OTHER SUCH STORIES:
Inside and Outside the Practice // 30
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"...AND OTHER SUCH STORIES" OF OUR PROFESSION

I hope everyone is enjoying these final days of summer and celebrating AIA Chicago’s 150th anniversary in style. Please keep tagging your images to #AIACHICAGO150.

In this issue we look forward to the third edition of the Chicago Architecture Biennial. Every two years, the Chicago Architecture Biennial brings together leaders from all angles of our profession: academics, teachers and theorists; architects and designers focusing on social practices; architects working in the intersection of fine art; activists, community members and more. The city of Chicago becomes a hub for exhibition and experimentation.

This year the theme of the biennial is “... And Other Such Stories,” leading us to ask about what types of stories are produced from the creative endeavors of these professionals — and what other stories are created when they work together. Throughout the next three months, AIA Chicago will be producing a variety of programming surrounding architecture’s stories: As a part of the CAB’s “pin-up” series, we will co-produce a week-long exhibit at the Chicago Cultural Center of submissions to the Disruptive Design Competition and host a discussion about methods of addressing vacancy as well as affordable homeownership. We’ll also be presenting a celebration of the Water Tower (which is also celebrating its 150th anniversary) with the Department of Cultural Affairs and the legacy of William Boyington (AIA Chicago’s first president). Finally, join us at Pella Windows & Doors on November 21 for a talk by Snhetta, a transdisciplinary firm that creates those “other” stories that inspire architects and users alike.

You’ll read more about some of the “other” stories we’ve been excited about recently: the eight Frank Lloyd Wright–designed buildings that have been inscribed to the UNESCO World Heritage List; a new book about creating spaces for communities in Chicago’s alleyways and garages; a project to restore vibrancy to Chicago’s historic Maxwell Street Market; and a look at an upcoming exhibition curated by Ed Keegan, AIA, and Steve Wierzbowski, AIA, of artwork made by architects. We’ll also include the fourth of five articles celebrating AIA Chicago’s 150th anniversary, this time telling the stories of Chicago architects from other countries. Finally, you’ll read an opinion piece by Tom Jacobs, AIA, on standing with Greta Thunberg — a call to action on climate justice.

We’re particularly excited to see you all at the 64th annual Designight: celebrating our 150th anniversary. This year’s party is one not to be missed. We are so pleased to honor John Syvertson, AIA, with the 2019 Lifetime Achievement Award. There couldn’t be a better recipient to showcase Chicago’s architectural values and its collaborative spirit. John has been a firm leader guiding design excellence, a valued mentor and educator to many, and a trusted board member to a number of Chicago’s prestigious institutions, including being a former AIA Chicago president. We’ll also celebrate the winners of this year’s Design Excellence Awards with another wonderful evening hosted by emcee Geoffrey Baer. Please visit aiachicago.org to get your tables; we sell out early every year!

Regards,

Bob Forest, FAIA
KINGSPAN LIGHT + AIR GOES ALL-IN ON NORTH AMERICA

North American President Bill Hogan sheds light on the company’s acquisition of CPI Daylighting, Bristolite Daylighting Systems, and Skyco Skylights, and what it means for commercial architects and contractors designing for daylighting and smoke management.

Kingspan is a leading global building envelope company. What role does Kingspan Light + Air play in the commercial design and building space?

We’re focused on innovative daylighting and smoke management solutions for buildings in the commercial marketplace. We engineer and manufacture translucent facades, roof systems, canopies, skylights and smoke vents. We’re more than just a manufacturer though – we’re also advocates for the benefits that natural light and air have on the health and well-being of building occupants. Our role is to help educate and support the efforts of owners, architects, designers, and contractors to help them build healthier and more sustainable commercial buildings.

What types of projects do you work on?

We work on a wide variety of projects, including new construction and retrofits. You can find our products and systems in schools, community buildings, commercial office buildings, shopping malls, warehouses and manufacturing plants. There are really no limits. We are seeing increasing use of our systems in commercial and public buildings as more people learn about the benefits of natural light on productivity and general well-being.

You recently acquired CPI Daylighting, a daylighting solutions provider, plus two skylight companies, Bristolite Daylighting Systems and Skyco Skylights. Why those companies and what does that mean for your customers and partners?

We chose these companies because they were market leaders and had a strong reputation for excellence. They offered innovative products and high-quality performance that allowed us to expand and enhance our existing offerings.

For architects and contractors, it means we are in a strong position to leverage our global resources, national reach, and local expertise to benefit them from start to finish. We now have a broad range of high-performance premium systems in the market, which gives our customers more options. We have a strong track record for delivering products and systems on-time to the contractors in the field. It’s no longer about just meeting expectations. Today our customers and partners should expect more, and we’re confident we can deliver.

Can you give us an example of how you work with architects?

In this business you must add value every step of the way, and it starts with the architect. First, we want to empower an architect’s vision to build aesthetically pleasing, sustainable and healthier buildings. We help inspire them with bold ideas, educate them on the benefits of daylighting, provide more custom solutions, and give them tools they need to specify a design around our systems to help bring their vision to life. It’s a collaborative partnership.

What is the future of the commercial construction market and how do you see your business playing a role?

The future is now. Environmentally friendly regulatory rules and the demand for more energy efficient and healthier buildings are driving design innovation, advanced technologies and the development of sustainable materials. All of these benefits must be delivered competitively and in ways that add value to each step of the design, construction and management of properties. These innovations are allowing building owners, developers, architects, and contractors to shape a more brilliant future for commercial and public spaces, enhancing the lives of everyone who works, lives, studies or plays in these buildings for decades to come. Kingspan Light + Air is at the forefront of this revolution.
Weathered Steel Finish

“We really liked the Petersen product. It has a weathered steel look to it and yet it's affordable. We could get the color palette we wanted in a material that we could fabricate in whatever manner fit our design.”

-J. Mark Wolf, AIA, Vice President, JHP Architecture
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For about 100 years, Maxwell Street Market operated just south of the Loop, bringing together a mile-long stretch of diverse vendors. Today, the space that was once occupied by those vendors belongs to private businesses near the University of Illinois at Chicago, and the new Maxwell Street Market has moved just south on Halstead between Harrison and Roosevelt.

It’s still bustling with street vendors selling home goods, toys, clothing, dry goods and more, but after 100 years the market needed a civic refresh. That’s where the Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE) came in, working with architect and urban planner Paola Aguirre Serrano, Assoc. AIA, to help build a collaborative, energizing activation day called The Big Deal to celebrate the market’s past and future.

After receiving an Our Town grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, DCASE began the one-and-a-half-year engagement process to identify ways to re-energize the market through the arts. Serrano, founder of Borderless Studio, worked as the creative lead.

“We wanted to work with [Serrano] because her practice embodies collaboration at the core,” said DCASE project manager Lydia Ross. Collaboration was key to the project, with

more than 120 program partners (businesses, cultural organizations, cultural groups and more) planning a variety of cultural and social activities for The Big Deal. But first, there needed to be research.

At Maxwell Street Market, Serrano worked closely with DCASE to conduct extensive
research on the challenges and opportunities of this historic, multicultural market. After interviewing vendors, Serrano notes that the team created a strategy with three specific findings that informed their goals in creating public programming: first, to celebrate the market’s history and stories; second, to bring more visibility to the market’s identity through design-based wayfinding and signage that would create a consistent visual presence for the market (even when it is not in operation through the week); and third, to produce interactive public spaces within the market that would facilitate opportunities for cultural and civic exchanges.

Chicago-based artists Yvette Mayorga and William Estrada had been commissioned by DCASE, and they worked with Serrano to produce a portrait series of some of these vendors. Mayorga created what Ross calls “ultra-saccharine, deeply saturated Rococo collages” that speak to the market’s immigrant stories, as well as some of the items on sale. The portraits were printed, alongside the vendors’ personal stories and reflections, on sandwich boards and displayed across the market’s plaza. “Some of these vendors have been at the market for almost 60 years,” said Serrano.

“The vendors are the market’s greatest asset,” said Ross, “and the portraits help tell the market’s story through the people who make it.”

Other signage was created and displayed throughout the market. A special performance area was also produced to bring guest vendors, institutional partners and vibrant social spaces.

This is just one of DCASE’s many rich and robust program offerings, but The Big Deal was, as Ross said, “a day that represented the best of Chicago: the spirit of generosity of exchange, camaraderie and entrepreneurship.” Serrano’s involvement was key to establishing a process, too. “A site this dynamic and complex requires someone with that type of urban planning and collaborative background,” Ross said. Serrano has also established an advocacy group of cultural and institutional leaders who can lend their ideas and investment. It’s one part of a huge collaboration, within which architects can provide their skills and support.

“Seasonal markets might seem limiting for architects, but it’s important we participate in these types of collaborations. Our presence in these processes helps to broaden the stakeholders’ perspectives,” Serrano said. “The artistic process usually celebrates the ‘solo’ artist, but with the goal of bringing people together, we can help make something different.” CA
FAÇADE

FIRST MODERN ARCHITECTURE DESIGNATION ADDED TO UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE LIST

Chicagoans cherish our collection of Frank Lloyd Wright-designed structures and the legacy that the AIA Gold Medalist left on our cities and neighborhoods. In July this year, this legacy was recognized by the World Heritage Committee, which officially inscribed the 20th century architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The collection represents the first modern architecture designation in the country on the prestigious list.

The eight sites in the group inscription span Wright’s influential career. They include Unity Temple (constructed 1906-1909, Oak Park, Illinois), the Frederick C. Robie House (constructed 1910, Chicago, Illinois), Taliesin (begun 1911, Spring Green, Wisconsin), Hollyhock House (constructed 1918-1921, Los Angeles, California), Fallingwater (constructed 1936-1939, Mill Run, Pennsylvania), the Herbert and Katherine Jacobs House (constructed 1936-1937, Madison, Wisconsin), Taliesin West (begun 1938, Scottsdale, Arizona) and the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum (constructed 1956-1959, New York, New York).

“This recognition by UNESCO is a significant way for us to reconfirm how important Frank Lloyd Wright was to the development of modern architecture around the world,” said Barbara Gordon, executive director of the Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy. “There are nearly 400 remaining structures designed by Wright. Our hope is that the inscription of these eight major works also brings awareness to the importance of preserving all of his buildings as a vital part of our artistic, cultural and architectural heritage. All communities where a Wright building stands should appreciate what they have and share in the responsibility to protect their local — and world — heritage.”

The eight inscribed sites have played a prominent role in the development and evolution of modern architecture during the first half of the 20th century and continuing to the present. UNESCO considers the international importance of a potential World Heritage Site based on its “Outstanding Universal Value,” which in the Wright series is manifested in three attributes. First, it is an architecture responsive to functional and emotional needs, achieved through geometric abstraction and spatial manipulation. Second, the design of the buildings in this series is fundamentally rooted in nature’s forms and principles. Third, the series represents an architecture conceived to be responsive to the evolving American experience but which is universal in its appeal.

The Wright nomination has been in development for more than 15 years, a coordinated effort between the Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy, each of the nominated sites and independent scholars, with a substantial financial commitment realized through subsidies and donations, countless hours donated by staff and volunteers, and the guidance and assistance of the National Park Service. The nomination effort was spearheaded by Fallingwater director emerita and founding conservancy board member Lynda Waggoner, with Fallingwater contributing support and expertise in the nomination’s preparation.

The National Park Service submitted the Wright nomination to the World Heritage Centre in Paris on November 20, 2018, and it was reviewed and inscribed at the 2019 session of the World Heritage Committee, on July 7 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

AIA Chicago has been a part of a consortium of organizations working to add a group of early Chicago skyscrapers to the World Heritage List. In the summer of 2017, eight of those buildings were placed on the World Heritage Tentative List. According to National Park Service contract historian Phyllis Ellin, the next step to move forward in the process would require individuals or groups to begin preparing a nomination. The nomination must then be authorized by the U.S. Department of the Interior, and only then can they move to be reviewed by UNESCO. “There has to be some local energy to begin that process in order for the National Park Service to nominate them for authorization,” she said. “Our goal of getting them on the tentative list was accomplished, but this is a long process.”
Unity Temple, Fallingwater, the Herbert and Katherine Jacobs House, Taliesin, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, Hollyhock House, the Frederick C. Robie House, and Taliesin West.
CALLISONRTKL SPARKS A NECESSARY CONVERSATION ABOUT PRESERVATION AND COMMUNITY

The Hotel Guyon was built in 1928 in Chicago’s West Garfield Park neighborhood, one of four iconic post-WWI buildings that helped usher in the city’s Jazz Age and re-affirmed this was indeed the City of Broad Shoulders.

J. Louis Guyon, the property’s original owner and a local dance hall impresario, expected the hotel (a pastiche of Moorish, Venetian and Spanish Colonial styles) to be a beacon for the then-thriving local community — an expectation that never came to pass. He sold the property in 1930 and set off what would become a long and steady decline in the hotel’s status. Despite several attempts to rehab the building, one in the late 1980s by former president Jimmy Carter (who actually lived there for a time), the Guyon Hotel has been mostly or totally vacant since the 1970s. In 1985 it was added to the National Register of Historic Places.

As the hotel’s glory days slipped away, so too did West Garfield Park. The neighborhood declined precipitously in population, median income and civic services. Thanks in large order to the de facto segregation of the city’s draconian housing policies, neighborhood evictions skyrocketed, crime and disenfranchisement increased, and population plummeted — from an estimated 50,000 people in 1940 to 18,000 in 2012. It has also seen a lack of investment from both private and public sources.

Let’s Throw Out the Rules
CallisonRTKL saw an opportunity to start a conversation about the building and the larger neighborhood. They reached out to Preservation Chicago and decided to launch an internal design competition to spark ideas and dialogue — essentially to get the word out that the neighborhood and building have potential. They invited a jury of local design and preservation professionals and threw out the rules. They declared the program “open for interpretation,” and allowed entrants to present whatever they felt was right ... as long as it served the community.

“Of the five design submissions, some concepts [were] more far-fetched, such as a rooftop carousel or floors of marijuana grow rooms,” said Ward Miller of Preservation Chicago. “However, a little fantasy and humor is okay.” CA
First Place
Cross-Rhythm
- Deepa Bharadwaj, Assoc. AIA
- Mariela Ortiz-Pérez
- Amanda Uhlrik

Second Place
Hotel Guyon: Infusing the Past with New Purpose
- Katie Moore
- Nick Moen, AIA
- Bryan Williams, Assoc. AIA
- Victoria Saunders, AIA
- Ya Vaughn Harlston, Assoc. AIA

Third Place
The Garden
- Mark Lawrence, Assoc. AIA
- Erich Dohrer
- Tom Arsovski

Hotel Paradise
- Sharon Aurelio, Assoc. AIA
- Carlos Alba (from Dallas office)

GuyOn
- Camila Simas
- Anesa Ibragic, Assoc. AIA
- Shu-han Liao, AIA
In its 150th anniversary year, AIA Chicago and the AIA Chicago Foundation launched the AIA Chicago Foundation Diversity Scholarship to provide ongoing financial support and mentorship— an opportunity to attract and retain diverse, talented young professionals in Chicago, recognizing the value of new and unique voices in the architecture profession. Two students have been awarded the inaugural scholarships: Maria Hidalgo, a third-year undergraduate student entering her fourth year, and Amandeep Panach, a first-year graduate student. Both attend the Illinois Institute of Technology.

Though still early in her career, Hidalgo’s interest in architecture comes from her belief in building homes, civic and cultural institutions for underserved populations. “When I look into the future,” Hidalgo said, “I picture myself leading a program under the architecture firm that I own in which I can introduce youth into the world of architecture. Whether it is by designing schools, museums or homes — architecture can be a powerful catalyst in which people can have life-changing experiences.”

Panach, similarly, sees her role as an architect as both barrier breaking and community making: “Being a first-generation college student meant that I had to create my own path,” Panach said. “Architecture holds the power to bring families and communities together. The importance of a house, a community gathering space or a place that one holds dear to their heart is enhanced through architecture while occupants of that space enhance the place. Architecture allows me to put my passion for design to work while creating a better world for individuals, families and communities to thrive.”

The scholarship program provides $10,000 to two students: one undergraduate and one graduate student enrolled in or transferring into NAAB-accredited programs in Chicago. Each student will receive $10,000, awarded in two installments over two years. Throughout these two years, those recipients will also be paired with a mentor to help guide them in their academic and professional pursuits. The scholarship is funded primarily by donations from local architecture firms who understand the vital importance of ensuring a diverse practice in the future.

“The opportunity to invest in the future of the architectural profession is a clear benefit of the AIA Chicago Foundation Diversity Scholarship. Goettsch Partners is proud to support this initiative to broaden the perspective and understanding within our industry,” said James Zheng, AIA, LEED AP, co-CEO and president, Goettsch Partners. Goettsch Partners is one of six $20,000 top-tier donors to the scholarship, including Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill Architecture, Gensler, HOK, Perkins+Will and SCB.

Developing a mentorship component has also been a priority. Chris Annmarie Spencer, AIA, AIA Chicago Foundation board member and longstanding advocate for the scholarship, said, “As a young architect, charting possible career paths may be daunting, and the Foundation board are firm believers in early and consistent mentorship to alleviate some of that difficulty. Mentorship is important in guiding and encouraging young talent in moving forward in their careers.”

JinHwa Paradowicz, AIA, AIA Chicago Foundation board director, said, “From planning coursework to applying to jobs and internships and building networks, having a dedicated mentor to guide a young architect through the early stages of their career is vital to their future success.”

The scholarship is a part of AIA Chicago’s broader student and emerging professional programming, including ARE study courses, the Bridge Mentorship Program, Architects in Schools and more. For more information, visit aiachicago.org.
AIA CHICAGO CELEBRATED PRIDE MONTH WITH THE LGBTQI+ ALLIANCE

This June, the new AIA Chicago LGBTQI+ Alliance celebrated Pride Month with two engaging and fun events. First, “Out in Architecture” presented a panel of diverse architects who spoke gracefully about being “out” in their office and profession, and the various ways architecture offices can celebrate and promote diversity. The panel included Yiselle Santos, Assoc. AIA, director of Equity, Diversity & Inclusion at HKS DC; Chris Morrison, FAIA, LEED AP BD+C, managing director of Perkins+Will’s Washington, D.C., office; Katherine Georgeson, FAIA, founding principal of Stage Architects, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and Dan Earles, AIA, founding principal of Earles Architects and Associates, Chicago.

On June 30, the LGBTQI+ Alliance gathered a group of 100 peers to march in the Chicago Pride Parade. Architects and designers built their own miniature “float” — models of prominent Chicago buildings. Thank you to those who joined us!

John Syvertsen, FAIA, will receive the AIA Chicago 2019 Lifetime Achievement Award, celebrating his career in architecture and boundless service to the future of the profession.

In his career, Syvertsen has distinguished himself through his work as an architect and firm leader, as a leader in community outreach, social impact, and environmental sustainability, and through his professorship at colleges and universities across the country.

You can join us in honoring John at Designight on October 25 at Navy Pier’s Aon Grand Ballroom. For tickets and tables, visit aiachicago.org/events/designight.
ANNOUNCING THE WINNER OF THE DISRUPTIVE DESIGN COMPETITION

A new typology of affordable starter home is on its way in Chicago. A division of the Chicago Housing Policy Task Force has announced that the Adaptable House by Greg Tamborino, AIA, was selected by the jury as the winner of the Disruptive Design competition. Tamborino’s design will create an innovative, sustainable prototype that transforms vacant lots into affordable multifamily housing for the next generation of homeowners while accessibly building wealth for working families.

The competition asked architects from all over the world to submit their concepts for affordable, owner-occupied, single-family or two-flat homes that included a wealth-building component (rentable unit or live/work space). After receiving 133 entries in the first phase, the jury selected three finalists: Green Flex 600 by Joel Huffman; Urban Cabin by Georgi Todorov, AIA, and Petya Petrova, IIDA; and Adaptable House by Greg Tamborino, AIA. All three finalists are Chicago-based.

Finalists spent six weeks refining their initial designs with feedback from the city of Chicago Building Department and the Chicago Department of Planning and Development. They also presented their initial and final designs to residents of west Humboldt Park and Bronzeville — the two communities in which the homes are to be built. Jurors considered community feedback on the final designs, as well as their own expertise in construction, design and public health to make their decision.

Jurors included: Judith Frydland, Building Department’s commissioner of the city of Chicago; Ramona Westbrook, AIA, founder of Brooks Architectural; Amy Mayer, vice president of construction at Related Midwest; Monica Chadha, AIA, founder/principal of Civic Projects; Dr. Mindy Thompson Fullilove, professor of Urban Policy & Health at Parsons/The New School (New York City, New York); and David Baker, FAIA, of David Baker Architects (San Francisco, California).

Tamborino’s new take on the Chicago worker’s cottage creates a flexible two-flat with an accessible first-floor that could be an apartment or live/work space that could be easily reconfigured to adapt to the homeowner at any stage in their life. “The house is ‘disruptive’ because it reimagines the usual starter-home model,” commented juror Amy Mayer of Related Midwest. “When you’re young, you can own the one-bedroom on the first floor, renting out the second unit. As you get older and have kids, you can move upstairs to the two-bedroom; and, as you age, you can live on the accessible first floor again.” The first-floor office can accommodate a work-from-home or start-up business.

“The design was sensible, with a clever floorplan,” juror David Baker said. “The large backyard offers a lot of potential,” Frydland added.

Tamborino will receive $20,000 and will complete a set of construction drawings. Related Midwest will build two of his designs — one in West Humboldt Park and another in Bronzeville — to be completed in 2020.

AIA ILLINOIS WELCOMES NEW DIRECTOR

AIA Illinois has announced its new Executive Vice President Stacey Pfingsten. Pfingsten previously served as the executive director of the Louisiana Architecture Foundation, and in that capacity organized the South’s first ever Annual Architecture & Design Film Festival (ADFF) in New Orleans.

Pfingsten was a 2015 candidate for 2nd Ward alderman in Chicago and has served as the communications director for Preservation Chicago. She is a graduate of Eastern Illinois University and studied historic preservation at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Welcome, Stacey!

AIA CHICAGO WELCOMES KACEY LARSEN AS MANAGER OF PROGRAMS

AIA Chicago is excited to welcome Kacey Larsen as the new manager of programs. Kacey comes to us from SOLA, where she managed Qualified Remodeler magazine.
AIA CHICAGO PRESENTS “SNØHETTA: THE DEMOCRATIZATION OF KNOWLEDGE,” IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CHICAGO ARCHITECTURE BIENNIAL

Wednesday, November 20, 2019 | 5:30-7:30 pm
Pella Windows & Doors
theMART Suite 100

The value of libraries is often questioned as the digital communication age has come to dominate much of our interactions. However, it is precisely because of this that the role of the library has never been more vital. Elaine Molinar and Craig Dykers will discuss their thoughts on how libraries can better support the diverse needs of a democratic society through interactive design. If knowledge is power, we should never take that power away from those who might not otherwise have access.

Craig Dykers, FAIA, Int FRIBA, FRSA, RAAR, PhD, LEED AP, is a founding partner of Snøhetta, a design firm based in New York City and Oslo, Norway. Elaine Molinar, AIA, LEED AP, is a partner in the firm and managing director for The Americas. The interdisciplinary firm covers architecture, landscapes, interiors, product design and graphic design. The firm also has offices in San Francisco, Innsbruck, Paris, Hong Kong and Adelaide.

Designed by Chicago-based FitzGerald Associates Architects, 727 West Madison celebrated its grand opening. The project included Evanston-based Morgante Wilson Architects as interior designer for the residences and most common spaces.

Imrana Quiballo, AIA, project architect, will become a senior project architect at Anderson Mikos Architects and will have increasing duties with project management. Varsha Visal, project coordinator, will advance to a senior project coordinator position alongside Quiballo.

Leslie Rospert, Assoc. AIA, has been promoted to vice president of Anderson Mikos Architects and the director of their interior design department. Erin Tallman, interior designer and architectural project designer, has assumed Rospert’s role as senior interior designer.
Juliane Wolf, AIA and Weston Walker, AIA LEEP AP have been promoted to partner at Studio Gang.

Moline High School celebrated completion of the Bartlett Performing Arts Center. The expansion and renovation, designed by Legat Architects, transforms a 62-year-old auditorium into a regional arts venue and expands the high school’s fine arts curriculum.

Kathryn Quinn, AIA, principal of Kathryn Quinn Architects Ltd., will be inducted into the Merchandise Mart Hall of Fame this year alongside Lifetime Achievement Award winner Christopher Peacock, founder and CEO of Christopher Peacock, interior designer Gary Lee and builder Bulley & Andrews. Inductees will be honored on Thursday, October 3, 2019 at Design Chicago during the annual and highly anticipated Chicago VIP Luxury Gala.

Duane Hill, LEED AP, has been promoted to associate principal at Sheehan Nagle Hartray.

James C. Mark Jr., AIA, has rejoined Wight & Co. as chief strategy officer.

Jason Nuttelman, LEED AP, NCARB, has joined TEAM A as a principal.
Booth Hansen designed the recently opened 61 Banks Street, an eight-story, 58-unit boutique rental building at Banks Street and Lake Shore Drive.

The Society of Architectural Historians will present the 2019 Awards for Architectural Excellence to Carol Ross Barney, FAIA, Julie Hacker, FAIA, and Stuart Cohen, FAIA, and Oswaldo Ortega, AIA at their annual Awards Gala on November 8.
Zurich Esposito, Hon. AIA, and Andre Brumfield, Assoc. AIA, have been appointed to Mayor Lori Lightfoot’s new boards and commissions. Esposito, executive vice president of AIA Chicago, will serve on the Chicago Zoning Board of Appeals and Brumfield, principal of urban strategies and design leader at Gensler, will serve on the Chicago Plan Commission.

Nancy Abshire, AIA, RIBA, has retired from Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP. Abshire is the executive director of the Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM) Foundation, a nonprofit organization that grants awards to students and faculty of architecture, design, urban design, and structural engineering. Abshire has served as the Foundation’s primary administrator since 2010, serving as the primary point of contact between SOM, the Foundation, and the recipients of the Foundation’s five annual awards, which span the United States, United Kingdom, and China. Prior to her role at the SOM Foundation, Nancy served as an associate and project manager at SOM in Chicago and London.

Ghafari designed the new Aircraft Rescue + Fire Fighting Station No. 2 at O’Hare International Airport, a 19,000-square-foot facility to provide both airport rescue and structural firefighting in one station.
Perkins+Will has designed the 627,000-square-foot Louis A. Simpson and Kimberly K. Querrey Biomedical Research Center on the downtown campus of Northwestern University. The facility is currently the largest new academic biomedical research facility in the country.
The College of Lake County’s Science and Engineering Building, designed by Legat Architects and Brubaker Design, earned LEED Platinum certification from the U.S. Green Building Council.

Andrea Baird, senior architect, at Raths, Raths and Johnson was elected president of the Construction Specifications Institute, Chicago Chapter, CSI’s largest chapter with over 300 members.

Sarah Oppenhuizen has been named the new director of interiors at HOK; Mike Goetz, AIA, has moved from the firm’s Los Angeles studio to Chicago to serve as a design leader for HOK interiors; and Javier Buscaglia-Pesquera, AIA, is the new director of operations for the firm’s interiors practice.

Lori Day, AIA, LEED AP, has joined Perkins+Will as senior project designer.

Lamar Johnson Collaborative, a subsidiary of top 20 constructor Clayco, has announced that it will combine with Clayco-owned architecture firm BatesForum.

Epstein has promoted Randy Buescher, AIA, to director of client services. Ed Curley, AIA, LEED AP, has rejoined the firm as the new director of architecture.
"Redwoods - Late Afternoon" by Helen J. Kessler, FAIA
Outside the Practice

Curated by local architects, a new exhibition displays architects’ skills and talents in diverse media

BY STEPHEN WIERZBOWSKI, FAIA. EXHIBITION CURATED BY EDWARD KEEGAN, AIA, STEPHEN WIERZBOWSKI, FAIA, AND LELDE KALMITE

OUTside THE PRACTICE:
MONUMENTS AND PLACES
OF MEMORY is the second in a series of juried invitational exhibits showcasing the work of architects and designers (and former architects and designers). We have curated a selection of drawings, paintings, sculptures, photography, watercolors, installations, mixed media and sketchbooks, not commissioned by a client and not project related. We excluded work made for competitions, or for commissioned projects built or unbuilt. The intention is to focus on work made by architects or designers for their own conceptual, research, speculative or artistic reasons. Architects and designers are often working under the rigorous constraints of the client’s project program, budget and personal choice. Their presentations are therefore equally bound to clarify and simplify the projects they represent. What happens to the creative process outside of those boundaries when the content, method and media are all self determined?

The original concept of the first exhibit started while participating in a bi-weekly watercolor and sketch group called “everyOTHER.” The group of architects and designers meet every other week to paint, sketch and socialize. It is impressive to see how many use the opportunity not just for the pure pleasures of drawing or painting but also for honing skills, expanding techniques and experimenting with media. The intention was to curate a small exhibit around “plein air” painting and urban sketching. After discussing the topic, we quickly discovered that for every architect obsessively focused on their own practice, there were others setting aside time to reflect and expand on their own knowledge, techniques, creativity and ideas. The first exhibit quickly expanded to include those professionals.

ABOVE
Ground Zero 1 / Ground Zero 2 (diptych) by John W. Clark, AIA. Acrylic on canvas.

AT LEFT
“Memories of Any Week” by Robert J. Krawczyk Maquette. Multi-layered laser cut wood.

EXHIBITION OPENING RECEPTION:
September 20, 2019
We encouraged this year’s participants to focus on the theme of “MONUMENTS AND PLACES OF MEMORY.” The monuments and places can be real or imagined, in Chicago or anywhere throughout the world. It is a purposely broad topic allowing for creative interpretations of what monuments and places of memory can be and how that can be studied and communicated.

The great tradition of the design professions has for centuries been tied to the one-on-one interaction an architect has with a great work of architecture through a pen, pencil, brush, paper, canvas and camera. Visual learning is a highly effective method of getting into the complex layers of information and history buried in every memorable place. It is the centuries-old tradition of architectural learning.

There are others who use media to speculate and research. Self motivated ideas and creativity open up other worlds and insights. This has historic traditions in the work of Claude Nicolas Ledoux, GB Piranesi, Antonio Sant’Elia and Lebbeus Woods. Not commissioned work, they share an often monumental and theatrical aspect that has proven highly influential on the design professions and architectural theory.

The work selected ranges from representational to abstract, analytic to fantastic. The backgrounds of the individuals involved are equally diverse. The one thing they have in common is that their efforts are outside the practice.

The location will be the fourth floor gallery at The Bridgeport Art Center. The opening of September 20, 2019, is timed to coincide with the “Third Friday” Open Studio at the BAC and the larger opening of the 2019 Chicago Architecture Biennial.

The exhibit is curated by Stephen Wierzbowski, FAIA, Edward Keegan, AIA, and Lelde Kalmite, curator of the Bridgeport Art Center Galleries. There will be a related OUTside THE PRACTICE Pecha Kucha on October 16 at 7
"The US Capitol" by Tom Rossiter, FAIA. Photo collage.

p.m., organized by the curators in cooperation with Peter Exley, FAIA, and Thorsten Bosch. It will be held at the Skyline Loft at The Bridgeport Art Center.

The Bridgeport Art Center is one of the partners of the Chicago Architecture Biennial, and OUTside THE PRACTICE is the featured event. AIA Chicago is a promotional sponsor of the exhibit. The exhibit runs through November 1. Gallery hours are Monday-Saturday from 8 a.m.-6 p.m., and Sunday from 8 a.m.-12 p.m.

“Urban Memories 1: Life on the Chicago Grid” by Phil Enquist, FAIA. Watercolor on paper.

OUTside THE PRACTICE runs through November 1.

GALLERY HOURS:
Monday-Saturday from 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
Sunday from 8 a.m.-12 p.m.
150 YEARS OF AIA CHICAGO: PART 4 OF 5

Part four of five articles that explore Chicago architects' role in building the city's design legacy

INNOVATORS OF CHICAGO ARCHITECTURE

BY LAURIE PETERSEN
Chicago's most famous 20th century architectural immigrant was undoubtedly Ludwig Mies van der Rohe. His arrival to head the architecture department at the Illinois Institute of Technology in 1938 changed the course of history. Did the closing of the Bauhaus and the persecutions of Nazi Germany lead to a wave of architects arriving in our city in the 1930s? No. For one thing, the number of immigrants was tragically limited. The economy was still in the trough of the Great Depression, and when the United States entered the war, that effort consumed virtually all available human and material resources.

It was during the post-World War II period that many more architects made their way to Chicago, some from unexpected places. The GI Bill allowed thousands of veterans to receive a university education, and the Fulbright Program, established in 1946, provided scholarships for Americans to study abroad and for foreign students to come to the United States.

Two students who took advantage of academic scholarships to begin a new life in America were Hungarians John Macsai and Robert (Bob) Diamant. Macsai, born Janos Lusztig in Budapest, had just finished high school when Hitler invaded Hungary in 1944. He was sent to a work camp and then to the Mauthausen concentration camp in Austria until it was liberated by American forces in May 1945. He enrolled at Polytechnic University in Budapest, changing his last name to Macsai (derived from his Romanian heritage) due to persistent anti-Semitism. His roommate and
Bob Diamant, convinced him that they should study architecture in America on a Hillel International scholarship. They ended up at Miami University, and the rural location in Oxford, Ohio, resulted in culture shock for the two men who were used to bustling Budapest.

Macsai planned on returning home to practice architecture, but when he graduated from Miami in 1949, his relatives’ reports on the communist takeover of Hungary changed his mind. He declared himself stateless under the Displaced Persons Act and applied for American citizenship. As soon as he became a citizen and was therefore eligible to take the registration exam, he did so and passed on the first try.

Macsai and Diamant roomed together at Miami as they had in Budapest. They both set their sights on working for Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM) in Chicago after one of their professors recommended them to his former student Nathaniel Owings. Macsai had a brief stint at Holabird & Root before going to SOM, where he stayed just a few years before working for two other firms and then started his own partnership in 1955, Hausner & Macsai, which specialized in multifamily housing. He subsequently partnered with Wendell Campbell for five years, and then went into solo practice, which lasted the rest of his career.

Macsai was named a Fellow of the AIA in 1978 for his contributions in teaching, writing and designing. Bob Diamant followed a different path after their days together at SOM. He stayed with the firm for his entire career, rising from project designer to general partner in 1973. His strength was management, and he was involved with many of the firm’s highest-profile projects, including the John Hancock Center.

The SOM partners most closely associated with the Hancock project, Bruce Graham and Fazlur Khan, also came to Chicago from other places. Khan was born in 1929 in what is now Bangladesh. His father was a math teacher, and Fazlur showed an early aptitude for the subject. After receiving his bachelor’s in civil engineering, in 1952 he was awarded a Fulbright scholarship to study at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana. In the brief span of three years, he managed to earn two master’s degrees as well as a doctorate in structural engineering. He went to work at SOM in 1955 and became one of the most innovative structural engineers of the 20th century.

Bruce Graham was born in Colombia, South America. His mother was Peruvian and his father was an American international banker who had grown up in Puerto Rico. Graham’s first language was Spanish, and he was raised in San Juan, where his free-range childhood activities included exploring the city’s slums and making maps of them. When he graduated from high school at the precocious age of 15, his father had passed away, and he got a scholarship to study engineering at the University of Dayton. His studies were interrupted when he joined the Navy in 1943 at age 17. At war’s end he went to the University of Pennsylvania on the GI Bill and received a B. Arch. in 1948. Chicago beckoned, but which firm to work for? He asked van der Rohe for advice and was told that then-Holabird & Root & Burgee would give him the best training. After two years there (where he overlapped with Macsai) he moved to SOM and began a 38-year career. His deep collaboration with Khan led to many innovative buildings that include two of Chicago’s enduring icons: the John Hancock Center and the Sears (Willis) Tower.
AN URGENT CALL TO ACTION: #STANDWITHGRETA

BY TOM JACOBS, AIA, CO-FOUNDER, ARCHITECTS ADVOCATE FOR ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

A 16-year-old has succeeded where we adults have not.

On August 20, 2018, Greta Thunberg walked out of her Stockholm school and stood in front of the Swedish Parliament building with a sign that read “School Strike for Climate.” Her plea was simple: climate justice and a living planet.

Few took notice at first. But she did it again the next week.

And the next.

Today, Greta is joined by tens of thousands of teenage leaders around the world who walk out of their classrooms on Fridays to demand decisive action on the climate breakdown.

Their approach is working. In July this year, German Chancellor Angela Merkel credited Greta for driving her government to act faster on climate change. The same can and must happen here.

The world’s youth called on us adults to join them in a Global Climate Strike on September 20, coincident with a week of events surrounding the UN Climate Action Summit in New York.

At Architects Advocate, we believe the demands of the striking youth are not only reasonable, but that they resonate with our professional interests and commitments. That’s why we launched the #StandWithGreta campaign in support of their movement. In Chicago, we met at 11:30 a.m. on September 20 at Federal Plaza to participate. Other cities around the country organized to do the same.

Architects Advocate Action on Climate Change

Several Chicago firms pledged to #StandWithGreta by encouraging their staff to take a stand on September 20. Early adopters included Architecture is Fun, Harboe Architects, Jurassic Studio, Krueck+Sexton, and Kuklinski+Rappe. All supporting firms understand the need for a “Chicago Community of Practice” - a next generation idea of critical inter-company collaboration advocated by Doug Farr – that rises to the enormity of the challenge we face. Chicago architects, once again, are setting the example for other cities to follow.

Architects, please join us in standing up for the next generation by supporting the true leaders of our time. Learn more and sign a pledge to #StandWithGreta at architects-advocate.com. CA

The views expressed here are personal and are not necessarily the views of the AIA nor of any committee.
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