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ON THE COVER
Northern Light
Northern Minnesota

"Sometimes rooms are perfect frames for their natural surroundings, and this living space is one such place," says photographer Scott Amundson. "I wanted to capture the lighting, textures, and angles in the room but also how the space blends perfectly with the beauty on display through the windows."

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"Much of life in Havana has an on-the-edge-of-adversity immediacy that seems to deny a long-term future," writes Thomas Meyer, who recently traveled to the Cuban capital with his architecture firm, MSR. "Yet Havana's remarkable architectural legacy, deteriorated as it may be, endures."
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Hola, Havana

When I first learned that Minneapolis architecture firm MSR was planning a trip to Havana (page 40), I thought: Their travel experience could give us a lens through which to view the city at a remarkable moment in its history. When I learned a few weeks later that the actual lens would be attached to a camera carried by photographer Lara Swimmer, I got even more excited.

Swimmer, who lives in Seattle, has an exceptional eye for shooting people inhabiting designed environments—whether it’s a gleaming modern library or a late-19th-century industrial building. So I knew the visuals from the trip would be every bit as compelling as the narrative by MSR’s Thomas Meyer, FAIA.

“We wanted to capture the essence of the people and the buildings together,” she says. “But street photography is obviously very different from commercial work, where you’re set up on a tripod and everything’s very static except for the people and vehicles and light moving through the shot. With street photography, you’re kind of one of the moving elements yourself.”

MSR’s ambitious itinerary meant that Swimmer had to work fast at every location. “Our group would go in different directions to photograph and sketch when we got to places,” she recalls. “I tried to stick with Tom so we could talk through the emerging themes for the story. The shot of the colorful houses with the Russian car out front, for example, was something that stood out for Tom as we moved through the Vedado neighborhood.”

Swimmer was especially drawn to Havana’s extreme contrasts: a colonial-style residence with a Soviet-era apartment building towering behind it; an expressive concrete stadium structure lying in significant disrepair along the otherwise vibrant Malecón.

“I also really loved the National Art Schools campus,” she adds. “We toured the functioning School of Plastic Arts and the ruins of the School of Ballet on our last day. We were pretty tired at that point, but we couldn’t get enough of it. The labyrinthine ballet complex had a haunted feel to it, but in a magical sort of way.”
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other related design & building professionals
AIA Minnesota is the voice of the architecture profession, dedicated to serving its members, advancing their value, and improving the quality of the built environment.

Historic preservation consultant CAROL ALHOLGREEN is working on a cultural resource survey for the city of La Crosse, Wisconsin, with a focus on the period 1950–75.

Architect CHRISTINE ALBERTSSON, AIA, is founding partner of Albertsson Hansen Architecture. Both her Swedish heritage and her New England upbringing inform her design thinking.

Minneapolis writer JOEL HOEKSTRA contributes frequently to Architecture MN.

Minneapolis-based LINDA MACK, author of Madeline Island Summer Houses: An Intimate Journey (2013), writes on architecture and design for local and national publications.

FRANK EDGERTON MARTIN is a veteran contributor to Architecture MN, LAM, and other design journals. He specializes in historic landscape preservation and teaches at the University of Baltimore.

THOMAS FISHER, ASSOC. AIA, is director of the University of Minnesota's Metropolitan Design Center. His latest book is Designing Our Way to a Better World (2016).

Architectural photographer COREY GAFFER learned his trade while apprenticing with Hedrich Blessing of Chicago. He now resides in Minneapolis, where he works for top architects and designers.

A founding principal of MSR, THOMAS MEYER, FAIA, is widely known for his strong interest in the correlation between old and new architecture.

MARY-MARGARET ZINDREN is the executive vice-president of AIA Minnesota.

AMY GOETZMAN is a Minneapolis freelance writer. She writes about the arts and culture and other inspiring things that happen in inspiring spaces.
Bayfront Festival Park sits on the water just a short walk from the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center and Canal Park. For more about the park, visit bayfrontfestivalpark.com

Last year’s Bayfront Blues Festival featured Girls with Guitars (below left) and the Holmes Brothers (below right).

Bayfront Blues Festival » August 12–14

Every year, this longtime blues and blues-rock extravaganza marks the beginning of the end of summer for 20,000 people. The best living practitioners of the art of the blues gather at Bayfront Festival Park to play in the open air with sweet lake breezes keeping things cool. At this year’s jamboree—the 28th annual—Shane Henry, Reverend Raven, Southern Hospitality, Jennie DeVoe, Nathan & the Zydeco Cha Chas, Ina Forsman, and John Mayall are among the dozens of players taking the stage.

Why is Duluth such a draw in summer? When the rest of the state is scorching, that vast, cool lake is a-calling. Plus the Zenith City is an interesting town for architecture: Sullivan-style downtown buildings, a futuristic library by Gunnar Birkerts, neo-gothic churches, mod motels, sandstone mansions built for lumber barons, and, of course, Glensheen. Modern masters Salmela Architect and Loll Designs find inspiration here, and Frank Lloyd Wright designed a gas station next door in Cloquet. When you’ve had your fill of architecture, check out the music, fireworks, and beer.

Duluth’s Bayfront Festival Park is synonymous with summer fun

On the Waterfront

Fourth Fest Celebration » July 4

Duluth claims to have Minnesota’s largest fireworks display. Is it true? Could be, or maybe all that sparkle and boom just looks extra deluxe reflecting off the big lake.

If you love being part of the madding crowd, Bayfront Festival Park beckons with live music, food, and a full range of free festivities. But Duluth’s topography offers good vantage points all over town. Canal Park, Skyline Parkway, Enger Park, and the rooftops and balconies of many downtown hotels are all great places to catch the show.

The pyrotechnics start at 10:10 pm.

All Pints North Summer Brew Fest » July 23

Long before the craft beer craze, Fitger’s Brewhouse in downtown Duluth was pouring rich pints brewed on the premises using Superior water. Today, the city maintains its reputation as an exceptional beer town thanks to newer breweries including Bent Paddle, Lake Superior, and Canal Park. The fifth annual All Pints North Summer Brew Fest, hosted by the Minnesota Craft Brewers Guild at Bayfront Festival Park, celebrates all Minnesota beer, not just the ones made locally. But the vibe is pure Duluth. If beer tastes better outside, it tastes best by the shores of the Gitche Gumee.

—Amy Coetzman
CHURCH & STATE
Minnesota gets its due in a new book on a pivotal era in religious architecture

THE SUBURBAN CHURCH: MODERNISM AND COMMUNITY IN POSTWAR AMERICA
By Gretchen Buggeln
University of Minnesota Press. 2015

Churches played an important role in the creation of postwar suburbs. By 1953, investments in new churches amounted to a half-billion dollars nationwide. Sometimes after intense debate, many congregations opted to build a modern design rather than a traditional or neo-traditional structure. With their clean and bold lines and their use of steel, concrete, large windows, and laminated wooden beams, these modern churches proclaimed the beginning of a new, optimistic era. Ample parking, less formal liturgical design, and flexible spaces for community and education all aimed to accommodate young families.

In The Suburban Church, author Gretchen Buggeln tells the story of this seismic shift in sacred architecture through the work of three Midwestern architects: Edward Dart (1922-75), who practiced in Illinois; Charles Edward Stade (1923-93), also based in Illinois; and Minnesota's Edward Sövik (1918-2014). The son of Lutheran missionaries to China, where he spent his childhood, Sövik designed numerous churches in the Midwest and much of the campus at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota.

Buggeln believes that Sövik shaped thinking about church architecture more than any other American Protestant architect of the late 20th century. Following service in World War II and an architecture degree from Yale in 1949, Sövik established his practice in Northfield. He served on numerous national boards, including the Church Architecture Guild (later the Guild for Religious Architecture) affiliated with the American Institute of Architects, and he published articles on church design showing how modernism could meet the needs and tastes of a new generation.

The Suburban Church places the three architects' stylistic innovations in the extraordinary social context of the 1950s with its booming suburbs and newfound prosperity. Today, Buggeln argues, midcentury churches can go unnoticed because they're ubiquitous and sometimes unremarkable, lacking "the distinction of the colonial New England meetinghouse or the Gothic revival church." Yet a closer look reveals just how much the architects of the time were experimenting with new forms and ornament.

One chapter is devoted entirely to the house-like A-frame church. The book's core question is: Why in these postwar years did "the style and form of new American churches and synagogues take such an apparently radical turn?" Buggeln finds the answer in broad changes in demographics and liturgy and a desire for more welcoming sanctuaries.

The volume includes a thorough index, and its ample illustrations include photographs of Sövik churches in Austin, St. Louis Park, and Fargo. The Suburban Church is highly recommended for readers interested in seeing midcentury American religious architecture with fresh eyes.

—Carol Ahlgren and Frank Edgerton Martin
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Anxious to remodel your kitchen or bathroom but feel like you need help seeing new possibilities for the space? Albertsson Hansen Architecture’s Christine Albertsson has developed a streamlined, three-part consultation service that can get homeowners off and running in as little as two hours.

**1. Listen and see**

The first thing we do is actively listen to the homeowners, to understand their goals for the project. Then we tour the house and the backyard to see how the different rooms relate to each other and to outdoor living spaces. We ask about the types and sizes of the appliances they need, and whether an island or a table is a goal. Often a banquette has a major impact on the usability of a dining space—or the living room and dining room work better flipped. Is there an opportunity to open the dining room up to the kitchen via a wide cased opening?

**2. Measure and draw**

Next, we measure the space—naming the location of doors and windows—and create a scaled graph-paper drawing over which we can sketch ideas on trace paper. Often this phase centers on finding a new home for the refrigerator, experimenting with opening the kitchen up to an adjacent living space, or seeing if it is wide enough to accommodate an island. With a rigorous understanding of dimensional functioning and clearances, we can quickly develop two or three basic strategies for the remodel.

**3. Review and tweak**

Last, we meet with the owners to review the ideas and discuss the benefits of each. Often, something very special happens in the first 10 minutes: The clients begin to see new possibilities for an efficient, spatially satisfying home. Together, we work out which idea they like best and make some tweaks to the sketch. After cleaning it up back at the office, we scan and email a copy to the owners. Sometimes they can work directly with a builder to implement the design from this simple sketch. Other times, it makes sense for us to provide more thorough documentation to build the project.
"The team's approach was: Sure, it's a maintenance building, but that doesn't mean employees can't have light-filled workspaces. The previous structure had no windows through which to enjoy the beautiful surroundings, so we proposed wide views in the lunchroom and office. Which meant we had to address the obvious issue of errant-golf-ball-meets-window. We said, 'Well, there's our design challenge—we are going to create something really cool with big windows that won't get broken.'"

—Shelter Architecture principal
Kurt Gough, Assoc. AIA

"Without some shading, the large windows would transmit a lot of solar gain, so we wanted to essentially screen the mesh with something else. We started by placing the black-locust slats on the sun side of the windows, and from there we worked on the graphic composition, to balance the elevation."

—Shelter Architecture principal
John Barbour, FAIA
When the City of Bloomington needed to replace a portion of a golf-course maintenance building damaged by heavy snow, it turned to Shelter Architecture for a design that would exceed expectations for the building type. The designers responded with an artful screen wall composed of galvanized wire mesh and angled black-locust slats. The mesh protects the building from wayward tee shots while allowing sunlight and views to enter the interiors through expansive windows; the wood slats provide pattern, visual warmth, and shading.

—Christopher Hudson
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DESIGNERS: THE NEW AND EXPANDED EDITION

In the coming years, communities, businesses, and nonprofits will increasingly look to architects for design solutions that extend well beyond buildings

By Thomas Fisher, Assoc. AIA, director of the Metropolitan Design Center

No profession seems better poised to prosper in the 21st century than architecture. The on-demand economy, in which goods and services are temporarily accessed rather than permanently owned, favors creative innovators who can imagine new ways of living and working, something at which the architectural profession has always excelled. Architects are trained to envision what doesn’t yet exist, provide for unanticipated needs, and accommodate future changes through greater flexibility. To varying degrees, they are practical futurists, a profile very much in demand in our new paradigm-shifting economy.

Likewise, the rise of what economists refer to as the third or fourth industrial revolution—depending on how they recount our industrial past—has brought a transformation in how we make things. Architects like Albert Kahn played a major role in creating the environments for the early-20th-century industrial revolution ushered in by Henry Ford’s assembly-line process, and the current industrial revolution, fueled by 3D printing, CNC (computerized numerical control) fabrication, and robotics, requires new kinds of facilities and new approaches to zoning that architects seem well suited to lead.

We will, of course, always need buildings, and architects’ building-design skills will still be in demand, especially as the mix of uses in facilities and the density of development will likely increase. New-economy entrepreneurs seem to prefer highly flexible space that allows for rapid change and seemingly radical combinations of activities, with residential, commercial, and light-industrial uses in close proximity to each other—or even in the same building. The 21st century may look increasingly like a high-tech version of preindustrial cities, in which people lived very close to where they worked, shopped, and socialized.

The new economy, though, appears to need design-thinking skills even more. The pressure to do everything faster, cheaper, and better has forced private, public, and nonprofit organizations to reimagine what they do and how they do it, which has made the paradigm-shifting process of design thinking increasingly important. What architects do every day in the design of buildings now also applies to the design of social and organizational phenomena.

In the medical and legal professions, traditional practices such as surgery and litigation have become more rare as less invasive or less costly services have emerged; architecture will likely take the same path. Buildings, which can be both invasive and costly, may become the last option rather than the first one pursued in meeting client needs. As a result, projects may start not with site analysis and schematic design but with design thinking to explore all of the ways clients can get their needs met without going through the time and expense of building.

[The new approach] opens up all kinds of services that architects now rarely offer, such as service design, strategic design, and innovation design, expanding the profession’s reach to those who need design help but not necessarily a building.
My Vision...

was to design a home for my family that honors our ancestry with modern style.

I wanted to embrace the picturesque view of the Mississippi River throughout all the major living spaces of my home. The simple and enduring European style of my home was achieved with Kolbe's made-to-order windows and doors. These large expanses of glass elegantly frame my river views, allowing me and my family to enjoy blended spaces for gathering as well as retreat.

- Andrea Swan, AIA
Swan Architecture | Minneapolis, MN

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ACTIVE VOICE

Architect Phillip Koski, AIA, helps his Minneapolis neighborhood navigate a surge in redevelopment and infrastructure enhancements

BY AMY GOETZMAN

Some people believe that home-ownership duties end at the property line. When Phillip Koski, AIA, bought an early-20th-century house in Minneapolis' Corcoran neighborhood, he saw his property as a starting point. First, he opened up the enclosed front porch to have the home engage more directly with life on his block. Then he looked at what he could do to make the neighborhood better.

"When you buy a house, you buy into a neighborhood," says Koski. In both his professional work for Miller Dunwiddle Architecture and his volunteer efforts for the neighborhood, his understanding of a building project radiates outward to the buildings next to it, the block that surrounds it, and the greater neighborhood beyond, including transit and even utilities.

"In drawing classes in school, I would include power lines, stop signs, and the utility boxes on the street when I drew a building. I've always been interested in those additional layers that are a critical part of the city," he says. "That's maybe an older way of looking at architecture, but architects were the original urban planners and engineers. When you look at David Burnham's plan for Chicago, for example, you realize that he had to take into account all of those 'invisible' layers of the city."

Koski's expansive perspective on architecture led him to join and ultimately chair the Corcoran Neighborhood Land-Use Committee, where he has had a hand in shaping the redevelopment around the intersection of Lake Street and Hiawatha Avenue, including Xcel Energy's dazzling substation enclosures (Nov/Dec 2015 and Mar/Apr 2016 issues), sustainability and street initiatives, and the Midtown Farmers Market.

"The neighborhood was experiencing a burst of redevelopment, and when they found out

Koski encouraged Xcel Energy to turn its Hiawatha substation into a design opportunity. The end result was an award-winning sculptural enclosure by the architecture firm Alliance.

"Much of the construction activity in the Corcoran neighborhood can be seen from the Blue Line's Lake Street/Midtown platform."
A roundtable interview with the team that has shaped and administered Minnesota's **B3 PROGRAM**—a robust, nation-leading energy management system for public buildings

INTERVIEW BY MARY-MARGARET ZINDREN

Reducing the energy we use and the carbon we produce is an easy cause to get behind, whether we're trying to save money, curb climate change, or minimize our dependence on foreign oil. But it's one thing to pursue energy savings and carbon reduction; it's quite another to aim to, by 2030, make all new public buildings "net zero"—an achievement in which the total amount of energy used annually by a building is roughly equal to the amount of renewable energy created onsite.

In Minnesota, we're on track to reach that net-zero goal thanks to two intertwined, groundbreaking efforts: the B3 Benchmarking program, which tracks and summarizes the energy consumption, energy costs, and carbon emissions for all public buildings; and Sustainable Building 2030 (SB 2030), an energy standard enacted by the Minnesota State Legislature that sets out progressively ambitious energy targets for all state-funded projects. Together, B3 Benchmarking and SB 2030 have established a powerful, practical, data-driven approach to energy reduction—a living, iterative, increasingly impactful cycle of continuous improvement.

So this team has been working on B3 from the very beginning, back in 2001?

JANET STREFF: Yes—essentially, the same partners were there from the start. We put out an RFP from the departments of Administration and Commerce, and the proposal we chose was the team from the Weidt Group, LHB, and the Center for Sustainable Building Research (CSBR). This Minnesota team was the only one to have the vision of creating design guidelines for new buildings to be followed by benchmarking to ensure that new data was continually fed into a building's performance equation. B3 includes the benchmarking tool as well as the design guidelines. In 2009, the Legislature required the addition of a net-zero energy standard to the design guidelines—SB 2030.

TOM MCDougALL: Because the Weidt Group specializes in energy-data modeling and analysis, we've had the role of developing the benchmarks for energy consumption.

RICHARD GRAVES: John Carmody, the former director of CSBR, created the guidelines, making sure the latest research in green building informed the effort. We still have this role today, focused on sustainable, resilient design and construction. Part of what attracted me to come to Minnesota to head the CSBR was the B3 program.

RICK CARTER: At LHB, we've been the project managers and implementers. We've been the architects and engineers primarily responsible for testing out the benchmarks in our designs and informing the refinement of the guidelines based on our experience.

STREFF: When these architects put together their response to the RFP, they really had a vision. They asked, "How can we build the best buildings possible in Minnesota? How can they be as efficient, durable, and beautiful as they can be? And then how can we make sure that these buildings continue doing what we thought they would be doing?"
our goals. At the end of the day, we actually measure the energy consumption of every building that goes through the benchmarking system and compare its performance to the goals.

GRAVES: We don’t just do models and say, “Well, I think this building will be better.” We actually know.

MCDOUGALL: When we find that some buildings aren’t going to meet their goals, we learn why they’re not and figure out how we’re going to be able to correct the issues. And for the next building that gets built, we’ll apply what we’ve learned from the performance of similar buildings. It’s time that this sort of research and benchmarking gets done in a widespread way. It’s just good science.

CARTER: This is sort of your dream job, from an architect’s perspective. Janet said, “Here’s the program: You’re going to do work, and you’re going to measure how it performs. You’re going to learn from it, and then we’ll redo the guidelines based on what you learn. We’re going to commit to it over a long period of time.” In effect, what Janet did with this project was put together an intelligent system with a feedback loop and commit to it over time. Wonderful.

MCDOUGALL: B3 puts us on the path to zero carbon emissions. That’s a goal set out by SB 2030. What we’ve developed here with B3 is a measurement system that can be applied comprehensively. It can measure any kind of building against benchmarks specific to that building type, customized to Minnesota’s climate and conditions. That’s truly unique. No other state is doing this.

GRAVES: What I see in B3 is some of the essential components of the future of green-building programs. It’s performance-driven, and that’s something to build on. That can help inform not only doing better buildings in Minnesota but also LEED and other programs like the International Green Construction Code.

MCDOUGALL: We’re spearheading a different way forward—different from what was started with the Industrial Revolution 150 years ago. The way we’ve been creating and using energy is not a way that can continue. We have to start changing course, and that’s what B3 and SB 2030 are about.

STREFF: The B3 benchmarks have been an extremely valuable tool for our public sector to use—not just State buildings, but all public buildings.

By 2030, do you expect there will be zero carbon emissions for all public buildings in Minnesota?

STREFF: Well, to be clear, while it’s encouraged for all buildings in Minnesota, SB 2030 is only required for new public buildings or big renovations of public buildings. So it’s not going nearly as fast as we think it should in order to meet the goals for reducing greenhouse-gas emissions set out by the Legislature in 2007.

MCDOUGALL: To reduce the amount of energy needed to build a building, it’s going to take all of our related industries working together. It will take architects, engineers, and building owners. It will take the trades—electrical, mechanical, and carpentry. It’s going to take all of us to build better buildings that conserve energy. And if B3 were accepted as a performance-based code—an alternative to the prescriptive building codes we’re dealing with today for private-sector buildings—then we could really make a difference.

>> continued on page 50

“B3 puts us on the path to zero carbon emissions. What we’ve developed here is a measurement system that can be applied comprehensively. It can measure any kind of building, against benchmarks specific to that building type, customized to Minnesota’s climate and conditions. That’s truly unique. No other state is doing this.” —TOM MCDOUGALL, ASSOC. AIA
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Rustic Refined

When it comes to the ideal getaway, tastes run the gamut from knotty log cabin in the forest to glass-lined jewel box with a view. But for most Minnesotans, it's something in between.

In the following pages, we tour two northern lake retreats that reveal how architects can seamlessly integrate the classic and the contemporary into one soul-stirring escape.

Rich in character and charm: lake escapes on Madeline Island in Wisconsin (top, page 24) and in northern Minnesota (bottom, page 28).
MADELINE ISLAND RETREAT

Location:
Madeline Island, Wisconsin

Client:
Victoria Erhart

Architect:
Albertsson Hansen
Architecture
www.aharchitecture.com

Principal-in-charge:
Christine Albertsson, AIA

Project lead designer:
Mark Tamborino, Assoc. AIA

General contractor:
Leafblad Construction

Size:
1,509 square feet (total conditioned space)

Completion: December 2012

Photographer:
Pete Sieger
(except where noted)

The screened porch offers shaded comfort on the sunny south side of the cottage. Owner Victoria Erhart says it’s her favorite living space.
Madeline Island Retreat

Albertsson Hansen Architecture melds modern and traditional in a cozy shoreline cottage

BY JOEL HOEKSTRA

Victoria Erhart has made the trip more than 500 times: a four-hour drive from the Twin Cities to Bayfield, Wisconsin, followed by a 25-minute ferry ride across the sometimes choppy waters of Lake Superior, and then a few minutes’ traverse along a forested two-lane road. Once Erhart is on Madeline Island, though, minutes and hours cease to matter. The island is a timeless kind of place.

Erhart, a retired physician, first visited the island in 1978, shortly after she moved to the Midwest from New York. The water, rocks, and coves of Madeline reminded her of childhood summers spent in Maine. “I instantly fell in love with the place,” says Erhart. She rented a cabin on the island for years, and in 1994 she purchased a rustic beach house without electricity. In 2009, she purchased nine acres with 500 feet of sandy shoreline at the far northeastern end of the island. She intended to build a place of her own.

Following a friend’s advice, she hired Christine Albertsson, AIA, of Minneapolis-based Albertsson Hansen Architecture to design a cottage that she hoped would be simple, small, and cozy. Albertsson’s firm had designed several residences for clients who vacationed on the island. Her Scandinavian sensibility—Albertsson is a dual citizen of the U.S. and Sweden—seemed to match the island’s Northwoods vibe. What’s more, says Erhart, the architect had grown up in Vermont and appreciated the beauty of New England-style cottages. It was an influence Erhart hoped would shape her cottage’s design.

A red, barn-like outbuilding—also part of the project—houses kayaks and gardening tools and includes a loft for overflow sleeping.
“Victoria wanted to re-create the magic of a place filled with special memories,” says Albertsson. “For me, that’s the ultimate project—to create a place that has real magical power.”

Albertsson talked with her client, walked the land, strolled the beach, and responded with a design that’s just 1,500 square feet, with two bedrooms, a sleeping loft, and one bathroom. A small screened-in porch provides additional space for sleeping when the weather is warm, and there’s a small red barn a few steps away that provides storage space and houses Erhart’s pottery studio. “We didn’t want it to be big and fancy,” says Albertsson. “We wanted it to be beautiful—which in some ways is the most sustainable long-term. We wanted to build something that would be cherished for generations.”

Cedar shakes and a metal-clad chimney give the cottage a visual charm akin to the buildings you’d find in a mining camp. The vertical board-and-batten, fiber-cement siding on the barn has a rustic appeal. And white trim around the doors and rows of windows gives added pop, making the residence seem simultaneously contemporary and classic.

Indoors, Albertsson instructed the builder, Leafblad Construction, to leave the wall studs and even elements like electrical conduits exposed. “We put all of the insulation on the outside, so the interior has a much less formal, more shack-like feel,” says the architect.

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“Victoria wanted to re-create the magic of a place filled with special memories,” says architect Christine Albertsson. “For me, that’s the ultimate project—to create a place that has real magical power.”

The efficient-yet-satisfying arrangement of living spaces fits the owner’s summer lifestyle to a T.

**FIRST FLOOR**
1. Entry hall
2. Kitchen
3. Screened porch
4. Living room
5. Dining room
6. Bedroom

**SECOND FLOOR**
7. Loft
8. Bedroom

Crisp modern lines continue in the loft (above) and the main-level bedroom (below). White-painted ceilings, railings, and trim brighten the interiors while also providing needed contrast.
Northern Light

A new retreat by Rehkamp Larson Architects is the Minnesota cabin at its most sophisticated

BY LINDA MACK

Going to the lake is a Minnesota tradition, and summer places that have been in the family for generations have a certain charisma. The paths to the dock are well worn, the sunset views familiar, the smell of cedar and pine evocative.

Building a new house in such a setting requires a sensitive hand, which Minneapolis' Rehkamp Larson Architects supplied in spades when they replaced a defunct structure at a family retreat in northern Minnesota. It's clear that the new gable-roofed, log-and-stone cabin isn't old, but its stately presence and location on the footprint of the previous house ground it.

To create a house that feels like it grew over time, Jean Rehkamp Larson, AIA, and Amanda Kay started with a long gable form clad in logs and added wings of classic Minnesota fieldstone to break up the masses. The central form houses...
the kitchen, dining area, and den on the first floor and bedrooms above. A soaring living room extends to the north, where the house is closest to the lake, and a guest room tacks onto the den.

A charming entry on the south wing is covered in stone both outside and in; it welcomes guests with a rustic wood door and a wide mudroom that shares an elegant tile with the dining room and kitchen. "We wanted to get up close and personal with the stone," says Rehkamp Larson.

The dark-stained wood in the 20-foot-high gabled living room contrasts with lighter walls elsewhere in the cabin. Clerestory windows add to the generous daylighting.
An Italian lime wash applied by specialty-finish artist Darryl Otto lightens the interior. “We wanted it to feel organic and rustic but also sophisticated,” says Rehkamp Larson.

Classic materials in the dining space (above) combine to create an air of elegant simplicity. The pergola-topped terrace (left) is the family's gathering place on summer evenings.

Building on the footprint of the earlier cabin limited the size of the new house, and the scale was set as well: “The family wanted a log cabin, and that wish lends itself to a scale of a story and a half,” says Rehkamp Larson. Another given was the terrace tucked into the northwest corner: “They knew this is where they wanted to be at sunset,” she adds. Anchored by a large-stone fireplace and topped with a log trellis,
The airy kitchen (above) and dining room are all of a piece. Both spaces look onto the soaring living room.

From the kitchen to the bedrooms, the rooms are generous but not oversized. Every space has windows on two sides.

The outdoor room conjures images of cool, late-summer nights when a fire feels good and the crickets are calling.

Inside, the balance and symmetry of the exterior carry through. In the 20-foot-high living room, for example, a stacked-boulder fireplace sits across from a stone-clad game niche. Windows dominate three of the walls, and logs are stained dark. Elsewhere, an Italian lime wash applied by specialty-finish artist Darryl Otto lightens the interior. "We wanted it to feel organic and rustic but also sophisticated," says Rehkamp Larson.

The second floor is comfortably zoned for three generations of the family. The master suite, with its roomy closets and a bathroom with windows on three sides, occupies one side of the stairway. Two bedrooms, one with birch-bark bunk beds that sleeps six, share a dormered bathroom on the other side. The design team enlarged the upstairs hallway at one end by angling off a corner of both
“It’s a house to be discovered,” says Rehkamp Larson. “There are lots of intimate spaces assembled, each with its own heavy dose of charm.”

From the kitchen to the bedrooms, the rooms are generous but not oversized. “They are tailored to the way they will be used,” says Rehkamp Larson. And every space has windows on at least two sides. From the watery views to the rustic materials, “there’s no questioning that you’re at the cabin,” she notes.

How does an architect plumb the depths of a client’s life so completely that she knows that the grandchildren would like a little room for playing with Legos, and a drinking fountain on the back stoop? “Conversation,” Rehkamp Larson explains. “We meet with the clients for two to three hours every two to three weeks over six to nine months.”

“It’s like taking a road trip,” she adds. “First you understand the main direction, and then you get into particulars like where you’re going to stop for lunch. We ask a lot of questions and let the answers percolate. There’s no shortcut to good design.”
The payoff in this case is a place where generations can come together, enjoy the water and the woods and each other, and return to their separate lives refreshed. “The owners say they can’t keep their kids away,” Rehkamp Larson reports. “I think that these summer retreats have a cultural impact on creating strong families. Perhaps our 10,000 lakes are more than just a place to jump in the water on a hot day.” AMN

The cabin sits on the footprint of the former structure on the site. A birch-bark ceiling adds a sophisticated rustic texture to the comfortable den (below).
The Intelligence Community Campus in Bethesda, Maryland, lies on a wooded bluff overlooking the Potomac River. The stately neoclassical structures of Washington, D.C., are just a few miles away, and the elegant midcentury-modern slab that houses the Central Intelligence Agency in Langley, Virginia, is visible in the distance on a clear day. The brown-brick boxes on the Bethesda campus, by comparison, had always lacked charm.

Constructed in the 1940s, the buildings reflected the institutional aesthetic of their time. Even as the interiors were “hardened” to increase security, and as technology was added to bolster the increased workload of the U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), the buildings’ exteriors remained largely unchanged: dull and drab. Finally, Congress authorized design and construction dollars to overhaul the facilities.

But the DIA’s first attempt at a redo failed. The campus adjoins a residential area, and neighborhood groups complained that the initial designs drawn up for the campus remodel were too monolithic. Relenting, the government put out a second request for proposals and eventually awarded the design-build project to the team of Whiting-Turner, Leo A Daly, and URS.

Bill Baxley, AIA, design director of Leo A Daly’s Minneapolis office, says his firm found inspiration in the landscape and in the idea of creating a campus with structures that house multiple functions, rather than a singular building. “We were really concerned about scale and the landscape,” says Baxley. “Those became the drivers.”

The Leo A Daly team proposed a Z-shaped building that would link three existing buildings. The new structure contains the main-entry lobby, a cafeteria, a fitness facility, an auditorium, and several levels of secure operational functions, but from a design...
A picturesque landscape design by OvS (Oehme, van Sweden) helps blend the campus into its residential neighborhood.

COURTYARD AND WELLNESS GARDEN

perspective its chief function is to connect the existing structures. Baxley refers to it as a “stitch” that pulls the fabric of the campus together. Officially known as the Centrum, it winds its way between two existing buildings and attaches to a third via a multilevel elevated bridge.

Baxley also wanted the campus to feel porous. While most of the DIA's employees are engaged in work that is hidden behind secured doors and thick walls, safe from prying eyes, nobody wanted the place to feel like a bunker. Using glass wherever possible, the architects created galleries with long, unimpeded views of the surrounding woods. A dining terrace outside the cafeteria overlooks a green roof, and a 14,000-square-foot plaza with linear concrete pavers provides a sunlit spot for meeting colleagues, drinking coffee, or simply enjoying the fresh air.

"We wanted to manage the buildings' relationship to the landscape in a more humanistic way," says Baxley. "We also wanted something that looked nongovernmental, so you

WE WANTED TO MANAGE THE BUILDINGS' RELATIONSHIP TO THE LANDSCAPE IN A MORE HUMANISTIC WAY.”

INTERIOR ORANGE ANGLED WALL
CENTRUM MAIN LEVEL
AND SURROUNDING CAMPUS

1. Main entrance
2. Ceremonial entrance
3. Café
4. Atrium amenities gallery
5. Fitness center
6. Main lobby
7. Assembly plaza
8. Courtyard and wellness garden
9. Vegetated terrace
10. Robertau Hall
11. Electric substation
12. Auditorium
13. Parking garage
14. Conference center
15. Multi-level circulation link
16. Maury Hall
17. Erskine Hall

ASSEMBLY PLAZA

Framed views of the verdant surroundings continue outside in a 14,000-square-foot plaza.
wouldn’t look at it and think, ‘ah, that’s an FBI building,’ or ‘that’s a CIA building.’”

To further integrate the new building with the existing ones, Leo A Daly clad the Centrum and two other buildings in a composite metal with a deep-red custom coating. The vertically set panels vary in shade, adding texture to the exterior while also keeping the unified campus from appearing monolithic. Tall narrow windows with mirrored surfaces lend additional interest. Seemingly frameless, the windows are set flush with the smooth skin of the building, creating a compelling visual effect. “It messes with your perception, quite honestly. The building looks plastic, almost artificial,” says Baxley. “But it also changes as the light and the sky change.”

Baxley compares the pattern in the cladding to a natural camouflage. It’s mottled and varied like the leaf patterns in the trees surrounding the campus. In the fall, the “camouflage” blends in with the bright foliage; the rest of the year, it disguises the building’s scale and governmental function.

Inside, the interiors are minimalist and sweeping. Bright white and deep black surfaces dominate, but occasionally an orange wall is set at an eye-catching angle. A 500-seat, amphitheater-style auditorium is furnished with orange seats. A smattering of designer lawn chairs populates the plaza. Furnishings and finishes are all simple but of high quality.

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“THE BUILDING LOOKS PLASTIC, ALMOST ARTIFICIAL. BUT IT ALSO CHANGES AS THE LIGHT AND THE SKY CHANGE.”
A dining terrace (below and right) outside the cafeteria overlooks a vegetated terrace one level below.

INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY CAMPUS—BETHESDA

Location: Bethesda, Maryland

Client: National Intelligence Agency

Design architect of record: Leo A Daly leoadaly.com

Principal-in-charge: Bill Baxley, AIA

Project design team: Bill Baxley, AIA; Tim Duffy, AIA; Linn Bjornrud, AIA; Andrew Graham, AIA; Jessie Bauldry

Design-build contractor: Whiting-Turner Contracting Company

Size: 225,000 square feet new, 500,000 square feet renovated

Completion of new construction: September 2015

Photographer: Bill Baxley, AIA
FIVE DAYS IN HAVANA
Minneapolis architecture firm MSR travels to the Cuban capital—and returns with indelible impressions of its architectural beauty and economic hardship. In an Architecture MN exclusive, MSR’s Thomas Meyer, FAIA, and photographer Lara Swimmer focus on the vitality and incongruities of a city on the cusp of great change.

Thirty-eight staff from the architecture firm MSR, where I am a principal, took an exploratory field trip to Havana in late February. The architecture we discovered is a well-worn collage, the result of 500 years of fortification, slavery and colonialism, religion and organized crime, capitalism and communism, revolutions and an embargo, utopian dreams and harsh realities.

On two previous field trips, we visited the newest and most acclaimed contemporary architecture in modern American cities. Havana would be different. A place oddly frozen in time and ripe with complex history and impending change, Cuba’s capital city promised a rich architectural experience of both the vernacular and the exotic.

The contrast with our previous trips was immediately clear. Unlike the crowded and noisy chaos of sprawling American airports, Havana’s José Martí International Airport, which serves a city of two million and a country of 11 million, was more like visiting an aging small-town supermarket in 1960. A cow grazed in sight of the front door, and birds chirped in the trees as an occasional colorful 1950s car cruised into the little parking lot. The charm of this tranquility and the lack of traffic, pollution, and other auto-oriented ugliness characterized our five-day visit. Commercial billboards and overt signage are banned. Everywhere people were warm and welcoming. We saw few police officers and little sign of the oppression that has gripped the island for decades. With no Internet, I had no thought of deadlines, violent crime, or terrorism. And, yes, February in the tropics is a wonderful relief from Minnesota.

Things got more complicated as we settled into the 1994 Spanish-operated, 20-story Hotel Melia Cohiba. We learned that hotel workers are paid a fair wage of $8 to $10/hour, but the money goes to the government, which in turn pays perhaps a dollar or two a day to staff eager to have the opportunity. A dollar tip left daily for the maid received an enthusiastic thank-you note. Until recently, Cuban citizens were not allowed in hotels such as the Hotel Melia Cohiba, where they might be corrupted by...
Much of life in Havana has an on-the-edge-of-adversity immediacy that seems to deny a long-term future. Yet Havana’s remarkable architectural legacy, deteriorated as it may be, endures.

materialism or be an unpleasant distraction to the guests. The hotel building itself, like its management, is an incongruity: generically luxurious to attract much-needed tourists but reflecting a placeless corporate hotel architecture that, if propagated, is a threat to the distinctive character the tourists are coming to experience.

While the communist government sanctions pockets of privilege such as the hotel, 57 years of their policies (they would argue it was the U.S. embargo) have created disastrous economic conditions. These circumstances prompt the continuous repair of vintage American cars and have created a housing crisis that leaves most of the city’s residents living in the near-ruins of pre-revolution buildings. The flamboyant and tropically colored cars have become a big part of Havana’s identity and a tourist attraction. They embody something of the Havanese spirit of adaptability and resourcefulness in an age of mass-produced, throwaway materialism.

Music, art, and daily life in general, needing little in the way of funding or a reliable plan for the future, seem to pulse with vitality and joy. But decades of poverty and improvisation have overwhelmed the values and ideals we architects take for granted. Architects plan for the future. Much of life in Havana has an on-the-edge-of-adversity immediacy that seems to deny a long-term future. Yet Havana’s remarkable architectural legacy, deteriorated as it may be, endures.
Center of spread: The view from atop the home of José Fuster, an artist who's transformed his entire neighborhood into a ceramic-tiled wonderland.

Music, art, and daily life in general, needing little in the way of funding or a reliable plan for the future, seem to pulse with vitality and joy.
CONSERVATION AND COLLAGE ★ Historic Old Havana, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is a well-planned preservation effort that centers on five distinctive and appealing city squares. Preservation is much too slow to keep up with general deterioration across the city, but concentrating limited funds in the historic district has made a real impact. Between the five squares, much work still needs to be done, but the National Capitol building, Great Theater of Havana (home to the National Ballet of Cuba), historic Bacardi Building, and other prominent landmarks have been or are being restored. The visitor experience here is a very pleasant mix of the shabby and the historic.

Elsewhere, in the dilapidated buildings, we saw a resourcefulness and a rough beauty in the collage of divisions, additions, patches, and personal flourishes. Everywhere, elegant buildings built for one purpose have been taken over as multifamily residences: Mansions, arcaded street fronts, and even a former General Motors office building are now dense with dwellings. The claim is made that more than 90 percent of Cubans own their homes, but the majority of the housing stock is clearly inadequate and deteriorating. I don’t recall seeing any residential building that might have been built in the last 25 years. Instead, makeshift interventions are added inside, in front of, in between, and on top of the original structure. Pipes, water tanks, TV antennae, wires, clotheslines, and AC units accrue. There are no apparent building codes or life-safety standards. No effective legal or financial structure defines how the common envelope enclosing individual units is to be maintained. Tropical dampness and termites continue to erode wood, metal, and porous limestone. Even in our fancy hotel, the water was undrinkable, and the lights flickered with power surges. As with houses in Detroit or post-Katrina New Orleans, Havana’s inhabited-but-decaying homes have a kind of sensational, voyeuristic, even romantic appeal that masks the misery and untapped human potential beyond the facade. Photography of these places by those privileged enough to live in better circumstances has become known as “ruin porn.” It’s all a lesson in the necessity of infrastructure, maintenance, and a functional economy and government.
Below and right: The beautifully ornate Great Theater of Havana lies adjacent to the National Capitol. Colorful vintage cars and cabs abound in Old Havana.

I see optimism for the architecture in the resourcefulness of people who not only can keep a 1959 Buick running and beautiful but also can transform it into a proud icon of Cuba.

ART AND ARCHITECTURE ★ Visiting the improbably radical utopian architecture that is Cuba’s National Art Schools (Instituto Superior de Arte) is like nothing I have experienced before. Everything from its allusions to African villages and the female body to its conceptualization by army-boot-clad revolutionaries playing golf and its current state as a glorious ruin is fantastic. Shortly after the 1959 revolution, Fidel Castro and Che Guevara visited the Havana Country Club (whose members had fled the country) to consider its future. They proposed creating a complex of experimental, tuition-free art schools on the site to serve talented young people from all over the socialist world.

There were to be buildings for the fine arts, drama, music, modern dance, and ballet. The schools were planned to create a “new culture” for the “new man,” with buildings that would reinvent architecture much like the Cuban Revolution sought to reinvent society. These were heady times. Architects Ricardo Porro, Roberto Gottardi, and Vittorio Garatti set up their design studio on the site. They agreed on three guiding design principles: integration with the rolling landscape of the golf course; use of locally produced brick and terra-cotta tile (the U.S. embargo made more conventional modern materials very costly); and use of a construction system based on the Catalan vault and organic form similar to what Gaudí had used in Spain.

In 1961, construction began on five eccentric, sensuous, and serpentine buildings sparsely arrayed across the verdant landscape. The design was thought of as a critique of the prevailing “capitalist” right-angle International Style. Soon setbacks in the socialist world brought reality to utopia. The government began to see the project as an extravagance in a declining economy, and the architects were criticized as elites. The schools themselves were criticized for “ideological errors.” In 1965, construction came to a halt, leaving the project incomplete. Recent international attempts to fund completion have been stalled by new complexities. Today, the School of Modern Dance and the School of Plastic Arts continue to be used while the other three structures sit in various states of abandonment and decay. We visited the functioning School of Plastic Arts and the abandoned School of Ballet.
In 1961, construction began on the National Art Schools, five eccentric, sensuous, and serpentine buildings sparsely arrayed across the verdant landscape.

Left: The School of Plastic Arts, designed by Cuban-born architect Ricardo Porro, is one of two of the five National Art Schools still in use.
Ruins on this spread: immortalized in the documentary Unfinished Spaces, the School of Ballet, designed by Italian architect Vittorio Garatti, features undulating passageways and a vast theater-in-the-round.

The School of Plastic Arts is a wonder of curves and light and human activity with its sinuous streets, oval studios, and open-air spaces. Rainwater is collected in a consciously vuliform interior courtyard. A lush landscape of entwined, multi-trunked banyan trees surrounds the earthy warmth of the open-air, terra-cotta complex. It all makes you smile and want to be an art student.

An empty shell of vaults, domes, and stairs, the School of Ballet is nestled into the land along a shady creek. The ruins of the 1,000-foot-long Music School lie in the far distance, across a great green lawn; the only sounds are birdsong and the breeze. The dramatic entry sequence begins at the top of a wooded hill. As one proceeds down, the terra-cotta domes emerge, and the path descends into a winding passage that links the major spaces. In places, the landscape leads onto the roofs, merging earth and structure into an organic whole. The spiraling spatial experience of moving through and around the building is a marvel of architectural choreography made magical by the emptiness. It is easy to imagine the whirling ghosts of ballet dancers.

The spiraling spatial experience of moving through and around the ballet building is a marvel of architectural choreography made magical by the emptiness. It is easy to imagine the whirling ghosts of ballet dancers.

HOPE ★ As an architect, I wonder what the future may hold for Havana. Will the deterioration of the housing stock and landmarks continue under failed communism until it is too late to save the rich fabric that has built up over centuries? Or will the need for tourism and money lead to the worst of capitalism—anywhere/everywhere corporate architecture, fast-food joints, and traffic jams? Although many buildings are too decayed to salvage, I see optimism for the architecture in the resourcefulness of people who not only can keep a 1959 Buick running and beautiful but also can transform it into a proud icon of Cuba. More money, better governance, and more professional design will be needed. But I see hope in the currently deployed strategies of incremental adaptation, which preserves the most useful and the most beautiful of the past while prudently and beautifully changing for the future. AMN
I was an architect, they were excited to bring me in, because architects are pretty good at understanding how to take complicated ideas and make them accessible to the general public," he explains.

Koski brought a wealth of advocacy experience to the role. He's worked with Preserve Minneapolis, served as president of AIA Minneapolis, and chaired the Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission. He's also served as an adjunct instructor in the University of Minnesota School of Architecture, and he's written about architecture and urban design for Architecture MN, Metro, and the Star Tribune.

In 2015, he was awarded AIA Minnesota's prestigious Louis Lundgren Award, which recognizes exceptional volunteerism on behalf of the profession. His goal in all of his advocacy work is to create a better, healthier, and more beautiful city one piece at a time—and to help those who live there understand how architecture works.

"A lot of people think it's just some architect waving his hands and saying, 'I think it should look like this.' But there are zoning requirements, building codes, bank loans, and economic impulses that are part of the process. I try to help people gain a richer understanding of their built environment," says Koski, who's become adept at working with the different parties behind every new development.

At Miller Dunwiddie, he's currently tasked with a project that merges his affinity for urban design with his ability to balance a complex array of competing interests: a half-billion-dollar revitalization of MSP International Airport that will elevate the way air travelers experience transit. When it's completed, parking, car-rental facilities, and improved pathways to the terminal will be integrated, easier to navigate, and more functional. Koski aims to make it all add up to a beautiful, memorable place for the beginning or end of a journey.

"A lot of what is missing in public spaces is intangible—the kind of details that you can't exactly quantify," he notes. "When people step into a space like Grand Central Terminal or Penn Station in New York City, they are filled with a sense of wonder. We can design that into modern experiences."
This approach has several benefits. First, it disconnects the architectural profession from the building trades by doing what the construction industry cannot: avoid building. Professions serve people, while businesses sell services, and professions thrive when they are clear about that distinction. Second, it opens up all kinds of new services that architects now rarely offer, such as service design, strategic design, and innovation design, expanding the profession’s reach to those who need design help but not necessarily a building. Only a tiny percentage of the global population has the wealth to commission buildings, but everyone can benefit from design services, just as they can from public health services and legal aid.

Finally, it deepens architects’ engagement with the clients and communities they already serve. Rather than compete with every other firm for those relatively few clients that truly need a building, architects could begin to serve existing clients with a much wider range of services, becoming design consultants, much as attorneys serve as their clients’ legal counsel.

The Metropolitan Design Center (page 58) at the University of Minnesota, which I now direct, has started down this road. We continue to do urban design and community-engagement work, as the center has done since its founding in the late 1980s with an endowment from the Dayton Hudson Foundation (now Target Foundation), helping communities recognize their assets and see the opportunities they have. Some of the opportunities become projects that architecture firms are commissioned to design, and some become strategies that will guide the communities’ decision-making and inform their identity. All of this work involves the creative imagining, lateral thinking, and connective reasoning that architects and designers do so well.

At the same time, the center has begun to do design work that we know will have no physical outcome. We have started a project with four Minnesota counties—Hennepin, Ramsey, Anoka, and Dakota—in partnership with the university’s Humphrey School of Public Affairs, to engage a range of stakeholders in reimagining the housing process for adult foster care, to give people options in how they live. And we have begun a project, in partnership with Allina Health, to
Designers: The New and Expanded Edition

provide the leadership of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta with design-thinking skills so that they can respond to global health challenges more effectively. The list goes on, from helping North Minneapolis youth create a healthier community for themselves to helping a St. Paul middle school deal more creatively with student behavior.

As I write in my new book, Designing Our Way to a Better World, design-related opportunities vastly exceed the amount of work the architecture and design community has traditionally pursued. The world of physical design—the buildings, products, and landscapes around us—encompasses only a small percentage of the systems and services that affect us every day. It’s this broader whole that can benefit from the creative skills of the design community—and ensure that architecture will thrive in the 21st century. AMN

Big Issue, Big Thinking, Big Change

CARTER: Prescriptive codes say, “Thou shalt put in this kind of glass,” and “Thou shalt put in this kind of insulation.” You can do that, but you don’t know what effect you’re really having. Instead, B3 says, “Here’s the energy consumption of your building per square foot for this building type, and here’s what it should be.” The B3 case studies help show how architects and their partners have worked to close the gap and meet the benchmark. If the B3 program were instituted as a statewide building code today, we’d have a pretty good chance of getting to our goal of net-zero carbon emissions by 2030.

GRAVES: A study conducted on the cost of carbon-reduction efforts looked at making B3 code for all buildings. It found that the cost of implementation is far outweighed by the dollars and societal benefits gained.

CARTER: It actually saves money.

Saves taxpayers money?

GRAVES: Yes—taxpayers and the public of Minnesota as a whole. It also gives Minnesota architects a competitive advantage in knowing how to build better buildings.
Big Issue, Big Thinking, Big Change

I don’t think anyone’s ever quantified it, but in my conversations with the firms that are doing work to the B3 benchmarks, I understand they’re exporting those services to other parts of the country and the world. That’s real economic value our architecture community is creating. Unfortunately, as things stand, Minnesota cities aren’t allowed to create a code that’s stricter than the current state building code. Their hands are tied.

STREFF: We’re hopeful that state-building-code folks will adopt this as an option through an appendix chapter, which wouldn’t require any additional State legislation.

Beyond working toward broader application of B3 beyond public buildings, what else is in the works?

MCDougall: One thing has to do with the fact that B3 and SB 2030 have guidelines beyond energy. There’s something new called the operations module that’s almost like car maintenance. Just like you get a notification that it’s time to take your car in for an oil change, there are things you need to check in a building. Let’s say you held a special event and the time clock for the building’s lighting system was changed from the usual approach of turning off at midnight; now the system is running all night because someone forgot to change it back. The operations module is designed to help catch these errors that waste energy.

Graves: We’re also working on metrics that have to do with post-occupancy evaluations and how to measure building benefits to human beings. We’re asking questions like “Do people have enough light to do their tasks?” and “How are the acoustics?” Down the road, there will be some findings coming out of the post-occupancy evaluations that will lead to standards on acoustics and lighting.

Carter: We’ve been doing case studies of what’s worked in the past, and that’s awesome—we need to keep doing that. But to hit these increasingly difficult targets, we need to start prototyping the future. We’ve started to do some of this so that the design community doesn’t have to go down every rabbit hole. We can say, “We’ve explored that path and found that those particular mechanical systems won’t get you to the benchmark.” We can do some of these
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Investing in our people and the places that inspire us.

MSR staff touring Havana, Cuba (#msrincuba contest photo by Ken Martin)

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Big Issue, Big Thinking, Big Change
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prototypes on the most common building types
to give people a head start.

So why has this come about in Minnesota,
and not in the 20 or so other states that have
passed goals similar to SB 2030?

MCDougall: We've tried to do benchmarking
in lots of different states, and there's
something unique here. I've spent some time
thinking about this and believe it has a lot
to do with our land. Minnesota has a beautiful
landscape with more than 10,000 lakes.
We've gone through Independent governors,
Republican governors, and DFL governors
during the course of the B3 program, and they
have all maintained its funding and support.
I think there is an environmental ethic here in
this state that allows us to have this long-term
consistency of environmental vision.

Graves: It also has a lot to do with the great
architecture community we have here in
Minnesota. The designers who are using B3
are very close to us, and if we get something
wrong they don't just say, "That's not right."
They come to our offices and say, "What if we
did it this way?" They're smart enough to be
collaborators and propose solutions.

MCDougall: It's amazing how far we've come.
We couldn't have done it had it been just a
three- or four-year program. The long-term
commitment from the State and legislators
to maintain funding has made a real difference.

And, I should clarify, B3 stands for . . . ?

MCDougall: That came from Janet. It stands
for "Buildings, Benchmarks and Beyond!"

Streff: I had just watched the movie Toy
Story. "To infinity and beyond!" It was going
to be some long legislative title, but I thought,
"If we're going to do this, it's going to be around
awhile." Buildings, benchmarks, and beyond—
and we're already way beyond. As Tom and
I retire, we expect those with fewer wrinkles
to carry the torch.

MCDougall: It will go beyond. In fact, my
password is "b3forever."

Once we publish this interview, you should
probably change your password.

MCDougall: I actually retire in just a few days,
so it's OK. Go for it. AMN
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Christ Church Lutheran, Minneapolis  >  Historic Structure Report, accessibility upgrades, and masonry restoration. After photos by Pete Sieger.
Madeline Island Retreat
<< continued from page 25

"Fortunately, we had a builder who was willing to look at every stud and select it for its quality and character. Without that, the interior might have looked a little shoddy. Leafblad executed it with thought."

The interior spaces are spacious and bright and revolve around a large stone hearth. The ceiling and the loft’s railing panels are painted white to reflect additional light into the living area. Extensive use of wood—including a floor made of reclaimed barn lumber—gives the cottage a traditional feel.

Erhart says she can’t wait to return to her retreat every summer. The bee balm and lupine are in bloom. There’s a cooling breeze off the lake. "My favorite place might be the screened-in porch," says Erhart. "I could live out there all summer—it’s the best of being indoors and being outdoors." AMN

New Intel
<< continued from page 38

In keeping with federal requirements, the Centrum was designed to meet LEED Silver standards. Technology upgrades contribute to the building’s consuming 31 percent less energy than a typical project of its type. In fact, one of the technology investments—solar hot water arrays—was made to help put the campus on a path to net-zero energy use.

A 30,000-gallon cistern collects rainwater for reuse in irrigation. And retrofitting existing buildings allowed the government to produce a state-of-the-art facility for roughly 60 percent of the cost of demolition and new construction, according to a DIA official.

In the wake of 9/11, intelligence agencies have worked harder and harder to share information to prevent additional terrorist attacks. Government leaders see the work of the DIA, and by extension the redesign of its campus, as critical to improving interagency cooperation and communication. "I believe this world-class facility is a beautiful addition to the community," National Intelligence director James Clapper said at the ribbon cutting for the facility last October. "This facility is—in so many ways—the physical manifestation of ‘intelligence integration.’" AMN

Proud to partner with the State of MN, CSBR, LHB, building owners and design teams for the last 15 years. We look forward to the next 15.

Thank you, Janet and Tom, for your dedicated service.

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Blumentals/Architecture feels very strongly that almost every existing building, with or without historic significance, can be made usable through the renovation of existing spaces, additions to the building and/or changing the use of the facility. Reuse cuts down on the amount of waste, reduces the need of new building materials, and is a very important part of the Green Building strategy. We have designed over 700 Renovation/Historic Preservation projects covering approximately 3,500,000 SF.

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Minnesota State Fair, Saint Paul, MN: Sharing and Caring Hands, Minneapolis, MN; Saint Paul Public Schools, Saint Paul, MN: Krista Tippett Public Productions, Minneapolis, MN; Radisson Hotel, La Crosse, MN; Bloom Health, Minneapolis, MN; Twin Cities Public Television, Saint Paul, MN; Galleria, Edina, MN

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St. Cloud State University, Riverview Hall Restoration, St. Cloud, MN, St. Cloud State University, Stewart Hall Exterior Shell Repair, St. Cloud, MN, The Fremont, Uptown Minneapolis, MN, Union Depot Multimodal Transit and Transportation Hub Restoration, St. Paul MN (sub to HGA); Minnesota State Capitol Restoration, St. Paul MN (sub to HGA); Johnson building renovations, Minneapolis, MN

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Avalon Theater Conditions Assessment, Minneapolis, MN, MnDOT’s Inspiration Point Wayside Area Restoration, Lanesboro, MN
Tate Hall Restoration, Minnesota State Academy for the Deaf, Faribault, MN
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July/August 2016 ARCHITECTURE MN 63
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Paul Hannan, AIA, CID
Joseph C. Metzler, AIA, CID, LEED AP
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Dwan Maintenance Building

Page 14
Location: Bloomington, Minnesota
Client: City of Bloomington
Architect: Shelter Architecture
Principal-in-charge: John Barbour, FAIA
Project manager: Joan Bren, AIA
Project team: John Barbour, AIA; Joan Bren, AIA; Jackie Millesa, AIA; Kurt Gough, Assoc. AIA; Graham Ryan; Lisa Antenucci; Jackie Lyons; Benjamin Olsen
Structural engineer: Mattson Macdonald Young
Mechanical and electrical engineer: Dolejs Associates, Inc.
Civil engineer: Rehder & Associates, Inc.
Interior designer: Shelter Architecture
Construction manager: Jorgenson Construction, Inc.
Precast architectural concrete: Fabcon Precast, LLC
Window systems: Olde Town Glass Company
Photographer: Brandon Stengel

Madeline Island Retreat

Page 24
Location: Madeline Island, Wisconsin
Architect: Albertson Hansen Architecture
Principal-in-charge: Christine Albertson, AIA
Project manager and lead designer: Mark Tamborino, Assoc. AIA
Structural engineer: AM Structural Engineering
General contractor: Leafblad Construction
Flooring systems/materials: Manomin Resawn Timbers
Window systems: Marvin Windows
Photographer: Pete Sieger

Northern Light

Page 28
Location: Northern Minnesota
Architect: Rehkamp Larson Architects
Principal-in-charge: Jean Rehkamp Larson, AIA
Project manager: Amanda Kay
Project team: Jean Rehkamp Larson, AIA; Amanda Kay
Structural engineer: Bunkers & Associates
Interior designer: Alecia Stevens
General contractor: Nor-Son Stonework: MJF Construction
Cabinetwork: Frost Cabinets
Fireplaces: Guida Masonry
Flooring systems/materials: Exquisite Surfaces
Window systems: Marvin Windows; Hope’s Windows
Custom finishes: Otto Painting Design
Custom metalwork: Bo Jacobsson Studio, Chariot Customs
Photographer: Scott Amundson

Intelligence Community Campus-Bethesda

Page 34
Location: Bethesda, Maryland
Client: National Intelligence Agency
Design architect of record: Leo A Daly
Principal-in-charge: Bill Baxley, AIA
Project manager: Ryan Horner
Project architects: Linn Bjornrud, AIA; Andrew Graham, AIA
Project design team: Bill Baxley, AIA; Tim Duffy, AIA; Linn Bjornrud, AIA; Andrew Graham, AIA; Jessie Bauldry
Energy modeling: URS
Structural, mechanical, electrical, and civil engineer: URS
Lighting designer: URS
Interior designer: DBI Architects
Design-build contractor: Whiting-Turner Contracting Company
Landscape architect: Oehme, van Sweden
Flooring systems/materials: National Stone
Window systems: Gardner Metal Systems
Architectural metal panels: Reynobond Composite Metal Panel (custom finish/color)
Concrete work: Whiting-Turner Contracting Company
Photographer: Bill Baxley, AIA

CORRECTION In acknowledgment of an unfortunate omission in the credits for the Alexandria Area High School feature in the May/June issue, Cuningham Group Architecture, Inc. would like to recognize JLG Architects as a valued local partner on the project.
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When meetings are held at the University of Minnesota METROPOLITAN DESIGN CENTER, directed by Thomas Fisher, Assoc. AIA (page 17), the people around the conference table have an ever-present reminder of the scale of the design issues they're seeking to address. That's because the tabletop is lined with an incredibly detailed satellite image of the Twin Cities region. "Visitors like to point out where they live," says Fisher. "And it's great for daydreaming!"

PHOTO BY COREY GAFFER
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