

# NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO'S SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING

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Together  
we ask,  
'Why?'

LEFT: Freshman studio holds class at "Why?", a public art project by UB alum Michael Beitz installed on the South Campus as part of UB's "Small Spaces" initiative. The 40-by-20 question mark-shaped picnic table can seat about 60 and serves as a place to meet and question things, according to Beitz. "What could be more important at the present moment than to be critical in looking for points of unity and gathering?" Photo by Douglas Levere

ON THE COVER: Cutting the ribbon to formally reopen Hayes Hall are, from left, Madeline Burke-Vigeland, chair of the school's Dean's Council; Micaela Barker, a dual master's student in architecture and urban planning; UB Provost Charles F. Zukoski; Assemblywoman Crystal Peoples-Stokes; UB President Satish K. Tripathi; Dean Robert Shibley; Buffalo Mayor Byron Brown; faculty member Kerry Traynor; and architect Valerie Christianson of Bergmann Associates. Photo by Douglas Levere



Dean Robert Shibley invites guests inside Hayes Hall after the Grand Reopening Ceremony on Sept. 23, 2016.  
Photo by Douglas Levere

### Welcome to a new era

WELCOME

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FROM

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THE DEAN

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ROBERT G. SHIBLEY  
FAIA, FAICP

The School of Architecture and Planning has entered a new era with the reopening of Hayes Hall, our historic home on UB's South Campus. The culmination of a \$44 million, five-year renovation that included a complete exterior restoration and reimagining of the interior, Hayes Hall today offers us the best of the old and the best of the new.

On Sept. 23–24, 2016, we celebrated the reopening of Hayes Hall with hundreds of alumni, friends, faculty, students and members of our university and surrounding community. It was a grand affair that showed just how beloved Hayes Hall is to our community. Indeed, it is a spectacular facility fully equipped to support our teaching, research and service in the place-making professions.

The Grand Reopening also kicked off our 50th anniversary, setting the stage for a packed program of events on the history and work of our school. With our fully renewed Hayes Hall and the energy of those gathered within as inspiration, we looked ahead to the next 50 years — and the imperative to mobilize our professions on the grand challenges of our time. Provoking and informing this very conversation are the stories herein — from new research in energy-efficient façades to global capacity-building in food systems planning.

It is a momentous time for the school and the disciplines and communities we serve. The conversations had at the Hayes Hall reopening made clear this sense of urgency is shared widely by our alumni and friends. All of this represents an opportunity to move forward together with renewed focus and energy. We look forward to continuing the conversation with you as we set the agenda for the next half-century of the School of Architecture and Planning.

# SPECIAL FEATURE:

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## WELCOME TO THE NEW HAYES HALL

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WE ARE PLEASED TO SHARE THE FOLLOWING RECAP OF THE HAYES HALL GRAND REOPENING CELEBRATION, A MOMENTOUS EVENT FOR THE UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO, THE SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING, AND THE COMMUNITIES WE SERVE. THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE WHO PARTICIPATED FROM NEAR AND FAR.

### Reactions from the crowd

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Spectacular, magnificent, glorious, remarkable. The adjectives and superlatives for Hayes Hall flowed freely – and often – at the reopening celebration as members of the UB and surrounding community reacted to the fully renewed historic landmark. Here's a selection of what we heard:

Micaela Barker (MArch/MUP '17) called upon her fellow students with the following 'assignment': "Fill the building with your hard work and keep it filled.

CELEBRATE YOUR WORK OFTEN, TOGETHER, AND INVITE THE OUTSIDE WORLD TO SEE IT...DO NOT BE AFRAID TO TAKE AN ACTIVE ROLE IN HOW THIS BUILDING'S CULTURE IS DEFINED OVER THE NEXT YEAR."

I have a strong feeling that a school of architecture and planning should be located in a well-designed building. It should be inspirational to students, and this is," says David Crowther (MArch '16).

Stephanie Johnston (MArch '85, BPS '83), a sole practitioner in Long Island:

..."I ALMOST FEEL LIKE WE HAVE A BRAND NEW BUILDING HIDDEN IN THE SHELL OF THE OLD BUILDING, AND I LOVE THEM BOTH."

Randy Asher (BS '95), a member of the school's Dean's Council who has worked in New York City schools for over 20 years: "I know I'll tell my students this is better than anything else out there." Noting the writable and pin-up ready walls, he added:

..."THERE'S AN ELEGANCE IN ITS SIMPLICITY...THEY DESIGNED IT TO ENCOURAGE STUDENTS TO DRAW AS THEY THINK."

Stephanie Hiller (MArch '04, Architecture BS '02), of the State University Construction Fund, pictured, left, with Kelly Hayes-McAlonie, director of UB's Capital Planning Group, provided project leadership throughout the five-year renovation. Says Hiller, associate project coordinator with SUCF: "I stood in Hayes Hall when it was just stone. It was amazing to see how it was built, to see the guts of the building from the inside.

...EVERYONE WHO WORKED ON THIS PROJECT FELT CONNECTED TO PRESERVING AS MUCH OF ITS HISTORY AS THEY COULD."

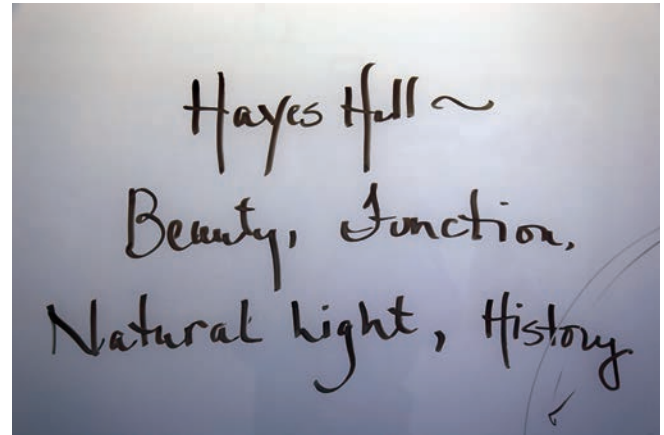
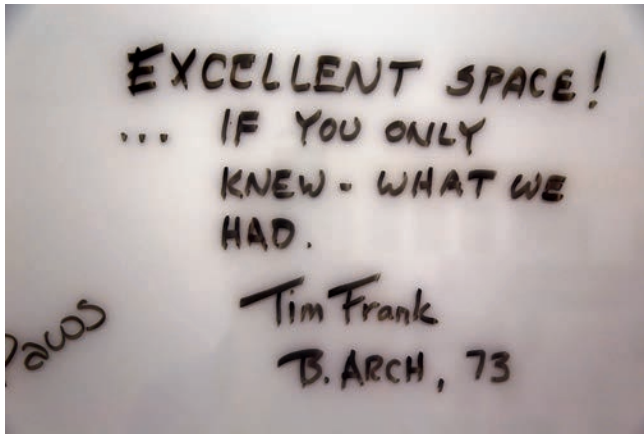


RENEWAL OF HAYES HALL IS A  
CELEBRATION OF US AND OUR MEMORIES,  
HAYES HALL IS US!

## Leaving Our Mark

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To capture the spirit and sentiment of the Hayes Hall reopening events, we curated our writable walls as a building-wide “guest book.” Guests were invited to leave their mark — to reflect, draw, write, and participate in the making of our space in Hayes Hall. What we got in return was inspirational.



## From the podium

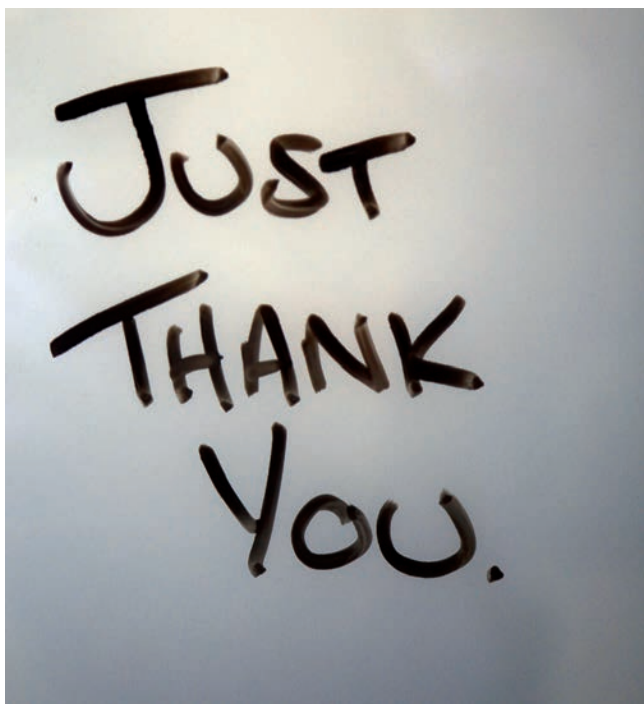
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“TODAY IS A GREAT DAY FOR UB  
AND A GREAT DAY FOR THE CITY  
OF BUFFALO.”

– City of Buffalo Mayor Byron Brown

“AS A LEADING 21ST-CENTURY PUBLIC  
RESEARCH UNIVERSITY, WE HAVE  
IMAGINED OUR FUTURE, PLANNED  
FOR IT AND, WORKING TOGETHER,  
WE ARE BUILDING IT. WHILE WE  
HAVE RESTORED HAYES HALL TO ITS  
GRANDEUR, IT IS ALSO NOW A 21ST-  
CENTURY LEARNING ENVIRONMENT  
FOR OUR ARCHITECTURE AND  
PLANNING STUDENTS AND FACULTY.”

– President Satish K. Tripathi, who joked that he wished his office was located in Hayes Hall





## Hayes Hall Restored, Renewed, Reimagined

### The day in photos

(TOP LEFT) Banners unfurled, Hayes Hall gleams in the sunlight on Sept. 23, 2016. Its successful nomination to the National Register of Historic Places recognizes this latest restoration and the architectural evolution of the 19th century landmark, originally constructed as the Department of the Insane for the Erie County Almshouse. Preservation highlights include a fully repointed limestone exterior, the reinstatement of 40 altered or bricked-in windows, and the restoration of the tower clock's mechanisms.

(MIDDLE LEFT) Guests explore student work in Hayes Hall's fourth floor studios. Formerly closed off, the skylit studios are today some of the building's most sought-after spaces. Photo by Douglas Levere

(BOTTOM LEFT) Members of the university and surrounding community come together in the Hayes Hall entry Gallery, now a signature public exhibit and event space. Faculty and student work are on constant display through the Gallery's full-wall digital projection system. Photo by Douglas Levere

(BOTTOM RIGHT) Fully animated for the reopening, Hayes Hall's exhibit-ready walls were designed as a canvas for faculty and student work. The transformation of the building's notoriously dark corridors to dynamic, daylit spaces also reflects the renovation's successful use of daylighting, a key factor in Hayes Hall's LEED Gold Certification. Photo by Joe Cascio



**MISSED THE REOPENING? WATCH THE FACEBOOK LIVE TOUR OF HAYES HALL WITH DEAN SHIBLEY AND VALERIE CHRISTIANSON, PROJECT LEAD FOR RENOVATION ARCHITECT BERGMANN ASSOCIATES:**

<http://y2u.be/Q7YkrzHKfWo>

**MORE PHOTOS AT:**

[ap.buffalo.edu/HayesHall2016](http://ap.buffalo.edu/HayesHall2016)



BELOW / TOP LEFT: Samina Raja (second from right), associate professor of urban planning, leads a panel discussion on 'Designing and Planning for Equity,' one of six symposium sessions exploring questions of persistent relevance to our professions. Photo by Joe Cascio

BELOW / TOP RIGHT: The breakout session on 'A Culture of Making' addressed the school's design/build ethos and its generation of contemporary innovations in material behavior and performance. Photo by Joe Cascio

BELOW / BOTTOM LEFT: Bradshaw Hovey, research professor of urban planning, documents the conversation during the reopening's community forum. Hovey is also writing a book on the 50-year history of the school. Share your memories, photos and materials with him at [bhovey@buffalo.edu](mailto:bhovey@buffalo.edu) Photo by Alex Becker

BELOW / BOTTOM RIGHT: Alumnus Albert Chao (MArch/ MFA '11), now an architect based in New York City, offers his thoughts on future directions for the school during the community forum. Photo by Alex Becker

## Looking forward, looking back

After the ribbon-cutting and tours, participants filed into the auditorium of Hayes Hall to explore the legacy of the 'School of Architecture and Environmental Design,' formed out of the tumult of the late 1960s to approach design in relationship to broad societal dynamics. With alumni from across the eras, we considered the trajectory of the school's pedagogy and work on questions of persistent relevance to our disciplines — from expanding modes of practice to planning for equity and social justice to research in education and practice.

— Listen to the conversations at [ap.buffalo.edu/hayeshall2016](http://ap.buffalo.edu/hayeshall2016)

## Community conversation — the next 50 years

Alumni, faculty and students gathered to consider the role of our school in relationship to pressing challenges facing our region, nation and planet — from climate change and social justice to material innovation. We discussed opportunities to engage with alumni and diverse public audiences to drive change. This was the start of a conversation that will continue over three years as we mark a series of 50th anniversaries: the founding of our school by the State University of New York (1967), the hiring of the school's first dean and faculty (1968), and the convening of its first class of students (1969). We'll be looking to you — our colleagues, former students, and partners in the community and professions — to help us shape and mobilize a new agenda for the School of Architecture and Planning.

— Share your thoughts at [ap-externalaffairs@buffalo.edu](mailto:ap-externalaffairs@buffalo.edu)





LEFT: The Harold L. Cohen Reading Room acknowledges the generous support of the school's former dean (1974-84). Dean Cohen helped complete the school's move into Hayes Hall in 1977, founded the Friends of the School of Architecture and Planning and led recruitment efforts that nearly doubled the school's faculty and staff. Additional donors to the Reading Room are Ruth Bryant and Earl Lynch, Molly and David Quackenbush, and Dean Robert Shibley and Lynda Schneckloth. Photo by Joe Cascio

## Thank you for your support

The five-year renovation of Hayes Hall was a monumental and milestone effort for the university, school and community. From generous donations from alumni and friends to gifts and in-kind support from organizations in the community, a broad base of individuals and organizations have provided critical support to make possible the transformative renewal of Hayes Hall. In all, more than 250 donors have generously contributed to the renovation and fit-out of Hayes Hall. Major capital donors have been honored with named spaces throughout the building. All donors are listed on our donor wall on the fourth floor outside of our grand lecture hall.

BELOW: Professor Henry Taylor in his Hayes Hall office. Photo by Douglas Levere



### Major capital donors (providing gifts, pledges or in-kind support of \$10,000 or more)

Architectural Resources  
 Boston Valley Terra Cotta  
 Mr. Marc E. Bruffett, BA '92  
 Edward H. Butler Foundation  
 Ms. Lori Duckstein  
 Dr. Beverly Foit Albert-Cox, MArch '75  
 + Mr. Joseph D. Cox, MA '96  
 Mrs. Diane T. Georgopoulos, BA '73  
 Mr. Frank C. Gramieri, BPS '83  
 Mr. Peter M. Hourihan, MArch '71 + Mrs. Judith E. Hourihan Hyatt's – All Things Creative  
 Mr. Gary J. Jastrzab, BA '76, BA '76 + Mrs. Wendy Jastrzab  
 Louis P. Ciminelli Family Foundation  
 Mr. Alexander S. Morris, MArch '94, BPS '91  
 Mr. Mark W. Nusbaum, MArch '85, BPS '83  
 Mr. David S. Quackenbush + Mrs. Molly L. Quackenbush  
 Rigidized Metals Corporation  
 Mr. Robert G. Shibley + Mrs. Lynda H. Schneckloth

Add your name to the Hayes Hall donor wall  
 Contact Robert Hill at [rrhill2@buffalo.edu](mailto:rrhill2@buffalo.edu) or 716-829-3973



# ALUMNI PROFILE

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## TRAINING STATION

ARCHITECT MICHAEL GARZ (BA '72) HAS MANAGED DESIGN FOR THE WORLD TRADE CENTER TRANSPORTATION HUB, GUIDED BY LESSONS LEARNED AT UB

### By Nalina Moses

What could possibly prepare an architect to lead a project like The World Trade Center Transportation Hub? This new station is one of the biggest, most complicated, and politically-charged building projects in New York City's history. Built on the site of the former Twin Towers in lower Manhattan, its program joins 11 city subway lines, commuter PATH trains to and from New Jersey, a web of pedestrian passages, a high-end shopping mall, an underground parking garage, and an expansive public plaza. Its centerpiece is a bracingly contemporary main hall, designed by famed architect and structural engineer Santiago Calatrava, that's composed of curving white steel ribs nearly two hundred feet high.

Yet as architect-of-record for the Hub, Michael Garz, senior vice president at STV and regional director of its buildings and facilities division, says that his training at UB prepared him well to face the project's one-of-a-kind technical and administrative challenges.

Garz is a native New Yorker. He was born in Brooklyn, just a few miles from the site, and grew up just outside the city in Long Island. He came to Buffalo in 1968 to study aerospace engineering but switched to the School of Architecture and Environmental Design his junior year, graduating with its first class in 1972. The curriculum had a distinctly pragmatic bent, teaching architecture as a tool to grapple with real-world problems rather than a language for sophisticated form-making. Garz says, "The key was learning how to think about problems and not, as my engineering background had taught me, about solutions. That became a real key to the way I approached my entire career." He summarizes the methodology like this: "Define the problem, set objectives, determine the criteria, and develop alternative solutions at each decision-making point."

The new department had an energetic, informal spirit. Garz attended some classes in a former bar on Bailey Avenue, with stools set out on risers and students sprawled on the floor. With fondness, he describes the core faculty, which included Michael Brill, Terry Collison, George Borowsky, Richard Chalmers, and Ibrahim Jammal, as "a funky collection of individuals." And he smiles when recalling the nights Jammal and his wife opened their beautifully appointed home to students for food, drink and mind-expanding debates.



ABOVE: Alumnus Michael Garz (BA '72) shared his journey in managing design of the World Trade Center Transportation Hub for the past 12 years as our featured lecture during the Hayes Hall Grand Reopening.

RIGHT: Design management for one of the biggest, most complicated, and politically-charged building projects in New York City's history has required nimble – and fearless – planning and decision making from Garz and his team. Photo by John Emerson



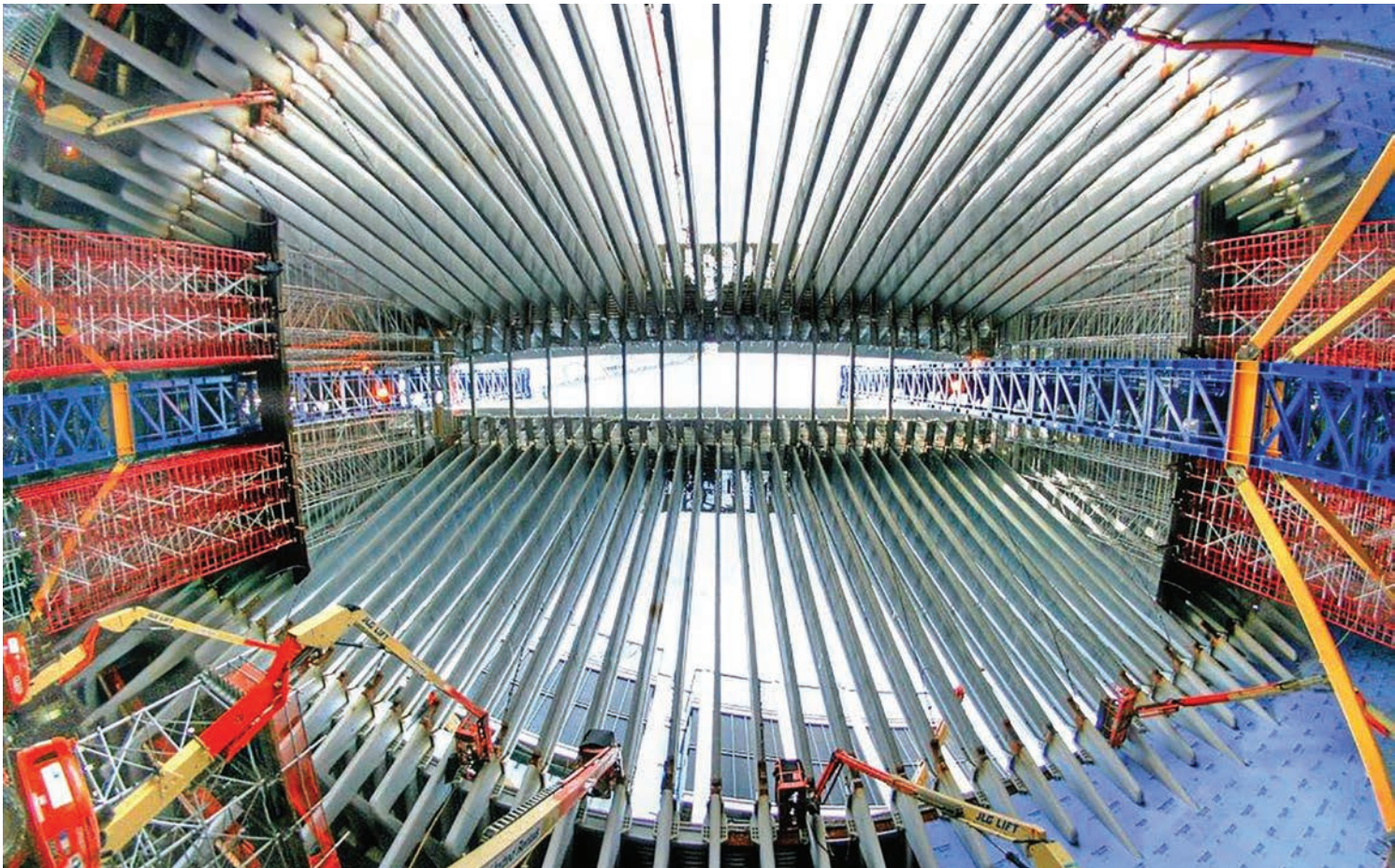
Garz went on to earn his MARCH at the University of Pennsylvania and work at a number of well-known design firms in Philadelphia. But he never settled into the traditional architect's role. From the start, he says, "I knew I had more impact on the outcome of a project not by being a designer, but by being a manager." He developed talents for bridging architectural and engineering concerns, and for executing large-scale planning projects with multiple programs, structures and stakeholders. He led teams that completed downtown revitalization projects in Norfolk and Richmond, Va., and Atlantic City's Convention Center/Rail Terminal.

Those projects were just a warm-up for the Transportation Hub. Carrying this enormous, highly publicized project to completion required nimble, fearless planning and decision-making. Parts of the Hub's below-ground concourses and passageways sit directly below the Memorial Garden and the 9/11 Museum, which were being constructed at the same time, with overlapping supports. Pieces of the Hub's design were unraveled when New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg demanded that the Memorial Garden be prioritized to open in time for the 10th anniversary of the attacks, and then again when foundations for the Museum were located. Later, tracks for the #1 subway line, with trains running over them, had to be pinned in place from below while an underground concourse was excavated around them.

Even more daunting than the technical challenges were the political ones. "There was a real army of organizations involved," says Garz. Key players included Calatrava, the building's owner (the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey), the site's master planner Daniel Libeskind, the general contractor, a construction management firm, and a major retail tenant. Community, city, state and federal authorities, including Homeland Security and the New York City Police and Fire Departments, each imposed unique safety requirements. Garz remembers one particular meeting attended by Calatrava, the Police Commissioner, and Homeland Security officials, at which Mayor Bloomberg plied the design team with technical questions about the properties of glass and steel.

The most demanding stakeholders might have been New Yorkers, who remember the attacks vividly, consider the site hallowed ground, and remain stubbornly nostalgic for the quiet, platonic forms of the Twin Towers. Initial reactions to Calatrava's dramatic, biomorphic building were positive. Yet, as the project drew on and costs mounted, the Hub was later denounced as folly, a misuse of funds and an insult to those who died on 9/11.

BELOW: The \$4 billion World Trade Center Transportation Hub and its signature Oculus under construction. Photo courtesy of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey



But when the main hall opened in March, even the most cynical observers agreed that the singular structure marks the site indelibly. In a neighborhood packed with anonymous glass skyscrapers, Calatrava's design has a welcoming sculptural, animal-like presence. When glimpsed partially, through side streets, its raised, outstretched roof ribs recall a dove taking flight. The structure is significantly lower than the office towers around it, opening the sky above and the plaza below. It's quickly become a city landmark and a popular tourist destination. Garz first understood this when his daughter, a Brooklynite, told him, "It's the city's number one selfie spot!"

From inside, the hall's heightened proportions, gently arching frame, and expansive white marble floor impart a sense of timelessness and calm. A skylight along its high central spine allow a warm, diffuse light inside. The skylight will be opened, ceremonially, each year on the morning of 9/11, when sunlight will shine through directly. On a typical weekday even the most hurried commuters and distracted tourists move through with a heightened sense of this place, and of their own place, in the city and under the sky. They slow down, look up and around, and remember what happened here.

Garz' ties to UB have come full circle. He returned in September to deliver the keynote lecture at a symposium honoring the reopening of Hayes Hall and the 50th anniversary of the architecture program, offering his account of the rebuilding the World Trade Center site.

When asked how he led such a high-stakes project with such aplomb Garz states, without pride, "I'm not afraid to make decisions." He shares this advice with all architects, who can be notoriously finicky and controlling: "Realize that you are going to make mistakes. Trust your intuition, and always remember what your goal is. Even to this day I find myself returning to that key lesson from Buffalo, asking myself, What is the problem?"

**BELOW:** While public reactions to the dramatic, biomorphic building have been mixed, the structure has quickly become a city landmark and popular tourist destination.



# IN BRIEF

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ABOVE: Greg Delaney's award-winning studio, "Good Grids," drew upon students' first-hand experiences with the urban grid on a grand tour of 37 American cities across 19 states. Photo by Mahan Mehrvarz

## Students' 'late entries' to 1913 design competition earn national honor

An architecture studio conceived as a response to a century-old design competition on the urban grid has garnered national attention as a recipient of *Architect Magazine's* inaugural Studio Prize for excellence in studio curricula.

Directed by Gregory Delaney, clinical assistant professor of architecture, the "Good Grids" studio drew inspiration from a 1913 Chicago City Club ideas competition which sought to rethink — and re-energize — an urban grid that had grown formulaic in a rapidly growing turn-of-the-century America.

"Good Grids" was one of six studio projects to receive the *Architect Magazine* award, selected from a pool of 152 entries made by faculty from over 80 architecture and design programs across the U.S. Organized to recognize excellence in the studio course as "the bedrock of architecture education," the Studio Prize "provides a glimpse into the formation of ideas that will define architecture in the coming decades," according to *Architect Magazine*.

Part studio, part traveling classroom, "Good Grids" began with a five-week U.S. tour in summer 2015 to examine the diversity of the grid across 37 cities and 19 states, and concluded with the assembly and exhibition of student proposals to the 1913 competition.

Some of the students' plans contort Chicago's grid with curves and soft angles — adding an element of discovery or surprise in walking the grid. Another integrates the conventional elements of city and suburb — residential towers, perimeter blocks, cul-de-sacs, and megastructures — into concentric layers that dissolve the urban-suburban boundary. The award featured work from five students — David Lin, Asuka Fujita, Nicholas Traverse, Rachel Chen, and Patrick Niedzwiecki.

“All too often...the grid is admired solely for its rationality,” says Delaney. “These ‘late entries’ to the competition promote a reinvestigation of gridded urban form—one that’s driven not only by efficiency and economy, but by artistic principles and spatial experience as a return to the generation of urban ideas over formulas.”

### **Dennis Maher’s “A Second Home” is a Dreamscape of the House and Mind**

In an unassuming row house on Pittsburgh’s North Side, an architectural fantasy world consisting of thousands of found and altered objects — columns, drawers, dollhouses, cabinets and toys — extends throughout the walls, floors and ceilings.

This is “A Second Home,” a reconstitution of architectural fragments large and small by Buffalo artist-architect Dennis Maher in Pittsburgh’s Mattress Factory museum of contemporary art.

“I AM INTERESTED IN THE HOUSE AS A KIND OF ARCHITECTURAL MODEL THAT BRINGS TOGETHER MANY DIFFERENT SCALES AND PARTS OF OUR SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT. THE HOUSE MAGNIFIES THE CITY,” SAYS MAHER, A CLINICAL ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ARCHITECTURE WHO SPENT LAST SUMMER FORMING THE MINIATURE WORLDS OF MODEL BUILDINGS, ROOMS, FURNISHINGS AND CITYSCAPES.

**BELOW:** Dennis Maher’s “A Second Home” will remain on exhibit at the Mattress Factory in Pittsburgh over the next several years, evolving through collaborations with the museum and site-specific installations by Maher’s students. Photo by Tom Little, courtesy of Mattress Factory



BELOW TOP: As assistant professor of environmental planning, Zoe Hamstead will explore urban disparities in access to environmental resources and exposure to threats that include extreme heat events.

BELOW BOTTOM: Among the One Region Forward sustainable development plan's award-winning public engagement tactics were text-based surveys and interactive games at community events.

Maher's wonderland is also multi-sensory. Recordings of the house — from creaking doors to percussive play with its new components — resonate inside the space, creating a multi-layered, recursive dialogue between the house and its appended elements.

"A Second Home" is also, in a way, where Maher finds himself. His own home in Buffalo, The Fargo House, is perhaps his most prominent work of assembled architectural remains. Maher recently expanded his urban enterprise into an abandoned church in Buffalo, where he will partner with the Albright-Knox Art Gallery to train city residents in construction-related arts.

After its opening in August, "A Second Home" will continue to transform over the next two years through Maher's collaboration with the Mattress Factory and site-specific installations with his students.



### Welcome, Zoe Hamstead

Zoe Hamstead has joined the School of Architecture and Planning as assistant professor of environmental planning. Her research on urban sustainability and resilience assesses geographic disparities in access to environmental resources and exposure to environmental threats. Bridging urban planning, geography and urban and landscape ecology, she explores the biophysical, social and adaptive dimensions of vulnerability to extreme heat events. Hamstead is part of the multi-city UREx Project and the Northern Manhattan Climate Action Plan to support urban decision-making in the face of climate change. Hamstead is also among the first core faculty members in UB's RENEW Institute on energy and water. She holds a PhD in urban and public policy from The New School, a Master's degree in city and regional planning from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a bachelor's degree from St. John's College.

### One Region Forward receives national planning award

A sustainable development plan for the Buffalo Niagara region led by the UB Regional Institute was awarded a 2016 APA National Planning Achievement Award for Public Outreach. Perhaps its most significant outreach component is the One Region Forward Citizen Planning School, which has already trained more than 350 citizens to advance neighborhood-level sustainability initiatives. The program is now integrated into UB's Master of Urban Planning curriculum to advance teaching and practice in community-based planning. Other public outreach highlights included text message surveys on public transportation, land use, vacancy and food access; online forums on the same issues; and games and interactive activities at community events throughout the region.



NOTING THAT THE "TRADITIONAL PUBLIC MEETING IS DEAD," BART ROBERTS, PROJECT DIRECTOR FOR ONE REGION FORWARD AND UBRI'S ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH, SAID PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT HAS BEEN A FOCAL POINT OF THE EFFORT. "WE TESTED, ADAPTED AND INVENTED ALL SORTS OF TECHNIQUES DESIGNED TO INVOLVE PEOPLE WHO TYPICALLY DON'T SHOW UP TO COMMUNITY MEETINGS," SAID ROBERTS.



ABOVE: Dean Robert Shibley was inducted into the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Certified Planners at last year's national APA conference in Phoenix. Photo courtesy of the APA

### Shibley Elevated to FAICP

Dean Robert G. Shibley has been elected as a Fellow of the American Institute of Certified Planners. Nominated by the New York Upstate Chapter of the American Planning Association, Shibley is recognized for his planning leadership and community service over the past four decades, and for his role in advancing, championing and quietly leading the revitalization of Buffalo and Western New York. Election to the College of Fellows is one of the highest honors bestowed by the AICP. Shibley's election is made with particular acknowledgment of his leadership and advocacy of planning in service to the public. Fellows are elevated before the public and the profession as model planners who have made significant contributions to planning and society.

### Stratigakos heads to Institute for Advanced Study

UB architectural historian Despina Stratigakos is spending the 2016-17 academic year advancing her research on the architectural influences of Germany's Third Reich as a member of the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, one of the world's leading centers for "curiosity-driven" research and a bastion for academic freedom.

Stratigakos will focus her research on the massive construction schemes undertaken in Norway following Germany's invasion in 1940 and what they reveal the National Socialist vision of colonial territories in the postwar world Adolf Hitler imagined.

"Norway provides us with a unique view of what much of the world might have looked like had the Nazi regime succeeded in its global colonization plans: cities designed to enforce in their very structures Nazi ideology, vast transportation systems meant to move resources to the metropole, and special cities reserved for German occupiers...While it sounds like science fiction, this disturbing plan was partially realized in Norway, and remains a ghost presence in the Norwegian landscape."

As a historian and writer interested in the intersection of architecture and power, Stratigakos has produced award-winning scholarship including *Hitler at Home* (2015), *Where are the Women Architects* (2016) and *A Women's Berlin* (2008).

### Study Abroad Expands to Madrid

Students can now explore Madrid and the historic Catalonia region of Spain through summer study abroad. Led by Miguel Guitart, a visiting faculty member in architecture who also practices in Madrid, the program's opening session last summer featured "seeing and drawing" tours of the city, an in situ seminar on Modern and Contemporary Spanish Architects and weekly guest lecturers. Students incorporated their experiences into their studio project, a design concept for a "UB-SUNY Cultural Campus" in Madrid. Outside the studio, students savored the cultural and culinary scene of the Spanish capital and ventured beyond to the cities of Cadiz, Granada, Cordoba, Salamanca and Bilbao. A highlight of the 10-week program was the group's visit to the El Escorial Monastery complex built by King Phillip II in the late 16th century. The World Heritage Site is widely regarded as the most important architectural monument of the Spanish Renaissance.

LEFT: Students participating in the inaugural Madrid study abroad program took "seeing and drawing" tours of the city and developed concept for a "UB-SUNY Cultural Campus" in Madrid.





ABOVE: Joyce Hwang's "Bower" is a bird dwelling that also raises awareness of one of the most significant causes of bird mortality in urban areas — bird-glass collisions. It's installed at ArtPark in Lewiston, N.Y.

BELOW: Samina Raja and her Food Lab team traveled to Quito, Ecuador, this past fall to deliver food systems planning training to community leaders from around the world.

### Architecture for the birds (literally)

Architecture faculty member Joyce Hwang's latest creation is a bird-friendly public art installation that both promotes awareness of local avian species and calls attention to a common but often invisible peril: bird-glass window collisions.

"Bower" — co-designed by Hwang and New York City-based artist Ellen Driscoll and sited along a wooded trail in ArtPark in Lewiston, N.Y. — is a series of architectural fragments that host bird nesting boxes and feature custom-designed glass 'windows' composed of drawings and anti-bird-strike patterning.

The nesting boxes are designed to accommodate a variety of local bird species, such as chickadees, wrens, blue birds and purple martins. The window images are created from drawings that depict local bird species that have come to prefer human-made structures for nesting. The images in the windows are overlaid with a grid of dots to help prevent birds from colliding with the glass.

"Bird-glass collision is one of the most significant causes of bird mortality in urban areas. Yet, this condition is often overlooked," says Hwang, an associate professor of

architecture who explores relationships between the built environment and contemporary ecologies. "While there is a growing number of organizations that are beginning to address this issue through legislation, I think it is important for designers to more tangibly draw awareness to birds and their safety."

### Taking food systems planning to the world

UB's Food Systems Planning and Healthy Communities Lab delivered tools and techniques in community-based food systems planning to leaders from around the world as part of the Habitat III Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development in Quito, Ecuador. The global event hosted by the United Nations takes place only once every 20 years.

The standing room-only training session, conducted by UB's Food Lab and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), sought to fill a global gap in locally-driven food systems planning based on models of success in North America, particularly in Buffalo and Seattle.

FOOD LAB DIRECTOR SAMINA RAJA LED THE SESSION WITH SEVERAL MEMBERS OF HER RESEARCH TEAM. AMONG THEM WAS ALEXANDRA JUDELSON, A RECENT MUP GRAD: "I WAS HONORED TO PRESENT ON POLICIES PUT IN PLACE IN THE CITY OF BUFFALO AND WESTERN NEW YORK THAT SUPPORT OUR FOOD SYSTEM," SAYS JUDELSON. "IT WAS EXCITING TO TAKE MY EXPERIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE TO SUCH A SIGNIFICANT, GLOBAL EVENT."



The four-day Habitat III conference drew 40,000 world leaders, city mayors, academics and grassroots activists, among other participants, to ratify the New Urban Agenda to set global standards in sustainable urban development and rethink the way we build, manage, and live in cities. The urbanization stakes are high: Conference organizers estimate that by mid-century, 4 out of every 5 people in the world might be living in cities and towns.

Visit [foodsystemsplanning.ap.buffalo.edu](https://foodsystemsplanning.ap.buffalo.edu) to access training resources.





**ABOVE TOP:** Students walk the 15-mile Buffalo Belt Line as part of a preservation planning studio that explored the former passenger rail line's significance as a cultural landscape.

**ABOVE BELOW:** Students in Kerry Traynor's fall 2016 studio traversed almost the entire 13-mile Scajaquada Creek shoreline to collect field data and consider opportunities for daylighting.

### Uncovering cultural landscapes

Urban planning students have assumed an almost investigative role as they explore two of Buffalo's most historically significant — and hidden — landscapes: the Buffalo Belt Line, a former passenger rail line that loops the city almost unnoticed; and the Scajaquada Creek, a largely buried 13-mile stream whose shores trace the evolution of Buffalo.

The studies are the most recent in a series of preservation planning studios that seek to uncover the historic and cultural contexts of buildings and landscapes throughout Buffalo. Led by Kerry Traynor, a clinical assistant professor and practicing preservation planner, the studios have also examined historic neighborhoods in South Buffalo, Buffalo's grain elevator district and the Paul Rudolph-

designed Shoreline Apartments. The resulting studies have secured National Historic Register designations (e.g., for the grain elevators) and provided developers and city leaders with critical historic data and context-sensitive design guidelines. The staple of the Master of Urban Planning curriculum is also core to the school's new historic preservation specialization and certificate programs.

The fall 2015 study of Buffalo's Belt Line focused on the legacy of this 19th century rail loop, which slices through neighborhoods and former industrial corridors and over city streets via truss and beam bridges. Though 'hidden in plain sight,' Traynor says the Belt Line is arguably as important as Joseph Ellicott's radial street plan and the Olmsted park and parkway system in shaping the city's development, particularly its neighborhoods as industry spread outward via the passenger and freight line. Buffalo planners are now focusing on the industrial building stock along the line as the city's next frontier for walkable, mixed-use development.

Traynor's students' final plan included a comprehensive mapping of the loop, the identification of cultural zones and the development of land use and urban design proposals, from signage systems to linear parks, to forge stronger physical and cultural connections to the landscape.



Photo of joggers on path courtesy of the b-linebroker.com



Photo courtesy of ArtsATL.com



Among these was Robert Sozanski's (MUP '16) proposal for public art installations along the entirety of the corridor. Including didactic murals, site-specific sculpture and interpretive urban design, the series would tell a story of the Belt Line and create new points of engagement for the public.

Robert Sozanski, who is forming a nonprofit to develop his plan, illustrates his concept: An underpass near the Northland industrial corridor celebrates African-American contributions to the post-war industrial boom on Buffalo's East Side (BOTTOM/MIDDLE). A naturalized former rail spur along the Exchange Street corridor, just south of downtown, becomes a public pathway framed in visual art (ABOVE).

Students spent fall 2016 studying Scajaquada Creek, a 13-mile waterway that begins just northeast of the city and winds its way into an underground culvert before emerging in Forest Lawn Cemetery, snaking under the Scajacuada Expressway and emptying into the Niagara River.

Traynor says the history of the city can be traced by the evolution of the creek, from its modification during construction of the Erie Canal to its burial in the 1920s and alteration to make way for expressways in the 1950s. The creek is also battlefield land — the Battle of Scajaquada Creek Bridge was fought here during the War of 1812. Focusing on the underground portion of the creek, students studied the history of change at the creek and developed a master plan and design guidelines for re-establishing or daylighting portions of the creek and preserving the creek as a natural and cultural resource.



ABOVE: Lauded for her dedication to students, even long after their graduation, Annette LeCuyer addresses senior architecture students during final reviews in the Hayes Hall Gallery.

### Annette LeCuyer honored as teacher, mentor

Architecture professor Annette LeCuyer, who has guided students through the undergraduate program's most challenging courses, has been recognized by the university with the 2016 Mrs. Meyerson Award for Distinguished Undergraduate Teaching and Mentoring. The Meyerson award is the highest university honor for undergraduate mentoring. A licensed architect in the United Kingdom, LeCuyer practiced with Foster + Partners and Allies and Morrison Architects in London before joining the UB architecture faculty in 2003. At UB she has designed and taught the program's core construction technology course

and the senior-level studio, which focuses on the culminating or development phases of a project. Perhaps the strongest testament to her teaching influence are reflections from students who have moved on to the profession. Even years after graduation, students find a mentor waiting. Says 2012 graduate Kristin Deiore, who now practices in New York City: "To be around Annette is to be around one of the great educators of our time. Her enthusiasm and wisdom are inspiring. Being her student changed my track in architecture for the better. Her love of and knowledge for architecture will always remain with me."

### National Competition Winners

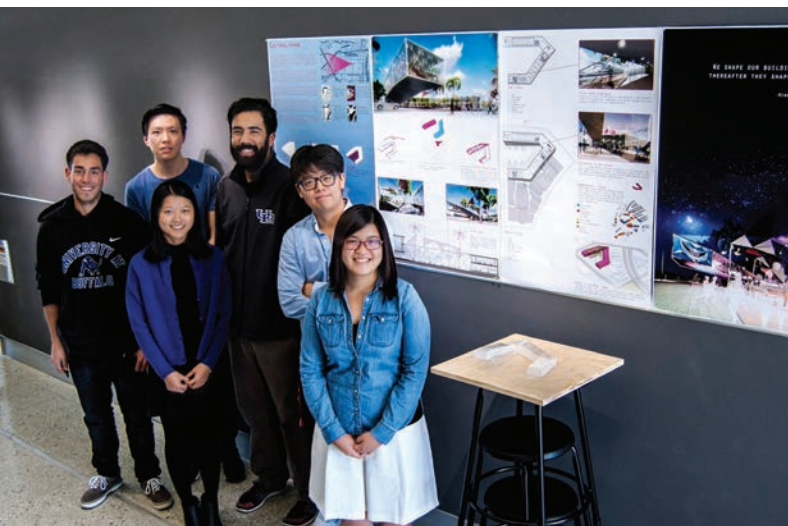
It was a winning semester for students in UB's chapter of the National Organization of Minority Architecture Students and the school's new graduate real estate development specialization, with both groups earning top placements in national intercollegiate competitions this past fall.

UB'S NOMAS CHAPTER EARNED HONORABLE MENTION IN THE 2016 NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF MINORITY ARCHITECTS STUDENT DESIGN COMPETITION, WHICH CHALLENGED TEAMS ACROSS THE COUNTRY TO DESIGN AN AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL MUSEUM AND COMMUNITY CENTER FOR LEIMERT PARK, A COMMUNITY WITH A HISTORY OF SEGREGATION THAT IS NOW DUBBED THE 'BLACK GREENWICH VILLAGE'.

Two real estate development student teams earned top slots in the Colvin Case Study Challenge, sponsored by the Colvin Institute of Real Estate Development at the University of Maryland, College Park. Second-place winners Amy Downing and Lisa Hicks presented a case study on Buffalo's 500 Seneca, a mixed-use adaptive reuse project by Savarino Companies and Frontier Development. Daniel Crowther, Camille Farkas and Sean Flury placed seventh with their case study on One Canalside, an office-hotel project in Buffalo's inner harbor, by Benderson Development.

BELOW LEFT: The UB NOMAS competition team, from left to right: Andres Santandreu, Mingyang Xia, Xiaojie Cao, William Baptiste, Ho Kyung Lee and Joanne Tseng.

BELOW RIGHT: Lisa Hicks (left) and Amy Downing (right) with professional mentor David Stebbins at the University of Maryland competition in December. In addition to receiving a cash award, Downing and Hicks will see their case study published in *Real Estate Review*, a national real estate journal.





**MADELAINE BRITT, A  
SENIOR DOUBLE MAJOR IN  
ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN  
AND POLITICAL SCIENCE,  
IS UB'S FIRST TRUMAN  
SCHOLAR. PHOTO BY  
DOUGLAS LEVERE**

**UB's first truman scholar is passionate grassroots activist**

Madelaine Britt, senior environmental design and political science major, has made history as the first UB student to win the prestigious Truman Scholarship. The grassroots activist with particular interests in food security, affordable housing and economic justice is one of 54 Truman Scholars selected from 775 candidates across the U.S. The award, which university officials call the most prestigious undergraduate fellowship of all, recognizes individuals who show promise as leaders and change agents in the public sector. Britt received a \$30,000 scholarship toward graduate school and participated last summer in a professional development program in Washington, D.C.

## MADELAINE SHARES A FEW OF HER INSPIRATIONS AND PLANS FOR COMMUNITY-LED ACTION IN PLANNING AND PUBLIC POLICY:

### **You've often described a pit in your stomach as motivation for entering public service and fighting for equal and affordable housing. Tell us more.**

My grandmother was a single mother of four on the outskirts of downtown Rochester, N.Y. Never being impoverished myself and coming from a place of privilege, this sense of my mother's childhood experience taught me at a young age the vast differences in quality of life throughout the metropolitan area. Now, 21 years later, I see the same neighborhoods at equal levels of underdevelopment. It keeps that pit in my stomach and pushes me towards a career in public service.

### **Why pair environmental design and political science? How do they fit together in the classroom and community?**

Environmental design must be integrated in a political awareness that moves beyond the visual appearance of an area. Communities are made up of such diverse beliefs, political associations and cultures. Without having the understanding of the political implications of a design, decision planners will not be able to fully grasp the needs of residents and serve them to the best of their abilities.

### **Tell us about your experience in UB's surrounding University Heights neighborhood?**

What I wanted most outside of my program when I transferred to UB was a sense of togetherness and community. I found that in the University Heights neighborhood, particularly in the University Heights Tool Library and the University Heights Collaborative. Serving as a neighborhood space that provides free classes in housing issues, such as lead paint awareness and tenants' rights – the CoLab was founded to help fill the gap between knowledge and application. One particular project of interest is Paint to Pavement. Using art as a form of traffic control and way finding, we're looking to increasing safety in the neighborhood by using community-chosen art murals and pictography painted directly on the sidewalk and street.

### **What are your plans after graduating from UB?**

I hope to work in a position that allows me to rally for and initiate planning policies that fundamentally change how we rebuild cities so we can ensure affordable housing, food security and economic justice in all areas of new development. I plan to attend law school and partner this with a master's degree in urban planning and policy. I intend to return to Rochester, and get involved with community organizing at the grassroots level.

### **What would you tell a student considering the environmental design program at UB?**

Be active and be dedicated to bringing your education outside of the classroom. Volunteer and become politically involved – neighborhood associations don't get the cool credit they deserve. Your scope of understanding will expand and you will become incredibly humbled by the good work of the community leaders around them. I know I have been.

# HONOR ROLL

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## BRUNKOW FELLOWS CELEBRATE STUDENT WORK, CAPTURE SPIRIT OF PROGRAM OVER THREE DECADES OF *INTERSIGHT*

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Nearly every year since 1990, a graduate architecture student has been called upon to step out of the studio and into the pulse of the school, to look up from their drawings and plans to the collective work of their peers. As Fred Wallace Brunkow Fellows, these students assume the highly esteemed role of editor for *Intersight*, the school's annual journal of student work.

It is an arduous assignment – a “herculean task,” as dean emeritus Bruno Freschi described in the inaugural publication – that involves an intensive distillation of student work across all programs into a single, professionally produced volume. Together they have assembled an anthology of 18 volumes of distinguished student work that captures the program's intellectual currents over the course of three decades.

## IN ENDOWING THE FELLOWSHIP IN 1989, BENEFACTORS KATHRYN BRUNKOW SAMPLE AND FORMER UB PRESIDENT STEVEN SAMPLE SOUGHT TO CREATE A VISUAL RECORD OF THE SCHOOL'S PEDAGOGY IN DESIGN AND PLANNING – A WINDOW INTO THE WORK, TRADITIONS AND PEOPLE OF THE SCHOOL. CANNONDESIGN WOULD JOIN THEM IN PROVIDING CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR PRODUCTION OF THE BOOK.

As its name suggests, *Intersight* opens the spaces between disciplines and ideas. Inaugural Brunkow Fellow Robert Crowell reflects on the clarity of this editorial thrust in the book's opening letter to readers: “There is a between-ness amongst academic disciplines a ‘gap’ out of which emerge[s] shared concerns, paradoxes, and questions. Intended to reflect the interconnectedness of architecture, planning, and design, it also points to the gap between and within their discourses.”

While *Intersight* has varied over the years in its format, graphic sensibilities, seriality (the annual folio was published biennially until 2004), and the zeitgeist of the program represented therein, the book is unvaryingly about the student. With a focused look at the immediate past and present Brunkow Fellow, we celebrate the students who take on this role with fervor and dedication to celebrate the work of their peers.

- V. 1 / Robert Crowell, 1990
- V. 2 / William Zannie, 1993
- V. 3 / Brian Szpakowski, 1995
- V. 4 / Thomas Brennan, 1997
- V. 5 / William Greeley, 1999
- V. 6 / Alex Bitterman, 2001
- V. 7 / Keith Johnson, 2002
- V. 8 & 9 / William Helm, 2004–06
- V. 10 & 11 / Michele Han, Clare Smith, 2006–08

- V. 12 / Albert Chao, Jodi Pfister, 2008–09
- V. 13 / Jodi Pfister, 2009–10
- V. 14 / Daniel Barry, 2010–11
- V. 15 / Alyssa Phelps, 2012–13
- V. 16 / John Brennan, 2013–14
- V. 17 / Madelyn McClellan, 2014–15
- V. 18 / Brian Fiscus, 2015–16
- V. 19 / Micaela Barker, 2016–17





### Brian Fiscus (MARCH '16, Architecture BS '14)

As he neared the end of six years of study in UB's undergraduate and graduate architecture programs, Brian Fiscus was looking for a way to give back. "There is this idea of a legacy, a question of what can we do to leave our mark on the school and represent what I've learned over these past six years." As the 2015-16 Brunkow Fellow, Fiscus sought to create an inclusive publication that celebrates student work across scales, disciplines and even stages of design.

"THIS WASN'T JUST GOING TO BE A YEARBOOK, OR THE BEST OF THE BEST. WHAT HAPPENS IF THE PROJECT EXPLORES AN EMERGING TOPIC AND, WHILE NOT NECESSARILY THE MOST POLISHED, FORCES DIALOGUES ON AN EMERGING ISSUE? SOME OF THE FEATURED PROJECTS ARE JUST SKETCHES. THIS BOOK IS ABOUT EVERYONE."

Shunning an editorial committee and taking a more curatorial approach, Fiscus dug into the entire body of student work – 560 projects in all. He mapped anonymous abstracts onto his office wall and clustered them by methodology, theme, process, geography. "I felt like I was in CSI," he says. Adding another layer were visiting faculty and guest lecturers and the debate they generated around key questions in the profession.

In one section of the book, Fiscus weaves a narrative on ecology, post-industrial landscapes and scales of intervention. He pairs a student's proposal for a public pavilion at the shuttered Huntley Coal Plant on the Niagara River with another student's concept for a research observatory that would connect individuals with emerging flora and fauna around Buffalo's grain elevators. The dialogue is informed by landscape architect David Kamp's lecture on the role of nature in design and public health around the world.

Now a junior architect with Nandinee Phookan Architects in New York City, Fiscus says the experience was invaluable to his personal and professional development.

"IT'S A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY – TO USE MY SKILLS FROM STUDIO, CRITS, LECTURES, THE SMALL CONVERSATIONS, AND TAKE THE CHANCE TO DO SOMETHING REALLY GREAT."

2015-16 Brunkow Fellow Brian Fiscus pinned anonymous abstracts of student work onto the wall to make thematic, scalar and geographic connections as an organizing framework for *Intersight*.





ABOVE: 2016-17 Brunkow Fellow Micaela Barker will interview students featured in *Intersight* about their design philosophy. "How they work is the product of someone's passion. I want to show the person behind it."

### **Micaela Barker (MArch/MUP '17, Architecture BS '14)**

A member of the school community since 2011, dual MArch/MUP student Micaela Barker will dive deep into the culture of the school through a holistic look at the work of the school – and the students behind it.

Barker will open up and bring visibility to the curatorial process through an all-student competition. Recognizing the diversity of influences and representations of student work, "(Inter) Competition" invites students to submit creative and critical writings as well as their work outside the studio, from volunteer activities to creative hobbies that shape their design and planning pursuits.

"*Intersight 19* attempts to redefine the *Intersight* publication series as an instrument for critical analysis of the educational environmental at the school," says Barker. "It will highlight the students' perspective and secure a place for our students to express a critical point of view in regards to the culture of the school."

"My goal is to give the publication more exposure so it feels like something that belongs to the whole school," she continues.

Barker will take student engagement a step further by interviewing the students behind winning submissions about their design philosophy and modes of practice. "How they work is the product of someone's passion. I want to show the person behind it," adds Barker, who is also organizing an end-of-the-semester celebration to honor the students and their work.

"I'M VERY EMOTIONALLY INVESTED IN THIS SCHOOL," SAYS BARKER, WHO REFERS TO FACULTY AND FELLOW STUDENTS AS FAMILY. "IT MEANS A LOT TO ME TO SHARE MY PERSPECTIVE."

Barker says the social, political and cultural context of the work of the school is particularly important today. "The school is dealing with global issues and ethical issues in architecture – climate change, environment, global health, food systems and social justice. We have an opportunity to define our architectural voice in relation to these issues."





ABOVE: UB's Resilient Buildings Lab, led by Nicholas Rajkovich, assistant professor of architecture, recently convened academics and architects from across New York State to discuss building responses to the changing climate, a debate brought to the forefront by Hurricane Sandy in 2012 and 'Snowvember,' the seven-foot snow event that hit parts of Buffalo in 2014. A featured event of the fall 2016 lecture series, the symposium is part of research led by Rajkovich and the UB Regional Institute, and sponsored by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, to assess climate change impacts and propose adaptive strategies for the state's building stock.

## Supporting vibrant public debate

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Each semester the School of Architecture and Planning invites distinguished architects and planners to campus for symposia, seminars and exhibitions. Convening practitioners, scholars, students and the public around the top issues facing our profession today, the program is a vibrant part of the intellectual life of our school that informs public debate, fosters connections across disciplines and bridges the academy and practice.

In fall 2016 the school launched a partnership program inviting alumni, firms and related businesses to support the lecture series and gain yearlong branding and marketing exposure to a broad public audience. Sponsors are promoted through print and digital signage, on the school website, and in email and print communications. Program support helps students through scholarships, educational programming and experiential learning.

**For more information or to become a sponsor, please contact**

Robert Hill  
716-829-3973  
[rrhill2@buffalo.edu](mailto:rrhill2@buffalo.edu)

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## Join our leadership giving society

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ABOVE: Bonnie Foit Albert with partner and fellow donor Joe Cox (center), and Robert Hill, assistant dean and director of philanthropy and alumni engagement (left). Photo by Joe Cascio

As chair of the John Eberhard Society, I thank all of you who donated gifts and services of \$1,000 or more to the school during the 2015-2016 fiscal year. The school's leadership giving society is named after the school's founding dean. Gifts fund student scholarships and the entire learning environment.

Please join me in making 2016-2017 an even better year. Give online at [giving.buffalo.edu](http://giving.buffalo.edu) or mail to UB Foundation, Inc., Cynthia Johannes, PO Box 730, Buffalo 14226.

Warmest regards,  
Beverly (Bonnie) Foit Albert (MARCH '75), Chair, John Eberhard Society

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\*Reflects gifts from July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016

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### Give the next generation the advice you wish you'd had

Career preparation requires student learning to extend well beyond the classroom. Alumni, you can help our students build this foundation for career success by serving as a mentor. The program is available to alumni everywhere via the UB Career Connector Network, an online platform that facilitates one-to-one connections between alumni and students seeking career tips and advice. Join the network and customize your mentor profile by the topics you'd like to advise on, and your availability. Visit [buffalo.firsthand.co](http://buffalo.firsthand.co) to learn more and sign up.

For more information or assistance, please contact Corinne Cardy in the school's alumni office: [ccardy@buffalo.edu](mailto:ccardy@buffalo.edu) or 716-829-3385.

ABOVE: Members of the Dean's Council, leaders across the design and planning and real estate professions, recently sat down with students in a career networking session. Alumni can support our students as mentors through UB's Career Connector Network, an online platform for one-to-one networking. Photo by Joe Cascio

## DEAN'S COUNCIL WELCOMES THREE NEW MEMBERS

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The School of Architecture and Planning is pleased to welcome three new members to its Dean's Council, a leadership group of friends and professional partners that supports the school's efforts to build its global reputation, improve the quality of life in Buffalo and communities worldwide, and advance diversity, equity and inclusion across our student body and our professions.

Real estate developer [George Gellman](#) is one of three founding principles of The Benchmark Group, a Buffalo-based company with a portfolio including 6,600 apartments units in 12 states and 5 million square feet of retail space in six states. Gellman has extensive real estate experience as an owner, investor, developer and operator of real estate projects throughout the country.

[Bradley Lukanic](#), AIA LEED AP, is chief executive officer and lead strategist of CannonDesign, a global design firm with 16 offices and more than 1,000 employees worldwide. An award-winning designer, Lukanic has been with CannonDesign since 2009 and was executive director of its education practice prior to his appointment as CEO. Based in New York, Lukanic recently reflected on his decision to join the school's Dean's Council:

**"WORKING WITH STUDENTS ENERGIZES ME, AND REMINDS ME WHY I FOLLOWED THIS CAREER PATH. CANNONDESIGN AND I WILL ALWAYS REINVEST IN EDUCATING STUDENTS AT ALL LEVELS."**

[Lena Zhang](#) is a principal at Z Studio Architects in San Francisco. After earning her MArch from UB in 1989, Lena worked on an international competition-winning project for the Tokyo International Forum with Rafael Viñoly Architects in New York. Prior to starting Z Studio Architects, she had been with San Francisco-based Kaplan McLaughlin Diaz, where she led many large-scale institutional and commercial projects domestically and in China.

## DEAN'S COUNCIL MEMBERS

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Madeline Burke-Vigeland (Chair), Gensler  
 Randy Asher (BS '95), New York City Education Department  
 Louis Ciminelli, LP Ciminelli  
 Franklin Dickinson, (MArch '85), LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton Inc.  
 George Gellman, Benchmark Group  
 Diane Georgopoulos (BA '73), Massachusetts Housing Authority (retired)

Peter Hunt, Hunt Real Estate  
 Bradley Lukanic, CannonDesign  
 Clark Manus (BA '74), Heller Manus Architects  
 Alphonso O'Neil-White, Excelsior Business Strategies  
 Richard Perlmutter (BA '76), Argo Development Company  
 Lena Zhang (MArch '89), Z Studio Architects

# BUFFALO MATTERS

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## 'BAILEY GREEN' MASTER PLAN EMPLOYS TACTICAL URBANISM TO TRANSFORM EAST SIDE COMMUNITY

**By Rachel Teaman**

Working hand-in-hand with a community-minded local business, architecture and urban design professor Hiroaki Hata and his students have generated a master plan that is helping to transform a struggling neighborhood on Buffalo's East Side.

Bailey Green II – a master plan for a 33-acre zone around Bailey Avenue and Genesee Street on Buffalo's East Side – is also gaining international attention. The plan placed second in the 2016 International Making Cities Livable design competition and earned the 2016 Outstanding Student Project award from the NY Upstate APA chapter.

The neighborhood blueprint has its origins in a first-phase plan conceived by an urban design studio led by Hata and sponsored by Harmac Medical Products, a major employer in the area.

The international contract manufacturer of single-use medical devices initiated the Bailey Green effort in 2008 and had cultivated partnerships with the City of Buffalo and community organizations when it approached UB in 2014 to develop the master plan.

Over the past three years the plan has moved quickly from concept to action, with Harmac, Hata's team, the City of Buffalo and a growing list of partners working together to refine design, move parcels into development and bring in capital. Two students from the 2014 studio - Jie Dai and Vivek Thanumalayan (now MUP grads) – continue to work with Hata through an independent studio affiliated with the UB Regional Institute.

Indeed, Bailey Green is well into implementation. Project partner Habitat for Humanity is breaking ground on five new builds. Heart of the City Neighborhoods is planning the development of three four-unit apartments in the neighborhood. Groundwork Gardens has created an urban garden to grow and provide fresh produce to a neighborhood where access to healthy food is scarce.

Other future plans include working with local food purveyor Urban Fruits and Veggies to build multiple hydroponic greenhouses, a fruit tree orchard, community garden and a street-level café and green market with upper-level apartments on East Ferry Street. Also envisioned for Bailey Green is a central park and outdoor recreation area.

BELOW LEFT: Henry White, 85 (left), who has lived on Wende Street since the early 1980s, spoke with the UB-Harmac team during a recent walking tour of the neighborhood. "It's been a long 35 years, but it's finally improving" he said. Also pictured are (from left to right): John Somers of Harmac Medical Products, Jie Dai (MUP '15) who was part of the initial studio and remains involved in the project, and UB's Hiro Hata.

BELOW RIGHT: The Bailey Green master plan includes a proposal for a community garden, now in development by the Buffalo urban farming company Urban Fruits and Veggies.





ABOVE: A view of infill housing development proposed for the Bailey Green neighborhood on Buffalo's East Side, developed by a team of students working under professor Hiro Hata and neighborhood business and master plan sponsor Harmac Medical Products.

Founded on the urban design principles of walkability, accessibility, healthy living and pedestrian-scale development, the Bailey Green plan outlines a mix of affordable housing, retail, recreation, community gardens, green infrastructure and streetscape improvements.

Harmac CEO John Somers says that, as a neighborhood anchor and with many of its employees living in and around the Bailey Green neighborhood, "It was the right thing to do, and it aligns with our mission of changing the lives of patients, employees and communities in which we work."

Hata and Somers, along with their community partners, have employed a balance of short- and long-term solutions, what Hata calls 'tactical urbanism.'

Since 2008, Harmac has purchased 29 parcels in the area, demolished abandoned properties, created four acres of green space, planted more than 150 trees, worked with the City of Buffalo to repair sidewalks and streets, and brought in new partners to help revitalize the area. "The master plan created by UB and the School of Architecture and Planning for the Bailey Green Initiative has really helped to take our vision and show us the potential of what this neighborhood can be," adds Somers.

Formed with extensive community input, UB's Hata says the goal of the plan is to re-knit an urban fabric frayed by decades of decline and concentrated poverty and blight. The Bailey-Genesee area's vacancy rate of 60 percent is among the city's highest.

"OUR JOB IS TO MAKE SURE ALL THE BUILDINGS, FARMS, GREEN SPACE — WHEN ALL OF THIS IS PUT TOGETHER — SOMEHOW THE WHOLE IS GREATER THAN THE SUM OF ITS PARTS," SAID HATA.



Henry White, 85, who has lived on Wende Street since 1981, recently spoke with the UB-Harmac team during a recent walking tour of the neighborhood. "It's been a long 35 years, but it's finally improving" he said, standing in front of his meticulously maintained garden.

White is particularly pleased with a proposed greenway that would cut through the center of the neighborhood to create new pedestrian connections and community gathering spaces.

"I WOULD LOVE THAT. I WALK EVERY DAY."

Indicative of the growing energy around Buffalo's East Side, the scope of the plan continues to grow. Last year, Harmac donated an historic 19th century building to UB architect-artist Dennis Maher, who, in partnership with the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, will turn the site into a training center for wood-working and architectural craft for city residents.

New businesses to the area will be advised by the master plan's design guidelines, which include street-front buildings with parking in the rear and green infrastructure such as new paths cutting in the middle of long blocks, rain gardens and planting beds. Existing businesses in prominent corner or gateway locations will be encouraged to make similar enhancements.

## UB-Habitat partnership builds universal design into an affordable housing standard

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Over the past 25 years, hundreds of UB students have built hands-on construction skills by raising walls for Habitat for Humanity homes across Buffalo. Now students have the opportunity to design those homes – and bring universal design features into the national organization’s affordable housing model – thanks to a new pilot program between UB and Habitat Buffalo.

Launched in fall 2015 by Habitat Buffalo along with the school’s universal design pioneer Edward Steinfeld and former shop director Peter Russell, the new program has already completed a rehab design-build for a family of eight on Buffalo’s East Side. Another is on its way for a refugee family from Eritrea.

The two yearlong projects began with a fall design studio in which students worked closely with the Habitat team to understand the national nonprofit’s affordable home-building model, as well as the specific needs of Habitat homeowners. Each student then offered a set of design modifications that would allow the home to adapt over time to the changing needs and abilities of its residents. A spring construction course and onsite building with Habitat’s team of volunteers completes the design-build experience.

Steinfeld, a professor of architecture and director of the school’s Center for Inclusive Design and Environmental Access, says the universal design integration is a simple but fundamental shift in orientation to the Habitat model that’s particularly appropriate for a place like Buffalo, where the population is in flux.

“IN BUFFALO, A LOT OF HABITAT’S CLIENTS COME FROM DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS,” HE SAID, NOTING THE CITY’S GROWING NUMBER OF REFUGEES, MANY OF WHOM COME WITH LARGE EXTENDED FAMILIES OF VARYING NEEDS. “THE HOUSES AREN’T TYPICALLY DESIGNED TO ADAPT AS THE FAMILY GROWS OR AGES.”

Indeed, flexibility is at the root of universal design’s benefits to the user and, ultimately, the community, says Russell, who until recently served as manager of the school’s Materials and Methods Shop.

“IF YOU’RE REHABBING A HOUSE FOR A FAMILY OF EIGHT- THE LONGER THEY CAN AGE IN PLACE THE MORE STABILITY YOU BRING TO THE FAMILY, TO THE HOUSE AND TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD.”

Barry Weiss, construction manager for Habitat Buffalo, says the organization also benefits from the students’ creative energy.

“NORMALLY, WE HAVE ONE DESIGNER DEVELOP A BLUEPRINT FOR OUR HOUSES. FOR THE FALL 2015 STUDIO, WE GOT 12.”



LEFT: The UB-Habitat Buffalo partnership, a core construction technology experience for hundreds of students over the past three decades, now includes a full design-build experience and opportunities to work hands-on with universal design. Photos by Alex Becker



ABOVE: The renovation of 320 Florida Street, shown here during construction, will provide a family of Eritrean refugees with a home that can adapt to their needs over time. In supporting aging in place, the project also contributes to the stabilization of the neighborhood.

From each studio's pool of design ideas, a single concept was selected based on Habitat's budget, building model, and the family occupant. The final designs employed simple, affordable solutions, such as widening hallways and door clearances and supporting first-floor living through the addition of full baths and 'swing rooms' (e.g., a living room that can be closed off and converted into a bedroom), and making way for the future addition of wheelchair lifts, if needed.

For the fall 2015 studio — a rehab on Sussex Street on the East Side — Ginny Gallersdorfer (MARCH '16) offered solutions that would meet the needs of a family of eight — for example, removing walls to create an open floor plan and putting all amenities, including laundry, on the first floor. "The whole idea is that by planning for these things now, you can save on costs down the road as the family ages. I wanted to show that it's possible to make adaptability affordable."

Working in the fall 2016 studio on a renovation of 320 Florida Street, in the Hamlin Park neighborhood, Dylan Burns, an MARCH/MUP student, said he kept costs low by minimizing interior layout changes. "Instead of removing walls, I expanded door openings to make the spaces feel larger," he said. The savings will support the addition of a lift-ready deck off the back entrance.

Burns, who had participated in the Habitat construction program three times before enrolling in the studio, said the option to discuss the design with the home's future owners — a new dimension to the Habitat-UB process — allowed him to tailor built-in furniture pieces to better accommodate wheeled mobility devices.

WITH THE PROGRAM MOVING FROM PILOT TO ONGOING, STEINFELD SAYS THE TEAM IS LOOKING TO THE NEXT STEP: INTEGRATING UNIVERSAL DESIGN INTO A NEW BUILD MODEL FOR HABITAT. STUDENT DESIGN CONCEPTS GENERATED BY A FALL 2016 INCLUSIVE DESIGN GRADUATE STUDIO WILL BE INCORPORATED INTO A PLAN BOOK THAT STEINFELD WILL DISSEMINATE THROUGH THE IDEA CENTER. RUSSELL AND STEINFELD ALSO PRESENTED THEIR WORK TO THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE BEGINNING DESIGN STUDENT.

# Architecture studio designs refugee housing in Buffalo

by Lisa Gagnon (BA English/Linguistics '17)

Architecture faculty member Erkin Özay, a native of Turkey and witness to the influx of Syrian refugees in Istanbul, is now working to position design in support of Buffalo's burgeoning refugee population. His work was recently featured in a *Metropolis* magazine piece on legacy city responses — including design — to these new residents ("Refugees Could 'Save' America's Rust Belt — Will We Let Them?", Nov. 2016).


New York State is the country's fourth-largest recipient of refugees, and 1 out of every 3 is resettled in Buffalo. That has translated to 14,000 new Buffalo residents since 2001, the majority of whom have settled on Buffalo's West Side, where a grassroots support network has emerged. Scooping up housing and starting up multicultural business enterprises such as the West Side Bazaar, these newcomers from Burma, Bhutan, Somalia and Iraq are driving economic growth. At the same time, affordable housing options are dwindling in this part of the city, raising questions for how the city can accommodate the thousands of refugees expected to arrive over the next few years.

To address this challenge, Özay turned to Buffalo's East Side - recognized by many as the city's next development frontier. Focusing on vacant warehouse buildings in the Broadway-Fillmore district, students partnered with the International Institute of Buffalo and a neighborhood housing agency to consider design in relation to refugees' social and cultural support needs.

Students researched the various stages of refugee life in Buffalo, looking at successful strategies already in place on the West Side and in other cities like Vancouver, Canada. Then, they split up into five groups, choosing to design either plans for a 'welcome house,' or long-term rental housing strategies, all while grappling with the challenges of a tight budget and limited resources.

Any urban project has to serve multiple communities simultaneously," says Özay. "East Buffalo itself is not a monolithic community. Resettlement is very much a problem of affordability, so the question for the students was: How can you be strategic about what resources are available? What would create the most impact, both for the refugees who are being resettled here as well as the inhabitants of the areas themselves?"

One group of Özay's students focused on the city's Belt Line, a former passenger and freight loop that connects several vacant warehouses around the city's edge. To create what Özay calls a 'porous' community network linked within itself and to the city at large, students proposed courtyards, community kitchens, gardens and daycare centers. Together with existing community infrastructure, such as schools, they create a supportive network of spaces for formal and informal interaction and, for a fragile population with diverse needs, multiple points of intervention.



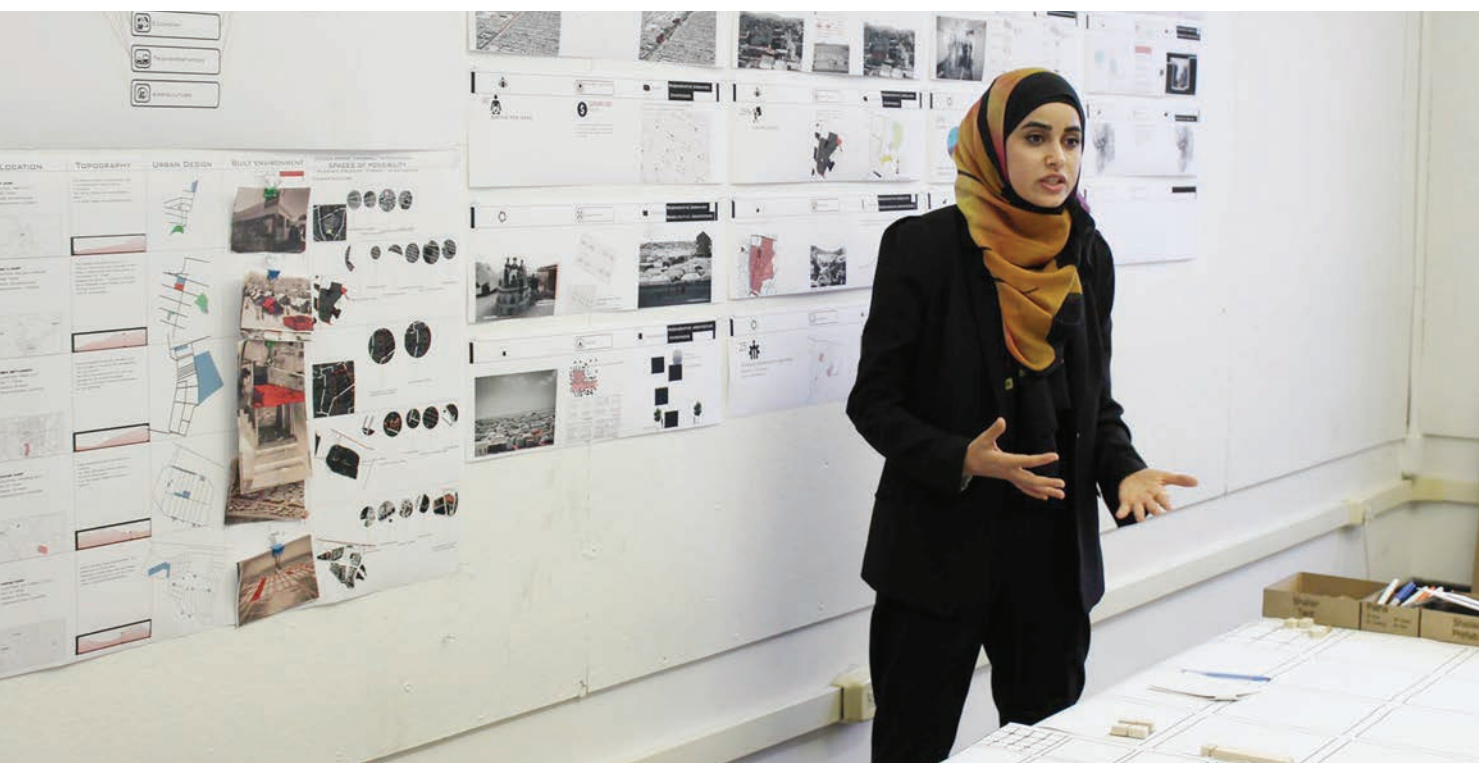
**ONE GROUP OF STUDENTS FOCUSED ON VACANT WAREHOUSES ALONG THE CITY'S BELT LINE, A FORMER PASSENGER AND FREIGHT LINE THAT LOOPS THE CITY. TO FOSTER CONNECTIONS AMONG REFUGEES AND INTO THE CITY AT LARGE, STUDENT DESIGNS FEATURED COURTYARDS, COMMUNITY KITCHENS, GARDENS AND DAYCARE CENTERS. RENDERING BY GHALIA AJOUZ, SALWA ALAWNEH AND LEILASADAT MIRGHADERI**



On a recent visit to Buffalo, former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Samantha Powers highlighted the city as a national model for refugee resettlement. UB and the School of Architecture and Planning have played an integral role in this work. In addition to Özay's studio, current efforts involving the school include an annual Refugee Health Summit co-led by the Community of Excellence for Global Health Equity and a study by the Food Systems Planning and Healthy Communities Lab on food access for Buffalo's Burmese population.

Özay references a larger trend in transitioning legacy cities as a new form of 'cosmopolis' for which new cultural codes — and design solutions — are needed. "When we think of cosmopolitanism, we think of the Londons, New Yorks and LAs of the world, where absorbing these demographic and cultural influxes is easier just because of numbers and density. We now have to invent a new mode of 'rust belt cosmopolitanism' to address this question of integration in a more careful manner."

THE STUDIO IS JUST THE START OF WHAT ÖZAY SEES AS A BIGGER CONVERSATION ON THE ROLE OF DESIGN AS A POWERFUL TOOL FOR SUSTAINABLE REFUGEE INTEGRATION. "THIS IS A FIRST STEP BOTH FOR BUILDING THOSE RELATIONSHIPS AND DOING MORE RESEARCH AT UB," HE SAYS. "I ENJOY THE FACT THAT ARCHITECTURE AND URBAN DESIGN ARE NOW AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE CONVERSATION."



MArch student Salwa Alawneh says she was inspired to take her work in Özay's studio to her native Jordan, where millions of Syrians, Palestinians and Iraqis have sought refuge in recent years. A member of the school's inclusive design research group, Alawneh will pursue her thesis on social changes to Jordan's urban fabric, aiming to redefine refugee housing as a space of possibility, survival and hope. She is now working with agencies in Jordan to develop guidelines for inclusive urban design and social change management.

# RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

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When doing nothing is in fact doing something  
UB LANDSCAPE DESIGNER SEAN BURKHOLDER LEAVES ROOM FOR A NEW 'URBAN ECOLOGY' ALONG THE EDGE OF THE GREAT LAKES BASIN

**By Rachel Teaman**

From Buffalo to Duluth, the Great Lakes Basin is flush with emergent urban landscapes. A receding lake level is slowly creating new coastline. Massive post-industrial brownfields sit lake-edge. And dredged lake-bottom soils have accumulated into 3,000 acres of waterfront property. Inland are thousands of vacant lots, a shared phenomenon among many of the basin's cities.




**SEAN BURKHOLDER, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF LANDSCAPE AND URBAN DESIGN, SAYS RESISTING THE URGE TO 'DO SOMETHING' WITH EMERGING LANDSCAPES ALONG THE GREAT LAKES' EDGE ALLOWS FOR THE FORMATION OF A NEW URBAN ECOLOGY AS WELL AS NOVEL FORMS OF PUBLIC WATERFRONT ACCESS.**

The popular and political response to such an inheritance has been a sense of urgency to 'do something' — take economic advantage of waterfront locales, address urban blight or erase any indication of neglect. But Sean Burkholder, UB assistant professor of landscape and urban design, argues you can achieve that and more by doing very little, even nothing, with the land.

Consider that many of the dredge management sites — including Buffalo's Times Beach — have naturally evolved into wildlife sanctuaries and cherished public assets. Open waterfront and naturalized industrial sites are stopovers for migrating birds or even spaces for cultural events. And in-city vacant lots are providing unintended environmental services — stormwater management and incubation for ecological diversity.

Burkholder rejects the idea of vacancy or abandonment and instead describes these places as transitional urban landscapes. The combined effect of the shrinking post-industrial city and an ever-changing Great Lakes coastline,

they are also laboratories for an urban ecology that could only exist along the highly urbanized edge of one of the most diverse and important freshwater resources in the world. "These landscapes are places of unprecedented potential in urban sustainability and planning," he says.



**NATURALIZED INDUSTRIAL SITES ON THE LAKE EDGE, SUCH AS THIS SPOT ON BUFFALO'S LAKE ERIE SHORE, HAVE EMERGED AS STOPOVERS FOR MIGRATING BIRDS AND CLUSTERS OF ECOLOGICAL DIVERSITY.**



**BURKHOLDER SAYS  
SMALL-SCALE LANDSCAPE  
INTERVENTIONS — SUCH  
AS THE BOARDWALKS AND  
BIRD BLINDS IN BUFFALO'S  
TIMES BEACH, A FORMER  
LAKE ERIE DREDGE SITE  
— CREATE 'WEDGES' FOR  
PUBLIC ACCESS AND  
HELP FOSTER DEBATE  
ABOUT THE FUTURE OF  
WATERFRONT SITES.**

The opportunity is also a vanishing one. In addition to the ephemeral nature of coastal landscapes is the prospect of population migrations related to climate change and increased demand for Great Lakes freshwater, all of which could leave undeveloped land in the basin scarce. “Once vague landscapes such as these become defined and scripted places, they are lost, or — perhaps more accurately — found forever,” Burkholder says.

Referring to his proposition as ‘considered neglect,’ he asks, “What if we can make the most impact from doing the absolute least, by simply reading the landscape and leaving room for unknowns?”

Burkholder himself is doing a lot. The activist-architect has spent the better part of the past decade building community coalitions, conducting field research, and deploying design solutions that at once protect and activate these landscapes in service to this complex city-lake ecosystem.

Fundamental to Burkholder’s work is the issue of public access and social equity. Currently 83 percent of the Great Lakes’ 10,500-mile coastline sits in private hands, disconnecting the public from both the water and an appreciation of its role as steward of the lakes.

“The systems managing the Great Lakes shoreline are vast and complex...and in no way accommodating of us, the public,” Burkholder said during a recent community presentation in Buffalo.

One pathway to the water is through the dozens of dredge storage sites across the basin. These “confined disposal facilities” annually absorb 1.1 million cubic meters of lake sediment dredged from ship navigation channels. While commonly perceived as contaminated, the sites, with nutrient-rich soil and coastal positioning, are actually ideal wetland habitats in locations of significant interest to the public. Basin-wide, new coastal landscapes emerged when water levels reached an historic low due to normal hydrologic cycles likely exacerbated by climate change.

As these sediment-scapes become available, Burkholder is proposing minimally invasive landscape features — what he calls “wedges” — that let the public in but give agency to ecological forces by largely leaving the land alone.

As examples, Burkholder points to the boardwalks and bird blinds in Buffalo’s Times Beach, a Lake Erie dredge site designated as a nature preserve in 2006. In Cleveland, Burkholder helped shape the 88-acre Lakefront Nature Preserve, which features trails and lake overlooks. Both sites have been recognized by the Audubon Society as critical habitats for hundreds of species of migratory birds.

**“THESE LANDSCAPES ARE BECOMING SOME OF THE MOST  
DRAMATIC AND BIOLOGICALLY DIVERSE LOCATIONS WITHIN  
THEIR RESPECTIVE CITIES,” SAYS BURKHOLDER. “THE WEDGE  
PROPOSAL ACKNOWLEDGES THAT THE MOST PRODUCTIVE  
PURPOSE FOR [THESE LANDSCAPES] MAY NOT BE CLEAR AT  
THE MOMENT OF THEIR AVAILABILITY.”**



**BURKHOLDER AND HIS STUDENTS ARE COLLECTING DATA ON THE CITY'S MORE THAN 5,000 VACANT LOTS, A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT WITH THE BUFFALO SEWER AUTHORITY TO ASSESS HOW THE SITES PERFORM AS A GREEN STORM WATER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM.**

IT BUYS US TIME," HE CONTINUES. "DEVELOPMENT PRESSURES ARE AT LEAST BALANCED BY HAVING TIME TO SEE WHAT THE SITE DOES ON ITS OWN, AND HOW PEOPLE ACCESS, USE AND ENJOY IT. IT GENERATES PUBLIC INTEREST AND STEWARDSHIP AND THEREFORE SHAPES THE POLITICAL DISCUSSION REGARDING THE FUTURE OF THE LAND."

Burkholder is nationally active on the issue of sediment management for coastal regions. In 2015, he joined the Dredge Research Collaborative, a network of landscape architects and designers that studies the wide-ranging implications of sediment management. Among its activities is a series of DredgeFests that engage local stakeholders on each of the nation's four coasts — the Atlantic, Pacific, Great Lakes and Gulf of Mexico — in sediment management visioning related to climate change, ecological restoration and sociocultural issues.

His "Designing with Dredge" competition invited designers from around the world to reconsider a dense collection of lake soil sites in Toledo, Ohio, where the shallow western edge of Lake Erie requires constant dredging.

Burkholder's design activism extends to waterfront brownfields left by industry as sites of public engagement and ecological agency. Buffalo's Outer Harbor contains several such parcels with controversial, developer-driven proposals. In 2014, Burkholder contributed to the public conversation with a set of student proposals for a public park that would connect the harbor to the Times Beach preserve. The work involved close collaboration with a network of citizen advocates and regional leaders on issues of water quality, habitat provision and access.

His students also developed speculative proposals for the Huntley Coal Plant along the Niagara River in Tonawanda, which was in financial turmoil at the time and has since closed. In partnership with the Clean Air Coalition, the studio yielded concepts as diverse as a scuba diving training center and launch site, and a green energy-powered data center surrounded by a public park that are now informing reuse plans for the site.

Across the border, as a recent visiting faculty member with the University of Toronto, Burkholder and his students reconsidered public access along Canada's Georgian Bay, where private cottages line the shore and environmental changes demand regionally-scaled reconsideration of the land/water relationship.

Within the city – in this case Buffalo – Burkholder is surveying 5,500 vacant lots as a green storm water filtration system. Partnering with the Buffalo Sewer Authority, Burkholder and a team of students visit each site to assess soil permeability, vegetative cover and related site conditions, such as the presence of open gutters, paved surfaces or dumping. The data will inform the city's federally mandated mitigation plan for 'combined sewer overflow' events, which result from heavy rains and dump thousands of tons of raw sewage into the Lake Erie watershed every year. As vacant lots are developed, builders would be required to maintain these performance levels in accordance with the plan.

Burkholder says the data – the first-ever collected at this scale – can document other ecological services provided by vacant land, such as heat management and carbon sequestration. "Just sitting there they hold value," he explains.

"IF STUDIED AND MANAGED ACCORDINGLY, TRANSITIONAL LANDSCAPES AND THEIR HIGH LEVELS OF TRANSFORMATION COULD FACILITATE NOVEL ECOSYSTEMS OF POTENTIALLY HIGH LEVELS OF BIODIVERSITY AND ECOLOGICAL SERVICING WITH VERY LITTLE INPUT," HE SAYS.

Burkholder acknowledges the vulnerability of these ideas to labels such as 'impractical' or even 'anti-progress.' But he says that same nearsighted frame of reference got us here in the first place. "Human decision making is seldom based on ideas of long-term efficiency or ecological vision. Instead they tend to rely heavily on political agendas, myopic systems of valuation or simply fear of change." Just by stepping outside that comfort zone, Burkholder says we create a "lag" of both time and space in which to engage, understand and ultimately sustain a highly dynamic and fragile system.

"THE GREAT LAKES ARE ANYTHING BUT PERMANENT AND PREDICTABLE," HE SAYS, POINTING TO THE FORCES OF CLIMATE CHANGE, INVASIVE SPECIES, WORLDWIDE WATER SCARCITY AND POPULATION CHANGE. "WE HAVE A SMALL WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY TO DESIGN FOR CHANGE – TO GENERATE SPECULATIVE FUTURES IN WHICH THE LIVING SYSTEM THAT IS THE GREAT LAKES BASIN NOT ONLY SURVIVES BUT FLOURISHES."

## INTERDISCIPLINARY 'COMMUNITIES OF EXCELLENCE' HAVE BUSY FIRST YEAR

FACULTY ACROSS ARCHITECTURE AND URBAN PLANNING CONTINUE TO ADDRESS SOCIETY'S GRAND CHALLENGES AS LEADERS OF UB'S INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH COMMUNITIES ON SUSTAINABLE MANUFACTURING AND ADVANCED ROBOTIC TECHNOLOGIES (SMART), WHICH PAIRS ARCHITECTS AND ENGINEERS WITH INDUSTRY PARTNERS TO INCUBATE NEW MATERIALS, TECHNOLOGIES AND PROCESSES IN DESIGN AND BUILDING; AND GLOBAL HEALTH EQUITY, WHICH CONNECTS CULTURE, GENDER NORMS, HUMAN BEHAVIOR, POLICY AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT TO DEVELOP SOLUTIONS TO GLOBAL HEALTH CHALLENGES. HERE WE OFFER A GLIMPSE INTO THEIR LATEST WORK.

## SMART

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**Bioclimatic Ceramic Assemblies.** Faculty members Omar Khan and Laura Garófaló are working with leading architectural manufacturer Boston Valley Terra Cotta to develop research in large-scale ceramic assemblies for bioclimatic innovation in building. The 2016 Architectural Ceramic Assemblies Workshop, held in Buffalo last August, kicked off an annual workshop series designed to incubate new products and support the scale-up of ceramic applications. The exploratory workshop brought UB faculty and students together with sculptors and designers from Boston Valley as well as educators, artists and architects from around the world for five days of group-based learning and 'clay storming' sessions. Among the concepts being tested are the use of clay bodies as breathable, green walls and evaporative cooling surfaces, and the development of vessel-like components to manage rainwater storage and filtration.



Among the participants was Matthais van Arkel, a Swedish artist and three-dimensional painter interested in the study of materiality. In his first time working with clay, van Arkel created a simple system of thumb-pressed clay bricks. He envisions the bricks being formed in part by the aggregation of human touch — the thumbprints of community members or impressions from the eventual users of a space. The workshop was also a hands-on introduction to clay for Melissa Rivers of Selldorf Architects in New York City. Her goal was to get closer to a material of increasing interest to Selldorf, noted for its use of custom-formed, glazed terracotta façade panels in Manhattan's 10 Bond Street. "It's about knowing what's possible and taking that back for application to the surface of our buildings," she said.

Khan, who has led the school's multi-year collaboration with Boston Valley on digital fabrication and design in terra cotta, says emerging technologies present opportunities to aggregate and network assemblies to the scale of the façade.

ABOVE: Participants in the 2016 Architectural Ceramic Assemblies Workshop mold, press and sculpt clay into bioclimatic facade components. The clay-storming sessions were held in Hayes Hall's new attic studios.

The more than two dozen participants also included ceramacists from across Europe as well as representatives of Morphosis; Walter P. Moore (NYC); AECOM; Woodbury University; Cornell University, University of California, Berkeley; San Jose State; and the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design. In addition to Boston Valley and the School of Architecture and Planning, ACAW co-sponsors were Alfred University's New York State College of Ceramics and Data Clay.

**Adaptive Shading.** Jin Young Song, assistant professor of architecture, will advance building efficiency through a micro shading system that integrates thermal and mechanical responses to light. LEAF (Low Energy Adaptive Façade) is a self-adapting micro shading façade design using responsive polymer sheets. Leaf integrates a photochemical responsive polymer sheet into building façades through an origami-inspired folding pattern. The shading system emulates the diffuse, dappled light quality created by trees, sensitively responding to daylighting conditions. Song, who presented his research paper in October at the Façade Tectonics 2016 World Congress, will develop the prototype with UB chemical and biological engineer Haiqing Lin and civil and structural engineer Jongmin Shim.

**Corbelled structure:** Georg Rafailidis, assistant professor of architecture, recently traveled to Switzerland to test new research in dry-stacked, corbelled structures with the concrete manufacturing industry. The research advances sustainability through the use of an ancient building technique and a modular assembly that is supported by compression rather than fasteners or mortar. The required precision and repetitive stacking also makes robotic applications relevant. Rafailidis will advance the work with UB computer science engineer Nils Napp and civil and structural engineer Andreas Stavridis.

**Affine Shells.** Christopher Romano and Nicholas Bruscia's research into self-structuring, thin-gauge steel has its latest genesis as a sculptural wind screen for the new Conventus building in downtown Buffalo. "Affine Shells" is a set of three 18-foot conical forms of sheet steel developed by the architecture faculty members in partnership with Buffalo's Rigidized Metals. The research-to-practice commission was initiated by Ciminelli Real Estate, which is the owner-developer of the signature development on the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus.



ABOVE: "Affine Shells" is a wind screen installation at the new Conventus building in downtown Buffalo. The conical forms of thin-gauge steel are the latest evolution of research by architecture faculty members Christopher Romano and Nicholas Bruscia with industry partner Rigidized Metals. Photo by Mahan Mehrvarz

Denise Juron-Borgese, vice president for development and planning at Ciminelli Real Estate and a UB alumnae, approached Romano and Bruscia based on their installation of Project 2XmT, a sculptural wall of Rigidized steel panels in Buffalo's Silo City, along Lake Erie. The Conventus challenge would be similar: develop a subtle, artistic structure that would enhance the gateway site while handling multi-directional winds.

To achieve this tight correlation between structure, aesthetics and performance, Romano and Bruscia began with a series of self-supporting, cylindrical forms. The system's global curvature lightens the structure while the staggered grid of welded plate steel maintains short spans and a thin profile. The weaving of skin and structure achieves the desired sculptural effect. Functionally, the windscreens are sized and sited to maximize wind redistribution with their panels heavily perforated to minimize wind pressure.

Material and fabrication efficiency was challenged by the requirement that each conic shell vary in size (to handle the buffeting winds). By deriving the three shell structures from a larger, master conical form, the team was able to generate a system of shared panel types and, for ease of fabrication and assembly by Rigidized Metals, a standard set of dimensional offsets and scalar relationships.

Romano and Bruscia will continue to push the limits of thin-gauge, textured sheet metal through SMART. Their latest project with Rigidized Metals is "Roll," a lightweight horizontal canopy of self-structured sheet steel panels stabilized by a three-roll bending process. Inspired by the bidirectional corrugated structures created by French architect and engineer Robert LeRicolais, the project will also introduce a new technique to Rigidized Metals' fabrication capacities.

## Global Health Equity

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### **Nepal native's research on shelter design hits close to home**

As a member of the Community for Global Health Equity research team, architecture student Sadichchha Dhakhwa has found her niche developing vernacular shelter design strategies for refugee resettlements around the world. The work hits close to home for this Nepal native, who witnessed first-hand the effects of poor shelter design and accessibility after a devastating earthquake hit the country in 2015.



ABOVE: MArch student Sadichchha Dhakhwa, a native of Nepal, has found her niche in the Community for Global Health Equity, where she is developing vernacular shelter design strategies for refugee resettlements around the world. Photo by Alex Becker

A first-year MArch student who also earned her undergraduate degree at UB, Dhakhwa jumped at the opportunity to join CGHE after learning about its work with Ugandan resettlement camps for refugees of South Sudan. Led by architecture professor Korydon Smith, the project will develop translatable design strategies based on the success of the Ugandan model, implemented by the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and the United Nations High Council on Refugees.

Dhakhwa was able to hit the ground running, joining the team just as Smith returned from a visit to Uganda, where he and several other CGHE team-members met with representatives of the DRC and UN and toured several resettlement camps.

As a full-time research assistant, Dhakhwa is building the case for vernacular architecture resettlement strategies based on NGO-led efforts like those in Uganda and other communities throughout the tumultuous North African and Middle Eastern region, where millions are displaced daily. Smith and his team posit that vernacular architecture, which employs locally sourced materials and indigenous building techniques, is a more sustainable and resource-efficient approach that also promotes independent settlement. The UN's implementation of parcel allotment programs in Uganda has also been shown to foster independent land use and the development of self-building skills among refugees.

"I BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT TO ENGAGE ARCHITECTS, PLANNERS, AND DESIGNERS IN THE CONVERSATION IN THE CURRENT REFUGEE CRISIS," SAYS DHAKHWA. "I WOULD LIKE TO CONTINUE TO WORK WITH VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS OR FIRMS THAT ARE INVOLVED IN HUMANITARIAN ARCHITECTURE AND BE INVOLVED IN PROJECTS LOOKING TO HELP AN AFFECTED POPULATION."





**PARTICIPANTS IN CGHE'S GLOBAL INNOVATION CHALLENGE 2016 ASSESSED PROBLEMS AND DEVELOPED SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, TECHNOLOGICAL, AND PUBLIC POLICY SOLUTIONS TO MEET THE SANITATION NEEDS OF ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST VULNERABLE POPULATIONS: THE 360 MILLION CHILDREN AND ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES WORLDWIDE. PHOTO BY DOUGLAS LEVERE**

### **Where lack of sanitation prevents children from completing school, Global Health Equity offers help**

A child with mobility problems can't use the bathroom in his school because it has only squat toilets. Feeling like an outsider, he stops going to school. A menstruating teenage girl doesn't have the privacy she needs in her school bathroom, or maybe she doesn't have the products she needs to manage her menstruation, and she, too, stops attending.

Millions of school-aged children with and without disabilities and who live in low- and middle-income countries around the world grapple with this lack of access to water, sanitation and hygiene – or WaSH – facilities in their communities. In fact, it's one of the biggest barriers to their health and formal education (in India, 23 percent of girls drop out of school once they hit puberty).

In just over a year of operation, UB's Community for Global Health Equity has already mobilized solutions that get to the root of this pervasive disparity by integrating design, planning, public health and policy.

Last spring, the community seeded student proposals for community action in Uganda and India through an ideas competition guided by the international WaSH organization WaterAid. The research team is also behind a new global monitoring system developed by UNICEF and the World Health Organization (WHO) that will assess not only the availability but accessibility of basic water, sanitation and hygiene facilities in schools around the world.

“BEYOND DENYING BASIC HUMANITARIAN RIGHTS TO CHILDREN AROUND THE WORLD, INADEQUATE WASH IS A MAJOR GLOBAL HEALTH AND ECONOMIC CONCERN,” SAID ARCHITECTURE PROFESSOR KORYDON SMITH, CO-DIRECTOR OF CGHE. “IF WE CAN MOVE THE NEEDLE ON WASH, WE CAN SET UP THE NEXT GENERATION FOR SUCCESS AND CREATE A FOUNDATION FOR STABILITY IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD.”



ABOVE: In addition to seeding new research and developing an international survey tool on WaSH, CGHE traveled to India in January 2016 to assess water and sanitation in the rural village of Maradu. Their data and analysis will now inform a public sanitation plan for the village.

The survey tool – part of the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation – was developed to assess world progress toward the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals, which aim for universal WaSH in schools by 2030. Among its task force participants were Smith, UB epidemiologist and CGHE co-director Pavani Ram, and UB’s world-renowned inclusive design scholar Edward Steinfeld.

Assessing such basic WaSH standards as the availability of handwashing facilities and separate toilets for girls and boys, the tool will be administered in hundreds of thousands of schools in more than 100 countries. For the first time, the international metric pays special attention to issues of equity and accessibility, addressing the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations.

UB students are also addressing WaSH at the ground level through CGHE, which sponsored a hack-a-thon style “Global Innovation Challenge” last spring. The weeklong event teamed up students in architecture, urban planning, engineering, public health, computer science and pharmacy to develop actionable solutions in partnership with community leaders from India and Uganda.

Noting the scarcity of data available on inclusive WaSH facilities in schools, the top-prize-winning team developed strategies to collect school-level data on demographics and inclusive WaSH facilities. They will create a mapping platform to show geographic disparities in WaSH for schools and target funding resources and policy action.

The other winning proposal addresses gaps in access to menstrual hygiene products, a significant barrier to school attendance for girls. A proposed mobile hygiene van would travel to schools and other unreached places such as slums to offer such products as well as soap, hand sanitizer and free health consultation.

Faculty affiliated with the Community for Global Health Equity will now work with members of both teams to refine their ideas, locate partner organizations in low-income settings and test their innovations.

THE COMMUNITY’S 2017 GLOBAL INNOVATION CHALLENGE WILL FOCUS ON DEVELOPING INTERDISCIPLINARY, DESIGN-INFORMED SOLUTIONS FOR THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF REFUGEES IN BUFFALO.

# ALUMNI NEWS



## Alumni Profiles

### **Mitchell Joachim's cricket farm shelters—and sings**

— by *Rebecca Rudell*

Originally commissioned by Art Works for Change for their show, “Survival Architecture and the Art of Resilience,” Mitchell Joachim’s (BPS ’94) Cricket Shelter—a modular edible insect farm—went on to become one of five winners of the prestigious *Architect Magazine* R+D Awards for 2016.

When Joachim was asked by the organization, a nonprofit that produces socially and environmentally themed art exhibitions, if he and his research group Terreform ONE could develop an emergency shelter for their latest show, his answer was: “Well, kind of.” Of course they could, but Joachim wanted their submission to be more than the “typical” survival shelter design explored by every architect in the business. He wanted Terreform ONE’s prototype to provide food—to be part sustenance farming, part shelter. He wasn’t sure how that was going to happen yet, but he needed a bigger challenge.

Joachim’s group, which he began with friends in 2006, actually attempted something like this before—called Insectopia—and failed miserably, mostly because, he says: “I’m not eating bugs. I’m not eating legs and wings and faces.” He later discovered cricket powder: flour made from ground and roasted crickets, which he found a little easier to swallow.

The flour revelation led to Joachim’s desire to create a technology for hygienically growing crickets for human consumption.



LEFT TOP: Mitchell Joachim is a 2016 winner of the prestigious *Architect Magazine* R&D Award.

LEFT BOTTOM: The most striking feature of Joachim’s 144-square-foot shelter is the set of quills that provides natural ventilation to the insects within. The structure’s 224 bio-units can hold 22,000 crickets. Photo courtesy of Terreform ONE

“ESSENTIALLY, THE CRICKETS BECAME OUR CLIENTS,”  
JOACHIM EXPLAINS. “WE LOOKED AT THEIR LIFE CYCLES,  
WHAT MAKES THEM HAPPY AND HEALTHY. WHERE THEY LIKE  
TO EAT, SLEEP, REPRODUCE.”

Through trial and error, the group created cricket pods where males roam freely to find females; where babies stay safe until large enough to join their adult family members (the size of the mesh in the “baby pods” is finer); and where at the end of the crickets’ life cycle, they are harvested for food. Even death is humane: the temperature is lowered so the insects fall into a deep hibernation before passing on.

The dazzling white, 144-square-foot shelter is composed of 16 structural support ribs and 224 bio-units that can hold 22,000 crickets. The individual plastic modules are lined with a soft mesh and connected by tubes to other units, like a giant, much cooler Habitrail. But the most striking feature of the structure—and Joachim’s favorite—is the set of quills that provides natural ventilation to its inhabitants via the stack effect.

When developing the ventilators, they noticed that air—and sound—passed through the tubes, so the quills were extended to capture and magnify the crickets’ melodious stridulation (chirping). “We’re architects, not engineers,” says Mitchell. “We had to make them fabulous.”

The result is visually, and audibly, stunning. Joachim was thrilled. “The whole shelter sings as the crickets chirp. That was the beautiful moment. That was the ‘aha.’” Not only had Terreform ONE created an exquisite design, it brought survival architecture to a new level and, he says, “We helped create a cricket opera.”

**Adam Laskowitz, director of user experience at Target and designer of Open House, discusses Sit Tech and the future of retail**

— by Rebecca Rudell

When Adam Laskowitz (MArch/MFA ‘12, Architecture BS ‘09) met Mark Shepherd of the Situated Technologies Group, he found a mentor that “... opened a world to me I didn’t know existed. Sit Tech allowed me to explore the intersection of many things — like math, music, art, computers, psychology and sociology — through a design and architectural discourse.”

Through the Sit Tech group, Laskowitz also discovered that building materials are not just brick, wood and concrete, but wireless signals, cellular data, sensors and computers.

“AS ARCHITECTS,” HE SAYS, “WE NEED TO THINK ABOUT HOW  
TO PULL THESE ‘DIGITAL MATERIALS’ INTO OUR SET OF DESIGN  
TOOLS AND EXPERTISE, SO WE CAN CREATE A WORLD WHERE  
IT MAKES SENSE TO INTERACT WITH PHYSICAL SPACE AND

DIGITAL THINGS, AND STILL BE RELEVANT  
FOR AN ARCHITECTURAL PRACTICE.”

Today, Laskowitz brings the knowledge he garnered from Sit Tech to one of the biggest brands in the world, Target. When the megastore became interested in the Internet of Things, in particular the “connected home,” Laskowitz was brought onto their team. The result was Open House, an incredible Lucite space in downtown San Francisco that allows visitors to experience how smart technology works in a real-world setting, not just on a store shelf.

BELOW: Acrylic House, designed by Adam Laskowitz for Target’s Open House, allows visitors to walk through a living room, bedroom, nursery and kitchen to experience how smart devices can assist in a variety of situations. Photo by Adam Laskowitz © Target Corp.





ABOVE: Through his research in the architecture department's Situated Technologies research group, Adam Laskowitz discovered that building materials are not just brick, wood and concrete, but wireless signals, cellular data, sensors and computers. He's now director of user experience at Target.

OPEN HOUSE – OF WHICH LASKOWITZ WAS A PRIMARY DESIGNER AND STRATEGIST – WAS CREATED TO ANSWER THREE QUESTIONS – WHY, WHAT AND HOW – AND WAS BROKEN UP INTO THREE DISTINCT ZONES:

Acrylic House – This space answers “why,” as in: “Why is this important to me?” Visitors walk through a living room, bedroom, nursery and kitchen and experience how smart devices can assist in a variety of situations. For example, in the bedroom you experience “Midnight Storm”: The lights flick on and a smart phone buzzes to wake homeowners up – sensors in the ceiling have detected a leak in the roof. Next, an app on the phone opens, showing a video feed of the baby to make sure he’s not been disturbed by the peals of thunder.

Deep Dive Area – “What” is explored here, with approximately forty smart devices and several touch screens spread out over long, white tables. This is more like a traditional store setting, but products are out of the boxes, allowing guests to interact with them and find out: “what can I do with these cool things?”

Garage – “How do these products work together?” Here, it’s all about the platform, the app that syncs up products that aren’t made by the same company, but allows them to interact in specific ways. For example, Company A’s smart phone calls the police when Company B’s sensor detects an open window while the homeowner is away. Guests experiment with the smart products performing in tandem, and how a connected home could benefit them.

“We wanted to explore what the future of retail might look like,” Laskowitz says. “To design a store that was a destination for new experiences rather than just a place to buy things.” With a steady stream of guests visiting daily, interacting with products and chatting with other visitors, Open House has certainly achieved its creators’ goal.



ABOVE: Arthur Hall has found inspiration in working with community members in Buffalo's Fruit Belt neighborhood and African American Heritage Corridor on Michigan Avenue. Hall recently returned home to join the Buffalo Urban Renewal Agency as a community planner.

### **Buffalo native gives back to city's distressed neighborhoods**

– by Stephanie Bucalo (PhD Urban and Regional Planning '20)

Arthur Hall Jr. (MUP '04, BAED '02) has seen his life come full circle. The urban planner recently returned to Buffalo as a community planner for the Buffalo Urban Renewal Agency, putting Hall face-to-face with the same challenges he experienced first-hand growing up on the City's East Side.

THIS TIME, HOWEVER, HE IS IN A POSITION TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

Hall recognized at a young age that he lived in a supportive albeit segregated community when he and schoolmates from South Buffalo couldn't visit each other's homes without racial pushback. Experiences such as this one influenced Art's decision to pursue a career in public service.

Art's first exposure to the field came in 1998, as a volunteer with Buffalo's Weed and Seed program, which aligns community-based crime-prevention program directed at the city's most violent neighborhoods. But his career path in community service came by way of chance, after he stumbled upon UB's environmental design program after an unsatisfying stint as a computer science major. “That was it – I had found my inspiration.”

Hall headed south after graduation for a job as a comprehensive planner with the City of Orlando. Over the course of 10 years, his visits home became increasingly filled with chatter about the city's renaissance. Most importantly attitudes were changing. "People used to say, 'oh, there's nothing in Buffalo. I'm getting out of here.' Now [they say], 'you haven't seen the half of it!'"

At BURA, Hall is leading preservation efforts in the historic African American Heritage Corridor on Michigan Avenue and is part of the city's strategic planning team for the Fruit Belt, a predominantly black neighborhood bordering the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus. Hall's contributions include the development of policies to prevent displacement and gentrification, as well as ensuring that current residents have access to the services and opportunities the Medical Campus brings to the neighborhood.

AS FOR HIS NEW JOB WITH BURA, HE SAYS, "THERE WAS NOTHING MORE MOTIVATING AND MORE INVOKING THAN TO COME HOME AND BE A PART OF THIS RENAISSANCE."

### **A relationship built on mutual support**

SUE KNAPP AND MARK RAMSDELL DISCUSS THE 70S, PARATRANSIT SOLUTIONS AND GINGERBREAD

— by *Rebecca Rudell*



ABOVE: Sue Knapp brings a focus on user needs to her transportation planning practice, Bethesda-Md.-based KFH Group. For example, she works with doctors and dialyses centers to assess the mobility needs of dialysis patients.

Sue Knapp (MS '76 BA '74') and Mark Ramsdell (PhD '73) met at UB in the 1970s. She was an environmental design student who went on to get her master's in civil engineering; he taught a program in urban policy while earning his PhD in policy studies. Both were captivated by the university's new, holistic method of teaching, where the built environment was examined through a variety of lenses, from political to sociological to theoretical.

Ramsdell recalls the beginning of the multi-disciplinary effort at UB's architecture school [then the School of Architecture and Environmental Design]: "John Eberhard [the first dean of the school] was sort of like a no-build architect. He'd say, 'Let's solve the problem. I have no idea what the solution is — and it may not be a building.'" Meaning, a government policy may need to change or a unique transportation strategy may be the answer to a planning predicament.

The couple has used this way of thinking, of looking at alternative solutions to real-world challenges, throughout their careers: Knapp as the managing owner of KFH Group, a transportation planning company that focuses on mobilizing the carless, including people with disabilities, and Ramsdell as a pastry chef.

"TYPICALLY TRANSPORTATION PLANNING IS ABOUT MAKING SURE BUSES, RAILCARS AND VEHICLES ON THE STREET MOVE," KNAPP SAYS.

But at the KFH Group, which she started in 1995, they focus on moving people. "We examine the social, cultural and political aspects of transportation and how it affects quality of life. The solutions we create address mobility needs, not just transportation needs."

For example, Knapp works with doctors, dialysis centers and government officials to determine how best to serve the mobility needs of dialysis patients. By asking questions like — Do patients even need to travel for treatment? Or can they get treatment at home? — she develops strategies to efficiently and effectively meet the needs of this special population.

In addition to generating paratransit solutions, Knapp's company provides consultation services on public transit planning, human service transportation and coordination, intercity bus analysis and transit-pedestrian accessibility. Today, Knapp is in the process of developing a comprehensive alternative transit plan for Virginia's I-95/I-395 corridor (the Commonwealth is converting HOV lanes to HOT (High Occupancy Toll) lanes) that will improve transit mode share and person throughput. And with a roster of 25-plus projects in the works, she'll continue to transform the built environment for years to come.



LEFT: Former faculty member Mark Ramsdell transferred his architectural background into a career in pastry art, which included 350-pound gingerbread houses commissioned by the White Houses of former Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush.

A former faculty member who's made an impact in his field, Mark Ramsdell also brings his knowledge of a variety of disciplines to his work. He explains that, while he enjoyed his time as an educator at UB and as a project manager/planner in Buffalo, and Bethesda, Md., he had royal icing in his veins since he was a child. Of course, growing up with a French mother and baking soufflés at age six will have that affect on a person.

So in 1982, he earned his Certificate of Excellence from the Professional Pastry Arts Program, L'Academie de Cuisine. A few years later, he was named as director and head instructor of the same program. During his time as director, 1990 to 2008, Ramsdell worked with White House pastry chef Roland Mesnier on the incredibly elaborate and enormous gingerbread houses – some weigh up to 350 pounds – constructed for former U.S. Presidents Clinton and Bush.

BUT WHAT CAN YOU TRANSFER FROM POLICY MAKING, URBAN PLANNING AND MBAS TO PASTRY? QUITE A BIT ACTUALLY. "THE PASTRY WORLD IS VERY DISCIPLINED," RAMSDELL EXPLAINS. "WHEN I WORK ON A GINGERBREAD HOUSE, I DO EXACTLY WHAT AN ARCHITECT DOES – FIELD RESEARCH, PHOTOGRAPHY, SCALE DRAWINGS, MODEL MAKING."

There are also events where 25,000 pastries are served, which definitely requires some background in management and analysis – and a lot of spreadsheets.

But it's also about the baking. Every piece of every house Ramsdell makes is edible, even I-beams are made of gingerbread, and a thin layer of couverture chocolate coats each piece of the cookie to provide support.

Ramsdell also worked with Mesnier on *The White House in Gingerbread: Memories & Recipes*, which includes photos of the two men working with White House architectural plans and developing 3d models to create the confectionary constructions. A second book, *The Gingerbread White House: A Pop-up Book* was just released. Most recently, Ramsdell created a showpiece cake for President Jimmy Carter and his wife Rosalynn for their 70th wedding anniversary.

Like most couples, Knapp and Ramsdell discuss their work at the dinner table. "Sue will bring up a project she has in Idaho and we'll come up with a policy management solution," he says. "Or I'll need her help engineering one of my showpieces." So the exchange of ideas and multi-disciplinary knowledge continues even after business hours, making each solution they develop together more insightful and more successful.

# CLASS NOTES

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Helene Scherer (BA '72) has retired after 20 years in technology development and organizational management for companies including IBM, AstraZeneca, Pep Boys and DeutscheBank. Prior to this she spent 25 years in nonprofit administration.

Kevin Trout (BPS '98) is a project architect in Burlington, Vt. Licensed in New York and Vermont, he works on health care, multi-family housing, municipal, and commercial projects. He is married and has a four-year-old daughter.

Eric Brodfuehrer (MArch '01, BPS '99) works in Philadelphia-based Navigant Consulting as an owner's representative for construction projects. In this role, he also provides construction claims expert witness analysis for the legal defense in settlement construction disputes. He is a member of the AIA, NCARB and is LEED BD+C certified.



ABOVE: Alex Bitterman has been appointed chair of SUNY Alfred State's Department of Architecture and Design, where he established the Center for Architecture and Remote Sensing and organized the college's first chapter of the AIAS.

BELOW: Dane Danielson of Gould Turner Group recently designed the first large-scale 3d printed open-cell structure in the country, on display in Nashville, Tenn.

Alex Bitterman (MArch '02) was recently appointed chair of SUNY Alfred State's Department of Architecture and Design. As a professor of architecture, he oversaw the formation of the first AIAS chapter at SUNY Alfred State and established CARS, the Center for Architecture and Remote Sensing, which is working to create high-resolution point-cloud meshes and virtual models of buildings and sites across North America and Europe. He is also the co-chair of STRATCOMM—the college's campus-wide strategic planning committee. Meanwhile, Bitterman continues to advance his research on the social responsibility of designers.

Patrick Dafchik (Architecture BS '04) is founder of One Batch, which designs and fabricates custom products, from signage to beer taps. Inspired by his father to pursue woodworking, Dafchik diversified his material range as an architecture student at UB. Upon graduation he founded Rusted Grain, using reclaimed wood to complete such projects as a games cart for Canalside and fixtures and furnishings for restaurants throughout Buffalo.

Dane Danielson (Architecture BS '05) is director of education for the Gould Turner Group, an architecture, planning and interior practice based in Nashville, Tenn. The group recently partnered with Branch Technology to design the first large-scale 3d printed open-cell structure in the country. The exhibit, Casa L'Espanya, was showcased during the Cheekwood International Playhouse Design Competition in Nashville. The use of a 3d printing robot arm and open-matrix cellular fabrication technique resulted in a freeform, lightweight structure — and ultimately a visually mesmerizing playspace. Danielson says the project demonstrates the importance of cross-pollination with fields such as material science to the future of high-performance building design and construction.

Dale White Jr. (BAED '05) is project manager for New York City's Jonathan Rose Companies, where he oversees development of Bedford Green House, an affordable housing development for transitioning homeless families in the Bronx. Previously, White was a development associate at Full Spectrum of New York, a sustainable development firm focused on affordable housing projects. White says he developed a passion for urban revitalization during his time in Buffalo, which included a position with the city's Good Neighbors Planning Alliance to engage youth in the planning process. He holds an MBA and MS in Real Estate Development from NYU.

Share your story: [ap.buffalo.edu/People/alumni-update](http://ap.buffalo.edu/People/alumni-update)







Leslie Vishwanath (MUP '06), has joined the City of Buffalo Urban Renewal Agency, where she supports the city's housing rehabilitation and development programs. The position builds on Vishwanath's 12-year career with the Lt. Col. Matt Urban Human Services Center on Buffalo's East Side. As the center's housing and community development director, Vishwanath oversaw affordable rental unit developments, homeownership programs and owner-occupied and tenant-occupied housing rehabilitation services. Among her key accomplishments with the Matt Urban Center was implementing trauma-informed building design for the center's homeless housing developments and establishing a Receivership program with the City of Buffalo Housing Court to support rental housing repairs while addressing quality of life issues. A Buffalo native, Vishwanath says equal housing opportunities for all are a critical factor in the city's continued renaissance. Vishwanath is a long-standing board member of HOME (Housing Opportunities Made Equal), a civil rights and fair housing organization committing to promoting diversity in Western New York.



Rana Abu Ghazaleh (MUP '08) has been recognized as one of "Fifty+ Under 50: Innovative Leaders and Ideas Transforming Metro DC's Food System." As project manager for the Old Town Farmer's Market in Alexandria, Va., Ghazaleh has increased food access for low-income residents through a pilot program that makes bike deliveries of excess market produce to local shelters and food pantries. She previously worked as a consultant for the International Planned Parenthood Federation in Tunisia and as a program manager at the International Peace and Cooperation Center in Jerusalem.

ABOVE TOP: MUP grad Leslie Vishwanath brings 12 years of experience in housing development with the Matt Urban Center, where she supported projects like this rehab/resale on Buffalo's East Side, to her new position with the Buffalo Urban Renewal Agency.

ABOVE MIDDLE: Recognized for her innovative work in food access in metro DC, Rana Abu Ghazaleh developed a pilot program that uses bikes to deliver excess market produce to local shelters and food pantries.

BELOW RIGHT: Quardean Lewis-Allen has been named to the 2017 Forbes list of 30 Under 30 — Social Entrepreneurs. He founded Made in Brownsville to train the Brooklyn neighborhood's at-risk youth in the creative fields.

Benjamin Siegel (March '08, Architecture BS '04) founded BMS Design Studio in Buffalo in 2011, offering specialized services in historic preservation, multi-family housing and hospitality. He married in April 2014 and recently purchased his first home in North Buffalo.

Quardean Lewis-Allen (Architecture BS '09), an activist architect who brings design education to at-risk youth, has been named to the 2017 Forbes list of 30 Under 30 — Social Entrepreneurs. Lewis-Allen founded Made in Brownsville in 2013 to address the issue of minority underrepresentation in design and tech fields and youth unemployment in his native Brownsville, a troubled and crime-ridden section of Brooklyn. Made in Brownsville brings mentors working in creative fields in New York City to Brownsville to train teens in science, technology, math, art or design. Working with Brownsville community leaders, participants are also given the opportunity to rebuild their community through projects in the neighborhood. Prior to his work in Brownsville, Lewis-Allen worked for Perkins Eastman; developed affordable housing typologies for an eco-sustainable town in Anam, Nigeria, with the Chife Foundation; and studied social housing under Anne Lacaton in Paris and public art under Krzysztof Wodiczko. He earned his Master of Architecture from the Harvard Graduate School of Design.



Jessica Kruse (MArch '11, Architecture BS '09), recently licensed, serves as LEED coordinator for LaBella Associates, D.P.C. in Rochester, NY. A LEED Green Associate and construction document technologist, Kruse serves on the boards of the local Construction Specifications Institute chapter and the ACE Mentor Program of Rochester. She married David Kruse (MUP '11, BAED '07) in June 2014.



ABOVE: Urban planning professor Daniel Hess catches up with alums Jing Dai and Jia Xie at China's Nanjing Institute of Geography and Limnology. The MUP grads are both practicing planners in Shanghai.

On a September 2016 trip to China's Nanjing Institute of Geography and Limnology to present his research on energy-efficient building renovation in Eastern Europe, urban planning faculty member Daniel B. Hess met with UB alumni Jing Dai and Jia Xie. Both are pursuing exciting careers as urban planners in Shanghai. Jing Dai (MUP 2012), left, is with the Shanghai Urban Planning and Land Use Management Bureau, and Jia Xie (MUP 2013), right, is with the China State Construction Engineering Company.

Andrew Connorton (MARCH '13) is manager of planning and development with the Los Angeles Dodgers.

The master's theses of Kristen Gabriele (MARCH '14, Architecture BS '12) and Daniel Nead (MARCH/MUP '13) were recently featured by the Design for All Institute of India. Gabriele's research proposed micro-housing as a safe and community-based "transitional village" for homeless individuals. She is currently an architectural designer at Elkus Manfredi Architects in Boston. Nead's featured research examines the viability of re-using residual military equipment in Afghanistan for mobile classrooms for young girls. Nead is project architect and engineer for Clark Patterson Lee in Rochester.

Kimberly Schueler (MUP '14, BAED '12) is an assistant planner for the Town of Amherst, N.Y.

Jeffrey Amplement (MUP '15) is assistant manager of grants and government affairs for the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority.

Christopher Snyder (MUP '15, BAED '13), among the school's first students to complete the Advanced Graduate Certificate in Historic Preservation, is the neighborhood and historic preservation planner for the City of Binghamton, N.Y.

Kyle Vliet (BAED '15) is a sale and design consultant at Bristol Botanics in Denver.

Elyse Sigal (MARCH '16), recently joined Shepley Bulfinch Design in Boston, where she applies inclusive design to the firm's work on the new clinical care tower for the Boston Children's Hospital. "Every three weeks we go to user group meetings with the surgeons, nurses and others to discuss the design from their perspective," says Sigal, who studied in the Inclusive Design Graduate Research Group at UB. "We even bring models and moveable parts of the equipment to have the users place them where they think is optimum. The firm designs from the specific culture and needs of the place..."

MY EDUCATION AT UB MORE THAN PREPARED ME FOR THIS JOB BY TEACHING ME TO DESIGN FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF HELPING PEOPLE."

## IN MEMORIAM

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### Mark Mendell



Mark Mendell, 77, co-chairman of CannonDesign and a founding member of the School of Architecture and Planning's Dean's Council, died Oct. 25, 2016. Over the past three years, Mark played a pivotal role in the maturation of the Council and the school. "I consider Mark a close friend and have enjoyed his staunch advocacy and wise council to advance the reputation and success of our school," said Dean Robert Shibley. "We will miss him." Mark's leadership of CannonDesign and across the profession was internationally known. Under his direction, the firm advanced to among the top 10 design firms in the world, ranked by *World Architecture*, *Design Intelligence* and *Building Design and Construction*. Today, CannonDesign operates 16 regional offices from Boston to Shanghai, serving clients across 25 countries in North America, South America, Europe, Asia, India and the Middle East. A fellow of the American Institute of Architects and a Member of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada, Mark was a distinguished alumnus of the Rhode Island School of Design. Long active in public service, Mark served as chairman of the board of the University of the Middle East and was a former member of the Dean's Council of the Harvard Kennedy School and member of the board of directors of the Albright-Knox Art Gallery.

### Gary Scott Danford



Gary Scott Danford, PhD, one of the first faculty members of the School of Architecture and Planning and member of the IDEa Center, died in October 2015 at the age of 68. An applied behavioral scientist, Danford joined UB's "School of Architecture and Environmental Design" in 1973 as associate professor of environmental psychology. He retired in 2011 after 38 years of service. Danford's research ranged from the organizational design of ambulatory health care delivery systems, for which he received a First Award for Applied Research from Progressive Architecture, to the planning, programming, design and management of person-behavior-environmental transactions for an aging society. He was also interested in psycho-social and organizational factors and their relationship to human productivity, particularly for the long-term habitation of space. He received faculty fellowships for this work from both NASA and the American Society for Engineering Education and spent the summer of 1984 at NASA conducting design research on its proposed International Space Station. Danford was best known among students for his theatrical large-lecture course, "Environment, Behavior and Design." In it, he assumed the role of his alter ego "Dr. Kyle Reardon" and challenged students to take on the task of designing for survival in extreme environments.

### Joy McDuffie



Joy McDuffie (nee Wiley) (MUP '08) 59, died Nov. 21, 2015, after a brief battle with cancer. A community activist in Buffalo who assisted homeowners facing foreclosure through the Western New York Law Center, she also owned a housing development company in Buffalo. Samina Raja, associate professor of urban and regional planning, recalls her time here as a student: "Several years ago, a new student walked into my course on statistics. She had an assured gait, a determined gleam in her eyes, and a big smile on her face. A few days into the semester, I handed back graded assignments with a request for revisions. Curiously, she thanked me profusely for my tough grading...Not only did she understand the importance of education for herself and her family, she viewed education as a way of turning around disadvantaged black neighborhoods. Any chance that she had she would talk about integrating our city's public schools into our neighborhood revitalization plans. I have taught hundreds of students, but I have met few who have overcome the challenges that Joy did, and left with the success that she did."

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