim and Vivian Jammal Scholarship.

How have they made a difference in your academic experience?

/ Of course, the financial support is a great help [during Paria’s first year, the value of Iranian currency plummeted, making her tuition costs relatively higher]. But this also shows me that what I am doing here is appreciated, and that people know that I am putting a lot of effort into my academics. This has only encouraged me to do more.

How do you hope to connect your experience here to your home in Tehran?

/ There are so many projects going on here in Buffalo through the School of Architecture and Planning that would make a huge difference in Iran. For instance, I think my research on senior transportation services with Dr. Hess is a great idea for Tehran or other cities in Iran. There is also a lot of opportunity to apply my experience with the Futures Academy, because no one in schools [in Tehran] is working to teach kids how to use their knowledge in the community. I am also interested in implementing grassroots gardens there. Community development is a new field in Iran, not much more than 10 years old. And people who work in this area usually work in physical planning and land use planning. Also, community development projects there are typically not funded. I know it will be a struggle to find financial resources for these projects, but this actually makes it more interesting for me.

Timothy Ung recently sat down with Beth Tauke, associate professor of architecture and associate dean for academic affairs, and Shannon Phillips, assistant dean for graduate education, to reflect on his journey into architecture — from his struggles in freshman studio to his status today as one of the school's most accomplished students and a dedicated leader, teacher and mentor.

Timothy Ung

/ Program

Two-year Master of Architecture program, expected graduation fall 2013

/ Research Interests

Vision and light

/ Activities

President, National Organization for Minority Architecture Students, UB Undergraduate Academies Mentor

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Tell us a little bit about your first experiences with architecture?

/ In high school, I completed an architectural competition in the ACE Mentor program in New York City [a program to help prepare high school students for careers in design and construction]. It was because of this that I was placed in UB's four-year architecture program as opposed to the five-year program. Jumping right into freshman studio was my biggest struggle. It was tough because I didn't know anything about drafting, model-making, all of the essential skills. My background was in painting. Also, I didn't ask for help and I always tried to do projects on my own. But I got good at it. I bought myself a drafting table, put it in my dorm room and worked morning into night, drawing and drawing, the same thing over and over again. Then came model-making. I practiced making cubes, and then worked with linear materials like wood. I just kept working, and my room filled up with random architecture things.

Your struggles certainly didn't hold you back. Your freshman research project on street lights and pedestrian movement was selected for UB's Celebration of Academic Excellence; you mentored students in UB's Undergraduate Academies; and you volunteered for the Educational Opportunity Program — all within your first year at UB. Where does this drive come from?

/ My life has always been about time. When I was 16, my right eye was seriously injured, to the point I almost lost my vision. Even after surgery, I still had split vision. I decided that maybe if I got into table tennis, which requires you to focus and follow the ball, I could strengthen my eye. By my freshman year in college, my vision had nearly fully recovered. The doctors said it was a miracle recovery. Also, when I was in seventh grade, I was diagnosed with a serious chronic illness. So, for me, every day is sacred. It's about how you make the most out of what you have. How do I do something, learn it well, and learn it fast so I can move forward?

It took you until your junior year to finally decide to pursue architecture. How did you come to this decision?

/ During my junior year I took a course with [Assistant Professor] Martha Bohm on building systems and technologies, which involved a complex computer program. I learned the essential skills and came to class with 10 different façade iterations for the assignment that played with light and surface reflectivity. But other students were struggling. I became the tutor and went around class helping other students with calculations and program settings. That's when I started to say, "Hey, I really like this. This is fun." I put all my energy into it and began to exceed my own expectations. Also, Kenneth MacKay [clinical associate professor of architecture and one of Ung's thesis advisors] has always been a mentor to me and really pushed my interest in vision and lighting design.

Tell us more about your thesis research?

/ My thesis is currently revolving around the fields of vision and lighting and their relationship to architecture. I'm interested in the moment of discovery whereby one becomes aware of the influences of one's own actions through perceptual recognition, and how that in turn influences future behavior or interactions within a space. My current research falls under the fields of physics, physiology of the eye and perceptual psychology. My explorations have been through physical models that place a pool of dyed water within a space with direct sunlight and analyzed reflections and refractions of light bouncing off of the surfaces of the water and refracting through the medium. My expected outcome from this thesis is a full-scale or body-scale installation within an existing space that uses forces around the space — sound, vibrations or movement — that cause the surface of the liquid to ripple and reflect and refract direct sunlight on surface(s) in the space. My hope is to make people notice and realize that there are forces all around us that are invisible to the eye. We take part by contributing forces of our own to a space. I would like people to experience the installation and look away at the things that occur and capture them in that moment by constructing an experience that goes beyond explanation.

Most recently, you started the UB chapter of the National Organization for Minority Architecture Students and now serve as its president. How did this evolve?

/ Well, I was frustrated that the architects I see are always someone who I don't see myself in. I decided to explore this issue through my professional practice course, research that was encouraged and directed by Professor MacKay. I interviewed architects in Buffalo, New York City and other places, and saw that there are up-and-coming minority architects, but they just aren't seen. So I decided to use my leadership skills to start a NOMAS chapter at UB, along with several other minority students here in the program. Within a month, we gained enough interest and membership to form a chapter. We couldn't have formed our chapter without Beth Tauke and Shannon Phillips, who pushed for funding, provided organizing support and continue to serve as mentors. Also, Professor MacKay has helped arrange field trips to area firms, which expose our members to the many opportunities that are out there. We recently attended the NOMA conference in Detroit and designed a submission for the ARCHMedium competition. Reaching out like that and seeing these things first-hand is so important to success.

You never waste a crisis and always seem to turn lemons into lemonade. Through NOMAS, as a teaching assistant for freshman studio, and throughout your many years of mentoring at UB, how have you helped others find the same strength?

/ I have to help others. I have always tried to do something that would benefit both myself and someone else. Challenges can also help you spring forward and beyond. That's what I try to teach my freshmen [architecture students] — that you should go for something unattainable, hold onto it, and make it attainable.



/ Timothy Ung (back row, third from left), a student in the MArch program, also serves as a mentor and teaching assistant for freshman studio. "I have to help others," he says. Here, Ung and his students are on a recent tour of Buffalo's landmarks.

/ Photo by Mohan Lin

Class Notes

Tell us what you're up to

Visit us at ap.buffalo.edu/signup.asp to update your alumni profile.

Email us at ap-alumni@buffalo.edu with any questions. We can't wait to hear from you!

Paul Laseau / MArch '71 "I am professor emeritus at the College of Architecture & Planning, Ball State University, and have authored Watercolor Sketching and Freehand Sketching, W.V. Norton & Co., in 2012 and 2003, respectively, as well as co-authored Visual Notes 2ed, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., in 2011."

Timothy Frank / BArch '73 "Retired three years ago, if you want to call it that. The phone keeps ringing and I am often being called to consult. Worked for over 20 years as the director of planning and architectural review for the Town of Palm Beach, Florida. Of my four daughters, two are married (one a nurse at Roswell Park Cancer Institute in Buffalo and the other a math teacher in the Atlanta, GA, area), while the other two daughters attend universities in Florida. I visit Buffalo often and hope to soon split my time between Florida and Western New York."

Paul Bongiovanni / BPS '82 "I am working as a senior estimator for Suffolk Construction in Boston, in the education and health care sectors."

Michael Smith / BPS '83 "Retired from City of Batavia Building Department after 36 years; currently with Genesee ARC serving in position of trash/recycling coordinator and have been there for 2 1/2 years."

Christopher Gorthy / BPS '99 "I have been utilizing the problem-solving skills and theories taught at UB's architecture program for 13 years now in the commercial construction industry. Working primarily in the Mid-Atlantic area for DPR Construction, ranked #13 in Fortune Magazine's 2012 list of the best companies to work for. My current role is preconstruction manager overseeing about \$300 million dollars annually, and my secondary role and passion is working with a few others nationally to steer our sustainability initiatives."

T. Andrew Hinterman / MArch '03, BPS '99 "After graduating I moved to Boston where I've worked for two firms, specializing in single-family residential work. In 2008 I became licensed, in 2011 I became a LEED-H accredited professional, and in 2012 one of my projects reached LEED-H Gold."

Joseph McCabe / MArch '03, BPS '01 "In spring of 2012, I moved from director of construction at The Hamister Group, Buffalo, NY — a Western New York hotel and health care developer — to pursue new opportunities in simultaneous roles as a development manager with both Carolina Project Equities (Raleigh, NC) and The NRP Group LLC (Cleveland, OH) — one of the largest multi-family home builders in North America. I am currently leading development efforts in several states to break ground on a series of projects utilizing over \$40 million dollars in federal and state tax credit incentives for the construction of new low-income housing."

Meagan Baco / Environmental Design BA '06 "After two years as a preservation specialist with Clinton Brown Company Architecture in Buffalo, I recently moved to Washington, DC, to work on federal-level grassroots advocacy with Preservation Action. I was recently honored by Buffalo Business First's 30 Under 30 class and continue to operate Histpres.com, a nationally popular blog for young preservationists."

Mark Sadowski / Architecture BS '06 "After completing my degree at UB, I worked at a design-build A/E firm in Buffalo for one year. I then moved to New York to join a 90-person architecture firm, working on large-scale, high-end residential projects. Upon completing my IDP, I decided to switch gears and head back to school for a Master's of Construction Management and a master's degree in Real Estate Development at New York University. I have now been working as a resident engineer for Tectonic Engineering for almost three years. I manage a team of people and am in charge of projects ranging between \$50 million–\$100 million. I have also opened and began developing my own firm, mStudiosArchitecture LLC, offering feasibility study services for developers and investors."

Ana Hernandez-Balzac / MUP '07 "For the past two years I've been serving as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Mexico. I have been working in the State of Puebla with SEMARNAT, the Mexican federal government agency charged with environmental protection and conservation. My job has been to assist the environmental education department chief with strategic and organizational planning, management of the grant funding program, management of an environmental certification program for schools, teacher-training workshops and interns. I've had the opportunity to travel extensively and share my cross-cultural experiences with both Mexicans and Americans. In fact, last April I talked about my experience as a planner working abroad at the APA National Conference in Los Angeles. I also have a photo blog on Flickr: flickr.com/photos/anhernandezbalzac/sets/72157632014605474/. I'm now getting ready to return and readapt to life in the U.S. I look forward to continuing my career in planning with a focus on environmental issues, participation and capacity-building."

Kathy (Petrinec) Callesto / MArch '08 "I am working at Cannon Design as an architect in the health care department. Recently licensed in August 2012, I represented Cannon's Open Hand Studio during a pro-bono panel discussion at the School of Architecture and Planning's Beyond Patronage Symposium last fall, presenting the work of the firm and Grand Island's Bethany Camp project in Sinclairville, NY."

Robert Jones / MUP '08, Environmental Design BA '06 "After working for four years as a transportation planner in Colorado, I've recently started to pursue my PhD at the University of Maryland. My current research focuses on transportation economics and equity planning in transit."

John Loercher / Architecture BS '09 "I received my MArch from Parsons the New School for Design in 2011 and was hired immediately after as the summer instructor for the Design Workshop, a program that provides pro-bono architectural design/build services to not-for-profit organizations across the United States. In this position I provided instruction to Parsons' students in creating construction document sets and oversaw the construction of "Splash House" at the Highbridge Park pool in Washington Heights, NY. I now work at LTL Architects in Manhattan where I have been employed since November 2011."

Michael Bouwmeester / Environmental Design BA '11 "In July 2012 I accepted a part-time position at Ingalls Planning and Design, a Rochester-area planning firm. I work on comprehensive plans, Local Waterfront Revitalization Programs and many other projects for communities in New York and Pennsylvania. Later this year, I had the privilege of guest-lecturing in PD 360. I felt at home on campus, and I look forward to returning again."

April Hickey / Environmental Design BA '11 "Currently working finishing a Master of City and Regional Planning and Master of Engineering in Transportation Engineering at California Polytechnic San Luis Obispo. Also working as an engineering design trainee with San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency's Transit Engineering Department. Current projects include the Transit Effectiveness Project and evaluating automatic vehicle location technology and its relationship to on-time performance of light rail transit. Also working as a consultant on the General Plan Update Project in Clearlake, California."

Alumni News

Michael Tunkey / BPS '00, Cannon Design principal and head of the firm's Shanghai office, is curator of (un)Made in China, an exhibit presenting 12 unrealized projects by international architects working in China. Interviews with the architects detail their experiences with Chinese developers and clients and reveal factors behind project failure, from superstitious clients to language barriers. The exhibit was recently shown at Beijing Design Week and will now travel to Europe and North America.

Five 2012 graduates — Courtney Creenan, Kyle Mastalinski and Daniel Nead of the MArch/MUP program, and Scott Selin and Lisa Stern of the MArch program — continue to receive international recognition for their design of "Elevator B," a 22-foot tower that houses a massive colony of bees next to the grain elevators of Buffalo's Silo City. The project is also the recipient of the 2012 Pro Bono Publico Award from the Buffalo Architecture Foundation. The tower is sheathed in perforated stainless steel panels that shimmer in the sun and protect the bees from the elements. It's become a landmark in Buffalo's industrial corridor, with many coming to view the growing hive. The project is the result of a design competition organized by the school's Ecological Practices Graduate Research Group, with sponsorship from Rigidized Metals.

The Buffalo Bike Share program, envisioned out of a Department of Urban and Regional Planning studio project that partnered with Buffalo Car Share and its founder, Creighton Randall / MUP '10, has received start-up funding. The University at Buffalo is piloting the program with the "Bike Share at UB" program, launched this past fall.

Andrew Perkins and Matthieu Bain, 2012 graduates of the MArch program, continue their exploration of ecologically responsible design in Flint, MI, where they are partnering with the Flint Public Art Project to transform a long-abandoned mortuary into an art house using only recycled or reclaimed materials. The project builds off their survivalist architecture thesis project, "Dwelling on Waste," which similarly restored an abandoned house on Buffalo's East Side. "This series of projects is an investigation into consumerism and the indifference to waste which has become so prevalent in modern culture," Bain and Perkins write on their project's blog, (dwellingonwasteflint.blogspot.com). "This type of design-build is an encouragement of self-sufficiency, an argument against static space, and most importantly a re-evaluation of 'trash.'"



/ LEFT
Kyle Mastalinski and
Scott Selin install Elevator B
in Buffalo's Silo City

/ Photo by Douglas Levere

/ RIGHT
Perkins' and Bain's MArch thesis —
Dwelling on Waste — now has
a part II, in Flint, MI

/ Photo by Andrew Perkins





/ Buffalo in Sudan
Manon Jokaleu, a 2011 graduate of the MUP program (standing left), holds a public meeting in his capacity as project officer for a U.S. Agency for International Development project to improve delivery of government services in recently independent South Sudan.

**Buffalo
in New York**

Did you know the Buffalo School's greatest concentration of alumni is in the tri-state region surrounding New York City?

This spring, we're pulling together some of our most accomplished graduates from this area as we launch "Buffalo in New York."

The program will feature a "Speakers Bureau" of our top New York alumni with a series of continuing education-awarding lectures and seminars. New York alumni will also have the opportunity to engage in a new network for student and alumni mentoring while fostering opportunities for recruitment of top talent to your firms and our school.

Please join us!

Interested in taking part? Contact ap-alumni@buffalo.edu for more information. And stay tuned as our "Buffalo in..." program comes to a city near you.

Looking Back...And Ahead with our Founding

Dean, John P. Eberhard

Revolutionary Thinker and Educator Returns to Campus to Deliver 40th Commencement Address, Receive 2012 Dean's Medal

The School of Architecture and Planning welcomed its founding dean, John P. Eberhard, FAIA, as the honored guest of its 2012 Commencement, a unique opportunity to reflect on the school's origins while looking ahead to the future with our 40th graduating class.

It was the late 1960s, a time of political and social unrest for our country, when John Eberhard came to UB to form the "School of Architecture and Environmental Design." Directly challenging the conventional model of design education at the time, the program married the study of design with the sciences, technology, economics and sociology. John Eberhard and the pioneering students and faculty who joined in his experiment endowed our school with a bold, restless spirit that endures today.

Over the course of his career — from academia to government — John Eberhard has made extraordinary contributions to society, including groundbreaking research on neuroscience and human responses to the built environment. He has published extensively on the topic and in 2003 formed the Academy of Neuroscience for Architecture. In recognition of John Eberhard's inspiring contributions to our school, the discipline of architecture and the betterment of society, Dean Robert G. Shibley presented John Eberhard with the 2012 Dean's Medal.

Don't be discouraged by the market for traditional architecture at the moment, but expand your vision for the future. Always remember you have within you the spirit, patience and passion to reach for the stars and change the world.

— John P. Eberhard, FAIA, addressing members of our 40th graduating class



/ ABOVE
Many of the pioneering students and faculty who joined our founding dean, John P. Eberhard, in his experiment more than 40 years ago traveled to UB to participate in our 2012 commencement celebration.

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/ RIGHT
"Today we recognize your lifetime of achievements and inspiring contributions to our school, the discipline of architecture and the betterment of society." — Dean Robert G. Shibley, in presenting the 2012 Dean's Medal to the school's founding dean, John P. Eberhard.

/ Photo by Dylan Buyskes



Honor Roll

The School of Architecture and Planning would like to thank each and every one of our fiscal year 2012 Eberhard Society members

The Eberhard Society, named for our school's first dean, John P. Eberhard, is an elite group of alumni, friends and corporate supporters that share the school's vision and commitment to high-quality instruction, innovation in research and community service. Support of our annual fund in an amount of \$1,000 or more annually ensures our success in funding both what is necessary and what is possible. Our sincerest thanks and gratitude to these supporters from your development team at the School of Architecture and Planning.

Alumni

Miss Mari L. Cecil '86
Mr. William M. E. Clarkson
and Mrs. Elisabeth Hudnut Clarkson '73
Mr. & Mrs. Franklin Dickinson '85
Mr. & Mrs. Peter M. Hourihan '72
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher M. Martell '01
Mr. Andrew M. Proehl '86 and Ms. Anne Muldoon
Mr. and Ms. Douglas G. Swift '93
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas V. Tiedeman '73
Dr. Cheryl A. Wendelken '80
Mr. Edward Scott Willis '98
and Mrs. Tricia I. Kerney-Willis '98

Friends

Ms. Lori Duckstein
Mr. Roy A. Euker
Mrs. Viviane Jammal
Mr. Giles Kavanagh
Ms. Doris Schmitz
Dean Robert Shibley
Professor Emerita Lynda Schneekloth



Tim, Mike, Betty, Brittany, & Donna



Thanks to you,

I've broadened my professional playing field.

Ann Brozek stopped work as a junior architect to enroll in UB's dual-degree graduate program in architecture and business, and earned dual UB scholarships that helped her focus on her top priority: doing well in school. Brozek also hopes to participate in a U.S. Department of Defense program that designs and builds shelters for disaster-stricken regions. **The best reason to support UB is what students like Ann will do in the future.**

The best public universities have the strongest private support. www.giving.buffalo.edu

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