

# B/a+p

News from the School of Architecture and Planning  
University at Buffalo

**2015–2016**

## **GRoW Goes West**

UB's first-ever Solar Decathlon team is off to California for the competition.

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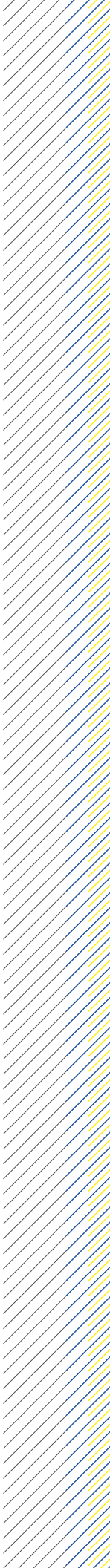


COVER /  
UB's Solar Decathlon team logged 12-hour days, six days a week, to finish its solar GRoW Home. The house, along with dozens of faculty and students, recently made its way to Irvine, Ca., for the competition, which runs October 8-18. Photo by Zhi Ting Phua (BA '16)

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# Welcome From the Dean

Robert G. Shibley  
FAIA, AICP

## Dear Alumni and Friends:

We recently kicked off the 2015-16 academic year by inviting students, faculty and staff into the quad for our convivial Welcome Celebration.

We all know how ritualized ceremonies can turn into formulaic affairs. Perhaps the summer respite has something to do with it, but our annual Welcome Celebration is far from formulaic. The grand affair has come to represent the camaraderie and energy that defines the Buffalo School. It's also just plain fun. Last year we dumped ice on the school's leadership for the Ice Bucket Challenge. This year it was marimba jazz and Frisbee. Every year we come together with an eager enthusiasm for another year.

We have reason to smile. Things are good for the Buffalo School, as they are for UB and Buffalo. We're headed back to a fully restored and renovated Hayes Hall in just a few months. Our architecture program has just been accredited through 2023, the longest interval awarded by the National Architectural Accrediting Board. We've launched a new real estate development specialization with impressive first-year enrollment. And we're at the forefront of UB's \$25 million investment in interdisciplinary research, which links architecture and planning to global health equity and advanced manufacturing, construction and robotics.

Read on to learn more. We hope to leave you smiling and inspired to join us in the exciting endeavors ahead.



ABOVE  
The camaraderie of the Buffalo School is on full display as students, faculty and staff come together to kick off the 2015-16 academic year. Photos by Dylan Buyskes, Onion Studio, 2015



# In Brief

## Awards & Announcements



ABOVE  
The National Architectural Accrediting Board highlighted the architecture program's integration of applied research across its curriculum.

BELOW  
Students in the Buffalo School's new real estate development track recently toured Buffalo's Larkin District with professors David Stebbins (front row, third from right) and Kellena Kane (front row, right).  
Photo by David Torke

### Architecture Program Receives Full Accreditation through 2023

The Buffalo School's professional Master of Architecture program has earned an eight-year term of continuing accreditation, the longest interval awarded by the National Architectural Accrediting Board. The rigorous external evaluation measures the quality of the program's curriculum, faculty, student services and library against a set of standards for architecture programs across the U.S.

Noted in particular were three criteria that the Buffalo School has met "with distinction": comprehensive design; applied research skills; and collaboration among faculty and students and across UB. The evaluation reflects well on an architecture program that has been significantly restructured over the past several years to focus comprehensive design at the undergraduate level and enhance research opportunities through graduate-level research groups.

"Applied research skills are pervasive among the students and embodied in the program in a strong way," noted visiting team chair Cornelius "Kin" Dubois in his remarks to the school last spring. Added team member Mitra Kanaani of the New School of Architecture & Design in San Diego: "You are unique in that you use research as a vehicle to bring coherence to your program. In this way, you connect your research program to what architecture is all about – and that's practice."

### Local Professionals Give Practical Edge to New Real Estate Development Specialization

*The Buffalo School kicked off its new graduate track in real estate development this fall. The three-semester specialization within the Master of Science in Architecture program closely engages Buffalo's development community. "What we do here shows up in the real world," says Ernest Sternberg, director of the program and chair of urban and regional planning, adding that the program's first student cohort includes architects, real estate professionals and "micro" developers in the community. "Graduates will have the satisfaction of getting out there, meeting people, handling negotiations and making significant decisions along the way."*





More than a dozen local real estate professionals have been recruited as adjunct faculty members. We asked several of these practitioners-turned-professors to share their teaching plans for the upcoming year and to reflect on why they chose to get involved in the program.



**David Stebbins (BA '78), Director, Buffalo Urban Development Corporation**

**Course:** “Process of Real Estate Development,” featuring guest lectures by industry experts, field trips to regulatory approval meetings, site tours of local development projects, and networking opportunities with real estate developers and organizations such as the Urban Land Institute.

**Why get involved?** “I have long believed that architecture and planning students should learn more about the real estate development process. That is the greater field in which they will practice...We also need to train real estate professionals with a better understanding of the public interest and how they can contribute to a more sustainable built environment, and still make a profit. This course also provides me the opportunity to learn from and become energized by a new generation of real estate professionals.”

**Kellena L.W. Kane, Real Estate Development Manager, Uniland Development Co.**

**Course:** “Processes of Real Estate Development” (with David Stebbins)

**Why get involved?** “My passion for real estate development, the built environment and the renaissance of the Buffalo Niagara region motivated me to play a role in the education of the next generation of real estate professionals. It is an invigorating and rewarding career and this opportunity allows me to share my enthusiasm for this impactful industry.”



**Christopher J. Hogan, Partner, R&P Oak Hill Development, LLC**

**Course:** “Construction Management,” featuring tours of R&P Oak Hill Development’s active construction projects and role-playing exercises that allow students to explore the interactions and conflicts among contractors, designers and developers as a project moves from inception to occupancy.

**Why get involved?** “I have worked in construction and engineering for over 36 years and have experienced the peaks and valleys of the market and both great and difficult projects. At this stage of my career I anticipate it will be rewarding to pass my experience on to others in an academic environment.”

**Nicholas A. Sinatra, President, Sinatra & Company Real Estate**

**Course:** “Real Estate Entrepreneurship,” engaging students in transformative projects in Buffalo, including Sinatra’s recent adaptive reuse of a mid-town warehouse building into a residential development and his renovation of a former brewery on the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus into a mixed-use complex.

**Why get involved?** “I’m passionate about the renaissance Buffalo is going through, and real estate development and construction is leading the way. We need to foster interest on all levels, including the proper education of future industry leaders. Plus it will be fun!”

**V. Jeffrey LiPuma, Director, CBRE Buffalo**

**Course:** “Market Feasibility,” offering a critical look at real estate projects in the investment, office, retail and industrial market segments. Leveraging LiPuma’s experience with hundreds of commercial projects over a 30-year career, as well as guest lecturers from brokers, developers and lenders, the course will “bring the field to the student.”

**Why get involved?** “I had already been working in the commercial real estate market when I went back to school for my MBA. At the time, I saw how underrepresented the concepts of commercial real estate were in that program of study,” says LiPuma, who is also founding president of the New York State Commercial Association of Realtors and president of the NYS Chapter of Certified Commercial Investment Members. “In all this experience, a common thread [has been] the need for better education and qualification of those who want to enter this field as developers, brokers, corporate real estate executives and lenders...This program will undoubtedly teach WNY community leaders in the years to come. I am very happy to be part of that process.”

TOP  
Kellena Kane of  
Uniland Development

BOTTOM  
Christopher Hogan of  
R&P Oak Hill Development

## Hess Wins Fellowship to Study Aging Socialist-Era Housing in Baltics

Among the many legacies of Soviet occupation across Central and Eastern Europe is the prevalence of “tower blocks,” or vast modernist housing estates mass produced in the decades following World War II. Today, the Soviet infrastructure – estimated to house one-third to one-half of the population in this part of Europe – is aging and in disrepair, with little known about the planning decisions behind it.

Daniel B. Hess, PhD, associate professor of urban and regional planning, will spend the next two years developing design and planning solutions for these Soviet-era estates through a research fellowship that will take him to the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. Awarded by the European Commission, the prestigious Marie Skłodowska-Curie International Fellowship includes a “Global Fellowship” category, in which researchers from non-European Union institutions bring research projects to Europe’s most competitive universities. Hess will be based at the Institute of Human Geography at the University of Tartu, Estonia’s top university.

The Soviet housing complexes present critical planning challenges for post-Socialist cities related to quality of life, urban design, accessibility and public health, according to Hess. “Maintaining the social mix, quality of life and attractiveness of these vast housing estates is one of the greatest challenges facing post-Socialist cities,” he says. “Since they are not going away, we need to ask ‘how can we improve them?’”

Typically featuring pre-fabricated panel buildings or “tower blocks,” the units were mass produced to meet housing demand after the war but have seen relatively little investment since then. The estates are also not efficiently located. Planned by Soviet administrators in Moscow, the complexes were more often sited based on proximity to factories — for the pre-fabricated units — than on rational urban planning principles, Hess adds.

While these developments were planned centrally in Moscow, local architects and planners oversaw their implementation. To chronicle this largely undocumented planning history, Hess will interview those now-aging practitioners and dig into local government archives to examine original plans and policies.

Tiit Tammaru, PhD, professor and chair of the University of Tartu’s human geography and regional planning program and Hess’s research advisor, says the future of these modernist housing districts is a major urban planning concern for the region: “Professor Hess’s work will contribute to key debates about the future of the most common residential spaces of Eastern European cities.”

/  
BELOW  
Marie Curie International  
Fellowship winner Daniel Hess  
leads his summer 2015 study  
abroad class on a tour of  
Mustamäe, a Soviet-era housing  
estate in Tallinn, Estonia.  
Photo by Evan Iacobucci



This is by no means the first time Hess will conduct urban planning research in Estonia. He was awarded a Fulbright Scholar Award in 2010-11 at the Tallinn University of Technology to study how urban planning practice has evolved since the Soviet Union disintegrated in 1991. For the past five years, he has overseen UB’s annual study abroad program in Estonia and Latvia. This past summer’s program exposed students to layered urbanization, city planning under various regimes and neighborhood revitalization through the redevelopment of Soviet-era housing.





ABOVE  
 SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence recipient Jennifer Whittaker (left) with mentor Samina Raja, associate professor of urban and regional planning.

### Student Leads Way on Rural Food Systems Planning, Earns SUNY Chancellor's Award

Already a published scholar and research pioneer in rural food systems planning, urban planning student Jennifer Whittaker (MUP '15) was recently honored with the distinguished SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence. Whittaker says she wouldn't be here without urban and regional planning faculty member Samina Raja, who directs the Food Systems Planning and Healthy Communities Lab (Food Lab) and recruited Whittaker into the MUP program after the two met four years ago as community garden volunteers in Buffalo.

As a research associate and graduate fellow in food systems planning, Whittaker has played a key role in the Food Lab's work on "Growing Food Connections," a \$3.96 million grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to connect consumers and family farms in food-insecure communities across the U.S. The grant's focus on both rural and urban

areas was a critical factor for Whittaker, who grew up in rural Chautauqua County. "Food insecurity is actually just as high in rural areas as it is in urban areas," she says, citing rural poverty and the relocation of grocers to big-box plazas, often far removed from the town center. With Raja as a co-author, Whittaker is finalizing an article on public policy responses to rural food insecurity and declining agricultural viability. Just this past year she presented her research to the national conference of the American Planning Association.

### Student-Designed Sound Installation Wins German Design Award

"Doppelgänger," the joint master's thesis of Nima Vakili (MArch/MFA '15), Vincent Krause and Jan Poneß, has recently been announced as a first-prize winner in the aed neuland German design competition. The students, enrolled in the International Media Architecture Masters Studies Program offered through UB and Bauhaus-Universität Weimar in Germany, took home first place in the Exhibition and Public Design category for their interactive sound installation.

An "acoustic portal," Doppelgänger is formed of two identical tunnels telematically linked. A set of 16 microphones and 16 speakers is placed in each tunnel, recording the sounds of footfall and playing them back in real-time into the other tunnel. The structures may be installed in different parts of the world (originally Weimar and Buffalo), providing a fascinating, yet limited, mode of communication.

Vakili, Krause and Poneß developed their research under the advisement of Mark Shepard, associate professor of architecture and media studies at UB. The Doppelgänger installation was exhibited at Media Architecture Biennale 2014 in Aarhus, Denmark, as well as at Bauhaus Universität Weimar's "summaery2014" and at the Buffalo School this past November.

### RIGHT

According to the Jury of aed neuland: Doppelgänger "is characterized by intelligent reduction: while worldwide communication with sound and image is possible with FaceTime, 'Doppelgänger' is limited only to the noise of our foot-steps...And while design in public spaces vies for attention with visual volume, Doppelgänger restricts itself to a simple frame that toys with transparency, light and shadow." Photo by Jan Poneß



## Recent Exhibitions Honor Life's Work of Deans Emeriti

**Harold Cohen**, who as dean from 1974-1984 nearly doubled the school's faculty and established its philanthropic base by forming the Friends of the School of Architecture and Planning, has spent the past 15 years launching a second career as an artist. Now 90, Cohen works from his studio in downtown Buffalo experimenting with material and techniques to create prints, paintings, woodcuts and sculptures.



ABOVE  
Harold L. Cohen and his wife, Mary, stand with Cohen's "In Space" intaglio print at the recent Art Olympia exhibition in Tokyo.

Reflecting his training in the Bauhaus tradition of art and design at Chicago's Institute of Design, Cohen's work also draws from his Jewish faith and life experiences that range from the murder of his extended family during the Holocaust to traveling through South America with his wife, Mary, to collect insects. The recent exhibition of Cohen's work at Buffalo's Manuel Barreto Gallery included a pair of prints with haunting, ghostly images of burning bodies in the concentration camps of Auschwitz-Birkenau and Stutthof. His "Blood Brothers" woodcut of a swastika, hammer and sickle is a statement against authoritarian government. Others are more abstract, such as "In Space," an intaglio print that was recently selected to appear in "Art Olympia," a prestigious international exhibition in Tokyo.

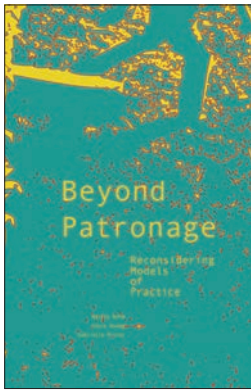
**Bruno Freschi**, an internationally known Canadian architect who held the school's deanship from 1988-2000, saw 50 years of his conceptual drawings and paintings exhibited in Vancouver's Waterfall Gallery in June. Entitled "Flesh and Flags," the exhibition reveals Freschi's fascination with science and religion and his questioning of space, form and urbanism. He is renowned as the award-winning chief architect of Expo '86 in Vancouver, British Columbia, a waterfront development that changed the face of Vancouver. He also holds the Order of Canada, that nation's highest civilian award, and is a fellow of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada.

During his tenure as dean, Freschi, who says his vision was to "assist the school in its growth and development into a nationally recognized design school," launched the Will and Nan Clarkson Visiting Chair fellowship and established *Intersight*, the school's journal of student work. Active in the community – and drawn to UB by Buffalo's architectural legacies – he helped establish the organizational and philanthropic base that led to the restoration of Frank Lloyd Wright's Darwin Martin House. He also helped Buffalo re-envision its waterfront in the 1990s and proposed one of several alternative designs for the controversial redevelopment and expansion of the Peace Bridge connecting Buffalo and Fort Erie, Ontario.



LEFT  
Internationally noted architect and Dean Emeritus Bruno Freschi welcomes guests at the recent opening of his "Flesh and Flags" exhibition in Vancouver, British Columbia.  
Photo by Bob Warick



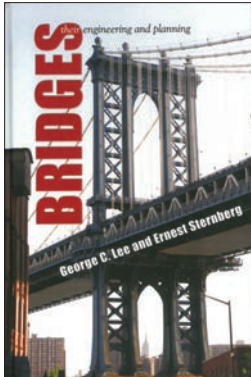


## Recent Faculty Books

*Beyond Patronage* (Actar Publishers, 2015)

Co-edited by Martha Bohm, assistant professor of architecture, Joyce Hwang, associate professor of architecture, and Gabrielle Printz (March '14)

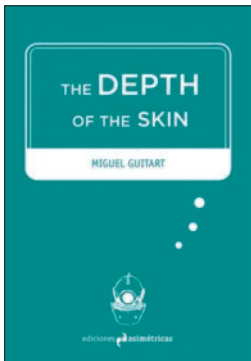
While the role of private clients is still central to the survival of the profession, an increasing number of architects and design practitioners are actively cultivating partnerships with nonprofits, granting agencies, educational institutions and other public organizations. Drawing from a 2012 symposium at the Buffalo School, this compilation of essays, projects and interviews explores contemporary architectural practices and design agendas enabled by new forms of 'patronage' and strategies for cultivating relationships that rethink typical hierarchies between those in power and those in service.



*Bridges: Their Engineering and Planning* (State University of New York Press, 2015)

George C. Lee, SUNY Distinguished Professor of Civil, Structural, and Environmental Engineering, and Ernest Sternberg, professor and chair of urban and regional planning

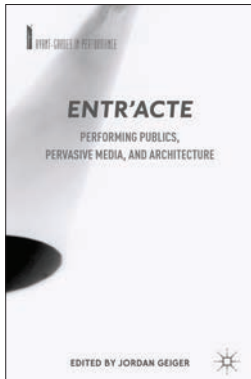
*Bridges* is a comprehensive text on the engineering challenges and planning decisions that surround the nation's bridges, including whether and how to build, maintain, upgrade or replace these superstructures. As the nation approaches a trillion-dollar investment to solve the infrastructure crisis, Lee and Sternberg propose that the U.S. mandate a new generation of far more durable infrastructure. *Bridges* is intended as a primer for a wide audience – from students considering careers in civil engineering or transportation planning to public officials to the interested layperson.



*The Depth of the Skin* (Asimétricas, 2015)

Miguel Guitart, visiting associate professor of architecture

*The Depth of the Skin* is an exploration of filters, light and space that encompasses the basic issues of authentic architecture: matter, light, structure and emotion. Guitart's approach focuses on the filter as a tension between geometry, structure, gaze and light, whose aim is to activate the architectural space in a profound and reflective way. Ultimately, the text is an invitation to reintegrate the ideas of filtering, porosity and osmosis from timeless architecture into the theory and practice of current architecture. The book is also published in Spanish as *La piel profunda*.



*Entr'acte: Performing Publics, Pervasive Media, and Architecture* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2015)

Edited by Jordan Geiger, assistant professor of architecture

The theater term "entr'acte," or the interval between acts in a play, becomes a vehicle to explore the interstices of architecture and new media and the formation of new publics. This compilation of 11 essays by architects, interaction designers, media artists and theorists explores contemporary publics as they engage with proliferating communications technologies in opportunistic and transformative ways. For example, "Crowd Choreographies" by Omar Khan, associate professor and chair of architecture, examines the crowd's evolution from the senseless mob to its "virtual doppelgänger" formed by networked technologies.



*National Economic Impact Analysis of Terrorist Attacks and Natural Disasters* (Edward Elgar Publishing, 2014)

Co-edited by JiYoung Park, associate professor of urban and regional planning

Examining the potential impact of terrorist and natural disaster events on local, regional and national economies, this book advances a computational model that assesses multi-scalar economic impacts of both simulated and actual terrorist and natural disaster events, such as the Gulf Oil Spill and Hurricane Sandy. The highly accurate model - the National Interstate Economic Model - calculates impacts based on an event's direct and indirect influence on interindustry relationships and interregional trade. Park is also co-editor of the just-released *Regional Economic Impacts of Terrorist Attacks, Natural Disasters and Metropolitan Policies*.

## Nine-week research and design studio in rural Chinese village puts students in center of China's return to the countryside

by Lisa Gagnon

Marius Laurinkus, one of 11 students participating in a nine-week studio in China this past summer with architecture professor Shannon Bassett, paints an accurate picture of the development environment across much of China.

"It's the most dynamic environment in the world right now," said Laurinkus, who spoke with us via Skype from the studio's home base in Beijing. "If you look around the landscape over here, there are cranes on just about every single block, and something new is happening non-stop."

While the architecture and urban fabric of megalopolises like Beijing and Shanghai were key aspects of the trip, the design charge for Laurinkus and his classmates was on the tiny village of Xixinan in the bucolic countryside of China's Anhui province, where the ripple effect of China's hyper-development is at play.

BELOW  
Shannon Bassett, assistant professor of architecture (left), with her students and renowned Chinese filmmaker and artist Ou Ning (right) in China's Bishan village, one of several sites visited by the studio this past summer.



"There has been a recent movement back to the countryside and a reconnecting with the agricultural landscape for food and clean air," says Bassett, whose research at the intersection of architecture, urban design and ecology is particularly salient here in the changing landscapes of China. "Intellectuals, artists and the elite are seeking retreat from the ills of the industrialized Chinese cities."

A traditional Chinese village set in the Huangshan Mountains, Xixinan has seen the erosion of much of its vernacular architecture since China's economic reform in 1978. Its water system, developed for irrigation during the Song dynasty nearly 1,000 years ago, has been polluted by industry. Yet, its ancient infrastructure, traditional culture and lush mountainous terrain remains a draw, with repatriated residents fixing up homes and opening small businesses. A new high-speed rail line under construction just outside the village will link the Anhui province to Beijing and change the dynamic of development in the area.

Based in Beijing at Peking University, Bassett and her students were invited to propose development and design interventions that would sustainably position Xixinan's architecture and natural beauty as ecological, social, cultural and economic assets. Their clients-collaborators were Xixinan village leaders and the internationally regarded landscape architect Kongjian Yu, dean of Peking University's architecture school, as well as Yu's firm, Turenscape. The plan would be comprehensive in scope, offering design strategies to integrate vernacular and new typologies, remediate the village's waterways and canals and reprogram public spaces.

As they shifted from Beijing to in situ study in Xixinan, students mapped the region, met with and observed local residents and visited nearby tourism meccas, including the rapidly growing Huangshan City. Students spent a day exploring Bishan with Ou Ning, a renowned Chinese filmmaker and artist who moved to Bishan from Beijing and has since led its transformation into an agricultural and artistic commune.

For several weeks, students were immersed in the local culture and landscape of the village, sharing all meals together, befriending the local villagers and walking among the terraced rice paddies in the Huangshan valley. The rest of the program included studying architecture and urbanism in Beijing and Shanghai, as well as visiting Hangzhou and the architecture there by Chinese Pritzker Prize winner Wang Shu.





Bassett first became interested in China as an architecture and urban design student in the late 1990s and early 2000s, a period of dynamic growth and cultural tension in China. She says she was awestruck by the scale of design projects in China, but somewhat critical and questioning of what she perceived to be unsustainable development practices.

Those questions remain central to her work and the future of China. For China, “it is going to be critical, especially for architects and urban designers, to develop design strategies which integrate sustainable systems across scales,” she says. “This includes energy, water, social equity and food.”

Alan Chan, a graduate architecture student, eloquently captures the essence of Bassett’s point as he reflects on the importance of the Huangshan Mountains to the people of Xixinan and the surrounding Anhui region:

“Aside from their beauty, [the mountains] are also the source of water,” he says, noting that manmade canals divert the waters into and throughout the village. “It is almost poetic to be able to see the source of such an important element of daily life. From the beauty of the mountains, to the river, to the canals, into the house...The realization that this sort of culture has existed for thousands of years...humbles you into a deeper appreciation for nature and all that it offers. The mountains bring life and sustenance to the Hui people. It evokes a feeling that is very difficult to explain.”

The team’s final proposal, “Village Acupuncture,” will be released in a joint publication with Turenscape and Peking University and presented as a symposium at the Buffalo School next fall. The work was also recently exhibited at

both Beijing Design Week and the 2015 Busan International Architectural Cultural Festival in Busan, South Korea.

Students’ encounters with the people and landscape of China were often sources of inspiration, as reflected in photographic journals they maintained as part of the studio.

[see more at ap.buffalo.edu/news/china\\_blog](http://ap.buffalo.edu/news/china_blog)



TOP

Village residents pause from their daily chores – washing clothes and preparing that evening’s dinner – for a conversation and photograph with Kamillah Ramos, a student in the undergraduate architecture program. “It is really interesting to begin to build a relationship with the village and the villagers...I’m looking forward to designing for and around these people,” she says.

ABOVE

Undergraduate architecture student Gary Chung was moved by the symbolism of a wooden ornament bathed in light, found while exploring a building under renovation in Xixinan: “Like a rose growing from concrete, it’s as if a spot of hope is being erected within this small village. Much has already occurred as we speak, but having faith in instances such as this gives hope and a sense of assurance to the good people of Xixinan.”

RIGHT

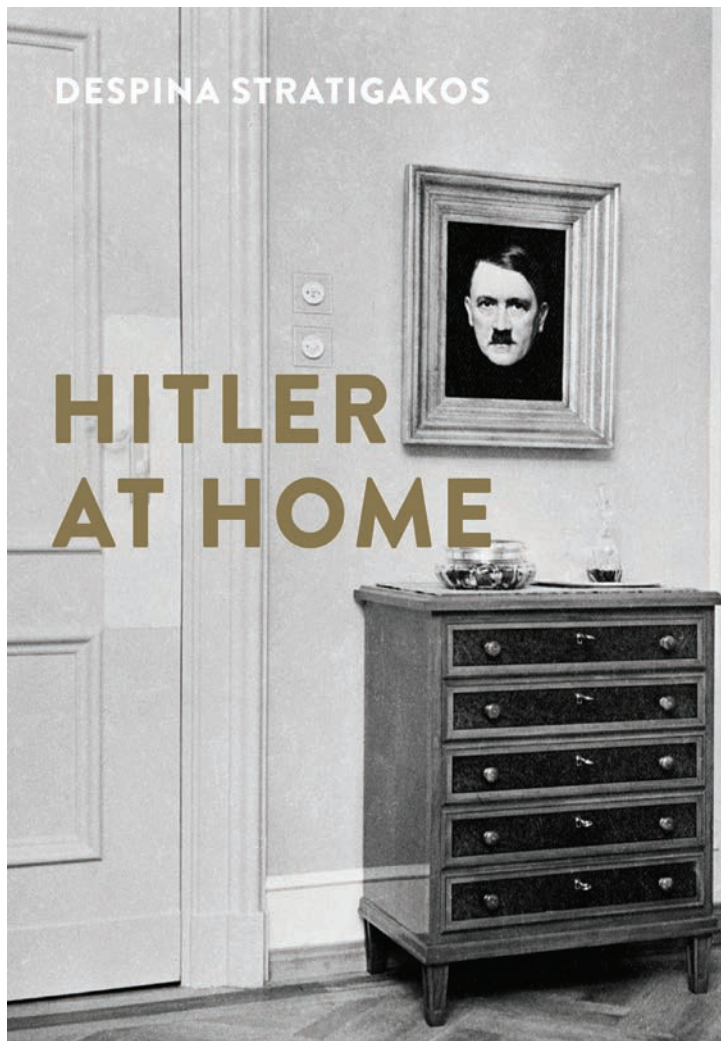
Student Eliana Drier on the beauty of China’s terraced rice fields: “It is incredible when humans work with the landscape how beautiful the product can be...I was so moved by the beauty of the sculptured mountainsides. I have started my proposal towards a solution for the destruction caused by China’s rapid urban development. I think it’s important for the Chinese to go back to their ancient beliefs of living with the land.”





'Hitler at Home' by Despina Stratigakos illuminates propagandists' political manipulation of the Führer's private realm

by Charlotte Hsu



Some of the most iconic photos of Adolf Hitler show him at his most intense, eyes alight with frenetic energy as he addresses an audience or salutes a crowd. Equally haunting, however, are another set of images that are oft-forgotten: In the years preceding World War II, news outlets worldwide ran profiles of the Nazi leader that portrayed him as a country gentleman — a man who played catch with his dogs, had refined taste in décor and took post-meal strolls outside his mountain estate.

Architectural historian Despina Stratigakos illuminates how Adolf Hitler's propagandists — an inner circle of designers and publicists — carefully constructed Hitler's private realm to soften his public image prior to World War II. "They were able to engineer a complete transformation of Hitler's public persona," says Stratigakos, associate professor and interim chair of architecture.

On August 29, 1939 — 12 days before Germany invaded Poland to start World War II and six years after the first Nazi concentration camp opened at Dachau — the *New York Times* published an article describing day-to-day life at Hitler's estate on the Obersalzberg, a mountain retreat near the Austrian border.

The chalet was "furnished harmoniously, according to the best of German traditions," the article stated. Unstained wainscoting and handwoven rugs combined to "create an atmosphere of quiet cheerfulness" in the Führer's study. Hitler had a tomato garden and a fondness for chocolate, the story said. He liked to take an afternoon nap.

A 1938 profile in *Homes and Gardens*, a British magazine, ran a three-page feature on the same estate, relating that the home was "bright" and "airy," with a jade green color scheme. It noted that Hitler "had a passion for cut flowers," and considered his gardeners, chauffeur and air-pilot "loyal friends."

ABOVE  
'Hitler at Home' by Despina Stratigakos documents the makeover of Hitler's image through the propagandizing of his private realm and his intimate involvement in the renovation of his three residences in Germany.

Hitler's makeover coincided with major renovations of his three residences — the old chancellery in Berlin, his Munich apartment and his mountain home. The Nazi leader was intimately involved in each project, working closely with his designer, Gerdy Troost, on the interiors.

The team used architecture as a tool for manipulation, according to Stratigakos. They crafted spaces that, like movie sets, evoked the right emotions. Then, they invited reporters in for tours where they saw Hitler in a setting that felt exclusive and emanated domesticity and warmth.

The media's adulation of Hitler on the eve of war shows how lifestyle stories that are considered "harmless fluff" can serve as powerful propaganda, Stratigakos says. She notes that while many historians have dismissed Hitler's personal life as irrelevant, his private persona was in fact painstakingly constructed to further his political ends.



# Research Spotlight

## Planners and Epidemiologists? Architects and Roboticists?

Buffalo School finds new bedfellows in research at helm of UB's Collaborative "Communities of Excellence"

**by Rachel Teaman**

Architects and planners are accustomed to working across disciplines, but a new research initiative at UB takes it up a notch, joining Buffalo School faculty and students with epidemiologists, anthropologists, engineers and economists to advance paradigm-shifting research in global health, manufacturing and construction.

The unique combinations stem from the Buffalo School's conception and now co-leadership of two highly interdisciplinary research centers, or "Communities of Excellence," at UB – Global Health Equity (GHE) and Sustainable Manufacturing and Advanced Robotic Technologies (SMART). The two communities were announced in May after a highly competitive process that fielded 100 proposals from faculty across the university. Along with a third community on genomics and UB's existing RENEW Institute on energy, water and the environment, SMART and GHE will drive a \$25 million, five-year investment by UB in collaborative research that addresses grand societal challenges.

GHE will work to reduce health disparities in some of the poorest pockets of the world by focusing on the complex sources and effects of inequity. Pairing health scientists with cross-synergizing disciplines including architecture, planning, industrial and systems engineering, geography, anthropology and law, GHE will address gaps in sanitation for people with disabilities, high exposure to air pollution among neonates and young infants, and inefficient and inequitable access to healthy food and medication.

Bringing together the Buffalo School's expertise in digital design and making with UB's strengths in engineering and Buffalo's broad industrial base, SMART will develop technologies and production methods to increase the environmental and economic sustainability of manufacturing and construction. The community will also advance customization and cyber-empathic design in products as small as medical devices and as large as architectural facades.

As they take on new questions with new partners, faculty leaders say the cross-pollinating research could push the field and professions into new territory, open up avenues for experiential and entrepreneurial learning, innovate industry and practice, and move the needle on social and economic issues at the local and global scale.

RIGHT  
Buffalo School architects and planners are at the forefront of UB's \$25 million investment in new interdisciplinary research.



## Global Health Equity

**Why it matters:** Global health is a sweeping humanitarian concern, with implications for local and global economies and political systems, social justice and even public safety. Says co-lead Korydon Smith: “Global health is a concern of everyone.”



**Opening new territory:** With more than 70 faculty members across UB interested in partnering with GHE, this community will peel away the layers of global health challenges to find connections to culture, gender norms, human behavior, policy and the built environment. Co-lead Pavani Ram explains: “The mission of our community is to reduce the sources and effects of inequity,” including gaps in drug discovery for neglected diseases, gender gaps in the provision of health care, and unjust public policies. To tackle these issues, GHE will form four core research groups: child survival and development; infectious disease; non-communicable diseases and disabilities; and refugee health. UB is only one of two universities in the U.S. to apply the highly cross-disciplinary “APEX” model to global health. GHE also identifies equity as its core concern. “We’re generating relationships, ideas and questions at the borders of our disciplines,” says co-lead Samina Raja. Consider the discipline of industrial and systems engineering, which will support GHE’s development of health care delivery systems. Co-lead Li Lin says equity is a new lens for a field that aims to improve the efficiency and quality of complex systems while reducing cost. “Here we are trying to achieve what’s best for the overall system; for this to work there must be compromise.”

ABOVE  
Co-leaders of GHE are Pavani Ram, associate professor of epidemiology and environmental health; Korydon Smith, associate professor of architecture; Li Lin, professor of industrial and systems engineering; and Samina Raja, associate professor of urban and regional planning.  
© University at Buffalo, photo by Douglas Levere

**Creating new educational models:** Cross-departmental enrollment in courses in architecture, planning, public health, engineering and the social sciences will lead to a graduate certificate program in global health, a “UB Goes Global” program to promote interdisciplinary and interprofessional education, and new curricular options in the master of public health, bachelor’s degree in environmental design and UB’s general education program. GHE will take students out of the classroom and into experiential settings, with Raja taking the first group to India’s state of Kerala this spring to assess sanitation and solid waste disposal (including the reduction, recovery and disposal of food waste) in partnership with Indian think tanks, local universities and local government.

**Partnering on the ground:** Through a strategy to “influence the influencers,” from funding agencies and policy-makers to urban planning organizations and ministries of rural development, GHE seeks to achieve both local impact and systemic change. Building on established faculty connections — e.g., Ram’s research in South Asia and the Buffalo School’s 25-year study abroad program in Costa Rica — GHE will focus on three to five settings for long-term engagement. Recognizing the manifestation of global health challenges in our own backyard, GHE will also concentrate on Western New York’s growing refugee population and the agencies that serve them.

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//////////////////////////////////// // **Get Involved: Are you an architect or planner practicing in the area of global health? Get involved at the ground level as a GHE professional partner.** //////////////////////////////////////

//////////////////////////////////// // **Contact Korydon Smith: [khsmith@buffalo.edu](mailto:khsmith@buffalo.edu)** //////////////////////////////////////



## Global Health Equity Walk-Through

### The Hidden Consequences of Poor Sanitation for Women and Girls in India

One-third of the world's population, or two billion people, lack access to proper sanitation, a cause of parasitic infections, diarrheal disease and, relatedly, malnutrition. But the effects of poor sanitation extend well beyond physical health. Consider the state of women and girls in India, where the cultural norm of open defecation contributes to psychosocial stress as women are often taunted or physically harassed. A related (and often hidden) consequence is that adolescent girls, due to a lack of privacy, will miss school during menstruation (and often drop out completely), fueling the cycle of poor education and poverty. Architecture and planning, therefore, play a pivotal role in breaking the cycle.

Imagine Pune, India, one of India's poorest districts, as a hypothetical GHE site of study. UB social scientists, architects, planners, environmental engineers and health scientists study gender norms related to the practice (e.g., for privacy, women and girls often relieve themselves in the early dawn in open fields, putting them at greater risk of attacks); public policy (e.g., while India's prime minister has pledged to eliminate open defecation by 2019, similar past campaigns have failed due to the public's unwillingness to change sanitation habits); spatial and territorial factors (e.g., rural schools often lack private sanitation areas for girls); and cultural context (e.g., the stigma of emptying toilet pits is associated with India's caste system, in which it was the job of the "untouchables" to clear away waste).

To address the issue of almost unimaginable scope, GHE engages India's national "Swachh Bharat" (Clean India) initiative and non-governmental organizations such as Shelter Associates, in the midst of a multi-year project to achieve "one home, one toilet" across Pune's state of Maharashtra. Global firms with offices in India bring experience in working with Indian government in planning and design. A UB planning practicum sends a multi-disciplinary team of students to Pune to collect data, meet with local partners, conduct site assessments, and make policy and design recommendations to steer change at the systemic level. This, in turn, contributes to both the learning of students and best practices to be modified and used elsewhere.

### Sustainable Manufacturing and Advanced Robotic Technologies (SMART)

Why it matters: UB architects and engineers say SMART will make Buffalo a center of innovation in advanced manufacturing, train the industry's future leaders and give the nation a leg up in a fiercely competitive global industry. "It's a radical agenda. We're rethinking the entire system," says co-lead Omar Khan.

Though widely accepted in India, the practice of open defecation is demeaning to women and girls, who are subjected to perceived and actual threats to their personal safety. The lack of privacy even excludes girls from schools, fueling the cycle of poverty.

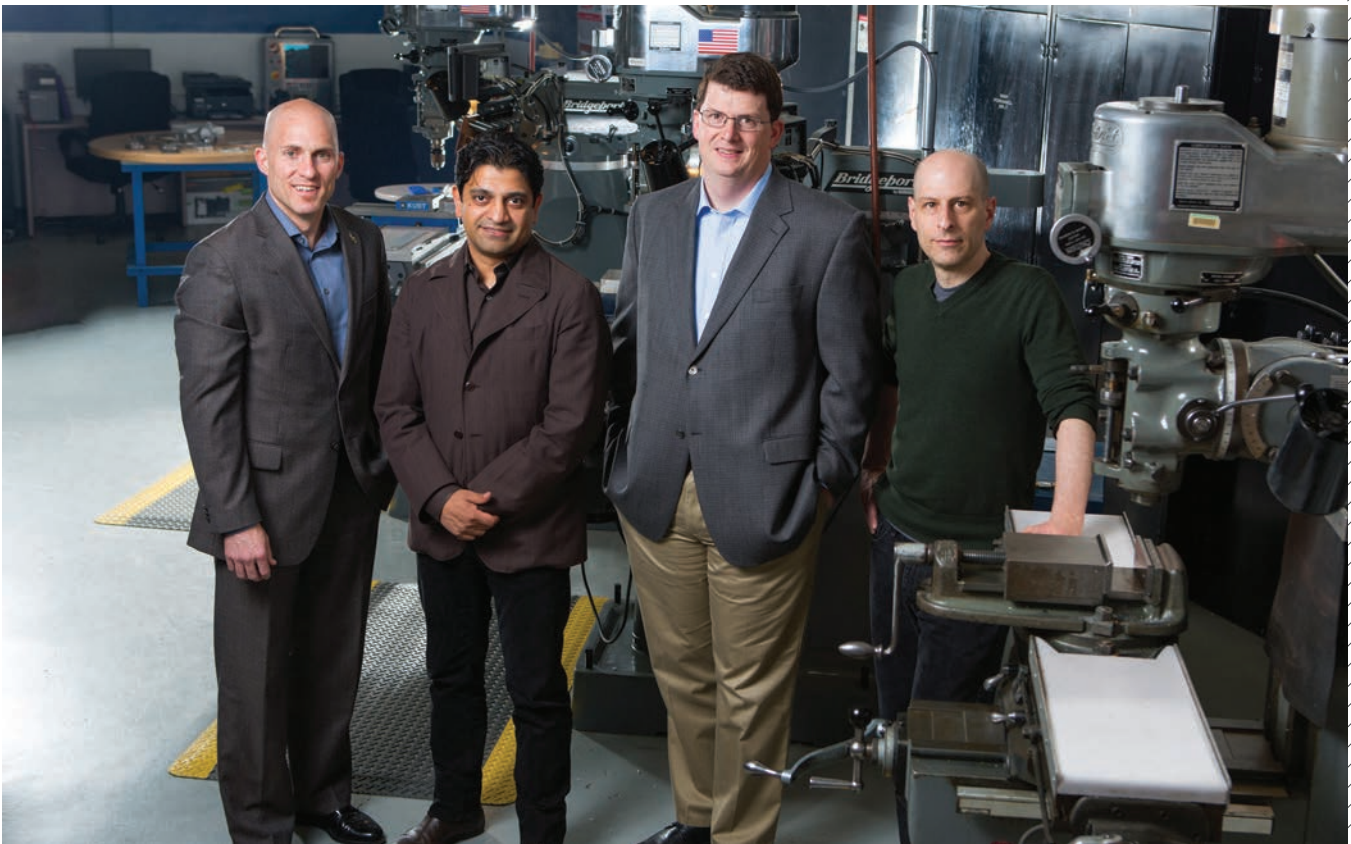


**Opening new territory:** While many U.S. universities are pursuing advanced manufacturing research, few match SMART in the breadth of its disciplinary connections and the depth of its reach into the field. SMART takes on the paradigmatic shift of fusing information into all phases of manufacturing, from fully digitized design and fabrication to sensor-embedded products and building materials. Says co-lead Michael Silver: “To our knowledge, we’re the first program to bring together large-scale and small-scale digital design.” A special focus on co-robotics in construction could make building sites safer, projects more efficient and labor smarter. SMART goes beyond green buildings to consider net-zero-waste manufacturing processes and complete product lifecycle analysis. Touching 20 disciplines and research centers across the university, SMART encompasses five engineering programs, economics, management and several UB product and business incubators to facilitate technology transfer and economic development. Co-lead Kemper Lewis, a mechanical engineer, says the program’s focus on sustainability, customization and quality could advantage the nation over countries with low-cost, low-skill labor and minimal environmental regulations.

**Creating new learning experiences:** With regional manufacturers as test beds, SMART adopts a corporate enterprise model that puts students on the factory floor to take projects from concept to business plan. Students will get to experience and innovate within a “Sandbox” with new rapid prototyping equipment including a water jet cutter, robot arm and CNC machining center. New course offerings will lead to a multidisciplinary master of science in advanced design and manufacturing. Such experience will open new career paths for students in design entrepreneurship and manufacturing leadership.

**Partnering on the ground:** A key goal of SMART is to fuel the region’s growing advanced manufacturing sector, a top economic development priority linked to Gov. Andrew Cuomo’s Buffalo Billion initiative. Among SMART’s leading partners is Buffalo Manufacturing Works, an innovation and economic development center through which SMART can connect faculty and students with regional firms. Additional partners include architectural terra cotta manufacturer Boston Valley Terra Cotta, Rochester-based Construction Robotics and global construction firm LPCiminelli. SMART’s impacts will range from technology disclosures and patents to changing the way product sustainability is measured industry-wide.

BELOW /  
Co-leaders of SMART are Kemper Lewis, professor and chair of mechanical and aerospace engineering; Omar Khan, associate professor and chair of architecture; Kenneth English, deputy director of the Center for Engineering Design and Applied Simulation (CEDAS); and Michael Silver, assistant professor of architecture.  
© University at Buffalo, photo by Douglas Levere





## SMART Walk-Through



ABOVE  
Construction robot prototype OSCR-3, in his bipedal position, is designed to haul materials, climb ladders and navigate construction sites.

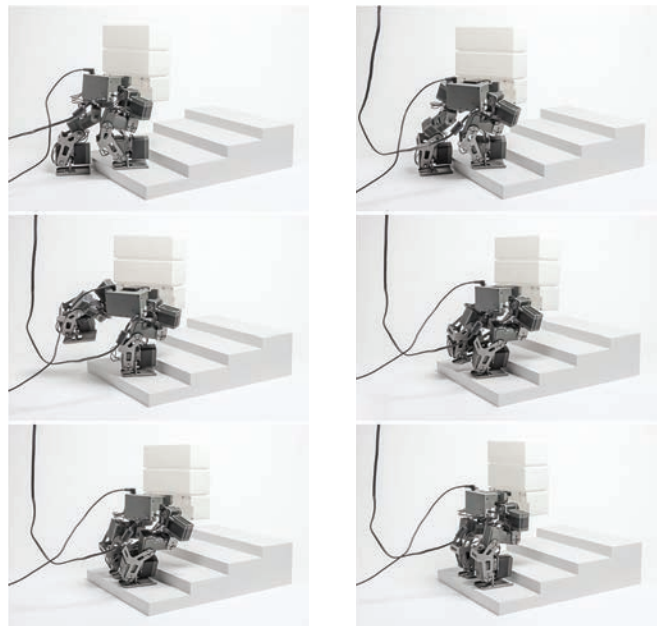
RIGHT  
OSCR-2 carrying three blocks up a staircase.  
Photos by Paul Qaysi

### Construction Co-Robotics

Co-lead and Assistant Professor of Architecture Michael Silver is already leading research that will be among SMART's first test cases. His Rust Belt Robotics Group, co-directed by two UB computer science engineers, is on its fourth in a series of On-Site Construction Robot (OSCR) prototypes. The humanoid robots, which stand less than two-feet tall, are designed to haul materials, climb ladders and navigate construction sites. Developed with consultation from contractors, masons and trade unions, the robots would work with – not replace – laborers, supporting greater productivity and workforce development. Cited by *Architect Magazine's* 2015 R&D Awards, the research would also introduce logistical efficiency to construction sites by linking robots to the cloud. The current prototype is being programmed to transmit BIM (Building Information Management) data – e.g., material needs and scheduling adjustments – between the jobsite and the offsite project team.

Rust Belt Robotics turns next to a multi-year proof-of-concept initiative with Buffalo-based construction firm LPCiminelli, which will test the prototype on an actual jobsite and advance the robot as a tool for contractors. Silver says this work is an example of how SMART can push the disciplines of architecture and engineering into new intellectual territory.

“We’re not just appropriating tools. We’re building them. That requires new kinds of collaboration between architects and engineers.”



# Material Investigation Looks into Glass

by Rachel Teaman

Glass in architecture is ever-present, yet largely in the background. The light passes through, our gaze looks out, but rarely is the glass itself an element to engage. Architects, engineers and material scientists have begun to push the architectural possibilities of this versatile, amorphous solid, yet the material's predominant uses in buildings remain flat – rain screen, façade, fenestration.



Buffalo School faculty members Georg Rafailidis and Stephanie Davidson have launched a material investigation in search of new expressions for glass in and as architecture. The two recently completed their initial glass fabrication study with a group of pioneering students and the Corning Museum of Glass (CMoG), world renowned as a center for education, design and research in glassmaking.

“Glass is typically used in architecture for its invisibility and flatness,” says Rafailidis, assistant professor of architecture. “It is applied so as to disappear through transparency or reflection. We wanted to explore glass as an active rather than passive component — to turn it inward. For instance, what are opportunities to distort light and color if you curve glass? And what are the material's structural capabilities?”

ABOVE /  
Architecture students Olivia Arcara and Timothy Ruhl created a self-supporting wall of curved glass blocks that obviate a common sticking point in architectural glass – the joint.  
Photo by Olivia Arcara

While CMoG frequently collaborates with practicing architects and designers, it had yet to work with architecture students. The industry leader embraced the opportunity.

“We're evangelists of glass,” says Steve Gibbs, senior manager of hot glass programs at CMoG.

**“Glass is an ancient material that holds many possibilities for architecture.”**

The research consisted of two parts that worked together, the first a technical methods seminar focusing on mold-making and casting a variety of materials. This investigation was led by Davidson, clinical assistant professor of architecture. The students simultaneously worked in studio with Rafailidis for design work that would culminate in a prototyping session at CMoG's Amphitheater Hot Shop.

**The results were provocative and playful – a stackable, self-supporting glass brick; a “pick-up-sticks”-like enclosure of varied light, shadow and depth; and a system of conical glass walls that dance with light and sound.**

The studio commenced with a visit to CMoG, where students met with the master glassmakers who would serve as their design collaborators for the semester. They also explored CMoG's renowned Rakow Research Library and glass artifact collection that spans 3,500 years.

One of the studio's first moves was to buy a specialized glass kiln that heats glass to a “warm” or softened consistency for casting in molds. While the studio awaited its shipment of glass pieces, the eager students ran preliminary studies in the kiln with glass-like substances such as ice, sugar and paraffin wax.

**Under Davidson's continued direction, the students became adept mold-makers, using slip and refractory clay to make molds which responded to and provoked the students' evolving glass designs.**





ABOVE  
Transparent and colored glass softened in a kiln “slumps” into star-shaped vessels, cast in refractory clay by students Kimberly Sass and Steven Smigielski.  
Photo by Georg Rafailidis

BELOW  
CMoG’s master glassworkers use a range of hot glass techniques to create full-scale prototypes of the students’ designs.  
Photo by Georg Rafailidis

Kimberly Sass (MARCH ‘15), and design partner Steven Smigielski (MARCH ‘15) created around six mold sets for their project, a branched system of glass rods. What began as a simple vessel mold morphed into a formwork of star-shaped cups. Heated glass rods “slumped” and sintered in the mold to form a twisted canopy of glass.

Sass, a student in the Material Culture Research Group, says she appreciated the opportunity to get close to a medium whose complexity can make it impractical at this level. “This class in particular was revolutionary...in that it offered the chance to explore and manipulate a material that seems to be absent from most architecture programs.”

The final prototyping session at CMoG’s “hot shop” brought the group’s experimental work to fruition. Students worked on the floor with glassmakers as they shaped molten glass with torches, cutters and molds specialized for hot-worked glass.

Olivia Arcara and Timothy Ruhl, both MARCH students, came in expecting one prototype of their modular glass bricks, designed to stack and lock into place without fasteners or glue. Instead, they got five. Arcara says the yearlong research was “a great hands-on experience” that put her and her classmates on the forefront of architectural glass alongside leaders in the field.

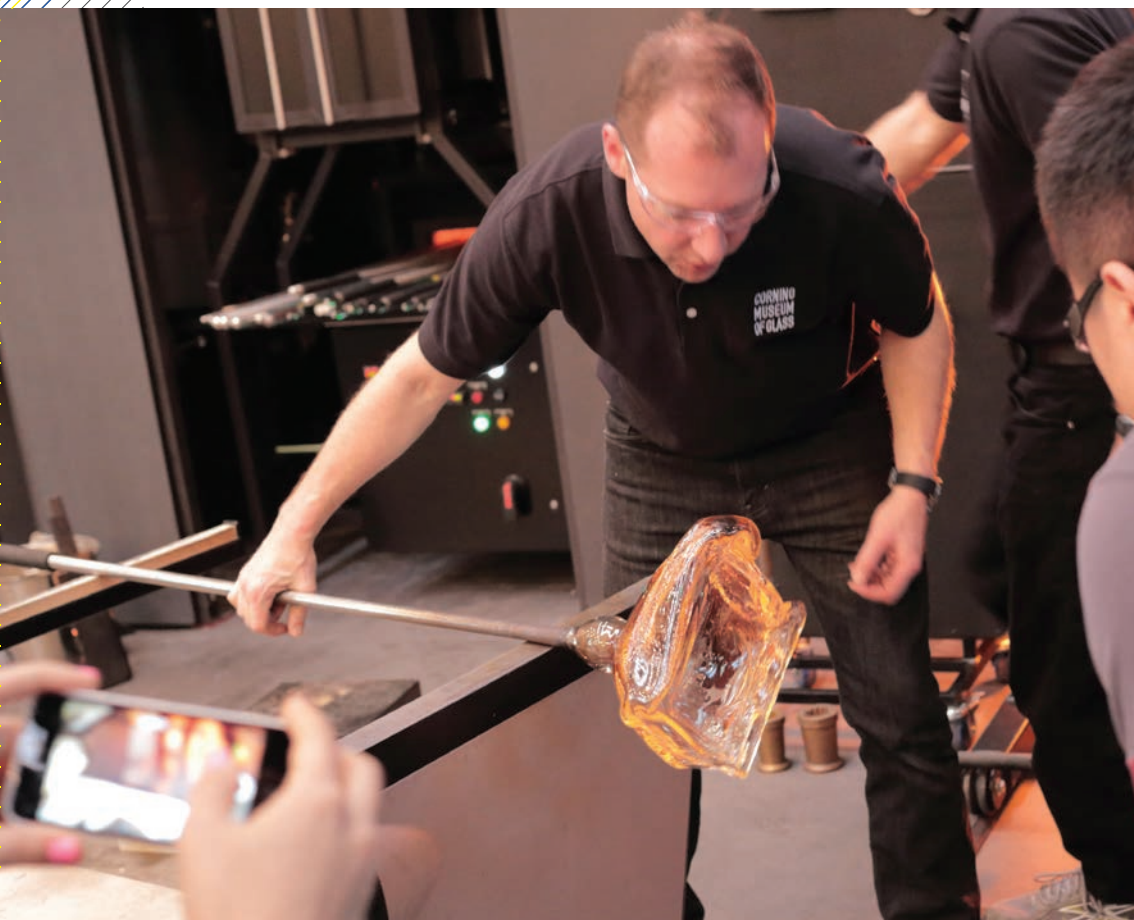
“We found we came up with a lot of questions we were answering together. The ability to experiment with different types of materiality and then work with a manufacturer was an amazing research experience.”

Steve Gibbs, who assigned his entire staff of glassmakers to the project, says CMoG values the knowledge exchange. “The making is the end for CMoG,” he said of a process that saw glassmakers and students in constant contact via Skype and digital drawing exchanges.

The glasswork is part of the Buffalo School’s broader investigation of refractory materials, including ceramics. It’s also one of the program’s many research-to-practice endeavors with industry partners that include Boston Valley Terra Cotta and Rigidized Metals Corp.

Davidson says the initiative has expanded the Buffalo School’s capacity and facilities for a promising new field of research. “It’s a totally new branch of material possibilities for the department, and our students are the trailblazers,” she says.

“It’s an exciting energy in the studio.”



# Student Profile

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John Costello (MArch '17)

## Carpenter brings passion for making and eco-conscious design to architecture studies

by Angelina Bruno

Architecture student and on-the-side carpenter John Costello arrived from a jobsite in paint-splattered t-shirt and shorts, a sharpened pencil in hand. It was clear from his constant spatial descriptions and gesturing that he was resisting the urge to draw. When he began to describe the foreclosure house he just purchased on Buffalo's West Side, he could resist no longer.



He quickly sketched the three-story frame, and then added wavy lines to indicate where he will replace the front façade with a 20-foot glass curtain wall for passive solar heating. A thermal covering for the glass – extended and retracted via a manually operated wheel – will protect it from the extreme winter cold. A hinged attic floor will create magnificent loft space while supporting heat transfer from the glass façade. Costello also intends to complete the project by repurposing or upcycling materials from the waste stream.

While the endeavor may seem overly ambitious, it's business as usual for Costello, who has entered the Master of Architecture program after just completing his undergraduate studies at age 38. The self-taught carpenter who once drove 11 days straight to Costa Rica to surf and re-engineered his Volkswagen to run on vegetable oil has always been comfortable pushing his limits, working with his hands and questioning the status quo when it comes to the environment.

ABOVE  
John Costello assembles a new roofing system for his home on Buffalo's West Side. Costello says his energy-conscious restoration is a "playful" and awareness-raising architectural response to the climate crisis.  
Photo by Mahan Mehrvarz (MArch '16)

Costello, who has just received UB's prestigious Arthur A. Schomberg Fellowship, plans to fold the home rehab into his academic exploration of ecological practices and material culture at the Buffalo School. It's also in line with his plans to build a residential-based practice focused on sustainable design, building and living.

"Instead of dealing with [the climate crisis] like it's a problem, I'm interested in architectural responses that can both raise awareness about what's happening and playfully give solutions," says Costello. Referring to the interactive nature of his glass façade concept, he adds: "You may want to live in the house just to turn the wheel."

While Costello is certainly at home as an architect, his path to the profession has been anything but direct.

The Western New York native struggled academically in high school, moving to North Carolina after graduation to work for his mother's paint contracting business. He later worked for a building contractor, developing his skillset in carpentry. After picking up surfing, he set his sights on warmer weather and water.



**"I drove from North Carolina to Costa Rica," says Costello.  
"Like Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua,  
Costa Rica—it was intense."**

Costello lived in several locales for only months at a time, trading work for necessities. His interest in healthy living brought him back to Western New York in the summers to help host The Living Now Festival of Healing and Transformation, which focused on raw foods, yoga, meditation and alternative building.

Only after he made a permanent move back to Buffalo to help care for his ailing grandmother did Costello consider going back to school. He had successfully gotten his own contracting business off the ground but was ready for a new challenge, first pursuing his associate's degree at Erie Community College and then transferring to UB.

With a passionate interest in design and the environment, and practical experience in building, Costello hit the ground running. He graduated in May with the highest GPA in his class and has already earned several design honors.

His design concept "House20" for a residential community in Buffalo's Allentown neighborhood earned Costello and classmate Ryan Hughes UB's Undergraduate Award for Excellence in Research, Scholarship and Creativity. The proposed community is built on inverted planes to naturally aid the site's filtration system. Rainwater is diverted into low-lying pools to support plant life and water recreation and to mitigate impacts on Buffalo's combined sewer system.

Faculty members at the Buffalo School have taken note of Costello's talent, engaging him in several experimental design-build projects as well as commissioned work.

Costello has developed a particularly close working relationship with architecture faculty member Dennis Maher, whose Fargo House on Buffalo's West Side is a living experiment in material reuse and reconstruction. Maher invited Costello's participation in "House of Collective Repair," an installation at the Albright-Knox Art Gallery inspired by the Fargo House. Within the Fargo House, Costello and another student recently built a reconfigurable exhibition space out of plywood panels that can fold out to create shelving or expose windows for flexible lighting. Costello's spontaneous visit to Maher's home last summer while he was out of the country resulted in a surprise renovation of Maher's bathroom floor and a mouse-trap-like invention.

"We fabricated this thing out of a bed frame, some stainless steel shelving and an organ pipe that collects the water as it drips off your body when you get out of the shower; it funnels down an organ pipe and through a hole in the floor to water a plant below," says Costello, who worked with Kathryn Hobert (MARCH '15) on the project.

As Costello prepares to balance graduate study with his home renovation, likely his most challenging building project yet, he's undeterred. It's just another opportunity to push his limits. "The house is a really good opportunity to test things, to see how little energy I can use and how much solar radiation I can capture...I think practice is doing. That's what I'm interested in."

ABOVE  
Fargo House. Bathroom, with floor by John Costello and Kathryn Hobert. The mosaic of hexagonal tiles and other found artifacts (including hexagonal bolts) incorporates a mouse-trap-like drainage system that sends water down a pipe to plants on the floor below.  
Photo by Biff Henrich



# Buffalo Matters

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## Behind the Buffalo Billion: UB Regional Institute and Regional Council Lay Economic Planning Foundation for Buffalo's Resurgence

by Rachel Teaman



ABOVE  
While Buffalo is riding a wave of new investment, state and community leaders say the groundwork was laid by a highly collaborative regional plan.  
© University at Buffalo, photo by Douglas Levere

After weathering decades of hard times, Buffalo is on the rebound – in a big way. Governor Andrew Cuomo has put a billion dollars behind it, cranes are a familiar part of the skyline, the waterfront is hip and lively, neighborhoods once forgotten are coming to life, and the positivity on the streets is contagious (“Buffalove” bumper sticker anyone?). Though far from finished, Buffalo’s “comeback story” has had its run in the national press several times over now, and other parts of the state and nation are starting to take notice.

Yet the backstory to this economic renaissance is what has regional and state leaders most confident in Buffalo’s future. And it’s all in a plan.



In an above-and-beyond response to Cuomo’s decentralized economic development model – introduced in 2011 through a statewide planning competition – Western New York has essentially turned conventional economic development on its head and cultivated a level of unity never seen before for the five-county region. Indeed, it was this very plan and process that inspired the Governor’s billion-dollar bet and is now driving the recent burst of private investment in the region.

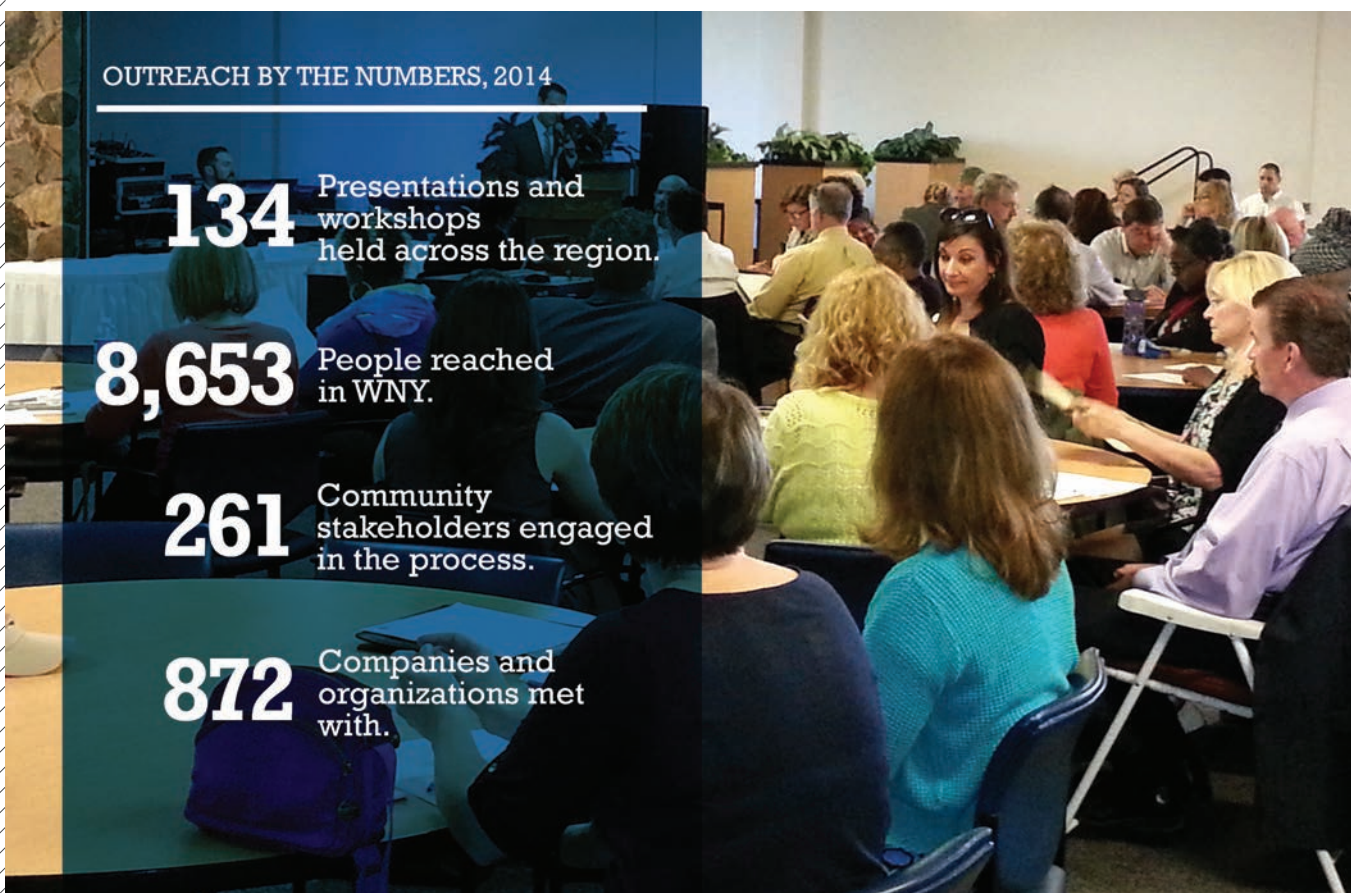
Howard Zemsky, the Buffalo developer who helped lead that planning effort and now heads economic development for all of New York State, refers to the new plan and process as a “sea change” and the foundation of the region’s economic vitality. “Without that, you just have money, you just have some pioneers. Those are very different things – they don’t make a shared community.”

Dean Robert Shibley and the Buffalo School’s UB Regional Institute (UBRI) have been a part of the process from the start, leading public participation, mapping economic data, and developing and now implementing the plan and its subsequent Buffalo Billion investment strategy.

Says Shibley: “In over 30 years of planning engagements in the region, I don’t think we’ve worked on an effort with more significance in terms of the opportunity presented to the region to change the game. The alignment of vision from the Governor down to the grassroots to empower a new set of voices gave us a new conversation and, ultimately, a plan with consensus and investment from all sectors.”

BELOW /  
With support from the UB Regional Institute, the WNY Regional Economic Development Council has engaged thousands in building and now implementing the region’s economic plan.

For a region that had become accustomed to empty promises, Buffalo is seeing results. Projects that were just concepts two years ago are today off the ground. Economic indicators from wages to developable brownfields are ticking upward. State investments have leveraged more than \$3 billion in private sector investment and the creation of more than 7,000 new jobs in Western New York since 2011.



**The model has worked so well that the Governor has designed a similar process to refocus regional economic development plans across upstate New York – from Rochester to Utica – enlisting UBRI to assist with research and provide decision-making tools and strategic planning guidance.**

#### **No longer a spectator sport**

A key tenet of the Governor's new Regional Economic Development Councils, which would serve as the new economic development governance bodies for each of the state's 10 regions, was inclusion. The Councils were to be diversely representative across all measures. Western New York took that charge to heart.

Soon after the competition's announcement, in late summer 2011, the Governor gave the region a new team of local leaders with fresh perspectives. Co-chaired by Zemsky, the developer behind Buffalo's Larkin District, and UB President Satish K. Tripathi, the Western New York Regional Economic Development Council engaged emergent leaders active at the ground level – for example, the head of a West Side housing agency, a Niagara County farm and vineyard owner, the CEO of a manufacturer from Chautauqua County, and an African-American small business owner.

BELOW  
Dean Robert Shibley (left) and UBRI Director Laura Quebral (center) have worked closely with Howard Zemsky, president and CEO of Empire State Development (right), and the Western New York Regional Economic Development Council to build a transformative economic plan for Buffalo and the five-county region.  
Photo by Mahan Mehrvarz (MArch '16)





“The people who were around the table were to some extent picked to break the mold,” says Zemsky, whose passion for the region grew out of his work with Buffalo’s historic buildings and the communities around them. “Economic development had been a spectator sport for too long. The Regional Councils got people off the sidelines and into the game.”

Christina Orsi, who directed the Western New York office of Empire State Development during the plan’s development, agrees. “Historically, economic development in Western New York was led by a handful of CEOs, a closed group making the big decisions, or influencing them,” says Orsi, who now heads UB’s Office of Economic Development. “The Governor broke that completely open with the Regional Councils.”

In a matter of weeks, the Council orchestrated an aggressively inclusive planning process that engaged more than 1,000 citizens through dozens of public meetings. Work groups engaged an additional 200 business and community leaders and subject-matter experts on issues as diverse as entrepreneurship and the manufacturing economy.

### **Building on the base**

Western New York was hardly new to this game. During the previous two decades, Buffalo had built an arsenal of nationally recognized physical plans – many of these guided by Shibley and his Urban Design Project – that called for a return to the urban core, reconnections to the waterfront, and the revitalization of the city’s neighborhoods. Also, coincident with the Council’s effort was Buffalo’s zoning code rewrite (its first in 50 years), a sustainable development planning initiative for Erie and Niagara Counties, and several town and village comprehensive plans.

Moreover, Buffalo was already showing signs of rebirth. Its Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus was a hotbed for health sciences research and technology transfer, with UB’s plans to build its new medical school there well under way. Developers were beginning to convert warehouses into lofts by the handful (and today they are filling them up). Buffalo’s West Side was the center of a national garden festival and an urban farming movement. Beyond Buffalo, Niagara Falls was in the midst of a major restoration of its falls-view park with progress on long-vacant monoliths, such as the Rainbow Center Mall.

This economic plan “came out of a history of increasingly more sophisticated planning foundations and is rooted in the community’s notion of how we define ourselves,” says Shibley, adding that the deftness in planning also came from community nonprofits that had developed into “juggernauts of capacity” as advocates and participants in past regional plans.

### **A new frame of reference**

The region’s newest effort dug deep into this planning history and canvassed the region’s landscape to shake loose proven planning concepts and development models that were working well for pockets of the community.

The plan’s strategies also drew heavily from economic data and research, illustrated and presented through public meetings and online forums. The tactic turned political flashpoints into common sense.

Consider smart growth, an issue that has remained unpopular despite the region’s notorious challenges in sprawl (its declining population dispersed across 166 square miles of newly urbanized land between 1960 and 2000). UBRI Director Laura Quebral (MUP ‘06) says the maps were striking and nearly neutralized this issue. “No one could really deny it. When you saw it on the map, it was completely intuitive.”

In the end, the plan proposed a combination of investments in industry clusters of strategic strength – among them advanced manufacturing, agriculture, tourism, health and life sciences – and “economic enablers” including workforce development, entrepreneurship and smart growth. The plan prioritized projects for state funding based not only on job creation and return-on-investment but on the degree to which they reached underserved populations, promoted smart growth, targeted young adults and improved the region’s image.

As such, community leaders say the plan provides a new frame of reference for economic development – one that encompasses issues traditionally relegated to “community development” and makes them central drivers of economic investment. Says Zemsky: “We gave credibility to ideas that had been floating around for a while. This community wasn’t embracing sustainable, smart growth. But now we have a plan that highlights it as a core principle. That was a big leap. We all talk about it, argue over it, but this is now central to how we think about our future.”

Adds Shibley: “This project brought together physical, land use and social considerations within a framework that everybody can put their hand up, and that’s economic development.”

Aaron Bartley, founding director of People United for Sustainable Housing (PUSH) Buffalo, attributes this new perspective to the inclusive process. “There were advocates for all those constituencies at the table. And the effort’s leadership understood that the culture of a place and the quality of its workforce is economic development.”

#### **‘A resounding vote of confidence’**

Then came the Buffalo Billion, announced by Cuomo in January 2012, just two months after Western New York earned “Best Plan” in the statewide REDC competition. Quebral says it immediately elevated the plan to a higher plane. “We needed someone who said, ‘we don’t just believe in it, we’re going to invest in it.’ That was catalytic.”

In his 2015 commencement address to Buffalo School graduates, many of whom have participated in Buffalo’s city-making work, Zemsky said the Buffalo Billion was a tremendous validation of planning and design. “Folks, that was not manna from heaven; it was a resounding vote of confidence in the work of this region and school.”

The shot-in-the-arm wouldn’t come all at once, or without a great deal of due diligence and shared private investment (at a minimum leverage ratio of 5:1). The Council’s Buffalo Billion investment plan, produced by The Brookings Institution Metropolitan Policy Institute, consultant McKinsey & Co., and UBRI, takes a closer look at the region’s industry sectors and market levers such as innovation capital and the “livability” of its communities and puts forth six signature initiatives.

Today, more than half of the pot has been committed. Among the Buffalo Billion-supported developments is SolarCity, the largest solar panel manufacturing facility in the Western Hemisphere, now under construction on a brownfield just south of downtown Buffalo. Advanced manufacturing investments include an R&D facility downtown and the development of a workforce training center on Buffalo’s East Side. Now in its second year, the 43North business idea competition has drawn over 10,000 applicants from around the world, providing over \$5 million in awards to start-up ventures each year.

Yet the smaller-scale initiatives funded through this new economic development governance structure have yielded impacts of equal importance. As a single point of entry for economic development funding requests, New York State’s Consolidated Funding Application is primarily administered by the regional councils. In Western New York, proposals are vetted against the plan’s investment criteria, including a Smart Growth Scorecard.

Now in its fifth round, the CFA process has funneled \$272.5 million to the region for projects including the restoration of Lockport’s Erie Canal locks, a manufacturing business revolving loan fund for Allegany, Cattaraugus and Chautauqua Counties, renewable energy projects to create green jobs through PUSH Buffalo’s “Green Development Zone” on the West Side, and streetscape improvements to downtown Buffalo.



The CFA-funded Biorefinery Commercialization Center at Alfred State College in Allegany County has transformative potential for the rural district, according to Curtis Crandall, chairman of the county’s board of legislators. The center will house the “New Forest Economy” initiative, a collaborative effort with Cattaraugus County and SUNY’s College of Environmental Science and Forestry to harvest low-grade woods and extract valuable chemicals and sugars for export. “We see this as a project that can spread well beyond our borders and reach across New York State as a whole,” says Crandall.

Christopher Schoepflin, current director of the Western New York office of Empire State Development and head of USA Niagara Development Corp., says the annual funds reinforce a process that has engaged over 9,000 community members to date. “It has brought the plan to life for all the people who have put time into it,” he says.

It’s also a powerful lever, according to Quebral. “We had a lot of folks who [used to say] a dollar is a dollar. We should be thankful, period. We didn’t talk about access to jobs, downtown vitality, the costs of redundancy. Now we do. We haven’t changed the laws, and you can still convert farmland into residential. You just can’t do it with [state] support.”

**Adds Zemsky:** “We could be talking about SolarCity anywhere; instead, it’s on a brownfield in South Buffalo.”

**Long Way to Go**

Regional leaders acknowledge the risks of complacency – Buffalo’s “comeback” has a long way to go. The city remains one of the poorest in the U.S., with stubbornly underperforming schools and vacancy problems creeping into first-ring suburbs. Poverty, unemployment and a declining agricultural base challenge the region’s rural communities.

Yet more than any dollar figure, it’s the process that leaves Zemsky optimistic about the regions’ future. “When it comes down to it, it isn’t all about the money. That’s why I’m convinced that the plan, and the process around it, is of greater recurring value. If that’s the template we’re going to use going forward, it’s going to bode well for the community.”

BELOW  
 PUSH Buffalo’s Green Development Zone, which links the environmental movement to job creation, has received CFA support for sustainable development projects across Buffalo’s West Side. Below, the PUSH Buffalo crew excavates a site to support permeable landscaping and reduce impacts on Buffalo’s combined sewer system. Photo courtesy of PUSH Buffalo



# Special Feature

## GRoW Goes West

UB's first-ever Solar Decathlon team is off to California for the competition

A rotating crew of two dozen students and faculty clocked 12-hour days – six days a week – during the final six-week stretch of constructing UB's solar home entry in the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon. Led by the Buffalo School with UB's School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, School of Management and College of Arts and Sciences, UB's team is one of 15 competing in the prestigious international event which challenges collegiate teams to design, build and operate solar homes.

Proposing a new way of living with energy, the GRoW Home is an ultra-efficient modular home that embraces both the urban farming culture of Buffalo and its seasonal weather cycles. Through passive and active energy systems, a GRoWlarium for year-round food production and a seamless indoor-outdoor living experience, the GRoW Home integrates architecture, occupant and nature in support of energy stewardship.

After two years of preparation by more than 200 students and faculty from 14 departments and units, with the help of dozens of business and community partners, UB's first-ever Solar Decathlon team is off to California for the competition. As this article goes to print, UB's team is packing up the fully-tested modular house onto two flat-bed trucks – and two additional box trucks for furnishings – for a five-day cross-country drive. Thirty-seven members of UB's team will board a plane and meet the house in Irvine to reassemble it for the competition, which runs from Oct. 8-18. The competition includes 10 contests that measure performance, affordability and livability and ask teams to host dinner parties, test their clothes dryers and power electric cars hooked up to the home. Winners will be selected in each category, and an overall Solar Decathlon winner will be announced Oct. 17.

Thousands will be invited inside for tours and a sneak peek at the latest in energy-efficient living before the house is shipped back to Buffalo, where it will serve as an energy education center for the community.

Read on as we invite you inside the GRoW Home. Learn more at [grow.buffalo.edu](http://grow.buffalo.edu).

**Follow UB's debut bid in the Solar Decathlon at #UBGRoWHome. We're following them all the way to California and throughout the competition!**

////////////////////////////////////  
//// The Western New York community, alumni and friends from around the world have ////  
//// rallied behind the project, which has benefitted from the financial support of more than 450 ////  
//// individuals and organizations. Thanks to all for making UB's first entry in the Solar Decathlon ////  
//// possible. We would like to recognize LPCiminelli for its many contributions to the project ////  
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**Martha Bohm, lead faculty advisor and assistant professor of architecture**

“The challenge of this project is phenomenal, as is the opportunity it presents to our students and the school. We’ve come a long way in two and a half years, and we’re looking forward to finishing strong!”



**Duane Warren (MArch '15)**

“It’s just amazing seeing it actualized, from the design phase to construction to the competition,” says Warren, whose roles have included architectural project manager, furniture designer and, during the competition, tour guide and electric car driver.



**Kaitlyn O’Connell (MArch '16)**

“It’s evolved from something on paper to a finished house. It’s awesome. It’s real. It’s happening,” says O’Connell, who has manned the studio throughout the project and joined the construction crew for the final sprint.



**Craig Tamborski, carpenter, LPCiminelli**

“I’ve been in the carpenters’ union for 26 years. This is like something I’ve never seen before. It’s cool,” says Tamborski, adding that he’s honored to have played a part.

Photos by Zhi Ting Phua (BA '16) and Rachel Teaman





## Welcome to the GRoW Home

The GRoW Home introduces a new way of living with energy, inviting the user to engage with the architecture and environment as they adapt the home and its systems to the changing forces of the sun and wind. Generating twice as much energy as it consumes, the GRoW Home features a “GRoWLarium” for producing food year-round, 10-inch-thick structural insulated panels, 6.7 kilowatts of grid-tied solar panels and solar water heating, operative shading and high-performance windows and folding glass doors.

**Grow Your Own Energy:** The 1,100-square-foot home produces twice the energy it consumes through passive and active solar energy features such as super thick walls and dynamic fenestrations and shading.

**Live Flexibly and Functionally:** A storage unit dividing the bedroom and living area features a rotating television and entertainment platform to serve both rooms. A double-sided kitchen table can be flipped from its steel surface for prepping food to a wooden surface for dining.

**Live with Nature:** The physical heart of the home, the GRoWLarium is a year-round growing space that captures the sun's light and warmth during the winter and opens up to outdoor living during Buffalo's comfortable summer and shoulder seasons.

**Grow Your Own Food:** The GRoWLarium's year-round growing space, combined with the home's exterior gardens, will produce nearly 1,600 pounds of produce annually, enough to meet the USDA's recommended fruit and vegetable consumption for 2.3 people.

Renderings by UB Solar  
Decathlon Architectural Design  
Studio, Spring 2015,  
Instructor: Martha Bohm





**Do-It-Yourself:** Architecture students designed and built six multifunctional furnishings to enhance the efficiency of the GRoW Home. The pieces include a solar clothes dryer that doubles as a bench, a canning cabinet with curved slots for storing mason jars and rolling metal tables for holding soil and starter plants. The furniture was fabricated with the assistance of Buffalo's Rigidized Metals Corp.



**Look Up:** A steel canopy braces 24 Silevo PV panels and a solar water heating system while providing shading for the entire home. It also serves as infrastructure for climbing plants and, eventually, a green wall and roof.





# Alumni Profile

## Developer Richard Perlmutter (BA '76) Navigates Turbulent Waters of Real Estate Industry

by Bradshaw Hovey (MUP '91)



ABOVE  
One of the Buffalo School's early graduates, Richard Perlmutter is now head of a major real estate development firm in metro Washington, D.C. Also a whitewater kayaker, he likens his hobby to life – and the world of real estate: “When you’re on a river, the worst thing you want to do is look at the rock you’re trying to avoid. You look at that rock, that’s where you’re going to go.”

In the mid-1990s, Downtown Silver Spring, in Maryland’s District of Columbia metro area, was an aging suburban shopping district in long-term decline, superseded by newer malls farther from the metropolitan center, beset by crime, and a sore spot for citizens and elected officials alike. It was one of the first places in the country where retail developers decided that parking – not merchandise – needed to front the public right of way.

Doug Duncan, elected Montgomery County Executive in 1994, saw the potential for blight to spread and vowed to “fix Downtown Silver Spring or die trying.” Several previous proposals for out-of-scale, inward-looking suburban retail developments had been shot down by public opposition. Duncan killed the last of those – a proposal by the Ghermezian brothers for a typically gargantuan destination mall to be called “American Dream.”

When Duncan went out again with a new – let’s call it a request for ideas – Richard Perlmutter (BA '76), president of the two-year-old Argo Development, stepped forward with partners Foulger-Pratt and Peterson. They proposed a public process to define the values, hopes and priorities of the community – and then make a plan.

Fifteen years later, more than half a billion dollars had been invested, two thirds of it private capital. There’s a Metro station, new headquarters for the American Film Institute and Discovery Communications, movie theaters, a Whole Foods, new restaurants and shops, remade streetscapes and public spaces, several thousand units of housing.

“Richard was very instrumental in all of that,” Duncan remembers. “He was there every step of the way, meeting with the public, putting the plan together and selling the plan.”

The project weathered the Russian debt crisis of 1998, the 2000 dot-com bubble, turbulence after the 9/11 attacks, the Great Recession of 2008, and all the usual barriers that crop up when one is trying to change the urban landscape. “The development business is just one gigantic problem that you deal with every day,” Perlmutter says. “None of these development projects ever want to happen. If you rationally thought about any one of them, you’d never do them.”

Neighbors are opposed, you need a zoning variance, environmental hazards are discovered, preservationists sue, markets tank, tenants get cold feet, financing falls through. It never stops. And yet, people like Perlmutter take on such projects and persevere. The financial rewards can be great, of course. But the personal satisfactions can be just as important. “I wanted to be in the real estate business,” he says. “I wanted to be in the business of making things happen, of creating a legacy, of creating something that was lasting, creating a sense of place, being an agent of change.”





ABOVE /

Developer Richard Perlmutter turned an aging, crime-ridden shopping district in a Maryland suburb into a thriving retail, entertainment and cultural district with inviting public spaces and pedestrian-friendly streetscapes. The \$500 million Downtown Silver Spring has been recognized as a model for place-making and urban design.

Photo courtesy of Argo Development

those days: analyze the situation, define the problem, create multiple solutions, test each one, plot the course for implementation, measure results, rinse, repeat.

“What I took away from the program was learning how to think,” he says. “Because at the end of the day the things you memorize fade fairly quickly. It’s how you approach problems. It’s how you approach people.”

Buffalo planner David Stebbins (BA '78) was Perlmutter’s classmate and friend. Stebbins recalls an intense, intelligent and thoughtful young man — someone who grasped the essential lessons of the young school quicker than anyone else.

After graduation, there was consulting, then law school at the University of Oregon, a kind of “classical education” that was a perfect complement to his training in environmental design. “It prepared me to do anything I wanted to do,” Perlmutter says. Then there was an unexpected invitation to be the first Packwood Law Fellow, a stint as staff in the U.S. Senate, then general counsel to the Commerce Department. Then came real estate.

He worked a few years with a multi-family housing developer. In 1990, Perlmutter took a job with Bank of America establishing a “work-out” operation for troubled real estate assets left behind from the savings and loan crisis. In five years they did 500 deals worth \$1.5 billion — whatever it took to get bad loans off the books.

In 1996, Perlmutter decided it was time to start his own company. Two years later he began the project that would be his legacy. Today, Downtown Silver Spring is everything “Smart Growth” is supposed to be: mixed-use, walkable, transit-oriented. It has a sense of place, where old and new come together to provide something authentic. In 2005, Downtown Silver Spring won a Rudy Bruner Award for Urban Excellence, a prestigious award that recognizes best practices in urban place-making.

“I love to go down there and see how much people enjoy it,” Perlmutter says. “We changed an urban trend, and we all know how hard it is to change an urban trend.”

As a leader in the Urban Land Institute, Perlmutter is excited about the Buffalo School’s new graduate specialization in real estate development. He says there’s a lot to learn for someone coming into the business these days: the new dominance of institutional investors, millennials’ preference for urban environments, the demand for developers to deal openly with communities where they work.

But even in the turbulence of the industry, even with the inevitable problems, Perlmutter sees opportunity. His attitude toward real estate is not so different from his approach to his favorite pastime, whitewater kayaking. “Whitewater is really a good metaphor for life,” he says. “When you’re on a river, the worst thing you want to do is look at the rock you’re trying to avoid. You look at that rock, that’s where you’re going to go.”

**Richard Perlmutter joins fellow alumnus Franklin E. Dickinson (MArch '85, BPS '83) as the newest members of the Buffalo School Dean’s Council. Go to [ap.buffalo.edu/people/related/deans-council](http://ap.buffalo.edu/people/related/deans-council) to learn more about this important leadership group of the school.**

# Honor Roll

## Kideney Architects

Decades-old Buffalo firm grooms next-generation architects with passion for the city and a roll-up-your-sleeves approach

by Rebecca Rudell



/ ABOVE  
Kideney Architects' leadership team in their new office in downtown Buffalo: (from left to right), Timothy Kupinski, Raymond Bednarski, Joseph Lenahan and Anthony Gorski. Photo by Mahan Mehrvarz (MArch '16)

Nearly half of Kideney Architects' staff of 50 – including three of the firm's four principals – are graduates of the Buffalo School. With an 89-year history, a collaborative, open culture, and an internship program that involves students in all aspects of the practice environment, it's no wonder UB grads flock to the firm.

We recently sat down with the firm's fifth generation of principals – Raymond J. Bednarski, president and CEO (BPS '96); Anthony E. Gorski (BPS '91); Timothy E. Kupinski (MArch '89, BPS '87) and Joseph Lenahan (a product of Georgia Tech) – to learn more about what drives the Buffalo firm and, with its recent endowment of the Kideney Scholars program, the value of its connection to the Buffalo School.

### Buffalo born and bred

Kideney's Buffalo roots run deep. Founded by James William Kideney in 1926, the firm is the oldest and largest architecture-specific practice in the area, with across-the-board contributions to the region's architectural heritage.

In its early years, Kideney established itself in education architecture, designing dozens of K-12 schools (particularly during the post-war baby boom) and shaping college campuses from UB to Fredonia. Its Modernist design of Buffalo's central library downtown in 1964 set a standard for grand municipal architecture. The firm's signature projects also include expansion of the stagehouse and exterior restoration of Buffalo's Shea's Performing Arts Center and, for UB, the Crossroads Culinary Center, a state-of-the-art student dining center on the North Campus.

Perhaps the firm's most significant project of late sits on the booming Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus, the heart of Buffalo's urban renaissance. One of the largest projects in Kideney's history, the 350,000-square-foot Conventus medical center is designed as a downtown gateway and campus hub, with a sleek glass façade and elevated walkways that will link the building to UB's new medical school and the future John R. Oishei Children's Hospital.

Now, Kideney itself is returning to its downtown roots. After 25 years in suburban Amherst, the firm has just relocated to the former headquarters of the Erie County Industrial Development Agency on Genesee Street, mere blocks from the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus.

“Kideney was always perceived as a Buffalo firm,” says Lenahan. “And I think that we were missed when we were in Amherst. We’re glad to be back and want to be a part of everything happening in Buffalo.”



**“The Buffalo School’s legacy is our legacy.”**

### Grooming the next generation

Kideney’s passion for Buffalo and Western New York is the primary driver behind its scholarship and internship program with the Buffalo School, according to firm leaders.

Conceived by previous partners to help develop diversity and cultivate local talent, the internship and Kideney Scholars program were recently bolstered with \$25,000 in additional support from Kideney.

“It’s frustrating to watch people come through [the UB program], develop and then leave,” says Kupinski. “It’s like Buffalo is the world’s farm team. So this program was an effort to keep talent here. Three of [our leadership team] went to UB, so it made sense to maintain and build on that connection. And it’s been successful.”

So what do interns at Kideney do?

“Roll up their sleeves and get involved in everything we’re doing—working on a design, rendering or production drawing; visiting construction sites; attending client meetings. We don’t hold anything back,” says Bednarski.

Adds Lenahan: “Mentoring is a huge part of the process of becoming an architect. No matter what you may have focused on in your education, when you get into the field it’s so broad and complex. We all enjoy helping a new intern get better at what they’re doing and learn the process a little more.”

Daniel Lamm (MArch ‘15), a former Kideney intern who was recently hired by the firm, can speak to that: “They make it their primary goal to expose you to as many areas of the profession as they can. By the end of my first year I had designed a building...with one of the partners, coordinated product representatives on a project to replace all the exterior wall covering and windows of a 33-building complex, and worked on numerous construction documents and details.”

Interns are also treated like a member of the firm family, adds graduate architecture student Josh Dillin, who has spent the last three years as an intern with Kideney. “Everyone here interacts with everyone. You’re not just a number. I have experience with two other firms, but there was a level of division or isolation within those firms. Kideney doesn’t have that. Everyone is professional, but down to earth. We all push hard, but there’s always time for a good laugh.”

### Looking ahead

As the firm settles into its new offices and prepares for the next phase in its long-running history, its ties to Buffalo and UB are only growing stronger.

Up next for Kideney is designing the interior build-out for the 10-story addition to Roswell Park Cancer Institute, also on the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus, and a multi-million dollar student housing project for Greenleaf Development, adjacent to SUNY Buffalo State in the Grant/Amherst neighborhood. The firm is also renovating its own building’s exterior.

“We’re two blocks from the medical campus, there’s a lot happening right here in this piece of the city, and we’re involved in other developments downtown. It made all the sense in the world for us to get back down here,” says Kupinski.

As for its connection to the Buffalo School? “The Buffalo School’s legacy is our legacy,” says Bednarski. “Having passed through there, we’re proud of it and happy to see that it’s developed into the world-class program it’s become.”

BELOW

A signature development for the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus and downtown Buffalo, Conventus (Latin for “coming together”) will foster connections between health care and medical research via physical linkages to the future UB medical school and the John R. Oishei Children’s Hospital. Photo courtesy of Kideney Architects



## A Banner Year for John Eberhard Society



As chair of the John Eberhard Society, I wish to thank those who helped make this past fiscal year a record-breaker for the Buffalo School. As you may know, gifts of \$1,000 or more during each fiscal year qualify individuals and companies as members of the school's leadership giving society, named after our founding dean. Annual contributions to the society fund student scholarships, propel faculty research, and finance vital educational and technological improvements in the school. In 2014-15, the school received more than 70 gifts of \$1,000 or more, nearly twice as many as the previous year. Many gifts this year went to support the Solar Decathlon as our students compete to build the world's best solar house. As a proud graduate and founding faculty member of the school, I am thrilled at this increased level of financial support.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Beverly Foit-Albert".

Please join me in making this year even better for our students. You can donate online at [giving.buffalo.edu](http://giving.buffalo.edu) or send your gift by check (please make payable to the UB Foundation, Inc. and note that your gift is for the School of Architecture and Planning)

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Attn: Cynthia Johannes  
PO Box 730  
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## Donor Spotlight

### Alexander Morris (MARCH '94, BPS '91)

Senior Associate, Wallace Roberts and Todd, Philadelphia

*Since joining WRT in 2003, Alex has served as project architect and project manager for a range of mixed-use and affordable housing redevelopment projects across the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states. Most recently, Alex completed a draft master plan for 11 public housing sites for the Charlottesville Housing Authority, and a 67-unit LEED Silver-rated affordable housing project in Long Branch, NJ. A "Buffalonian through and through," Alex also counts among his favorite projects his work with the Buffalo Municipal Housing Authority and UB's Center for Urban Studies on the Perry Choice Neighborhood Transformation Plan.*



#### How UB shaped my career

UB, especially the School of Architecture and Planning, was a wonderful environment for me academically. The school had, and continues to have, a great diversity in its faculty and approach to pedagogy and practice. There is also a wonderful hands-on approach to learning at the school that I think comes in part from the mid-Western, blue-collar roots of the community. Students are encouraged to get involved in the community and get their hands dirty. For architects this is essential because we practice a very public and practical art. UB was also where I un-learned some of my linear thinking habits and learned (or at least tried to learn) how to solve problems from multiple perspectives at the same time. There is never just one solution to a problem in architecture, and this is what is both maddening and ultimately satisfying about the profession. Professor Robert Shibley used to say that before we can be problem solvers, we have to be problem framers.

**"My best advice to students: Learn to embrace the discomfort that comes from challenges."**

#### My favorite spot on campus

I was more a Crosby Hall guy than a Hayes Hall guy. Most of our classes and studios were in Crosby, but I spent lots of time in the library and computer labs in Hayes. There was a wonderful informality to the interiors of both buildings. I hope the renovation of Hayes Hall can preserve some of those informal spaces and that students can still pin-up and even draw on the walls on occasion! [They will, Alex – Hayes Hall is pin-up ready!]

#### Why I choose to donate to the Buffalo School

I knew since the age of five that I wanted to be an architect, but UB really made me into an architect. I want other students to have the opportunity to have that same life-changing experience...

My ability to contribute, even in small ways, makes me feel like I am helping to bring about that goal.

#### What I tell students

Always make yourself available and open to new opportunities and challenges. Learn to embrace the discomfort that comes from challenges. Train yourself to look at problems from multiple perspectives. When you feel stuck, ask advice from your fellow students and give your advice and help freely in return. These are all things that, if learned well and early, will serve you well in your profession and in your life.

# Hayes Hall to Open in 2016!

The landscaping is in, furniture is on order and building systems are being checked. The end is near for Hayes Hall's landmark restoration and renewal. Buffalo School administrative offices will begin re-occupancy in spring 2016, with classes to commence in fall 2016. A grand re-opening has been set for September 23, 2016.

Take a look inside Hayes Hall and stay up-to-date on project milestones:

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

Join the conversation on social: [#HayesHall2016](https://twitter.com/HayesHall2016)



If the new Hayes Hall is about anything, it's about breaking down walls – literally and figuratively – to create an open, flexible space for dynamic learning and engagement. Perhaps no other space represents these principles better than the building's "front door," a two-story atrium and entry gallery.

Visit our new website for a look inside, with galleries of construction photos and the signature spaces to come.

ABOVE LEFT  
Rendering by John Wightman  
(MArch/MFA '18)

Did you know Hayes Hall was constructed in the late 1800s as the "Insane Department" of the Erie County Almshouse, or that the building was the focus of student protests in the late 1960s? Visit us online for a Hayes Hall timeline and photo archive.





## Hyatt's Creative Makes Crucial Gift to Hayes Hall Renewal

Hyatt's All Things Creative has been a go-to resource for generations of architectural students, providing architecture supply kits to freshmen and materials for faculty and special projects. Now the Buffalo business and longtime donor to the school is advancing the restoration and renewal of Hayes Hall, a UB icon and home to the school since 1975.



Hyatt's gift to Hayes Hall is part of a major new line of support to the school by the 50-year-old family business. Hyatt's has also reinforced its support of the Hyatt Design Awards, which for years have provided freshmen with cash awards for supplies. The newly created Gregory Hyatt Scholarship offers merit- and need-based tuition awards to three sophomores a year. These three gifts will be recognized, in part, through the naming of Hayes Hall's first-floor student reception area and fourth-floor critique space.

Company President Gregory Hyatt has been personally involved with the Buffalo School since 1975. He says Hyatt's philanthropy is based partly on supporting a portion of the company's customer base — students — but far more on what he describes as a bedrock belief: investing in a resource that contributes so much to Buffalo. "If you care about Buffalo and believe in Buffalo, you need to support the School of Architecture and Planning. This school is an incredible and unusual asset for a community our size," he says. "The school's presence has clearly helped this city enormously."

The style of education provided by the Buffalo School also uniquely prepares students for the profession today, a capacity to be enhanced by the state-of-the-art learning spaces in Hayes Hall, says Hyatt. "The school really trains people to solve problems at every scale, from holding two materials in your hand and figuring out how to join them to understanding society's cultural aspirations for their built environment."

ABOVE /  
Longtime Buffalo School donors Gregory Hyatt and Hyatt's All Things Creative have just reinforced their support with a new scholarship and a major gift to the Hayes Hall restoration and renovation.

## What's Your Hayes Hall Story?

BELOW /  
Former Hayes Hall clock-winder Michael Tunkey (BPS '00).  
© University at Buffalo, photo by Douglas Levere

"You kind of had to go up the normal stairs and then, almost like in that movie 'Being John Malkovich,' where there was an elevator stop at 8 ½ floors, you had to crawl through this weird little door and then go through a hole."  
— Michael Tunkey (BPS '00), on his job as a Hayes Hall clock-winder



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Visit [ap.buffalo.edu/HayesHall2016](http://ap.buffalo.edu/HayesHall2016) to share your own reflections on the building we call home.

# Class Notes

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1970s / **Peter Flynn (MArch '73)**, of Flynn Battaglia Architects in Buffalo, was recognized along with fellow partner Ron Battaglia with AIA Buffalo/WNY's Robert and Louise Bethune Award, the highest honor awarded by the chapter. An expert in historic architecture, Flynn is active in the region's preservation community and is former co-chair of Preservation Buffalo Niagara. Founded in 1989 by Flynn and Battaglia, the firm is known today as a premier firm for historic preservation, with notable projects including the ongoing adaptive reuse of Buffalo's Richardson Olmsted Complex, the restoration of Louis Sullivan's Guaranty Building and a master plan and multiple projects at the Roycroft Campus in East Aurora.

**Mike Shea (BA '75)** is a principal in Soderstrom Architects in Portland, Ore., a 30-year-old firm with expertise in health care, K-12 and higher education, and projects across the western United States and in Alaska and Nigeria. With previous experience in semiconductor labs for Intel, Hewlett Packard and others, Shea now concentrates on design for university science and engineering labs. Also with Soderstrom Architects is project architect **Andrew Bradford (Architecture BS '08)**.

**Sue Knapp (MS Civil Engineering '76, BA '74)** is the founding president of transportation planning firm KFH Group, whose mission is to "improve mobility for people and build strong, vibrant communities," according to Knapp. The firm marked its 20th anniversary this year. With three offices across the United States, KFH Group works across the spectrum of transportation services, from large urban bus systems to transit programs in low-density suburban areas. Knapp's 40 years of experience in the field includes fixed-route transit service planning, paratransit design, accessibility, human service transportation coordination, development of state program management and policy, performance evaluation, funding and fare policy, and transit security. She also has a background in transit research and has led a number of projects for the Transportation Cooperative Research Program, National Cooperative Highway Research Program and Federal Transit Administration.

Knapp says her education at the Buffalo School (then the School of Architecture and Environmental Design) "provided a strong basis in urban and regional planning. Perhaps more importantly though, the curriculum went beyond the technical skills to stress real world problem-solving, skills that I still rely on and practice today – how to deal with local elected officials, conduct public outreach, and organize and sift through mounds of data."

1980s / **Barry Yanku (MArch '80, BA '75)** is a senior architect at the Pfeiffer Partners firm in New York City. The notion of choreographed design through 3D modeling – and the synergy of dance and design – is the central theme of his work. Many of these ideas of synergy were developed during his dance studies and the advent of inexpensive personal computers. His experience ranges from large-scale, mixed-use towers to intricate contemporary residences, with notable projects including the restoration of Carnegie Hall and the Basketball Hall of Fame.

**Jill Weber (MArch '80)**, who developed her career as an artist late in life, recently saw her work exhibited at the Bromfield Art Gallery in Boston and Buffalo's Nina Freudenheim Gallery. A graduate of Cornell University's undergraduate housing and design program, Weber cultivated her interest in art and architecture after moving to Buffalo, where she earned her Master of Architecture degree, served as an Albright-Knox Art Gallery docent and took art classes on the side. In 2000, Weber graduated from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. The influence of architecture on Weber's art is readily apparent in process and outcome. Weber takes photographs or found print images of physical architectural spaces and, using tape and pencil, turns them into abstract sketches. From these studies, she carefully delineates her paintings on prepared wooden panels. In 2004, she received the prestigious Maud Prize from Boston's Museum of Fine Arts, which mounted a solo show on Weber and purchased a painting from her collection.

/ LEFT "Escalera Silver/Black/Red" Oil on board 2013, by Jill Weber. She incorporates the essentials of architectural space – light, material, pattern, volume, solids and voids – into precisely executed paintings that are at once ambiguous and concrete.





## Noted Church Architect Christ Kamages Elevated to AIA College of Fellows



ABOVE /  
Christ Kamages, one of the Buffalo School's first students and now a fellow of the AIA, has designed dozens of Orthodox churches across the U.S.

**Christ Kamages (MARCH '72)**, known internationally as an architect for the Orthodox Christian community, has been elevated to the AIA College of Fellows in recognition of his contributions to the advancement of the profession of architecture over the past 40 years.

A product of the Buffalo School's systems-based design program and, before that, a member of the 1960s Rationalist School at the Boston Architectural Center (BAC), Kamages went on to help forge the research division and New England office of CannonDesign in the 1970s. He headed next to San Francisco to work with noted system-building architect Ezra Ehrenkrantz, a practice he evolved into the CJK Design Group.

In his design of the full range of facilities for faith communities across the U.S., Kamages infuses the traditions of Byzantine architecture with art and sculpture and a user-driven approach to create "special spaces of memory and distinction." Kamages' collaborators include spiritual leaders, craftspeople, sculptors and iconographers.

While Kamages tailors each project to the needs of the client, he has developed model church designs including the Axios, an expandable prototype for growing mission parishes, and the Library of Congress registered-Triad design, which incorporates Byzantine principles while optimizing programmatic functions of a modern Orthodox church such as superb sightlines and corporate worship. In 2000, Kamages was named the first "Archon Architekton" (roughly, "Lord Architect") by Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew in Constantinople for his services to the Greek Orthodox Church. Kamages' practice also focuses on residential and "outside-the-box" community development.



Kamages has been active through the years in writing, lecturing and mentoring and actively works to educate and inspire his project stakeholders. Kamages says his BAC/ Buffalo experience forms the foundation of his work. "The concept of both process and product became an armature of our practice," says Kamages, who also taught at the Buffalo School, was part of the school's first research group and co-founded its applied practice group, the former Building Sciences Inc. "The ability to engage the user in the work...and to research multiple options in search of what is best is still the foundation of how we practice today."

LEFT

St John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, Las Vegas, NV. The fifth century-inspired Hexagonal Plan Church Temple seats over 600 and is the center of a community complex that hosts one of North America's greatest Greek festivals. Photo courtesy of CJK Design Group



**Gustavo Lima (MARCH '88)** is principal and director of construction administration at CannonDesign. He is also project director for the Centre Hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal (CHUM), currently under construction in Montreal, Quebec. The \$1.8 billion complex will be one of the largest academic medical centers in North America, with 2.5 million square feet over three city blocks and more than 12,000 rooms.



1990s / **Dustin Warmus (BPS '92)** is a senior associate with THW Design in Atlanta. For over 17 years he has provided leadership in conceptual design, strategic planning and master planning with a focus on senior living facilities. He has worked with more than 40 providers in 50 cities and 20 states. Ultimately, he is committed to creating exceptional communities by integrating a variety of building and product types into a single, connected and highly active environment promoting social confluence, vitality and wellness while enriching the lives of the residents.

**James P. Hartford (MARCH '95)** is co-partner with wife Juhee Lee-Hartford of River Architects, a full-service firm specializing in Passive House and net-zero performance design. Based in Cold Spring, NY, the firm is active throughout the Hudson Valley and New York City metropolitan region.

Hartford is a leading advocate of Passive House design - the world's leading standard in energy-efficient construction - with Hartford's work in this area ranging from single-family retrofits to multi-unit row houses to an organic hard-cider mill in the Catskills.

As founder and acting president of the Hudson Valley chapter of Passive House Alliance U.S., Hartford has brought first-of-their-kind programs in Passive House training to upstate New York. He recently presented his research on retrofitting the nation's housing stock at the North American Passive House Conference in Chicago.

**Carlos Macias (BPS '97)** is the founding principal at METHOD Architects PLLC in New York City, a certified minority-owned architecture firm specializing in retail, commercial, residential and interior architecture.

TOP  
To maximize energy efficiency, River Architects renovated this Passive House-certified residence in Cold Spring, NY, with a pure zinc roof and hemlock siding finished with an ancient Japanese technique that preserves wood through charring. Total annual space conditioning costs are \$320, offset by an 8 kilowatt photovoltaic array.

ABOVE  
James Hartford (MARCH '95), partner of River Architects in Cold Spring, NY, is an expert in and advocate for Passive House building.  
Photo courtesy of River Architects





ABOVE  
Pilgrim Baptist Church in Chicago on Easter Sunday in the 1940s. Originally designed by Dankmar Adler and Louis Sullivan as a synagogue, the late 19th century building changed hands in the 1930s. In his forthcoming book, Charles Davis examines the diverging interpretations of this space as it transitioned from Jewish to African-American stewardship. Photo courtesy of Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, FSA/OWI Collection

2000s

**Charles L. Davis II (MArch '02, BPS '99)**, assistant professor of architectural history in the School of Architecture at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, and a founding member of the Buffalo School Dean's Council, has been awarded a publication grant from the Graham Foundation for his manuscript, *Building Character: The Racial Politics of Modern Architectural Style* (University of Pittsburgh Press). This forthcoming monograph traces the historical integrations of race and style theory in "architectural organicism," or historical movements that modeled design on the principles of nature. Davis argues that figures such as Viollet-le-Duc,

Gottfried Semper, Louis Sullivan and William Lescaze considered buildings to be more than inert assemblies of functional materials, but as organic matter inherently capable of possessing character. His research identifies the racial content of architectural styles by relating the iconography of surface ornamentations to the ethnographic associations of spatial and structural building typologies.

**Casey William Milbrand (Architecture BS '03)**, along with his partner Jason Lloyd Clement, recently opened The Pop In gallery in Buffalo. Inspired by the city, the 400-square-foot space features a "Buffalove" mural; a 14-foot wheat paste of the Richardson Olmsted Complex; and "CityHEART," an interactive sculpture made of 25 interconnected bicycle wheels, designed and built by Milbrand. The community-activated storefront serves as an incubator space for local artists and community groups to exhibit and network. Milbrand and his partner, who met in 2011 during the National Trust for Historic Preservation conference in Buffalo, will be featured on HGTV's "House Hunters" for their work on Pop In as well as the renovation of their historic Victorian home.

**Sylvia Feng (Architecture BS '05)** obtained her MArch from Harvard University Graduate School of Design in 2009 and is currently a designer at Pelli Clarke Pelli in New York City.

**Marc Rodriguez (MArch '05, Architecture BS '03)**

is a project manager at Clark Patterson Lee as well as a partner and co-founder at Stargrove Collective, a website developer. Rodriguez was recently featured in a *Rochester Democrat & Chronicle* article, "Hot Jobs: Architects are Designers with Constraints."

**John Sepples (MArch '08)** was recently honored with AIA Connecticut's 2015 Emerging Architect award, which recognizes emerging, graduate architects who have made outstanding contributions to their profession or have rendered distinguished service in the public realm. Sepples is currently an intern architect at TLB Architecture.

RIGHT  
Casey Milbrand in The Pop In gallery, next to his CityHEART sculpture and Richardson Olmsted Complex wheat paste. Photo by Jason Clement





# UB alumni team builds agricultural, and international, oasis at UN headquarters in New York

by Lisa Gagnon



ABOVE /  
The United Nations' "South Garden," designed and built with the help of several Buffalo School alums, officially opened in July with a ceremony led by UN General Secretary Ban Ki-moon. Photo by John Gillespie

When Arif Ilahi Khan (BS Industrial and Systems Engineering '95), a United Nations staffer and partnership coordinator for the World Humanitarian Summit, asked architect and fellow UB grad **William Gates (MARCH '01)** to design several food gardens on the grounds of the United Nations headquarters in Manhattan, Gates was honored.

"Of course, I had a lot going on at the time," says Gates, who runs his own practice, teaches design at three area colleges and, a firefighter with the FDNY, was still recovering from major respiratory surgery as a result of his service at the World Trade Center site. "But this was such a great idea and such a rare opportunity to be able to design and build something that is part of the UN Headquarters."

Indeed, the largest agency within the United Nations is its Food and Agriculture division, dedicated to raising levels of nutrition and improving agricultural productivity around the world. Yet its spacious grounds overlooking the East River were essentially barren, dominated by manicured lawns and hedges.

Khan, who met Gates during his undergraduate years at UB, had taken note of the contradiction and saw an opportunity to turn the resource-draining grounds into an agricultural, and international, oasis. "The UN does so much work all over the world promoting sustainable land use and responsible resource use," says Gates. "So [Khan] thought 'what a great place to not just talk about it, but show the world an example, we're not just preaching this to the world, we're practicing it at the UN Headquarters.'"

Understanding the significance of the site, both historically and architecturally, Gates poured countless hours pro bono into the design. He photographed, sketched, and even created a 3D model of the site with the help of fellow Buffalo School grads **Samson Oshunrinde (MARCH '01)** and **Joseph Messick (MARCH '02)**, as well as Gates' former student, Ela Pogwizd-Leja.



Gates drew inspiration from other gardens, such as the Beacon Food Forest in Seattle, Wash., and two photos he hung in his studio – one of cupped, dirt-covered hands holding turnips, and another of a hand reaching for a single blueberry, symbolizing the growing and sharing of food as an essential human activity. Yet his hand-shaped garden design clicked into place only after his rambunctious seven-year-old son Owen drew outlines of his hand on several sketches in his attic studio.

“He was doing something so common, cross-culturally and globally. Some of the earliest pre-historic drawings are human hands on cave walls,” says Gates.

When the upcoming demolition of a temporary building on the site forced the team to move the garden to a new location, Gates and the newly-formed UN Food Gardens Club pressed on, adjusting the design in record time while also raising funds and material donations for the volunteer effort. The first of two sections, the “South Garden,” was completed in time for the 2015 growing season.

UN General Secretary Ban Ki-moon was so taken with the project that he chose the South Garden as the location of the Nelson Mandela International Day celebration in July, serving as the garden’s official opening. Learn more about their work at [unfoodgardens.org](http://unfoodgardens.org)

BELOW  
(from left to right)  
Joseph Messick (MArch '02),  
Samson Oshunrinde (MArch '01),  
William Gates (MArch '01),  
Ela Pogwizd-Leja, a former  
student of Gates,  
and UB engineering alumnus  
Arif Ilahi Khan.  
Photo by Catherine Zanev





2010s / **Kimberley LaVare (nee Moore) (MUP '10)** moved to Albany to work with the State University Construction Fund, got married and had an adorable baby boy. In February, she moved back to Buffalo to raise her family. She is currently working as a consultant for Blue Sky Design Supply working on construction, planning and procurement projects.



**Edward Wilczynski (MARCH '11, Architecture BS '08)** is living in the District of Columbia and just obtained his architect's license in Maryland. He works for Studio Z Design Concepts, an architecture firm that focuses on high-end residential projects in the DC metro area.

**Jonathan Bleuer (MUP '12, BAED '10)** is a junior planner for the Town of Clarence in Western New York. He also serves as a member of the town's Main Street Corridor Development Committee and a liaison for Age Friendly Erie County. With both undergraduate and graduate degrees in planning from the Buffalo School, Bleuer says he went "all in" for planning, UB and Western New York. Bleuer remains connected to the Buffalo School, coordinating its partnership with the town on the One Region Forward sustainable development plan and Clarence's trails and greenways master plan.

Recent appointments and promotions at Young + Wright Architectural in Buffalo include:

**Steve Shchurowsky (MARCH '12, Architecture BS '10)**, who joined the firm in 2009 as an intern and recently completed all the requirements to become a licensed architect in New York State; **William Battaglia (MARCH '11)**, who has just joined the firm's architectural staff; and **Carl Reeves (Architecture BS '15)**, who got his start as an intern and was recently promoted to a full-time designer.

**Jessica Hall (MUP '13)** is a strategy analyst for Harris Health System, the public health care provider for low-income and uninsured residents in Harris County, Texas. Here, Hall focuses on Texas's 1115 Medicaid Waiver, which ties funding requests by health care providers to expanded access to care and improved quality in such metrics as health outcomes and health care costs. In this role, she facilitates collaboration among large, competing health care systems and works with internal teams to assess and advance quality measures and public health outcomes. As an MUP student and research assistant in the school's Food Systems Planning and Healthy Communities Lab, Hall studied linkages between urban planning and public health.

ABOVE  
Jonathan Bleuer is using his planning degrees from the Buffalo School to give back to the Western New York community, as a junior planner for the Town of Clarence.

BELOW  
Saira Siddiqui continues to focus on downtown revitalization in Oregon as she begins a new position as executive director of the Historic Hillsboro Downtown Partnership.



**Saira Siddiqui (BAED '13)**, is establishing herself as an emerging leader in downtown revitalization for communities in Oregon. For the past two years she has served as a RARE Americorps Fellow with the La Grande Main Street program in La Grande, Ore., and will now move on to direct a similar program for Hillsboro, a community outside Portland, Ore.

Siddiqui's work in La Grande centered on the Main Street Four Point Approach, a preservation-based economic development strategy of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Here, Siddiqui assisted with streetscape improvements, public art and pocket park projects, as well as small business development workshops and year-round downtown events. "We accomplish everything through volunteerism and community buy-in."

Siddiqui recently moved across the state to the Portland area, where she now serves as executive director of the Historic Hillsboro Downtown Partnership, a newly formed 501(c)3 dedicated to the economic and cultural revival of the city's historic core.



**Joseph Swerdlin (Architecture BS '13)** works for New York City-based Richard Meier and Partners in the model shop. He also serves as community director at The Morpholio Project and teaches at the Institute for Architecture and Urban Studies. Finding his way as a young architectural designer, he pursues a constant critical inquiry and exploration into the discipline. After finishing his studies in architecture and German at UB, Swerdlin worked at the Storefront for Art and Architecture, CLOG, Ants of the Prairie under Joyce Hwang, and OFFICE Kersten Geers and David Van Severen.

**Maryam Khojasteh (MUP '14)** is starting her PhD studies in City and Regional Planning at University of Pennsylvania to pursue her research interest in the contribution of immigrants to the U.S. food system. Khojasteh previously worked with the Buffalo School's Food Systems Planning and Healthy Communities Lab, where she was involved with community-based research at the intersection of public health and planning.

**Danielle Leisten (MUP '14)** with specializations in GIS and environment and land use, recently finished a fellowship with the Clean Energy Leadership Institute, forging professional contacts and diversifying her clean energy knowledge. This fellowship led to her current position working as an analyst at ICF International. This summer, Leisten and the Energy Efficiency team have begun implementing new energy efficiency rebates in the state of Maryland.

**Seyed Saeid Saadatmand (MUP '14)** works out of the North Carolina office of the Renaissance Planning Group, a planning, design, and policy analysis consulting firm dedicated to creating cities that work. He applies GIS and accessibility models to prioritize transportation projects for the state of Virginia and is also involved in web app development to help people understand cities better and faster.

**Emily Warren (MARCH '14, Architecture BS '12)** is currently working as an architect for the National Park Service, at the Historic American Building Survey. This summer, she helped lead the documentation of the Baggage and Dormitory building on Ellis Island, an effort involving 3D laser scanning, field documentation, point cloud manipulation and the creation of two-dimensional drawings. The drawings will become a part of the Library of Congress collection, with a 500-year lifespan, to maintain knowledge of these important buildings long after they are gone.

/  
BELOW  
Emily Warren surveys the  
Baggage and Dormitory Building  
on Ellis Island as part of her job  
as an architect for the National  
Park Service.  
Photo by Paul Davidson, courtesy  
of National Park Service





**School of Architecture and Planning**

University at Buffalo  
The State University of New York  
114 Diefendorf Hall  
Buffalo, NY 14214-8032

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