

B/a+p

News from the Buffalo School of Architecture and Planning
University at Buffalo

February 2015

Hayes Hall Restoration Enters Final Phase

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COVER
 The current Hayes Hall capital project is the largest-ever restoration of the circa 1860s landmark building. The Buffalo School is expected to reoccupy the space by early 2016.
 Photo by Dylan Buyskes, Onion Studio, 2014.

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

Are you one of our alumni?
 Sign up for news and update your profile at ap.buffalo.edu/People/alumni-update.html



Welcome From the Dean

Dear Alumni and Friends:

Robert G. Shibley
FAIA, AICP

As we enter 2015, our students are assembling the foundation of UB's entry into the U.S. Department of Energy's Solar Decathlon, an elite collegiate competition to design, build and operate the world's best zero-energy, solar-powered home. In September, we'll truck our super-efficient house to Irvine, Calif., for judging and then bring it back to Buffalo as an energy research center. In the meantime, just across the quad, construction crews have entered the final phase of the Hayes Hall restoration. We will return to our historic home as a premier facility for architectural and planning education by early 2016.



ABOVE /
Dean Shibley greets faculty
and students at the 2014-15
Welcome Celebration,
Photo by Dylan Buyskes,
Onion Studio

These two signature initiatives – brought to life in the following pages – are prime opportunities to cement our position as a top-tier program. Just by competing in the Solar Decathlon (against the likes of Yale, Cal Poly and the University of Texas at Austin), the Buffalo School has achieved international renown for sustainable, zero-energy design. Of course, the restoration of Hayes Hall is the Buffalo School's demonstration project, a physical expression of our commitment to historic preservation, sustainability, placemaking and 21st century education in architecture and planning.

These are also reasons to be proud and inspired to be a part of the Buffalo School community. As you read on, you'll meet four new faculty members, our latest Peter Reyner Banham Fellow and a student who organized a major portion of the Congress for New Urbanism's annual conference in Buffalo last summer. By next fall we'll launch a new graduate specialization in real estate development, the first in the SUNY system. Our faculty and students remain on the frontline of some of the most pressing challenges facing our world today. In "What Urban Renaissance?," Professor Henry Louis Taylor, Jr., considers what transitioning cities like Buffalo can do to extend today's urban revival to distressed, largely minority neighborhoods. Meanwhile, our UB Regional Institute has concluded the first year of its Citizen Planning School, mobilizing citizen activists from Buffalo's East Side to rural Niagara County. In "Musings from Munich," award-winning architectural historian Despina Stratigakos reflects on her yearlong fellowship to research her forthcoming book, *Hitler at Home*.

Our alumni base is as active as ever, with scores coming out for two recent "Buffalo in..." programs – one in Chicago as part of the national AIA conference and the other in New York City at Pei Cobb Freed & Partners. To build on this momentum, we're pleased to announce the appointment of Robert Hill as assistant dean and director of philanthropy and alumni engagement; read more about him in the following pages.

Also, in an effort to bring you more real-time news, we're shifting our *B/a+p Magazine* to an annual (rather than semiannual) cycle and devoting greater resources to our digital media. The magazine will remain a central forum for compelling features, now complemented with a richer web and social media presence.

We welcome your engagement during this momentous time – support UB's bid for the Solar Decathlon, volunteer to mentor our students, attend our events and share your ideas for new alumni programs and services. Tell us your story. We can't wait to hear from you.

In Brief

Awards & Announcements

INTERNATIONAL ACCLAIM

/ TOP

“Qube” by Jin Young Song is a dining set that folds into a compact cube to accommodate minimalist modern living. Rendering by Jin Young Song

/ BOTTOM LEFT

MirrorMirror, part of the permanent collection of the New Museum in New York City, was loaned out to the Albright-Knox Art Gallery and Canalside in Buffalo last summer. Photo by Florian Holzherr

/ BOTTOM RIGHT

Smart growth is a key tenet of WNY’s “Strategy for Prosperity,” a community-driven economic development plan produced with support from the UB Regional Institute. A brownfield along the Buffalo River will become the site of the SolarCity GigaFactory Complex at RiverBend, the largest PV manufacturer in the Western Hemisphere. Photo © Jim Cavanaugh, 2013 | Courtesy Buffalo Niagara Enterprise

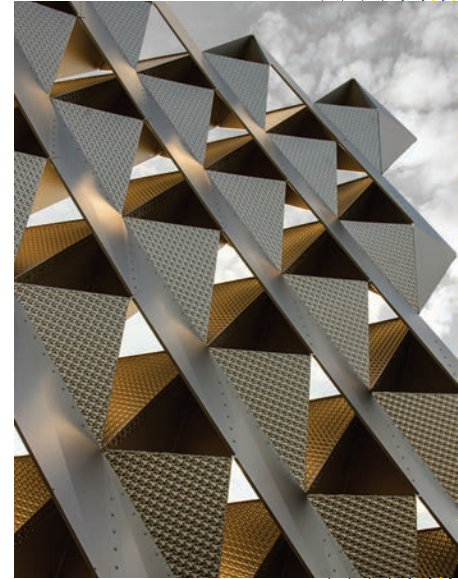


Buffalo School Takes Home Four Architizer A+ Awards:

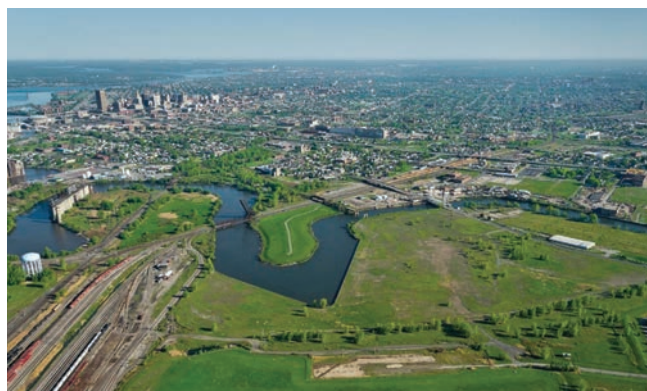
Two projects by architecture faculty members have landed prizes through the Architizer A+ Awards, a competitive annual contest that draws entries from around the world. Project 2XmT, a sculptural wall of folded steel designed by Nicholas Bruscia and Christopher Romano, won three awards in juried and popular choice categories for Architecture+Materials and Architecture+Fabrication. Bruscia, clinical assistant professor, and Romano, research assistant professor, designed and built the wall with a student team and in partnership with Rigidized Metals, a manufacturer of thin-gauge steel panels. The 152-panel, self-structured wall was erected in Buffalo’s Silo City. Jin Young Song, assistant professor of architecture, won the jury award in Architecture+Products for his design of Qube, a minimalist dining set which folds into a 3x3 cube. According to Song, Qube offers a stark contrast to oversized and overdesigned furniture, which fail to consider the “compactness of current living style.”

New Take on Street Tent Earns AZ Award:

MirrorMirror, a dazzling temporary street tent designed by architecture professors Stephanie Davidson and Georg Rafailidis, received the AZ Awards’ People’s Choice and merit awards in the Temporary Architecture category. Drawing 652 entries from around the world, the AZ Awards represent an international snapshot of leading work in architecture and design. MirrorMirror was the winning entry for the 2013 IDEAS CITY StreetFest Tenting Competition, which asked an international field of designers to reimagine temporary street tents as provocative spaces for the public to gather and interact. The tent unit, multiples of which can be combined to form a larger structure, features a simple 45-degree-angled gabled roof made of mirrored panels reinforced with an aluminum frame. The base is a steel tripod. The panels, sheathed in Mylar mirror foil, reflect public interactions below and the sky and surroundings above.



ABOVE
Project 2XmT by Nicholas Bruscia and Christopher Romano has won several international awards, including three Architizer A+ Awards. Photo by Christopher Romano and Nicholas Bruscia



TOP
Edward Steinfeld,
SUNY Distinguished Professor
of Architecture and director
of IDEa Center

MIDDLE LEFT
Lynda Schneekloth,
professor emerita of architecture

MIDDLE RIGHT
Sue Weidemann,
visiting professor of architecture

BOTTOM
Beth Tauke,
associate professor of architecture

Best Practice in Economic Development Planning: Western New York's new economic development plan has been recognized by the International Economic Development Council with a 2014 Excellence in Economic Development Silver Award. "A Strategy for Prosperity in Western New York" is the product of a community-based planning effort led by the WNY Regional Economic Development Council (WNYREDC) and Empire State Development in partnership with the UB Regional Institute. The work also recently received a 2014 Planning Excellence Award for Best Practice from the New York Upstate Chapter of the American Planning Association. It focuses investment around smart growth, workforce development, entrepreneurship and strategic industries. Released in 2011, the plan led to Gov. Andrew Cuomo's pledge to invest \$1 billion in WNY over the next decade. In addition to leading public participation, research and annual monitoring for the plan, the UB Regional Institute worked with the Brookings Institution and McKinsey & Co. to develop the Buffalo Billion investment plan. To date, over 8,600 citizens have participated in the planning process, while state investments have leveraged \$2.9 billion in private funding, created 7,000 new jobs and retained 12,000 jobs.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS



Edward H. Steinfeld, ArchD, SUNY Distinguished Professor of Architecture, has received one of the field's most significant honors: the James Haecker Award for Distinguished Leadership in Architectural Research, presented by the Architectural Research Centers Consortium. A pioneer and leading scholar in the field of inclusive design, Steinfeld's research centers on designing products and built environments that are more accessible, safe and friendly for all. Steinfeld joined UB in 1978 and six years later founded the IDEa Center (Center for Inclusive Design and Environmental Access), an internationally renowned, multidisciplinary research initiative that today includes six other faculty members and a staff of seven researchers and professionals. He is principal investigator for the Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers (RERC) on Universal Design and Accessible Public Transportation and co-author of the seminal *Principles of Universal Design*. Steinfeld is the third architect with UB ties to receive the honor. Previous winners are Dean Robert Shibley and John Eberhard, the school's founding dean.



Architecture faculty members **Lynda Schneekloth** and **Sue Weidemann**, PhD, have each been honored with a 2014 Career Award from the international Environmental Design Research Association. Over a career that spans four decades, Schneekloth, professor emerita of architecture, has explored through reflective practice, teaching and scholarship the ways in which people make, maintain and imagine place. An ardent environmental activist, she has fostered democratic design processes that integrate the expert knowledge of designers with the situated knowledge of citizens who inhabit particular spaces. Weidemann, an environmental psychologist and visiting professor of architecture, focuses on the relationship between people and their surroundings. Her contributions to the field include pioneering research on

housing satisfaction and workplace design, as well as the development of widely cited social science- and survey-based design methodologies. She began her career with the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, where she held professorships in both the landscape architecture and housing research and development programs.



The University at Buffalo has awarded **Beth Tauke**, associate professor of architecture, with the 2014 President Emeritus and Mrs. Meyerson Award for Distinguished Undergraduate Teaching and Mentoring. A Buffalo School faculty member since 1985, Tauke coordinates first-year design studios, teaches at all levels and is a devoted mentor to both current and former students. She is widely known across UB for her "Diversity in Design" course. According to Dean Robert Shibley, "Beth is a gifted and dedicated teacher who has touched thousands of students at UB over the past 30 years." Tauke is also internationally regarded as a scholar of universal design and design education.



Research Briefs

Rustbelt Radicals Put Food (Policy) Back on the Table

Over the past decade, Buffalo has emerged as one of the most progressive cities in the country for food systems planning. The city's food movement, however, didn't start in City Hall. It originated with a group of "Rustbelt radicals" converting vacant land into urban farms, according to a new study led by Samina Raja, associate professor of urban and regional planning. The study focuses on the nonprofit Massachusetts Avenue Project (MAP), which established the first urban farming project in Buffalo in the early 2000s and has led a grassroots coalition to translate those practices into policy.

Today, Buffalo has laws supporting chicken coops and community gardens; it's also adopting a new form-based land use and zoning code that would encourage urban agriculture, apiaries, greenhouses and farm stands. "Food is critical to people's well-being, and to understand how Buffalo has done this is an important lesson for planners and other cities," says Raja, director of the Food Systems Planning and Healthy Communities Lab (FoodLab). "What makes this case study interesting is that it shows what is possible in a resource-strapped city." Published in the *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development*, the study was co-authored by Diane Picard, executive director of MAP; Solhyon Baek, a postdoctoral researcher at the Food Lab; and Cristina Delgado (MUP '14).

After Habitat, Environment

Hadas Steiner, associate professor of architecture, argues in a recently published article that the postwar movement away from Modernist functionalism to systemic and adaptive formulations of the built environment has its roots in ecological models of biology. "After Habitat, Environment" is an abstract of Steiner's in-progress manuscript on the evolving use of ecological terms in architectural discourse from the 1940s through the 1970s. It was published in *New Geographies 06: Grounding Metabolism* by Harvard University Press. Her historical analysis begins in 1949 with Le Corbusier's introduction of the "Chartre de l'Habitat" to the Congress International d'Architecture Moderne (CIAM). The document, reflecting postwar disillusionment, argued that the functionalist approach to architecture was no longer sufficient. It also initiated a series of tumultuous debates that eventually led to the 1959 disbandment of CIAM, the very organization formed to promulgate the tenets of the Modernist movement. But these broader notions of habitat had already emerged in ecological circles, where there was new focus on the complex interactions among organisms, multi-layered ecologies and human environments. Steiner, an architectural historian and expert on the postwar period, continues her exploration through the 1950s, as architectural theorists began to view urban form as an outcome of human adaptation to local context. By the 1960s, architecture came under the influence of information science and cybernetics and the notion of "data" as the basis of biology and culture. Architects became mediators of natural, social and technological systems and the built environment an open-ended system that adapts to the interactions of all participants, human and otherwise.

Student News

BELOW

Enjoying the “parklet” in Diefendorf lot are, clockwise from left to right, Sam Wells (MUP '15), Paria Negahdarikia, doctoral student in urban and regional planning, Jenny Whittaker (MUP '15), Maryam Khojasteh (MUP '14), and Will Becker (MArch/MUP '16). Photo by Ariel Namoca, © University at Buffalo

Pop-Up Park: The Graduate Planning Student Association recently transformed a parking place on UB’s South Campus into a mini-park promoting alternative transportation for the UB community. The effort was UB’s contribution to Park(ing) Day Buffalo, the local iteration of an annual worldwide event in which artists, designers and citizens turn metered parking spots into temporary public parks.



BELOW RIGHT

UB NOMAS’ Georine Pierre (pointing) and James Kubiniec (not pictured) perform an ice breaker exercise with fellow NOMAS students from across the U.S. Photo by Fernando Gaglianese

UB NOMAS in the National Spotlight: In October, Georine Pierre and James Kubiniec, both seniors in architecture, represented UB at the National Organization of Minority Architects conference in Philadelphia. Kubiniec and Pierre, president and vice president, respectively, of UB’s chapter of the National Organization of Minority Architecture Students, networked with students, faculty and practicing architects from across the U.S. UB has now been invited to compete in the student design competition for the 2015 NOMA Conference in New Orleans.

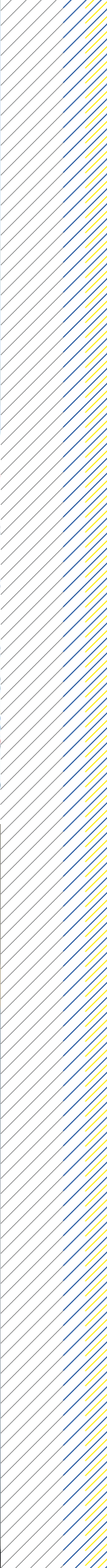
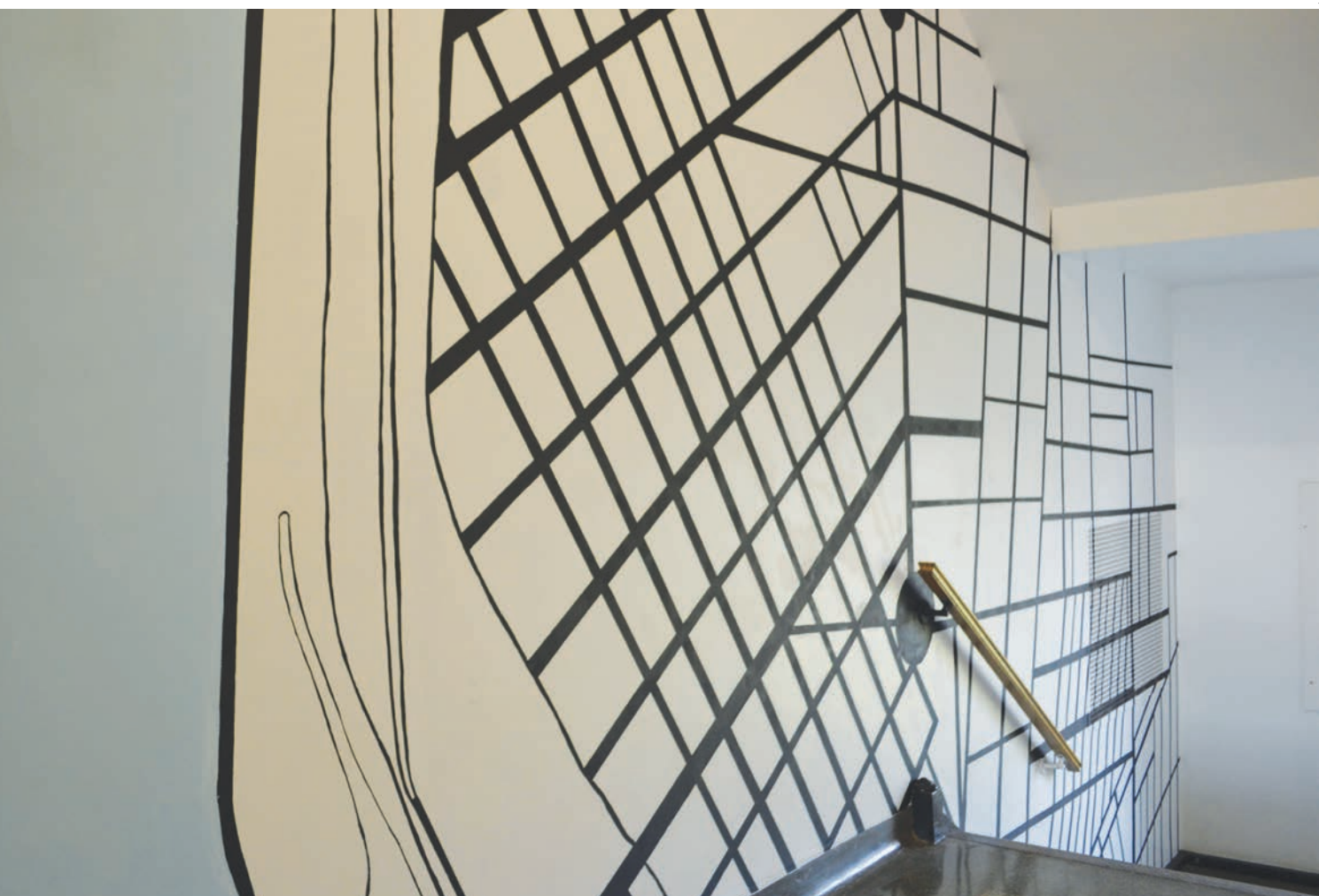
OPPOSITE TOP

A community garden on Buffalo’s West Side, developed by the grassroots Massachusetts Avenue Project. Photo courtesy of MAP

OPPOSITE BOTTOM

Hadas Steiner is at work on a manuscript that will provide an historical analysis of the evolving use of ecological terms in architectural discourse. Photo by Nancy Parisi, © University at Buffalo







ABOVE
A rendering presents infill guidelines for universally designed, bungalow-style housing in South Buffalo. Rendering by Preservation Planning Studio, Fall 2013

LEFT
Architecture students from UB's Alpha Rho Chi fraternity created a three-story mural of Buffalo in Crosby Hall to celebrate the school's close engagement with the city. Photos by Ross Moretzsky (Architecture BS '15)

Outstanding Student Project: The New York Upstate APA has recognized a graduate planning studio led by Kerry Traynor, clinical assistant professor of urban and regional planning, with the "Outstanding Student Project" award. Traynor's 2013 preservation planning studio, "Bringing New Form to Old Fabric: A Neighborhood Residential Infill Development Plan," examined vacant lots in South Buffalo's Heacock Park, proposing design guidelines that would align future development with the neighborhood's historic character while also supporting aging in place through universal design – two parameters that are not necessarily complementary. "That was the challenge," says Traynor. "How do you take single-story living [for aging in place] and fit it into a context that is typically two-story, turn-of-the-century residences?" Students studied South Buffalo's historic, cultural and built fabric, as well as design precedents from similar neighborhoods, as a basis for infill guidelines. The final report presents street-by-street analyses and recommended massing, ornamentation, materiality, fenestration and floor plans for the neighborhood's distinctive housing typologies. Traynor's planning studios have earned the Outstanding Student Project award in three of the past four years, generating conservation district plans for Buffalo's Old First Ward and Fruitbelt community and an infill housing plan for the Frederick Law Olmsted-designed Humboldt Parkway.

Mural by Alpha Rho Chi Brings Buffalo into Crosby Hall: Inspired by the school's close engagement with the city, 10 students from UB's Alpha Rho Chi architecture fraternity have mapped Buffalo in a three-story mural that spans the eastern stairwell of Crosby Hall. According to Ross Moretzsky, a senior in the architecture program and president of Alpha Rho Chi: "The mural is a map of the City of Buffalo split into three separate times in the city's history over the three floors of Crosby. Our aim was to tie the school and city together and better understand the development of Buffalo and how it has changed over time." Visitors to the building now pass by a depiction of Buffalo circa the early 1800s on the 1st-floor stairwell. The city grid grows denser and more expansive by the second floor (mid-20th century Buffalo) until the third floor, which represents present-day Buffalo. The students conceived, designed and implemented the interconnected mural independently, reflecting the school's distinctive regional context and passion for place.

Buffalo School Plans New Graduate Specialization in Real Estate Development

Next fall, the Buffalo School will launch a three-semester, graduate-level specialization in real estate development, the first to be offered in the State University of New York system. Designed to meet the needs of an increasingly complex profession, the multi-disciplinary program encompasses finance and valuation, the development process, law and market analysis, all contextualized in architecture, design, planning and public policy. Formulated in close collaboration with Buffalo's leading real estate professionals – several of whom will serve as

faculty members and advisors—the specialization is also designed to serve young entrepreneurs eager to contribute in concrete ways to the redevelopment of Buffalo and similar transitioning cities. Students will explore specialized fields of great concern to today's real estate profession, including energy innovation, inclusive design, placemaking and public-oriented investment for low- and mixed-income communities. The Master of Science in Architecture specialization is open to students with any undergraduate major.

Musings
from Munich

by Despina Stratigakos,
Associate Professor of
Architecture

Munich is known for Oktoberfest, the festival that has attracted visitors from far and wide for over two hundred years. When I arrived in September 2012 to begin my Marie Curie Fellowship at Ludwig Maximilian University, the city was making its final preparations for the world's largest party with more than six million guests. The vast but temporary landscape of beer tents awaited the huge crowds, and the Bavarian State Police were wrapping up a year of planning to ensure that merrymaking did not slip into chaos.

Hospitality and security are among the many assets Munich promotes globally, including world-class museums, exquisite Baroque architecture, abundant parks and a thriving economy. I was there, however, to explore what it does not flaunt: its close association with Adolf Hitler and National Socialism. In the 1920s, with considerable support from local residents, he launched the National Socialist movement in this city, which he later designated its capital.

Historians such as Gavriel Rosenfeld claim that Munich has not done enough to preserve and remember its uncomfortable past. After the war, evidence of the bombings and the Third Reich was largely erased and surviving Nazi buildings anonymously absorbed into the urban fabric. Few memorials acknowledged the active role of Munich's residents in Nazi crimes. Places associated with Hitler's many years in the city, including the private residence he maintained until 1945, similarly began to fade from memory.



My book, *Hitler at Home* (forthcoming Yale University Press), explores the making of the Führer's domestic spaces and reveals how designers and publicists, working closely with their client, employed this ostensibly private realm to polish and soften his public image, seducing audiences in Germany and abroad.

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ABOVE
Despina Stratigakos has spent the better part of the past two years in Munich through a prestigious Marie Curie Fellowship to conduct research for her forthcoming book, "*Hitler at Home*." Photo by Björn Kindler

The Berghof, Hitler's Alpine retreat, was bombed by the Allies, but his Munich apartment building escaped unscathed and today is a police station, a choice meant to discourage Neo-Nazis and tourists from lingering. I requested permission to visit and the police chief inspector himself gave me a tour of the site, after which we discussed our competing agendas. He is wary of the building becoming a rallying point for extremists through publicity; I believe that transparency and education are the best defense.

On April 30, 2015, the 70th anniversary of American troops entering the city, the Munich Documentation Center for the History of National Socialism will open on the former grounds of the Brown House, the Nazi Party's national headquarters. Its presence will undoubtedly renew debates about the ways in which the city denies or confronts its past and will lead to a reassessment of who, what, and how we remember in the urban landscape.

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Despina Stratigakos, PhD, is an associate professor of architecture at the Buffalo School. She is an internationally recognized architectural historian with particular interest in gender and modernity in European cities. She is the author of the award-winning book, "*A Women's Berlin: Building the Modern City*."

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Interested in historic preservation?

Check out the Buffalo School's new advanced, graduate-level certificate programs in historic preservation and urban design:
ap.buffalo.edu/academics/programs-in-historic-preservation

Citizens Planning for Change in their Community



Over 100 citizens across Western New York are better prepared to effect change in their communities thanks to a planning boot camp offered by the Buffalo School and its UB Regional Institute (UBRI). The inaugural class of the Citizen Planning School participated in workshops and networked with planning professionals and community leaders to advance their ideas from concept to action.



A select group of 17 “Champions for Change” received additional training and technical assistance through the program’s advanced track. Their proposals, some already in the action phase, include a fresh food market and small business incubator for Buffalo’s East Side, a public education campaign on waste prevention and reduction, a community organizing initiative in Niagara Falls, and historical signage and wayfinding in the Buffalo suburb of Williamsville. Paul Perez, already a graduate of the City of Buffalo’s Urban Fellows program for emerging leaders, is creating a rain garden and public park on Buffalo’s East Side, a project that will address storm-water runoff while beautifying and building hope in this distressed neighborhood. Of the Citizen Planning School, he says:

“It’s a vital resource for someone who has the passion and zeal to do something but doesn’t necessarily know how to go about addressing it.”

ABOVE TOP
Members of the first class of the Citizen Planning School work with the UB Regional Institute to advance their ideas into action.
Photo courtesy of UBRI

ABOVE BOTTOM
Buffalo activist Gail Wells (second from left) is leading a citizen collaborative to catalyze and inform cultural and heritage tourism initiatives planned by the Michigan Street African American Heritage Corridor Commission.
Photo courtesy of Gail Wells

BOTTOM LEFT
Preservationist Mary Ellen Haefner’s “Rediscovering Main Street” initiative will create a signage system for historic landmarks along Main Street in the historic village of Williamsville.
Photo courtesy of Mary Ellen Haefner

BOTTOM RIGHT
Paul Perez says the Citizen Planning School channels citizen passion into action. He will create a rain garden and public park on Buffalo’s East Side.
Photo by Cristina Delgado

The citizen academy is sponsored by the school through One Region Forward, a federally-funded planning initiative for sustainable development in Erie and Niagara counties. Moving forward, the Buffalo School will integrate the annual program into its curriculum to more closely engage faculty and students. “Each year we do this, we’ll bring more champions into the mix, develop more idea-to-action projects and see this grow into a body of work that is consistent with the sustainability premises of One Region Forward,” said Dean Robert Shibley, director of UBRI. Leading the Citizen Planning School for UBRI are Bart Roberts (MUP ’07), research assistant professor, and Cristina Delgado (MUP ’14), project manager.



New Faculty
Members Drawn by
Buffalo School's
Research Culture,
Post-Industrial
Regional Context

The Buffalo School is pleased to welcome four new architecture faculty members whose research and teaching cut across the fields of architecture, urban design and planning. This 2014-15 class of faculty cited the Buffalo School's culture of experimentation and the research resources of the University at Buffalo as top draws. Each is also eager to engage with Buffalo as a provocative regional context for design inquiry.



LEFT TO RIGHT /
New faculty:
Shannon Bassett
Erkin Özey
Julia Jamrozik
Nicholas Rajkovich

Shannon Bassett is an architectural and urban designer. She holds an MArch from Harvard University's Graduate School of Design and a BArch from Carleton University in Ottawa. Her research, teaching, writing and practice operate at the intersection of architecture, urban design and ecological systems. Her expertise includes China's explosive urbanization and its changing landscape and the post-industrial landscape of shrinking cities in North America.

"As an urbanist, I am very compelled by Buffalo's urban renaissance and its ongoing urban redevelopment. Buffalo has an incredible post-industrial landscape for its waterfront. It is rich in opportunities for adaptive re-use of its urban landscapes and artifacts, as well as the recovery of its natural landscape and the ecological systems of its water edge through design."

Julia Jamrozik holds architecture and art degrees from the University of Toronto and an MArch from the University of British Columbia. Her research interests focus on public space, public buildings and the role of both playfulness and play in shaping these environments.

"I was drawn by the multidisciplinary approach and focus on research at the Buffalo School. Further, I saw the school as an institution which through its teaching and other activities aims to meaningfully contribute not only to the architectural profession but also to the regeneration of the city of Buffalo and the broader community."

Erkin Özey is a registered architect and an urbanist whose research focuses on urban asset distribution practices and their spatial impacts on the city. An Aga Khan Fellow (2011-13) at Harvard University's Graduate School of Design, he has also explored the issues of urban conservation, territorial expansion and transportation infrastructure in the city of Istanbul. Özey received his BArch degree from Middle East Technical University in Ankara and his MArch II degree from Harvard.

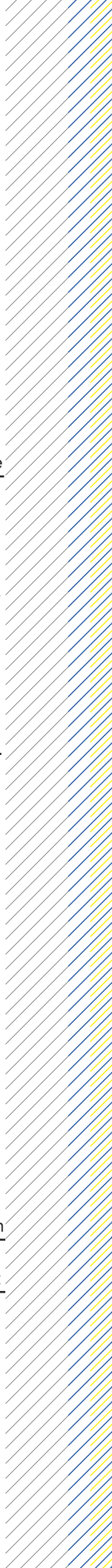
"Especially within the last decade, there has been a discernible uncoupling of architectural and urban research tracks in the academy. I think the Buffalo School is uniquely positioned to bridge this infertile divide thanks to the multi-faceted research it has fostered. I am also impressed with the exemplary engagement with the city of Buffalo through its UB Regional Institute and various research projects."

Nicholas Rajkovich, PhD, AIA, focuses his research investigations on the intersection of energy efficiency, renewable energy, and adaptation to climate change. He holds a PhD in urban and regional planning from the University of Michigan, a Master of Architecture from the University of Oregon and a Bachelor of Architecture from Cornell University.

"The University at Buffalo is nationally known for its excellent architecture and planning programs and a strong tradition of engaging the local community on design and urban issues. With the recent announcement of UB's RENEW (Research and Education in eEnergy, Environment and Water) Institute, there is significant support at the university for teaching and research related to sustainability."



Visit ap.buffalo.edu to learn more about these faculty members and read our Q&A with each as they reflect on the Buffalo School, their research interests and design philosophies.





Emerging Practitioners Carry on Legacy of Peter Reyner Banham

In the memory of Peter Reyner Banham, the Banham Fellowship supports the research and creative activity of emerging practitioners in architecture. Banham taught at UB from 1976-80, producing a foundational body of scholarship on material/visual culture as a reflection of contemporary social life. He engaged in a scholarly project on American industrial architecture in early modernism through historical research, hands-on engagement and seminar instruction. The work resulted in his landmark publication, *A Concrete Atlantis*.

In 2013-14, Italian architect and writer Ludovico Centis pushed on in the Banham legacy, exploring the Manhattan Project as a powerful North American “monument.” This infamous program, which produced the first atomic bomb, used an incredible amount of landscape across New York State and left behind an infinite trail of radioactive byproducts. The work of Centis and his students culminated in a visual exhibition of “spinal landscapes” – places of increasing tension between preserving nature and collective consciousness and between the need for secrecy and the demand for participation.

ABOVE
Archival research, historic materials and interviews formed the basis of a series of tests, maps and drawings that investigate the legacy landscapes of the Manhattan Project.
Photo by Ludovico Centis

BELOW LEFT
The opening of Centis’ exhibition: “The Eternal Blast: Monuments of the Manhattan Project in the Empire State,” on May 2, 2014, in downtown Buffalo.
Photo by Joseph Swerdlin (Architecture BS '13)

BELOW RIGHT
As the 2014-15 Banham Fellow, Jordan Carver will lead students in investigating the relationship of public infrastructure and civic identity in Buffalo.

Joining the Buffalo School as the 2014-2015 Peter Reyner Banham Fellow is architectural writer, researcher and educator Jordan Carver. As the 2014-15 Banham Fellow, Carver is examining the relationship of state funding and public infrastructure to civic identity in Buffalo through a yearlong seminar, site-specific installations and a public symposium.

“Buffalo is ideal because the identity and development of the city have been uniquely tied to large-scale infrastructural projects since its founding and initial planning,” Carver says. “The Erie Canal is the most obvious example, but also the Olmsted plan, the grain silos, the Interstate system, the subway, bridges to Canada and the University at Buffalo itself.”

Carver co-organizes WBYA? (Who Builds Your Architecture?), an advocacy group examining labor, architecture and the global systems that intertwine these aspects with buildings. He was recently awarded a New York State Council on the Arts grant to study how sequestration and taxation affect the built environment. He received his MARCH and Master of Science in Critical, Curatorial and Conceptual Practices from Columbia University. A widely published architectural writer, Carver has served as managing editor for Columbia University’s GSAPP books.



Research Spotlight

Students Build Skills and Push Limits of Energy-Conscious Design and Living as they Compete in International Solar Decathlon

by Edward Schelleng, MArch '14

It would be my last studio as a Master of Architecture student, but the decision was a no-brainer. It was fall 2013 and the buzz around school was that UB was going to make a go for the Solar Decathlon, an elite competition that combines practicality and ecologically responsible design and brings it straight to schools and students. A research seminar the prior semester had generated an initial concept; in front of me was an opportunity to hone the design to a level that would gain UB a spot in this prestigious competition.

Here was a chance to conceive a design to the fullest extent, from the floors and roof to the fixtures and furnishings, all within the confines of a competition. If we got in, we would build our design from the ground-up. It would become part of the life of our school, university and community. Nothing would synthesize our practical skills and design awareness quite like this project. We all agreed, this would be the highlight of our academic careers.

Martha Bohm, assistant professor of architecture and lead faculty advisor on the project, captures the value of this experience: “A deep understanding at an intuitive level of how design decisions affects the way buildings use energy is a skill needed now in the profession. This project is an invaluable experience.”

Imagine tens of thousands of people traveling across the country to cheer for their favorite team of architecture students. That will be the scene in Irvine, Calif., next fall, as UB competes against 16 other universities in the U.S. Department of Energy's Solar Decathlon—an elite international contest in which collegiate teams design, construct and operate cost-effective solar dwellings.

UB's entry, the GRoW Home, is green, energy-positive and designed to promote a new way of sustainable living. The ultra-efficient minimalist dwelling, which features a greenhouse+living space to grow food year-round, gives the user agency in the stewardship of energy while creating dynamic indoor-outdoor living. After the competition, the home will be permanently sited in Buffalo as an educational and community resource. The Buffalo School is taking the lead with participation from UB's School of Engineering and Applied Sciences and School of Management; in all, nearly 100 students and dozens of faculty members have participated in the project since 2012, when the first concepts were roughed out.

In the final stretch of the competition, architecture faculty and students are working hand-in-hand with 12 other UB departments and a handful of local businesses to problem-solve design, engineering and construction while managing a nearly \$800,000 project budget and executing marketing plans. It's a one-of-a-kind opportunity to put their design-build skills to work while gaining practical experience in areas as diverse as cost estimating and building-integrated photovoltaics. It's also a chance to put UB and Buffalo on the map for energy-conscious design and living.

As students begin construction and assembly (they'll truck the finished house to California in September), design decisions are taking on greater weight and students are getting their hands dirty. The excitement and energy in the studio is palpable.

Read on as members of the GRoW Home team take you through their efforts to win big for UB and Buffalo.



ABOVE
Edward Schelleng (MArch '14)
presents at the spring 2014
final review for the GRoW
Home, UB's entry into the
U.S. Department of
Energy Solar Decathlon.
Photo by Duane Warren
(MArch '15)

But the Solar Decathlon doesn't just fit us as students – it fits the Buffalo School. The architecture program is exceptional at producing good designers, first and foremost. But at its heart, the Buffalo School develops design-builders. The Solar Decathlon is an opportunity to “be Buffalo” in this sense.

Nicholas Rajkovich, assistant professor of architecture and one of several faculty advisors on the project, says this is the school's primary advantage: “It's the willingness of people to roll up their sleeves and start building – whether it be a model, a mockup or the actual house. I've never worked at a school that has such a strong ethic of making; I think it will serve us well in the long run.”

The project would also put us at the table with top students from across the university to collaborate on decisions as small as selecting rain screen fasteners and as big as engineering the solar panels.

As we set to work examining competition precedents, the full scope of the challenge began to emerge. The building would need to perform well in both sunny California (for the competition) and Buffalo winters. And how would we ship this building across the country and then reconstruct it in less than 10 days? We also learned that architecture is just one of 10 contests that compose the Solar Decathlon – the GRoW Home would also be evaluated for its market appeal, comfort, affordability, appliance efficiency and even a “commuting” contest that measures the house's capacity to power an electric car. Of course, if the previous competitions are any indication, the opposition is tough.

A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT LEVEL OF DESIGN INVESTIGATION

“In most studios, we have one semester to basically just do massing concepts or very preliminary schematic designs. This project goes way beyond that...We actually design the details, we figure out the systems and we conduct energy, thermal and mechanical performance analyses. It's a completely different level of design investigation.”

— Christopher Osterhoudt (MArch '15), project manager

“It's not like we have a final review and put in our portfolio and call it a day. We're actually putting this thing together, seeing how it performs and entering it into a competition. It will have a life that goes beyond our academics here at UB.”

— Michael Tuzzo (MArch '16), project cost estimator



ABOVE

A new form of conscious urban living: Featuring dynamic shading, fenestration and flexible indoor-outdoor space, the GRoW Home is designed to give the user agency in energy stewardship. Occupants can grow food year-round in the GRoWlarium, a greenhouse+living space that opens up to the home's outdoor living area. Maximizing active and passive solar energy, the GRoW Home is net-positive and will send surplus energy back to the grid.

Images courtesy of fall 2014 Solar Decathlon Studio; rendering work by Nate Heckman, Michael Tuzzo and Duane Warren


Our biggest challenge was striking a balance between the competition guidelines and our own design concepts. Every decision we made needed to both show vision and fall under a technical guideline.

Through the research component of the studio, we began by mapping our design against the goals of the competition. Then, as a team, we defined our own goals, from taking a stand on energy consumption to designing the project to fit into the urban fabric of Buffalo – principals that were important to us as students and designers.

One of our first defined tasks was to integrate the competition's base requirement of 600 to 1,000 square feet of conditioned space with unconditioned space to maximize efficiency, comfort and flexibility. Thus, our 770-square-foot home expands to more than 1,000 square feet through a tempered greenhouse+living space – the GRoWlarium – where residents can grow their own food, even during the cold months of winter. We took this approach – of taking an idea and blowing it out to its maximum extent – and applied it to much of our design.

Indeed, the house is designed to eclipse the competition's energy performance requirements. A hybrid between a greenhouse, modular home and power plant, the house reduces energy consumption across multiple aspects of urban life.

Thermal mass and extensive ventilation and shading minimize mechanical loads. Appliances and HVAC systems – including geothermal heat – are state-of-the-art in efficiency. The house's doors, windows, shades and, most significantly, the GRoWlarium can be opened or closed to bring in the warmth of the sun in the winter or protect from its glare in the summer. All of these strategies will then be controlled by the homeowner to maximize performance and achieve a varied and delightful domestic space. The house further suggests that residents are active producers of the food that they consume, resisting the larger contemporary trend of an energy-intensive diet. Food grown (year-round) in the GRoWlarium requires no fossil fuel to produce or transport. With lower energy demands, roof-mounted solar electric and solar hot water panels (angled for Buffalo's latitude) generate enough energy to power the house and an electric car. Excess electricity is sent back to the grid.



We're working together not because someone told us to, or because it looks good on paper, but because it makes sense.

Still, we want to do more than win the competition – we want to reframe residential energy practices. The GRoW Home alters lifestyle energy use by demanding more of the occupant. It also connects the occupant with natural forces to manage energy in concert with the elements, not in opposition to them. It argues that bringing home energy management into the realm of domestic ritual and routine can translate into broader energy stewardship. Ultimately, we have created a more rigorous design than the competition brief expected of us. We are challenging our own beliefs on residential energy use, and making an argument to the school, the U.S. Department of Energy and the greater public about what it means to live energy conscious.

The concept ultimately gained us entry into the 2015 competition as one of 17 teams from across the U.S. and world. That was February 2014. We'd have 18 months to finalize the design and build the house before trucking it to California for the competition.

To pull this off, we needed help. Teams of mechanical, electrical, structural and even seismic engineers have helped to fine-tune the house's solar electric system, design its plumbing and mechanical systems and assess thermal performance. Students from UB's School of Management are assisting with project marketing and cost analyses.

It has been a humbling experience. In the beginning, we saw the Solar Decathlon as an architecture competition, when in truth, it is a student competition. We're working together not because someone told us to, or because it looks good on paper, but because it makes sense.

Such collaboration has also shaped the house's design – for example, advancing the solar electric panels from a roughly designed system to a sophisticated, canopied array. The team's project manager, Christopher Osterhoudt (MARCH '16), reflects: "For a year and a half it was just us putting rectangles on a roof and saying they can produce all this energy. [Then the engineering students] taught us how to put the panels in series with wires and inverters. That informed the spatial requirements inside the house itself and created new elements that we had to incorporate into the design."



ABOVE
The GRoW Home's studio space is constantly abuzz as team members assemble construction drawings and test prototypes. The house will be completed by summer 2015 and then trucked to Irvine, Calif., for the competition.
Photo by Duane Warren (MArch '15)

The dynamic has fostered an entirely new and comprehensive studio experience that not only enriches the project but prepares us for today's highly collaborative practice environment.

It's a perfect marriage of knowledge and experience, according to Praveen Iyer, a graduate student in UB's Electrical Engineering program who is leading electrical engineering for the house: "Engineers only look at purpose, the work that it's supposed to be doing. Architects study symmetry, whether it goes with the design. There is a constant back and forth between engineers and architects. In the real world, that's how it works."

Adds Michael Tuzzo (MArch '16), project cost estimator:

"We're also learning how to communicate with other individuals on a project – engineers, sponsors and eventually contractors. It's important we know how to convey our ideas to those from different fields, and not just to architects."

As the team moves into design-development, construction drawings and actual prototyping, local businesses have been engaged to provide technical assistance. Montante Solar, a Buffalo-based firm that develops solar applications for commercial facilities, has helped design the house's PV system and is now offering its warehouse as construction space. LPCiminelli, a global contractor, is assisting in material procurement and providing REVIT support and construction management. Input on structural and mechanical engineering is coming from Watts Architecture & Engineering.

Students are also tapping faculty expertise at an entirely new level. Consider that Bohm, who is leading design for the project, has prior experience as a sustainable design coordinator for William McDonough + Partners, a firm renowned for sustainable design leadership, and led two Cornell University Decathlon teams. Brad Wales, a clinical assistant professor of architecture who is overseeing the house's construction and assembly, recently completed a passive solar house through his own practice and has led dozens of design-builds as director of the Buffalo School's Small Built Works program.

"I've worked with Brad before in studio, but on this project you get to experience all the knowledge that our practicing faculty have to offer," says Osterhoudt. "We're learning so much in terms of how a building really gets put together, things you don't always get to talk about in a regular academic setting."

Adds Wales: "The Solar Decathlon gives students the opportunity to work directly with design professionals practicing in their fields. It is tremendously educational experience."

By practicing the skills needed to complete this project, we have honed the same skills that make us marketable to future employers. From manufacturer specification and cost estimating to marketing and fundraising, these are skills best learned through experience. Consider the perspective of Amanda Mumford, a senior in the environmental design program who manages communications for the project:

"This is more than just a building. We're students conducting a business operation."

As I watch this project move forward as a graduate of the Buffalo School, I feel great satisfaction knowing that I contributed. Like most projects here at the Buffalo School, it's a personal as well as collaborative achievement. However, the true reward is the experience gained. As students, we often learn best by seeing with our own eyes and doing with our own hands. The Solar Decathlon gave us just that while placing our work, our university and our community on an international stage.

NOW WE JUST NEED TO WIN.

Help Us Build the Best Solar Home in the World...Right in Buffalo!

We're determined to win the Solar Decathlon and change the face of sustainable architecture. But we need your help. The competition involves not just designing and building the GRoW Home but disassembling and trucking it to Irvine, Calif., for the 10-day contest, and then transporting it back to Buffalo for permanent siting.

Your first opportunity to support our students is today! The project needs to raise \$15,000 to send the first of our three student support teams to California. Help send our students on a trip to change the world. Visit giving.buffalo.edu/GRoW to learn more.

"There's an untapped potential in Buffalo to do interesting and provocative sustainable design. Sometimes, to get things moving, you need a project that captures people's imaginations — something captivating that people can experience firsthand."

— Martha Bohm, assistant professor of architecture and lead faculty advisor

"We're now one of only 18 schools in the country competing in the Solar Decathlon. Being part of UB's first team to compete is pretty exciting. It's not just a UB or a Buffalo School kind of thing. It's a Western New York thing. It's something we can all get behind."

— Michael Tuzzo (MArch '16), project cost estimator

Buffalo Matters

What Urban Renaissance? How Planning Can Bring Prosperity to Distressed Urban Neighborhoods

by Rachel Teaman

A Conversation
with Henry
Louis Taylor, Jr.,
Director of Center
for Urban Studies

BELOW
Henry Louis Taylor, Jr., checks in
with a former staff member of
Buffalo Read to Succeed at the
Planning & Information Center,
which the Center for Urban
Studies helped to set up as part of
the Perry Choice Neighborhood
Planning Initiative.
Photo courtesy of Center
for Urban Studies

“Buffalo is experiencing an economic boom, but the explosion will not automatically spark the revitalization of precarious East Side neighborhoods, an area consisting of black neighborhoods lying east of Main Street and north of South Buffalo,” writes Henry Louis Taylor, Jr., PhD, professor of urban and regional planning, in a recent *Buffalo News* viewpoint piece (Sept. 7, 2014).

Taylor continues that residents of these neighborhoods bordering Buffalo’s booming medical campus, downtown and waterfront, are living urban life in reverse. Rather than moving toward economic opportunity, they are moving away from it. This “market-driven paradox” is the result of compounding factors including a lack of investment in existing housing stock and the spread of blight and joblessness, together fueling health challenges, inadequate schooling, crime and a lack of hope.

As director of the Center for Urban Studies, Taylor and a contingent of planning staff and students are extending economic opportunity to these communities through a soup-to-nuts neighborhood planning model rooted in research and aggressive resident and community outreach.

Most recently, the center completed the “Perry Choice Neighborhood Transformation Plan” for a post-industrial enclave just south of downtown and adjacent to the redeveloping Canalside area and Cobblestone District. The federally-funded comprehensive planning effort – led by the Buffalo Municipal Housing Authority (grantee) and the Center for Urban Studies (planning coordinator), along with the Philadelphia-based planning and design firm Wallace Roberts & Todd – links physical improvements, including a reimagined public housing complex, to improved access to quality education, job training, health services and transportation. A few miles north, in the Fruit Belt neighborhood next to the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus, the center continues its years-long “community as classroom” program to engage middle-schoolers in neighborhood redevelopment.

The center is now replicating these planning models for other East Side communities. Taylor says the work also applies broadly to legacy cities across the country and even internationally as the center prepares to launch a planning initiative in Havana, Cuba.

Earlier this year, HUD highlighted the work of the Center for Urban Studies (as well as the UB Regional Institute) in its recognition of the University at Buffalo as a national best practice for community outreach and development efforts in downtown Buffalo and its surrounding neighborhoods.

We sat down with Taylor recently to reflect on what goes into turning around a distressed urban neighborhood, and what steps government and business leaders can take to ensure the city of Buffalo’s economic renaissance benefits all.

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What is the role of planners in this kind of work?

Let's take Buffalo's East Side as an example. This community has a tremendous wealth of human and organizational capital. How do you put these multiple population groups together? Do you let them continue to operate in silos or do you help them work together? This gets to the profound role of planners. We have to be designers of the entire community. Planners need to build both the physical environment as well as the social and institutional structure of neighborhoods, the interfaces and the connections. If we are to bring about real, meaningful change for distressed urban neighborhoods, you can't just build a house or create a really nice park. The community needs to be a part of and own the plan.



ABOVE
Perry youth take "preference surveys" to share their input on proposed streetscape and building designs for their neighborhood.

Photo courtesy of Center for Urban Studies

Tell us a little bit about how CUS builds buy-in for this work?

In the case of the Perry neighborhood, South Park Avenue is a boundary line between the predominantly white and black neighborhoods. We knew we had to build a relationship across that line. Once we got moving, they were extremely supportive and helpful. We held dozens of focus groups, conducted structured surveys of almost 70 percent of residents in the Commodore Perry public housing complex and interviewed service providers. We sent a busload of our students into the community to conduct surveys of residents. We set up a Planning & Information Center staffed by our students and residents to link the planning team and community members. This became the material we used to drive the plan.

One of the project's most significant findings was that the supportive services organizations were not efficiently organized to effectively deliver services in the neighborhood. They made no distinction between neighborhood- and city-level services and lacked a place-based focus on service delivery. Also, many residents didn't realize the types of services available. We had to rethink the system. But what I didn't expect was the willingness of these organizations to

attend meetings and commit staff and time to this process – from Catholic Charities of Buffalo, to the United Way of Buffalo and Erie County, to Say Yes to Education. **We were able to literally reconceive and redesign the organizational framework of the neighborhood and community. The heads of these organizations are now important collaborators and leaders of this plan.**

How does this translate into implementation? Who needs to play a role, and how?

We are in the midst of a neo-liberal economy that calls for smaller government and fewer taxes. Government doesn't have the capacity it used to. It becomes partner and other organizations drive development. At the same time, you need a lead organization to pull together this network and provide staff to move collaboration forward. It's the catalyst, the engine and conscience of the plan that keeps things moving in the right direction. It's also important that developers buy into the vision. If they do, then you'll find they're willing to do some things they wouldn't be willing to do otherwise. In the Perry neighborhood, when the Seneca Buffalo Creek Casino was being developed, we worked with the developer to externalize retail. They also worked with us to target housing for casino employees. Developing a neighborhood is a lot like stitching a quilt. Everybody has a piece, but if we stitch together with a theme, then we can make a great quilt.

Behind Buffalo's renaissance is a framework of plans, including Buffalo's comprehensive plan, a new regional economic development plan for WNY and the Green Code, the city's first zoning code rewrite in 50 years. How does CUS's work at the neighborhood level build off these efforts?

Our job as planners is to connect to these efforts. In the case of the Green Code, we went back and forth to make sure the strategies were consistent, compatible and reinforcing across both plans. The Perry Choice plan also integrates with One Region Forward, a regional plan for sustainable development, as well as plans for adjoining communities, including the Larkin District to the east, the Old First Ward to the South and Canalside to the west. It's a system of plans and it's everyone's job to connect those efforts. This applies, too, to on-the-ground development and specific projects. In the absence of this, it can actually accelerate decline in distressed communities.



What else can we be doing to address this “market-driven paradox” affecting distressed neighborhoods in Buffalo and beyond?

We studied the Perry neighborhood census tracts and found that 30-40 percent of the population was spending 50 percent or more on housing. That’s a significant proportion of the population at or above the cutoff for the recommended financial burden for housing. When old housing meets a low-income population, it’s toxic.

City leadership can do two things. One is to have a strategy for upgrading existing housing units. Most housing dollars now go toward new builds. The second thing is to creatively utilize our existing resources. Public art and small design projects can change the image of a neighborhood.



/ ABOVE

The plan for the Perry neighborhood calls for more than 800 new and renovated mixed-income housing units over 10 years; restored street grid connections to the waterfront, downtown and South Buffalo; walkable, tree-lined streetscapes; a new central park and pocket parks throughout the neighborhood; and a 105,000-square-foot multi-service community center.

Rendering by
Wallace Roberts & Todd

/ TOP LEFT

The Commodore Perry Homes public housing complex today.
Photo courtesy of
Center for Urban Studies

/ BOTTOM LEFT

New public and assisted living units are designed to be street-facing, visitable and energy-efficient.

Rendering by
Wallace Roberts & Todd

What if we were to structure curriculum to allow young kids in art class to engage in this work? In our summer academic camp with the Futures Academy [in the Fruit Belt neighborhood], a student made a sculpture out of “junk,” and it cost \$4 to produce. We mounted murals on vacant buildings. It just requires the organization of people and institutions that are already willing to do this work. I would also call upon the private sector and foundations to invest in socially responsible causes in these neighborhoods. Local government doesn’t have this capacity. It’s a matter of how we refocus the resources we have.

How is CUS working to transfer knowledge across the city and outside the region?

The plan itself provides a framework for neighborhood development. In Buffalo, we’re already working with the King Urban Life Center to implement a similar plan for Buffalo’s Martin Luther King Park neighborhood, which will be anchored in early childhood education. This, in turn, will allow us to implement our early childhood education program in the Perry neighborhood. We also recently conducted a health needs survey for the Greater Buffalo United Ministries. Their network of churches will serve as a portal to a recently formed coordinated care network for the city’s Medicaid beneficiaries. If we can link that work to the Perry neighborhood and Kensington Heights, we can create a city-wide coordinated care network.

At the center, we have a marriage between our research and our practice-based work. We’re publishing peer-reviewed research informed by the realities here in Buffalo.

Robert Mark Silverman, [associate professor of urban and regional planning and a faculty affiliate of the center], is leading a project to make recommendations about where the government should place affordable housing in 10 of the fastest-shrinking U.S. cities, including Buffalo and several other transitioning cities where gentrification threatens access to affordable housing.

We work across the city and world to replicate and share ideas. In Cuba, we’re in the process of building a program to explore neighborhood conditions as social contributors to health issues. We’ve gotten through the first tier of approval from the Cuban government. We’re also attempting to set up a study abroad program on health and housing in Havana in partnership with UB’s School of Public Health and Health Professions. All this is connected. Our overarching belief is that across the Americas, the challenges of marginalized groups are similar enough that we can create solutions with impact across the board.

Student Profile

Nathan Neuman (MUP '15): "For God, Country and Buffalo"

by Bradshaw Hovey

If you ever received an e-mail from Nate Neuman you know that the tag-line below his signature reads: "for God, country and Buffalo."

That's not everything you need to know about Nathan Neuman, Captain U.S. Army Reserve, Afghanistan and Iraq war veteran, Bronze Star winner, urbanist, Buffalo city planner and soon-to-be Buffalo School alumnus, but it's a good place to start.

Neuman has become a distinguished member of a new generation of activists who are free of the negative self-talk that characterized Buffalo civic life for decades and are taking direct action to make the city better.

Last June, he spearheaded the "NextGen" program at the Congress for New Urbanism's annual conference in Buffalo. At previous conferences, the CNU program included, at best, a couple of happy hours aimed at its younger members. With Neuman in charge, attendees enjoyed a non-stop series of tours, lectures, discussions, film-screenings, art exhibits, bike rides and morning runs as well as cocktail parties, beer tastings and pub crawls that introduced visitors to Buffalo and carried the new urbanist curriculum.

"It was the most prolific series of NextGen events in CNU history," said Chris Hawley, Neuman's colleague and co-chair of Buffalo's NextGen program. "He really took the ball and ran with it."



ABOVE

Nate Neuman (right) and Buffalo planner Chris Hawley (left) created a nonstop series of events for CNU's annual conference in Buffalo last summer. Neuman and Hawley pose with CNU co-founder Andrés Duany (second from left) and post-modern Dutch architect Sjoerd Soeters (second from right) at a CNU NextGen event. Photo by David Torke, fixBuffalo

The project showcased Neuman's major attributes: an ability to connect with people, great logistical and organizational skills, and political savvy.

Early in life Neuman acquired a home-grown appreciation for urbanism. He grew up on Lovering Avenue off Hertel where a person could do all their shopping within walking distance: Johnny's Meats, Uhl's Bakery, Caruso's Meats and Lee's Grocery.

The sidewalks, shop windows and rooflines of North Buffalo shaped his consciousness. He understood the treasures of the city, Olmsted's Delaware Park nearby, Buffalo's grand architecture and the feel of life on city streets. As a 10-year-old he rode his bike down Elmwood Avenue, not out to the suburbs.

He got into Hutchinson Technical High School to study architecture and learned to draft by hand, as well as by computer, using all the tools of the craft – straight-edge, T-square, triangle and protractor. "Right up through college I was convinced that I would become an architect." Neuman recalls. "I spent my time thinking about how I could make something beautiful by designing beautiful buildings."

But his application to the undergraduate architecture program at UB was rejected and he couldn't imagine spending four years at the rural and small-town schools where he did get in. Neuman decided to stay in Buffalo and take the broader environmental design track. He quickly discovered he wasn't an architect after all. He was a planner.

"It's not what I chose to be," Neuman said.

"It's what I am."



ABOVE
Neuman led a pack of CNU conference-goers around Buffalo's distressed East Side as part of the "Tour de Neglect." Here the group takes a break in front of the historic Central Terminal.
Photo by David Torke, fixBuffalo

He soaked up inspiration from planning faculty like Kathryn Foster (now President at the University of Maine at Farmington), fell in with young activists in the New Millennium Group and immersed himself in the issues of the day: Peace Bridge, historic preservation and zoning code reform.

But if Neuman was a planner, he was also a soldier. As an undergraduate student, he enrolled in ROTC and after graduation in 2005 deployed to Iraq as a civil affairs officer. "I had always imagined myself in the military," Neuman recalls. "Our society respects and values that.

Civil affairs was not so different from being a city planner – working with tribal elders and local politicians, organizing people to rebuild their cities and their nation," Neuman says. "It was a little diplomacy, a little bit of logistics, a little problem-solving. Patriotism is sexy."

On his second tour in Iraq, Neuman deployed to the northern city of Mosul. It straddles the Tigris River and is served by a strategic highway connection. The road is in perpetually bad shape and the priority is always to rebuild. But every time U.S. forces tried to organize a reconstruction, local customs and conflicts got in the way.

U.S. strategy in Iraq was summed up in three words: "clear; hold; build." It wasn't so hard to clear and hold, Neuman observes, but it was another thing to "build," especially when it was outsiders – not natives – taking the initiative. A good lesson for a community-builder.

Back in Buffalo, Neuman got wind of a job in the city's Office of Strategic Planning. The title was "Temporary Senior Typist," but he was advised to take the job to get a foot in the door. His friend was hired at the same time. "We just wiggled our way in," Hawley recalls, "and they found a niche for us."

Much of Neuman's work in City Hall has been to help create a new form-based zoning code that will update the rules on where and what kind of development is allowed in the city.

"The Green Code, first and foremost, is an economic development tool to make it easier to invest in Buffalo, to make it easier to create jobs in Buffalo," Neuman said.

The idea is to more clearly define what the city wants to encourage and streamline the approval process for development that fits that vision, which, not by the way, was informed by an aggressive public outreach program Neuman helped implement. The Green Code also seeks to legalize the kind of city Neuman remembers from his childhood. "Urbanism in its most primary form was prohibited" by the old zoning code, Neuman said.

It mandated a suburban pattern for the developed city with segregated uses, larger lot sizes and minimum parking requirements. Most homes in Buffalo could not have been built under the code adopted in 1951. And it made the elements of what Neuman calls "fine-grained urbanism" subject to political bargaining. "You needed Common Council approval to open up a yarn shop," he said.

That'll change when the Green Code is finally approved – hopefully sometime early this year – maybe around the time Neuman receives his MUP in May.

Alumni Profile

Courtney Creenan-Chorley (MArch/MUP '12, BAED '08) 'Elevator B' Sets Young Alum on Promising Professional Path

by William Becker, MArch/MUP '16

Recent dual-degree graduate Courtney Creenan-Chorley is an emerging leader in Buffalo's architectural community. An architectural planner at Flynn Battaglia Architects, she also sits on the Buffalo Architecture Foundation board and is a vocal proponent of public service in architecture.

When asked about her most influential experience at UB, Creenan-Chorley quickly points to her work on Elevator B, a 22-foot-tall steel tower and bee habitat standing among Buffalo's grain elevators.

First, the 2012 MArch/MUP graduate, along with four other students, won the school-wide design competition to envision a new home for a relocated colony of bees in Buffalo's "Silo City." Then the students built the project, all in a matter of months.

The gleaming hexagonal tower, sheathed in 66 panels of perforated steel, features a cypress and glass bee cab that can be lowered to tend to the hive. Visitors can enter the structure to view and study the bees. Since its completion in the summer of 2012, just after Creenan-Chorley and her four colleagues earned their degrees, Elevator B has become an architectural icon for the "new Buffalo." Part of an emerging movement in animal architecture and the reimagining of Buffalo's post-industrial landscape, the project captivated the international design press. Its collection of awards includes the 2013 Architizer A+ award for Best Student Design/Build and the Emerging Talents award from The Morpholio Project's Inside2013 competition.

"It was a nice way to top off my long tenure at UB," says Creenan-Chorley, also a 2008 graduate of the Buffalo School's environmental design program. The hive is no longer in residence, likely because it grew too quickly and ran out of food stores, she adds. Nonetheless, Creenan-Chorley says the project is emblematic of the Buffalo School's emphasis on self-enterprise, collaboration and full-scale design/build.

BELOW
Creenan-Chorley, in 2012,
assembles the 22-foot-tall
frame for Elevator B in
the Buffalo School shop.
Photo by Douglas Levere (BA '89)
© University at Buffalo





ABOVE LEFT
Drawing a curious young visitor, Elevator B has also helped to educate the public on the ecological importance of bees.

Photo by Elevator B Design Team

ABOVE RIGHT
The gleaming tower for bees rises among Buffalo's grain elevators and the city's former industrial heartland.

Photo by Elevator B Design Team



"For a while, it was up in the air as to whether we were going to actually build it. But we worked so hard on the design, there was no way it wasn't going to get built," she said, quickly adding that the tower would have never stood up if it weren't for the team behind it.

In addition to the project's five student designers, Elevator B was guided by several faculty in the school's Ecological Practices Research Group and supported by staff from the school's shop and Fab Lab. Sponsorship and competition organization came from the school as well as Rigidized Metals, a Buffalo-based manufacturer whose thin-gauge steel panels form the tower's skin and whose CEO, Rick Smith, owns the Silo City property.

"The general attitude of the school is not to project things onto the students, but to have them go out and discover things on their own," Creenan-Chorley says. "You might not have the answer, but you know how to get it. That skill set really prepares you for a career in anything."

Indeed, this architect-planner just won *Buffalo Business First's* "30 Under 30" award for rising leaders. She's also a leading participant in the Buffalo Architecture Foundation's Architecture+Education program in Buffalo Public Schools and speaks regularly about the value of pro bono and public service design.

At Flynn Battaglia, a mid-sized firm specializing in historic preservation, Creenan-Chorley coordinates projects across the firm's architecture and planning portfolio, including its role as executive architect for the restoration of the Richardson Olmsted Complex in Buffalo. The adaptive reuse project will transform the historic site into an urban resort and hotel, a center for special events and conferences, and a cultural destination.

Creenan-Chorley, who couldn't choose between architecture and planning and so decided to pursue both, says maintaining this balance in your own professional and personal life is critical. "You really have to learn to say 'no' sometimes. That's something that I am still learning how to do. It's important to find that balance and not over-stretch yourself."

However, this won't be the case when it comes to Elevator B. She and Scott Selin (MARCH '12), the only other Elevator B team member still in Buffalo, are looking for a beekeeper to help bring the hive back. "We're going to maintain Elevator B. You see so many installations that are forgotten. Our names are attached to it, so we intend to maintain it."

Where are the other Elevator B Team Members?

Kyle Mastalinski (MARCH/MUP '12): Urban Design Group Architecture, Baltimore, Md.
Daniel Nead (MARCH/MUP '12): Clark Peterson Lee, Binghamton, N.Y.
Scott Selin (MARCH '12): CJS Architects, Buffalo, N.Y.
Lisa Stern (MARCH '12): Turner & Townsend PLC, New York City



Exterior enhancements to Hayes Hall include complete refenestration, a new slate roof, stone repointing and cleaning, bronze entryways and architecturally integrated front access paths, designed by the school's very own Center for Inclusive Design and Environmental Access. Photo by Douglas McCallum (BPS '94)

Honor Roll

Hayes Hall Restoration Enters Final Phase Buffalo School prepares for a 2016 return to its historic home

by Rachel Teaman

It's the first day of the fall 2014 semester. Faculty and students gather in the grassy quadrant between the Hayes Annexes on UB's South Campus for the Buffalo School's annual "Welcome Celebration." A jazz trio strums, UB blue and white flags wave in the breeze and guests sip lemonade. The small patch of lawn also features a vegetable garden raised by urban planning students and Buffalo public schoolchildren; across the quad are two 12-foot-tall terra cotta towers erected by architecture students.

The scene is emblematic of how the Buffalo School has made the most of its temporary quarters (which include Diefendorf and Abbott Halls as well as the infamous annexes) while its permanent home, historic Hayes Hall, undergoes a complete restoration.

But the wait is almost over. Attendees needed only to look up, toward the towering structure behind them, for evidence of that. Construction workers set new slate tiles on the roof and removed the cupolas for offsite rebuilding. The Hayes Hall clock tower, freshly painted, gleamed in the August sun. Addressing the crowd, Dean Robert Shibley made a Babe Ruth gesture to the iconic clock tower: "We've waited long enough, folks. We're going home."

Excitement is building as the restoration, the first half of a \$50.5 million capital project that moves next to Crosby Hall, enters its final phase, including the fit-out of the learning spaces inside. It's the largest-ever restoration of the circa 1860s landmark building and the first since the Buffalo School took occupancy in 1975. The Buffalo School is expected to return to Hayes Hall by early 2016.

"The restoration of Hayes Hall will be our statement to the world about the Buffalo School's commitment to sustainability, historic preservation, community, and state-of-the-art facilities for education in architecture and planning."

– Dean Robert Shibley

The project combines a complete exterior restoration and a balance of historically preserved and reimagined interior spaces to create a flexible, engaging learning environment. The building will be brought up to code, while sustainable building practices and advanced environmental systems aim for LEED Gold certification. Once complete, Hayes Hall will feature the latest in state-of-the-art technology in all classrooms, labs, seminar spaces and studios, from digital signage and full-wall projections of student work to comprehensive computing and a high-capacity wireless network.

Turn the page for a glimpse inside Hayes Hall as the restoration moves from vision to reality. Visit giving.buffalo.edu/hayeshall for more information, including opportunities to help support this pivotal project for the Buffalo School.



Welcome

The Hayes Hall Gallery, a two-story atrium and gathering space, will serve as the school's 'front door'. The removal of interior walls creates a bright, open and inviting space.

/ TOP LEFT

Photo courtesy of Multivista Construction Documentation

Minimalist design elements and a full-wall digital projection system will set a blank slate for the display of student and faculty work and an activated, impactful entry point.

/ TOP RIGHT

Rendering by Brian Podleski (MArch '10, Architecture BS '08)

Living-Learning Landscapes

Overlooking the first-floor gallery, the building's main lounge and social space is designed to support informal academic exchanges and student gatherings. Adjacent to design studios and in direct view of the full-wall digital display, the space will be continuously activated by academic and social interactions.

/ MIDDLE LEFT

Photo courtesy of Multivista Construction Documentation

Reclaiming the Fourth Floor

Exposed wooden trusses and skylights will provide a bright awakening to the reclaimed fourth-floor attic spaces, which will host studios and critique spaces.

/ LEFT

Photo courtesy of Multivista Construction Documentation

/ BELOW

Rendering by Brian Podleski (MArch '10, Architecture BS '08)



Signature Lecture and Event Space

The original two-story Hayes Hall auditorium will be converted into a 110-seat event hall and lecture space. Thirteen third-story fenestrations, which had been walled up for decades, have been restored to bathe the space in natural light. The preservation of the curvilinear ceiling and arched windows will maintain the space's architectural grandeur.

/ [BELOW TOP LEFT](#)

Photo courtesy of Multivista Construction Documentation

Stewards of Sustainability

The Hayes Hall restoration has targeted LEED Gold Certification. Sustainable design solutions include the extensive use of daylighting, high-efficiency windows, state-of-the-art mechanical systems, natural ventilation and the selection of durable materials and finishes, including reclaimed wood and products made within a 500-mile radius.

/ [BELOW TOP RIGHT](#)

Photo by Douglas Levere (BA '89), © University at Buffalo

Exposing History

The interior has been stripped completely, exposing all construction elements throughout the building's history. Old will meet new as exposed structural systems abut the historic fabric of Hayes Hall. The project team has worked closely with the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation throughout the project. Other preserved details include the front entry's marble walls, Hayes Hall's grand open stairwells and iron railings, and curved window openings with arched lintels. Brass inlays will demarcate where the building's original walls once stood.

/ [BELOW BOTTOM](#)

Arched window lintel (left), Photo by Douglas Levere (BA '89), © University at Buffalo; historic fabric meets new structural supports (right), Photo by Madelyn McClellan (MArch '15)





ABOVE
 Nicholas Sinatra of Sinatra and Company Real Estate has made a generous donation to advance student recruitment.

BELOW
 Madeline Burke-Vigeland, principal of Gensler, joined the Buffalo School Dean's Council in fall 2014.



Buffalo Real Estate Developer Provides \$20,000 Gift to Support Student Recruitment

Sinatra and Company Real Estate, an emerging leader in Buffalo's real estate development community, has sponsored a \$20,000 Student Support Fund to reinforce the Buffalo School's recruitment and retention of top students in architecture and urban planning. The fund provides annual awards to high-performing students and will include opportunities for paid summer internships with the firm. Sinatra & Co. was founded in 2009 by Nicholas Sinatra, a Buffalo native who spent several years in Washington, D.C., as a political advisor before returning to Western New York to tap into its burgeoning real estate market. Targeting the adaptive reuse of historic buildings in downtown Buffalo and surrounding neighborhoods, Sinatra, just 33 years old, has already built a portfolio of over 1,000 residential units and more than 650,000 square feet of commercial space. Sinatra says he was drawn to the Buffalo School by a mutual passion for rebuilding and reinvesting in the region: "Our corporate mission at Sinatra and Company Real Estate is 'Putting People First,' so we believe strongly in giving back to our community beyond developing its buildings."

Adds Dean Robert Shibley: "Nick Sinatra's generous support of the Student Support Fund is crucial to our efforts to bring the best and brightest aspiring architects and planners to Buffalo. The fund also affords our students invaluable opportunities for experiential learning that directly contributes to the revitalization of the Buffalo Niagara region."

Distinguished Champions of the Buffalo School

The Buffalo School acknowledges the continued support and leadership of its inaugural Dean's Council. Formed in fall 2013, this group of distinguished alumni and top practitioners works to raise the school's global profile, build its network of support and forge new connections with both professions. The council most recently convened in Chicago at the University of Chicago's Harris School of Public Policy to discuss research collaboration and philanthropic development. Founding members are:

- Louis P. Ciminelli, Dean's Council Chair and CEO of the Buffalo-based construction firm LPCiminelli;
- Randy J. Asher (BS '95), principal of Brooklyn Technical High School;
- Charles L. Davis II (MArch '02, BPS '99), assistant professor of architectural history at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte;
- Diane Georgopoulos, FAIA (BA '73), head of the Design and Construction Department at MassHousing;
- Clark Manus, FAIA (BA '74), CEO of Heller Manus Architects in San Francisco and former president of the American Institute of Architects;
- Mark Mendell, FAIA, MRAIC, co-chairman of CannonDesign

We're also pleased to announce the newest member of the Dean's Council: Madeline Burke-Vigeland, AIA, LEED AP, principal of Gensler. Maddy is a studio director in Gensler's New York office as well as a firm-wide leader of Gensler's Community Sector practice areas. She was appointed to the council last fall. "We're honored to have this distinguished group of professionals – four of them graduates of our program – as advisors to the school during this pivotal time of growth and transition," said Dean Robert Shibley. "This council connects us to some of today's most important conversations about the state of our disciplines and how we teach and think about architecture and planning."

LEFT

Dean's Council founding members gather on the steps of Abbott Hall on UB's South Campus (from left to right): Clark Manus (BA '74); Charles L. Davis II (MArch '02, BPS '99); Diane Georgopoulos (BA '73); Dean Robert Shibley; Mark Mendell; Louis P. Ciminelli; Randy J. Asher (BS '95).

Alumni News

Class Notes

- 1970s / **Helene Tricarico Robinson (BA '76)** worked for 25 years in magazine publishing, advertising and marketing in New York, Los Angeles and Florida and has recently formed an art-reproduction business in Whitefish, Mont., to help artists expand their talent.
- 1980s / **Karen Breslawski (MARCH '81, BPS '79)** is a senior architect with STV Inc., a Boston-based firm providing engineering, architectural, planning, environmental and construction management services. Prior to joining STV, she was associate principal of architecture for the engineering design firm AECOM.



ABOVE
 Laura Poltronieri's interest in healthcare planning and design began during her undergraduate studies at UB. She was recently recognized by *Healthcare Design* magazine for her influence on the field.

Laura Poltronieri (BPS '81) a founding principal of Poltronieri Tang & Associates (PT&A), was recently honored as one of *Healthcare Design* magazine's 10 outstanding design and architecture professionals. The "HCD 10" award recognizes Poltronieri's role in steering the direction of healthcare design. Poltronieri, who developed an early interest in healthcare planning and design as a student at UB, was recognized for dedicating her career to improving the healthcare environment for children, infants and mothers. PT&A, a planning and design firm based in Swarthmore, Pa., is exclusively dedicated to meeting the needs of healthcare facilities that serve these populations. In just the past year, Poltronieri and her firm have played a lead role in the design and planning of the Children's Hospital at Montefiore; Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital; The Children's Inn at the National Institutes of Health; the Children's Hospital of Wisconsin; the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia; the Children's and Women's Hospital of Vancouver, British Columbia; and the New York-Presbyterian Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital. A widely published author on evidence-based healthcare design, she has served on the draft review committee for the proposed Children's Hospital chapter of the 2014 FGI Guidelines for Design and Construction of Health Care Facilities.

Thomas Mistretta (MARCH '82, BPS '79) is vice president of the Princeton, New Jersey, office of HDR Architecture, Inc., a leading healthcare design firm. As a laboratory planner, he oversees programming, planning and design for scientific research and education facilities. Previously, Mistretta was a laboratory planner for CUH2A, the world's largest science and technology design firm, acquired by HDR in 2010.

Robert Piotrowski (BPS '84) leads Buchen Germany's Ecker Architekten, an architecture and interior design firm. Recently, his firm's Lichte Statik (Static Light) project gained attention in *Detail Magazine's* German outfit. The project involved semi-spherical ceiling inserts to achieve a tactile, illuminated view, as well as better acoustics in the auditorium.

Steven Schwartzman (BPS '84) has been appointed principal of WDG Architecture in Washington, D.C., after 15 years with the firm. His current projects include the new National Science Foundation headquarters in Alexandria, Va.

Joseph Barden (BPS '86) is the associate vice president in aviation program management at AECOM in Los Angeles, where he oversees comprehensive airport planning and terminal planning and design. He is currently working on advanced planning for a \$900 million terminal expansion of the Los Angeles International Airport.

Wendy Kellogg (MUP '86) has served on the faculty of Cleveland State University's Levin College of Urban Affairs for over two decades. Currently she is professor and associate dean for research and strategic initiatives, as well as chair of the Department of Urban Studies. Her research focuses on collaborative planning processes for environmental land use and watershed planning and related issues in urban sustainability at the neighborhood and city scale. Kellogg serves on the steering committee for the Cleveland Water Alliance, an organization dedicated to exploring the economic development and research potential of Great Lakes sites.

James Magoffin (BAED '87) lives in the historic district of Tarpon Springs, Fla., where he is restoring a 1925 wood-frame building around the corner from his 1936 two-story brick home.

1990s / **Marc Bruffett (BAED '92)** has been promoted to principal of Gensler, where he serves as Northeast Regional Leader for the firm's consulting practice area and as Studio Director for Gensler New York. Bruffett joined Gensler in 2010 and previously led workplace strategy and experience design projects for Honeywell, a global technology development firm. He also holds an MBA from Cornell University focused on real estate and organizational development.



Jason Wolos (BA '92) recently had the Buffalo premier of his feature film "TRATTORIA." The independent drama explores the love of food and family and a workaholic chef's struggle to make a success of his San Francisco restaurant. It stars Tony Denison and casts several celebrity chefs, including Traci Des Jardins and Elizabeth Falkner.

Denise M. Juron-Borgese (BPS '93) has been promoted to vice president of development and planning for Ciminelli Real Estate Corp., based in Williamsville, N.Y. She will oversee day-to-day operations and all aspects of the firm's new development projects. A LEED Accredited Professional, she currently manages Ciminelli's development of Conventus, a \$110 million medical office building on the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus.

Michael Banks (BPS '97) recently completed the Architect Registration Exams for licensure in New York State. Banks has over 20 years of experience and has spent the past 11 years with DiDonato Associates, Engineering and Architecture, P.C., in Buffalo. He is also a LEED Accredited Professional in Building Design + Construction.

Christian Culver (MARCH '98) is an associate architect at Cooper Carry in Atlanta, Georgia, where he practices in the firm's Mixed-Use and Residential Specialty Practices Group. An active artist, Culver combines color, shape and form, including actual photographs of places

he's visited around the world, into architectural "citygraphs." These mixed media works explore the inundation of imagery in the modern world and its relationship to our physical reality. His work was recently featured in *American Lifestyle Magazine*.

"I am often surprised at the varying degrees of engagement people have [with my work]. This theme arches over into a much broader theme—how people engage with the spaces around them. Some people only concentrate on specific aspects, like color, for instance, and the detail is void. Others try to get up close and look at each photograph in great detail, while others like to stand back and absorb the piece as a whole...It's an indicator, I imagine, of how they view their surroundings."

LEFT
"Windows #3," 2011, by Christian Culver (pictured above). A practicing architect in Atlanta who pursues mixed-media painting in his spare time, Culver says: "I believe art and architecture go hand in hand – one cannot exist without the other."





LEFT

Holly and Jeffrey Hall, who met while giving campus tours at UB, practice in the Denver area. They have two children.

Holly Hall (MARCH '98, BPS '96) and Jeffrey Hall (BPS '98) are practicing architects in the Denver area. The pair met at UB while giving campus tours to incoming students (their first date was an open house for one of Buffalo's grain elevators). Holly is a licensed architect and senior project manager at KTGy in Denver. There she specializes in mountain resort design and mid-rise urban condominiums and apartment buildings throughout Denver and Boulder. Jeff is a designer and project architect with Gensler, where he's worked for the past 10 years. He is currently working on a corporate headquarters now under construction in Lakewood, Colo., and an expansion of the Denver International Airport. As Gensler's Design Performance Leader, Jeff is responsible for integrating climate, ecology, health and wellness to achieve high-performance projects. Jeff and Holly have two children and enjoy family hikes and camping across Colorado.

Tricia I. Kerney-Willis (MUP '98), deputy director of the White House Council on Strong Cities, Strong Communities, recently represented the United States during a study tour hosted by The German Marshall Fund of the United States in support of their four-year Cities in Transition initiative. Cities in Transition was designed to foster exchange and networking among policymakers and practitioners in older, industrial cities in the United States and Europe to promote best practices for the regeneration of distressed urban areas. The weeklong program, held in Hamburg, Germany, brought together over 18 top economic and community development professionals, policymakers and thought leaders from the United States and Europe to address issues of equity and inclusion in the regeneration of older, industrial cities.

Through her role with Strong Cities, Strong Communities, Kerney-Willis supports economic development in distressed communities across the United States. An expert in economic development and community development financing, Kerney-Willis is on leave as manager of training and outreach for the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, and formerly served as a vice president in Bank of America Corp.'s consumer real estate division. She points to her roots in Buffalo as a continued source of inspiration:

"I have been a passionate advocate for issues impacting distressed, urban and rural communities since I was 14 and working as a summer intern at my church...I also witnessed the negative impact of long-term disinvestment in the community where I was raised. Collectively, the latter experiences taught me the importance of accountability and humility. Coupled with my formal education from the outstanding faculty at the University at Buffalo's School of Architecture and Planning, a foundation was laid that gave me the credibility to pursue my personal and professional passion, to be a voice for increasing capital access needs in underserved communities worldwide."

2000s / **Michael Anderson (MARCH '03, BPS '01)** started his own practice, Abstract Architecture PC, after working for Buffalo-based Architectural Resources for 11 years. His practice focuses on regional projects in the residential, commercial and hospitality genres. He also actively engages with AIA Buffalo/Western New York and is a member of its board of directors.

Joseph McCabe (MARCH '03, BPS '01) is vice president of development at The Woda Group, Inc. in Columbus, Ohio, a firm specializing in the design, construction and management of affordable multi-family apartments, senior communities and single-family homes. Joseph leads development in Ohio and Pennsylvania, and recently established the firm's market-rate and student housing development initiatives. Previously, he was a senior project manager at The NRP Group LLC, overseeing real estate ventures in Pennsylvania, Ohio, New York and North Carolina.



ABOVE
Tricia I. Kerney-Willis (MUP '98) recently represented the United States for the Cities in Transition Initiative of The German Marshall Fund of the United States, in Hamburg, Germany.

Jonathan Rule (Architecture BS '04) is a lecturer at the University of Michigan, Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning. He has practiced architecture in Spain and co-founded the studio Morcillo Pallares + Rule Arquitectos. His recent projects include a performing arts center for the Region of Murcia, a bike loft in Brooklyn, a wine museum in Jumilla and “the Waterfall”, a public space installation on the suspension bridge of Amposta. He also served as a visiting critic for the Buffalo School’s fall 2014 final reviews.

Alan Zawisky (BAED '04) was recently appointed as project analyst with CSP360, a subsidiary of Freed Maxick CPAs. He provides project management in the areas of cost segregation, tangible property reports, energy tax modeling and construction.

Omar Hakeem (BS '06) is associate director of buildingcommunityWORKSHOP’s Brownsville office. A Dallas-based nonprofit community design center, bcWORKSHOP engages citizens in thoughtful design and making, focusing on areas of its community where resources are most scarce.

Manuel Rivera (MARCH '06, BPS '02) is a registered architect and an associate with Hamilton Houston Lownie Architects in Buffalo. Active in AIA Buffalo/Western New York, he serves on its board of directors and its Emerging Professionals Committee. Manuel is also an associate adjunct professor at Erie Community College in Buffalo, where he teaches drafting for construction and engineering graphics.

Peter C. Rizzo (BA '07) is a senior urban planner and development manager with the U.S. General Services Administration in Washington, D.C., where he manages federal development, master planning, architectural and urban design, and building modernization projects. A former UB Honors Scholar, Rizzo minored in environmental design before earning his Master of Regional Planning from Cornell University in 2009. Rizzo was then accepted into the U.S. Presidential Management Fellows Program, which attracts emerging leaders to careers in the federal government. Rizzo says his appreciation for the patience and ingenuity required to effect change through planning started at the Buffalo School – specifically through coursework in economic development, local government policy and politics, and an internship with the City of Buffalo’s Department of Economic Development. “These and many other experiences in and out of the classroom equipped me with the technical, analytical and critical thinking skills necessary to succeed in the field of planning,” Rizzo says. Even as a federal urban planner, his focus is at the local level, he adds:

“The physical presence of the federal government is spread throughout the nation – from office buildings to post offices. Beyond brick and mortar, however, we must consider how our plans for individual properties can and will influence their surroundings for years to come. The best approach is one that not only addresses the major tenets of planning, but also looks to the broader conception of what government is and what it can contribute to society.”

LaVerne Peakes (MUP '08) recently joined the Community Design Center of Pittsburgh as the community programs manager. Prior to this position, she was executive director of the Parkside Community Association in Buffalo.

BELOW
Peter Rizzo and colleagues discuss options for redeveloping federal property in Southwest Washington, D.C., into a mix of residential, office and retail uses.



Caterina Onorati (MARCH '09, Architecture BS '03) is an architectural designer for Pringle Brandon Perkins + Will in London, United Kingdom. She began her career with the firm through an internship program during her graduate studies at UB. Caterina recently became registered to practice architecture in the United Kingdom.



ABOVE
 Linsey Graff (MARCH '10)
 teaches design concepts to a
 young Buffalo resident through a
 Buffalo Architecture Foundation
 program for youth and families.
 Photo by Danielle Forsythe,
 Buffalo Architecture Foundation.

Linsey Graff (MARCH '10) has received two distinguished honors for her contributions to the profession and commitment to public service: the American Institute of Architects New York State (AIANYS) 2014 Intern-Associate Award and AIA Buffalo/Western New York's Community Service Award. An architectural planner with UB's Capital Planning Group, Graff is also president of the Buffalo Architecture Foundation and chairperson of its Architecture+Education program, which brings architecture and design education into Buffalo Public Schools. Graff became involved with Architecture+Education in 2009, as a student at UB. Since then, she has helped teach design concepts to students from kindergarten through eighth grade in 17 Buffalo public schools. She assumed the role of chairperson in 2013, expanding the program's student, school and volunteer base by 50 percent and adding such programs as biweekly Family Workshops, Youth Tours of Buffalo's architecture, and programming for Native American Summer Camps. Graff now serves on the AIA National Diversity and Inclusion Council to support such outreach throughout all AIA chapters.

Yuan Lai (MUP '11) joined Safdie Architects in Somerville, Mass., as an architectural designer and LEED Green Associate. During his graduate studies at the Buffalo School, Yuan worked with the Urban Design Project, where he contributed to the development of the Buffalo Green Code, a form-based code and the city's first zoning code rewrite since the 1950s.

Colin McCarville (Architecture BS '11) is an architecture and urban design intern at the Panama City Community Redevelopment Agency in Panama City, Fla., where he supports projects including downtown streetscape improvements, bicycle infrastructure and planning for an African American Cultural District.

Simon Mugo (BAED '12) is the Brooklyn/Queens regional outreach contractor for the Pratt Center for Community Development, which integrates advocacy, research and service toward a more sustainable, equitable New York City. Pursuing a career path in energy efficiency, he is involved with NYSERDA's Economic Development Growth Extension (EDGE) Program, which helps local business owners, homeowners and land owners connect to state-funded energy efficiency incentive programs. During his studies at UB, Simon worked with the Center for Urban Studies in support of the Perry Choice Neighborhood planning initiative.

Adam Palkowski (BAED '12) is a planning associate for Michael Baker Jr., Inc., a major architecture and engineering firm in Alexandria, Va., where he provides GIS, military master planning and hazard mitigation support.

Byron A. Nicholas (MUP '13, BAED '11) recently joined New Jersey's Hudson County Division of Planning as an assistant planner. Previously, he was a GIS analyst with PSEG Long Island, the electricity service provider for most of Long Island.

Madeleine Fincham (MUP '14, BAED '12) recently joined Pittsburgh-based Michael Baker International as a planning associate. She supports multi-disciplinary planning projects and is responsible for preparing master plans and strategic plans for federal, state and local government and private-sector clients.



Buffalo School Appoints Assistant Dean and Director of Philanthropy and Alumni Engagement to Foster Community, Expand Programming

As part of the Buffalo School's continued commitment to connect with alumni and friends, we are pleased to announce the appointment of Robert Hill as assistant dean and director of philanthropy and alumni engagement. Robert arrives with more than 20 years of experience and success working with alumni and development offices at Syracuse University, Xavier University and Canisius College. In this newly conceived role, Robert will be responsible for designing and implementing local and regional alumni programs, events and activities that promote and enhance alumni engagement and philanthropy activities for the Buffalo School.

Interested in learning more about upcoming alumni programs or activities and how you can get involved? Please reach out to Robert at rhill2@buffalo.edu or 716-829-3973.



WEBSITE EXCLUSIVE

Alumni Profile: Matthew Sama (March '11, Architecture BS '09)

It may seem an unlikely place for an architect to land, but Matthew Sama, assistant art director for NBC's "The Blacklist," says his UB education uniquely prepared him for what he's doing today -- illustrating and modeling set designs for the hit crime drama series. Sama says the architecture program's Situated Technologies Research Group and its curricular connections to UB's media study department allowed him to turn his passionate interest in cinematography and CGI (computer-generated imagery) into a powerful set of design skills and sensibilities. Today Sama counts major motion pictures "The Amazing Spiderman 2" and "NOAH" among his completed works.

"Working on 'The Blacklist' has been my most rewarding experience so far...At the beginning of the first season, I was a little alarmed when I was told to start drawing a derailed train car that we had to start building in three days! Design challenges like that can be difficult, but that's also what makes 'The Blacklist' so much fun."



ABOVE
Matthew Sama, a graduate of the architecture program and its Situated Technologies Research Group, is assistant art director for NBC's "The Blacklist."

RIGHT
Sama illustrates and creates construction documents for sets like "Red's Workshop" for main character Raymond Reddington (The Blacklist, Episode 205). Photo by Matthew Sama, © Sony Pictures Television





Buffalo in Chicago...

The 2014 AIA National Convention, held in Chicago last June, was the setting for “Buffalo in Chicago,” a celebratory gathering of dozens of alumni, friends, students and Buffalo School leaders in honor of Dean Robert Shibley, a 2014 recipient of the Thomas Jefferson Award for Public Architecture. In addition to networking and reconnecting, guests learned about some of the latest developments at the Buffalo School, including the restoration of Hayes Hall and UB’s entry into the elite U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon.

/ TOP LEFT

Dean Shibley accepts the Thomas Jefferson Award for Public Architecture, presented at the AIA National Convention in Chicago. Shibley is pictured with Helene Combs Dreiling, immediate past president of the AIA, and Robert Ivey, AIA CEO.
Photo courtesy of the AIA

/ TOP RIGHT

Michael Garz (BA '72) and Sandy Garz (BA '72), along with Buffalo School Dean's Council members Diane Georgopoulos (BA '73) and Clark Manus (BA '74)



/ ABOVE LEFT

Melissa Cameron (MArch '01, BPS '98), Nick Cameron (MArch '04, BPS '01), Jana Gawronski (MArch '05, Architecture BS '03) and Brett Gawronski (MArch '05, Architecture BS '03)

/ ABOVE RIGHT

William Helm (MArch '07), Nick Cameron and Omar Khan, associate professor and chair of architecture at the Buffalo School

...and New York

On September 18, 2014, the Buffalo School welcomed alumni and friends to Pei Cobb Freed & Partners in New York City for a lecture and networking event. José Bruguera (MArch '85), design partner for the firm, discussed Pei Cobb Freed’s history and growth and provided an overview of its recent projects.



Stay Tuned for our Next “Buffalo in...” program as we forge new connections across alumni, students and the school and celebrate the accomplishments and work of our Buffalo School community.



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Questions or comments? ap-alumni@buffalo.edu

Aparna Gopal was drawn to UB for several reasons: the “receptiveness and warmth of the faculty,” the chance to study in a city filled with historic architecture, and the scholarship that’s helping her complete a master’s degree in urban planning. She plans to then return to teaching design—“the interaction with students is an experience to learn from and cherish”—this time with a special focus on creating environmentally healthy structures that provide optimum air quality and use safe building materials. She is thankful for the financial support from donors that makes this all possible.

The **best public universities**
have the strongest private support.



I'm thankful.

