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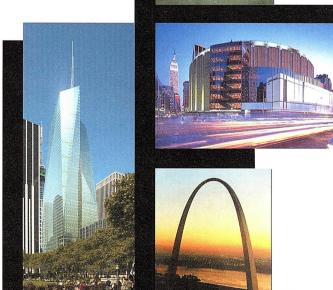


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Table of Contents

First Words

9 Letter from the President: The Future: Here and Now By Joseph J. Aliotta, AIA, LEED AP

A Word from the Editor

11 Of Ladybugs and Learning By Kristen Richards, Hon. AIA, Hon. ASLA

Center for Architecture

19 Center Highlights

One Block Over

21 Manhattanville Shuffle: A no-real-community-here might just become one By Claire Wilson

In Print

40 The Future of Architecture Since 1889 By Jean-Louis Cohen

> Aalto and America Edited by Stanford Anderson, Gail Fenske, and David Fixler

The Mythic Modern: Architectural Expeditions into the Spirit of Place By Travis Price

Schlepping Through Ambivalence: Essays on an American Architectural Condition By Stanley Tigerman, ed. by Emmanuel Petit

The Harlem Edge | Cultivating
Connections 2012 Biennial Ideas
Competition
Edited by AIANY Emerging New York
Architects Committee
Reviews by Stanley Stark, FAIA

81-Year Watch

41 A pioneering example of Modernism in New York is the 1931 New School for Social Research building by Joseph Urban By John Morris Dixon, FAIA

Last Words

43 The Young and the Edgeless By Rick Bell, FAIA

Index to Advertisers

44 Alphabetical and Categorical Index

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The Blue School by Rockwell Group, pg. 32

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Oculus Fall 2012 Learning Curve

FEATURES

- 27 Opener: The New Learning Landscape By Umberto Dindo, FAIA
- 28 Oh, the Places We'll Go! Rethinking education in a digital age By Edith K. Ackermann, Ph.D.
- 30 One Firm, Two Schools of Thought

Two new academic projects by Skidmore, Owings & Merrill reveal new directions in design for education By Bill Millard

32 Schools Made to Order

A focus on flexibility provides ideal learning environments for two vastly different kinds of students By Claire Wilson

34 Expanding Architecture
Beyond Form and Function

How Parsons The New School for Design is redesigning its curriculum and practices to prepare students for complex design challenges of the future By William R. Morrish

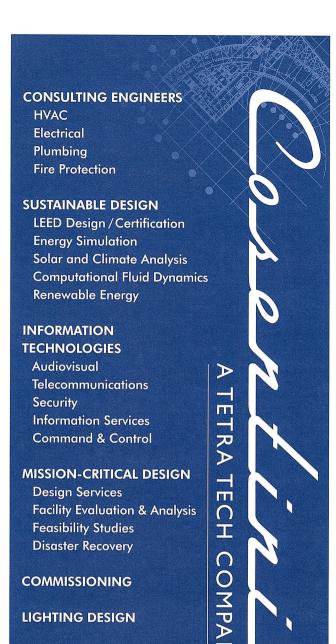
36 New Kids on the Boards

Relentless, transformative, collaborative are apt descriptions of the seven winners of this year's New Practices New York competition By Linda G. Miller

39 Real Solutions at Harlem's Edge

The winners of the biennial ENYA design competition offer solutions with far-ranging possibilities By Jessica Sheridan, Assoc. AIA, LEED AP BD+C

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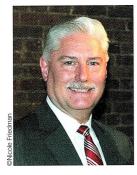


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The Future: Here and Now

he futurist theme of AIA New York resonates with the Learning Curve focus of this fall's Oculus. From schools, universities, young architects, and new firms, we anticipate the future of design here and now. This autumn's key exhibition at the Center for Architecture, "The Edgeless School: Design for Education in the Digital Age," explores innovative and sustainable learning environments. It is joined by an exhibition of schools from Finland and the annual architecture schools exhibition showcasing exemplary student work from 14 graduate programs in the region. The "Building Connections" exhibition presents the accomplishments of K-12 students in the Center for Architecture Foundation's Learning by Design:NY program. Our fall season is made special by the second annual Archtober festival of architecture and design, and the Future Now! Summit. It culminates with the festive Heritage Ball and the fabulous Party@theCenter, both on Thursday, October 25. Busy times certainly populate this fall's architectural calendar.

The Future Now! Summit, convened in September, empowered and engaged young professionals as they navigate the economy and anticipate the next years of practice. Through action and reflection, new firms and emerging architects are proposing real solutions to the changing needs of the industry. AIA Fellows met with emerging professionals on a two-way street of mentorship and sharing. This interactive, day-long conference addressed the connection among design, construction, real estate, finance, and business. As a platform for dialogue, it brought together interested individuals to propose solutions for the future of architecture. Specifically, the summit explored:

Repositioning the AIA: A national effort to revamp the AIA mission and adapt it to the present by engaging the public and addressing the needs of emerging professionals.

New Practice Models: New ways of working, including virtual collaboration and public outreach.

Leadership: Emerging professionals redefining leadership roles not only in the workplace, but in the civic arena and business world as well.

New Roles for the Architect: How the architect of the future can have an expanded role in society.

October 1 marks the kickoff of Archtober, New York City's Architecture and Design Month. This annual festival brings together many of the city's architecture and design organizations and museums with a common calendar of special tours, lectures, films, and exhibitions. The aim is to raise awareness of the role of design in our city and to build lasting international recognition of the richness of New York's built environment. The Archtober "Building of the Day" celebrates contemporary as well as iconic architecture in the city with free public daily tours, many led by the buildings' architects.

On the advocacy front, we are busy working with the Chapter's committees to develop and refine policy platform statements in preparation for the citywide 2013 elections. Our platform is meant to engage all candidates for public office in New York City as we advocate for the built environment. We encourage you to learn more about AIA New York's advocacy efforts and get involved!

Mentorship, outreach, and advocacy just begin to describe all the energy and activity at the Center for Architecture. Join us! Our future is now.

Joseph J. Aliotta, AIA, LEED AP 2012 President, AIA New York Chapter

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The Center's mission is to:

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- Provide a center of learning for the public and building industry professionals in order to improve the quality of the built environment
- · Explore cutting-edge topics, technological innovations and other issue concerning the built environment
- · Foster an exchange and collaboration among members of the design, construction and real estate community
- · Promote an appreciation of New York's unique urban fabric
- Inspire community values and provide fellowship opportunities
- · Promote cultural tourism of New York City's architecture

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Of Ladybugs and Learning



Editor's learning environment

With the Center for Architecture exhibition "The Edgeless School" currently on view, it seemed timely to focus this issue of *Oculus* on education, both in design and pedagogy, and how each affects the other. Numerous studies show that learning environments have an impact on performance and morale of students and teachers alike.

My first experience with "organized" education was a so-called "kiddies' school" I was enrolled in when we moved from New York to Florida. I was five, and I was miserable. Never mind the dusty (or muddy) play yard, rusting jungle gym, buggy bathroom, and peeling pea-green paint in the hallways. I was a "Yankee" - and five-year-olds can be cruel. I pushed back once, and found myself sitting in the corner facing a white picket fence under a huge banyan tree. But instead of being humiliated, I was mesmerized. The fence was covered with hundreds of ladybugs! Watching them scurrying around, busily doing whatever ladybugs do, was much more fun than being bullied, and I ended up spending a lot of time in that corner. When we moved back to Yankee-land in time to start first grade, the teacher asked me to tell the class about life in Florida. I told them all about the ladybugs. This led to the class's first science lesson (did you know ladybugs can live up to three years?) and made me fall in love with school.

But that was then – this is now. Anyone who cares about education in America couldn't have been cheered by several reports published earlier this year. The "U.S. Education Reform and National Security" report by the Council on Foreign Relations Independent Task Force (co-chaired by Joel I. Klein, former chancellor of the NYC Department of Education) comes to some disheartening conclusions, including: "Too many young people are not employable in an increasingly high-skilled and global economy."

The Global Competitiveness Report 2011–2012, issued by the World Economic Forum, surveyed 142 countries in a great number of categories. In higher education and training, the U.S. ranks 13th overall, and 26th in "the quality of the education system." Sadder still, we are 37th in "the quality of primary education." On a slightly brighter note, we rank 7th in "capacity for innovation," and 3rd in "university-industry collaboration in R&D."

The Global Innovation Index 2012, published by the international business school INSEAD and the World Intellectual Property Organization, a specialized agency of the United Nations, ranked 141 countries/economies in areas such as institutional frameworks that attract business and foster growth, level and standard of education and research, and infrastructure. The U.S. is only 10th in all categories, and 31st in K–12 education, "owing to low rankings in education expenditures."

But all is not doom and gloom. The Obama Administration launched the "Educate to Innovate" campaign to increase STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) literacy in public education. The arts have been added to the mix, resulting in STEAM programs in elementary and high schools. The Association of Architecture Organizations and the Architecture + Design Education Network are among its strongest proponents, as are the ACE Mentor Program and Publicolor. Closer to home, last year the Center for Architecture Foundation's Learning by Design:NY K–12 program was a U.S. nominee in the first International Union of Architects/UIA Architecture & Children Golden Cubes Awards.

Do architecture and architects have a role in improving our education system? Indeed they do – well beyond pea-green walls.

Kristen Richards, Hon. AIA, Hon. ASLA Kristen@ArchNewsNow.com

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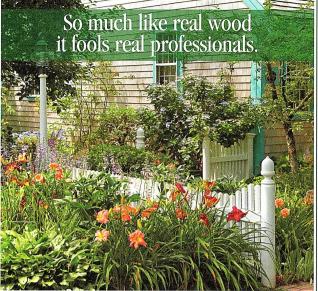
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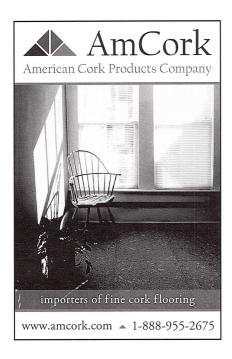
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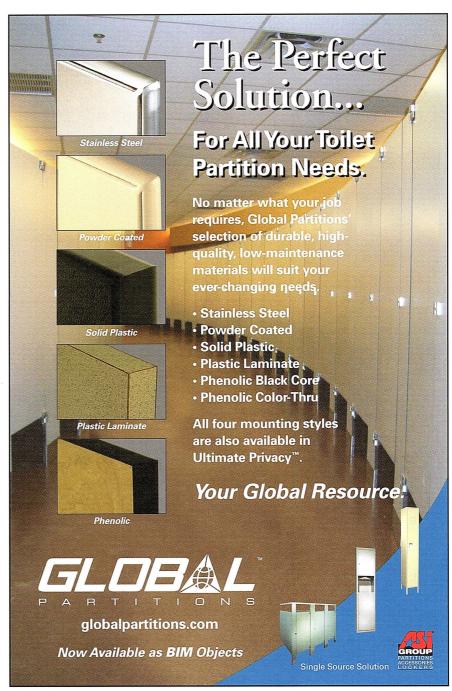
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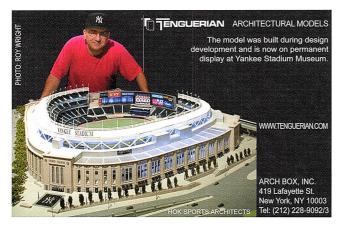
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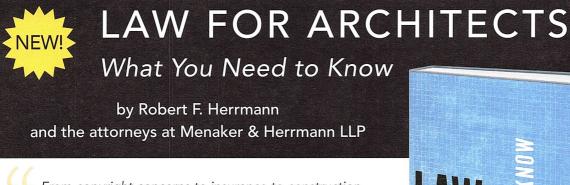
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Center Highlights



NYC's new "micro-unit" housing competition adAPT NYC was announced at the Center on July 9 by Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg (I-r): Housing Development Corporation President Marc Jahr; Mathew Wambua, Commissioner, NYC Department of Housing Preservation & Development; Robert LiMandri, Commissioner, NYC Department of Buildings; Bloomberg; Jerilyn Perine, Executive Director, Citizens Housing & Planning Council of New York; Amanda Burden, Hon. AIANY, Director, NYC Department of City Planning and Chair, City Planning Commission; Rick Bell, FAIA, Executive Director, AIANY; and Alexandros Washburn, Chief Urban Designer, NYC Department of City Planning.

During the AIANY Chapter's 145th Annual Meeting, Congressman Jerrold Nadler, U.S. Representative for New York's 28th District. presented 2012 AIANY President Joseph Aliotta, AIA, LEED AP, with the flag that flew over the Capitol during 2012 AIA Grassroots in Washington, DC.



AP; Gerald Bodziak, AIA;

Egervary (see pg. 36).

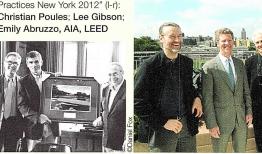
LEED AP; and Christopher

Following the Architects of Healing program and medal ceremony at the 2012 AIA Convention in May (I-r): Rick Bell, FAIA, AIANY Executive Director; Daniel Libeskind, AIA, Principal, Studio Daniel Libeskind; David Childs, FAIA, Consulting Design Partner, Skidmore, Owings & Merrill; and Joseph Aliotta, AIA, LEED AP, 2012 AIANY President.



At "The Harlem Edge | Cultivating Connections" exhibition opening in July (I-r): Venesa Alicea, AIA, LEED AP, 2013 AIA National Associates Committee Executive Board, Directorat-Large: ENYA Co-chairs Amanda Rivera, Assoc. AIA, and Brynnemarie Lanciotti. Assoc. AIA, with Michael Marrella, AICP, The Harlem Edge Juror and Director of Waterfront and Open Space Planning, NYC Department of City Planning (see pg. 39).

New Practices New York 2012 winners Abruzzo Bodziak Architects worked non-stop to install "Landscape (Triptych)" in the Center's storefront window as a part of the exhibit "New Practices New York 2012" (I-r): Christian Poules; Lee Gibson; Emily Abruzzo, AIA, LEED



First Annual AlANY Golf Outing Via Verde's ribbon-cutting ceremony in June in July at the Baltusrol Golf Club reunited U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Shaun Donovan, Hon. AIANY, with the project's architects (I-r): Robert President, Shehadi Commercial Garneau, AIA, Associate, Grimshaw Architects; Donovan; Richard Dattner, FAIA, Principal, Dattner Architects; and Vincent Chang, AIA, Partner, Grimshaw Architects.





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Honoree sketchers preparing for Guess-A-Sketch, the Foundation's first annual drawing competition (I-r): Charles Renfro, AIA; Robert M. Rogers, FAIA; Ronnette Riley, FAIA; and Hugh Hardy, FAIA, with CFAF Executive Director Jaime Endreny, and Master of Ceremonies Walter Hunt, FAIA. The event raised \$80,000 to support CFAF's built environment education programs for K-12 students, families, and the general public.

in Springfield, NJ (I-r): Rick

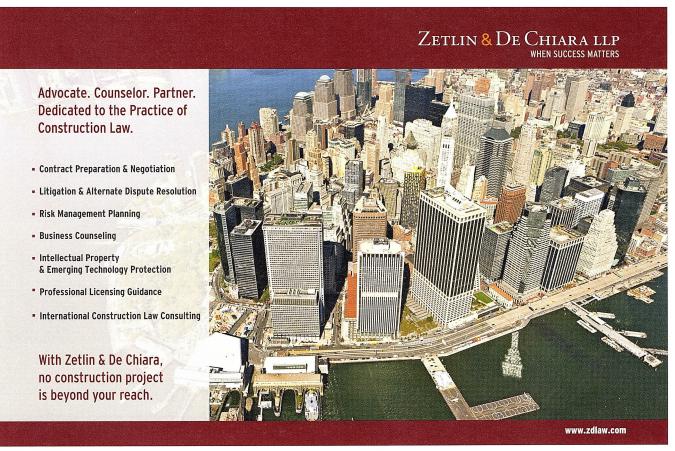
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Flooring; and Andy Frankl,

President, Ibex Construction

and AIANY Board Member.







Manhattanville Shuffle

A no-real-community-here might just become one

BY CLAIRE WILSON

h, the hue and cry when it was discovered that Columbia University had quietly begun purchasing property in Manhattanville, the Harlem neighborhood just north of its Morningside Heights campus. Choruses of "No to gentrification!" arose in many camps. "Dear Columbia, please no forced displacement," reads an enormous banner just east of 12th Avenue. And please, no seizure of property by eminent domain.

Fact is, the 17-acre, \$7-billion Columbia expansion project now under construction has displaced very little of the community. The immediate area was a mishmash of auto repair shops, furniture restoration businesses, storage warehouses, parking areas, and vacant lots, much of it cut off from the waterfront by Riverside Drive. The elegant viaduct was one of Manhattan-ville's few redeeming features – until Fairway Market arrived at 12th Avenue and 133rd Street.

"They're not losing food stores, housing, or medical offices," says Lance Jay Brown, FAIA, principal of Lance Jay Brown Architecture and Urban Design, chancellor of the College of Distinguished Professors of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA), and ACSA Distinguished Professor at CCNY's Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture. Displaced residents will be relocated to a new building that will provide low-income units, says Javier Carcamo, an architect and co-chair of the zoning and land use committee of Community Board 9.

Columbia's 17-acre chunk is pretty much all there is to Manhattanville, according to Carcamo. The argument therefore extends to preserving the adjacent West Harlem neighborhoods, like Broadway below 125th Street and north toward 145th Street. Protecting the stable (and improving) communities around the new buildings is key to making the whole work together. "We want to protect the neighborhood from overdevelopment," he says. "As zoned right now, we are at less than 50% of development rights and in danger of having developers come in and knock down 100-year-old brownstones."

The Manhattanville project will eventually include a science center (under construction) and a future arts center, both designed by Renzo Piano with Davis Brody Bond, along with a business school by Diller Scofidio + Renfro with FXFOWLE. It will create 14,000 construction jobs and 6,000 university jobs.

Independent of Columbia, the winds of change are already being felt in the area. West Harlem Piers Park, designed by W Architecture and Land-





(top left) Public access to the water in West Harlem Piers Park, designed by W Architecture and Landscape Architecture. (top right) Fairway Market is a popular spot with cyclists on the bike path in West Harlem Piers Park. (bottom) Upper-level seating area at the Hudson River Café.

"The park has changed the impression of the place so it has much more of an identity."

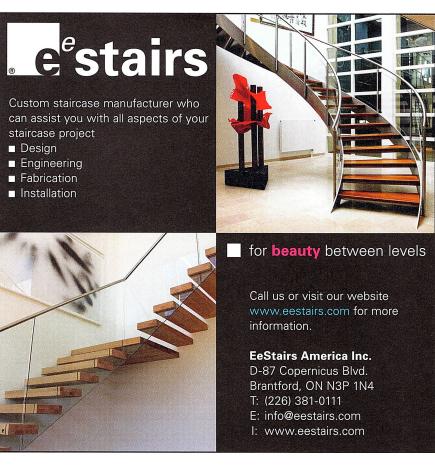
scape Architecture, opened two years ago on the waterfront where a parking lot once stood, and is a major magnet for cyclists, Fairway customers, and local residents. It has added much to the character of the neighborhood. "People considered it a scary place," says W Principal Barbara Wilks, FAIA, FASLA. "The park has changed the impression of the place so it has much more of an identity."

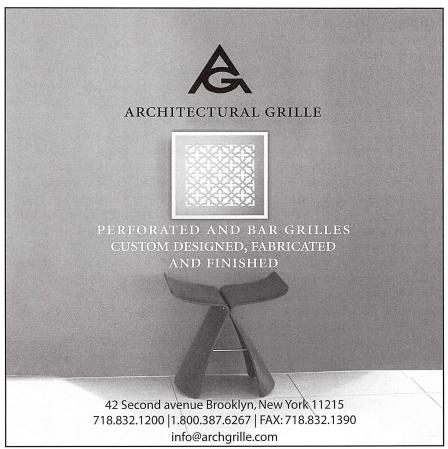
Restaurants including the Italian Covo Trattoria e Pizzeria, Dinosaur BBQ, and the Hudson River Café give the burgeoning scene an early Meatpacking District feel. The Mink Building, a former brewery turned cold storage facility, may be converted into a space for galleries and offices, and the site of the former Citarella gourmet retailer on 125th Street is slated to house a microbrewery and a restaurant.

Aileen Martinez, a barkeep at the Hudson River Café, thinks the Columbia project can only be a good thing. "It's great," she says. "We need a change."

Claire Wilson writes for the New York Times.







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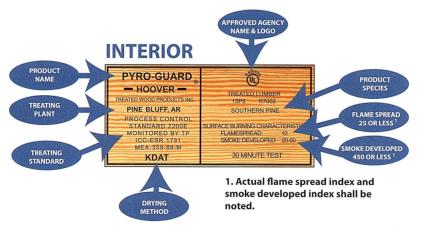
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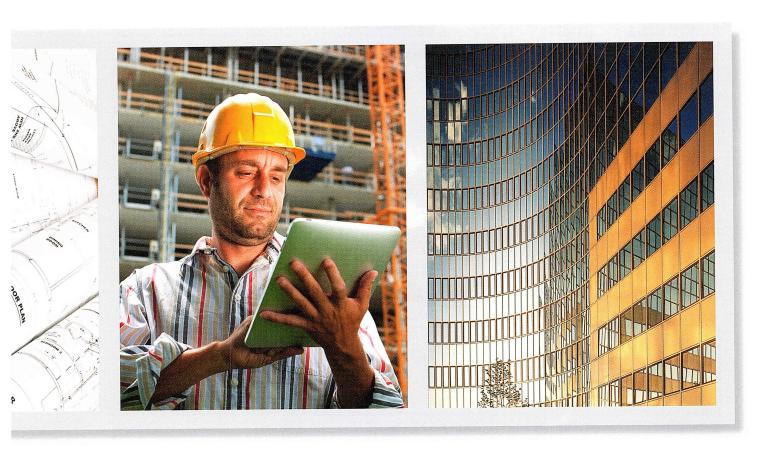


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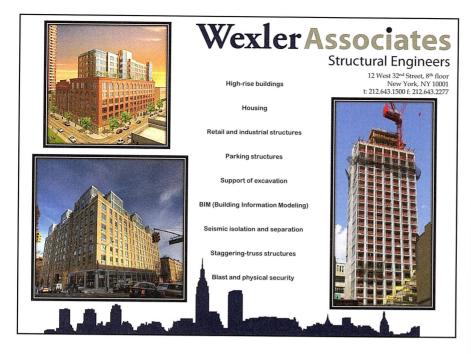


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The New Learning Landscape

BY UMBERTO DINDO, FAIA

A rchitecture can't provide a good education but it can certainly facilitate it, an AIANY Committee on Architecture for Education member once said. One may even question whether education needs a building at all. Open-air teachings are common in places where the climate allows it; indeed, momentous lessons by Buddha and Jesus took place under a tree. The Indian government recently declared it would provide \$10, two-gigabyte laptops for schoolchildren, making for a perfectly good education – under a Banji tree.

In our climate, however, we rely on buildings. School design has undergone a long evolution, starting with the one-room schoolhouse and progressing to today's complex learning landscapes. The most significant change in school design was brought about by educators who declared that teachers are more like facilitators of the learning process. Teachers and students do better in an open and collaborative setting. New spatial concepts have replaced the traditional teachercentered, closed-door classrooms with student-oriented clusters, multipurpose corridors, and community spaces.

Collaborative methods of learning have been around for centuries. They started in Switzerland with Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi, who in 1780 became the first applied educational psychologist. Pestalozzi's theories laid the groundwork for modern elementary education and led to the Kindergarten. He stressed the individuality of the child, learning by senses, and the necessity for teachers to be taught how to develop knowledge in the child rather than trying to implant it. His ideas found little sympathy, however. It wasn't until the early 20th century that his theories were further advanced by Rudolf Steiner, Maria Montessori, Reggio Children, and others, who also maintained that school and classroom sizes matter greatly the smaller, the better. Still, these methods were practiced mostly in private schools for the few and privileged. In 1923, Eduard Polak, the school superintendent of Amsterdam, introduced Montessori teaching methods and its functional and spatial concepts to that city's public school system. This radically changed school design and has kept

The Netherlands in the forefront of progressive school design ever since.

At the same time, some schools have also become community centers that provide social cohesiveness and identity. Ironically, the idea took off with the help of budget cutters, who discovered that it is cheaper to build one good school with shared community facilities than to build separate buildings. Such schools share their libraries, multipurpose gyms, auditoriums, and cafeterias - and some even include community health clinics. This partnership is mutually beneficial: the community gains access to improved amenities, and the school reinforces its identity as a multiuse community and education center. Budget cutters also welcomed clusters and corridor spaces that accommodate educational functions because they brought education and social interaction into circulation spaces with high space efficiency.

Dutch architect Herman Hertzberger, a leading proponent of progressive educational design, has shown how school architecture can be a stimulus to learning. He divides classrooms into two types: the "basic classroom" and the "articulated classroom." An unarticulated, rectangular classroom, he says, "lends itself best to instruction, the unidirectional transfer of knowledge that forms the basis of teacher-fronted lessons. This primitive paradigm gives teachers the ideal overview of their pupils. An articulated space, by contrast, provides more places for groups or individuals to engage in different activities simultaneously without being distracted by one other. There are several centers of attention, rather than just one."

The learning experience today embodies our entire environment, with the redefined classroom extending into multipurpose corridors, community spaces, and city streets. It's a landscape that stimulates all of our senses and intellect – and encourages lifelong learning.

Umberto Dindo, FAIA, is co-chair of the AIANY Committee on Architecture for Education together with Lazar Kesic, AIA, and serves as AIANY Secretary.



P.S 62 Richmond Net Zero school, Staten Island, designed by Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (pg. 30).

What's Inside

- 28 Oh, the Places We'll Go!
- 30 One Firm, Two Schools of Thought
- 32 Schools Made to Order
- 34 Expanding Architecture

 Beyond Form and Function
- 36 New Kids on the Boards
- 39 Real Solutions at Harlem's Edge





"Where we are – the places we occupy, however briefly – has everything to do with who we are."

- Edward S. Casey, Getting Back into Place: Toward a Renewed Understanding of the Place-World, 1993

o one entity can be held responsible for learning in a digital age – be it school, home, museum, grass-roots initiative, public library, online course, or Computer Clubhouse. Instead, educational offerings need to be diversified, customizable, and interconnected. The role of digital media and technologies is significant but in no way sufficient, and there is no telling where knowledge may be acquired or learning occur.

In the recent report *Digital Media and Technology in After-school Programs, Libraries, and Museums,* researchers Becky Herr-Stephenson, Diana Rhoten, Dan Perkel, and Christo Sims write that "digital media can offer opportunities for both self-directed and collaborative learning, can open access to informa-

tion that might not otherwise be accessible, and can allow for creative expression in new formats. However, in each of the organizational types...we have seen that the nontechnical aspects of youth programs – the location and context, the staff and peers – are essential to the function and success of youth organizations, even in the land of digital natives and the age of cyberlearning."

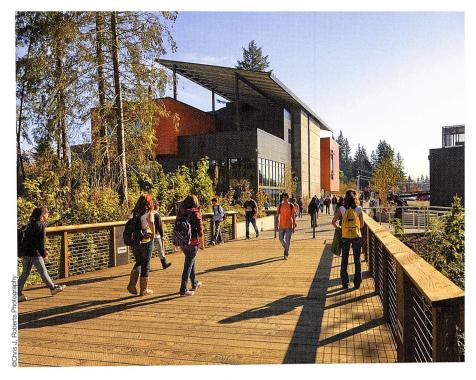
The authors conducted the research to better understand:

- How digital media can be used for learning within, between, and beyond educational initiatives, institutions, and programs.
- The educational needs and aspirations of the community at large (for lifelong learning and professional development, for example), and how that community utilizes – or could utilize – spaces and programs offered by schools, including school sports facilities, auditoriums, and kitchens.
- How schools can collaborate with institutions that offer educational programs, such as museums, libraries, computer clubs, and on-line communities.

One important finding, beyond the flurry of novel initiatives, is the hybridization of offerings, each with its own distinct character and designated physical or virtual space that learners can access and traverse using digital media.

The edgeless school?

The work of Russian psychologist and educator Lev Vygotsky and others in the sociocultural tradition reminds us that, while every child needs a place to call his or her own, it also "takes a whole village to raise a child." The classroom of the future will have to expand beyond its walls and let the outside in, or it won't be successful in preparing its students. Learning as a ubiquitous part of young lives was also addressed by American philosopher, psychologist, and educator John Dewey. In his 1907 lecture on "Waste in Education," Dewey pointed out the difficulty of separating school from everyday life and experience: "From the standpoint of the child, the great waste in the school comes from its inability to utilize the child's experiences outside the school in any complete and free way within the school itself; while, on the other hand, s/he is unable to apply in daily life what s/he is learning at school. When the child gets into the schoolroom he has to put out of his mind a large part of the ideas, interests, and activities that pre-



dominate in his home and neighborhood." More than ever, the challenge of schools – and the architects who build them – is to find ways to integrate the students' outside interests, cyberlearning, and new media literacy requirements with classroom practices that foster lifelong learning.

What is different today from previous generations is that many people belong to more than one community or "village," and that no one sticks to any one of these for very long. Instead, we live our lives "in between," moving across physical, virtual, and digital realms. We do so at an ever-faster pace and, more often than not, we go places without moving our physical bodies. These new forms of mobility, and the sense of "dematerialization" that comes with living our lives in between, call at once for stronger anchors and more flexible ties, for safe harbors and new routes.

More than ever, learning happens everywhere and all the time, hence the need to break down the barriers that separate what's taught in schools from the knowledge and experiences acquired through other means. That said, the school of the future, while "edgeless," can't be formless! The places where we live and learn are the grounds on which we stand and the springboards from where we leap. •

Edith K. Ackermann, Ph.D., is a developmental psychologist, a visiting scientist at the MIT School of Architecture, and senior research associate at the Harvard Graduate School of Design. She served as senior research consultant for "The Edgeless School: Designing for Education in the Digital Age" exhibition, currently on view at the Center for Architecture.

(above) Marysville Getchell High School Campus, Marysville, WA, designed by DLR Group (2010), feels more like a village than a school.

(opposite page, top) The East Harlem School, New York, NY, designed by Peter Gluck and Partners (2008), has classrooms that can be reconfigured to accommodate the changing needs of the school as its pedagogy evolves.

(opposite page, bottom)
Frank Sinatra School of the
Arts, Queens, NY, designed
by Ennead Architects (2009),
has ties to a wide range of
cultural institutions.

"More than ever, learning happens everywhere and all the time, hence the need to break down the barriers that separate what's taught in schools from the knowledge and experiences acquired through other means."

One Firm, Two Schools of Thought

Two new academic projects by Skidmore, Owings & Merrill reveal new directions in design for education BY BILL MILLARD

Though One World Trade Center is Skidmore, Owings & Merrill's best-publicized presence on the Manhattan skyline, the firm's quieter contributions reach the neighborhood-school level.

Staten Island's P.S. 62 is the Net Zero pilot project of the School Construction Authority (SCA), the city's first academic building to produce as much energy as it consumes. With a green K-5 curriculum using the building itself as a teaching tool, P.S. 62 is so transformative that it will come with an operator's manual.

Another SOM building is bringing change to The New School in Greenwich Village. For the first time since its founding in 1919, the institution will have a campus focus, a University Center combining academic, residential, library, performance, and social programs within a single "vertical campus." The building offers high performance and design innovations that strengthen The New School's interdisciplinary bonds.

P.S. 62: "sustainability lab"

This two-story, 444-seat structure on a 3.5-acre, L shaped site in Staten Island is a folded volume surrounding a central courtyard. "The net zero goal, site access, and scale of the neighborhood dictated the overall scale of our solution," says SOM Design Partner Roger Duffy, FAIA. Senior Designer Jon Cicconi, AIA, expects 40% of the students to walk or bike to school. The project will add sidewalks to the neighborhood, plus play areas, a walking path, bus drop-off, and staff parking.

Duffy credits Bruce Barrett, AIA, LEED AP, SCA's vice president for architecture and engineering, as "the real visionary, the one who convinced City Hall to move forward." Describing P.S. 62 as "a sustainability lab," Barrett hails her team's diligence in "splitting hairs to save even small bits of energy": 50% over standard schools. The Net Zero design approach maximized conventional passive and active sustainability strategies for the most energy-efficient building possible, before adding on-site renewable energy technologies.

The interior harvests daylight by offsetting the ground- and second-floor corridors and including open communicating stairs. Photovoltaic (PV) panels dominate the exterior with about 40,000 square feet of PV. They cover the roof, the south



P.S. 62 Richmond Net Zero School, Staten Island, NY CLIENT: New York City School Construction Authority SKIDMORE, OWINGS & MERRILL TEAM: Roger Duffy, FAIA, Anthony Vacchione, AIA, Christopher McCready, AIA, Jon Cicconi, AIA, Angelo Arzano, AIA, Carrie Moore, AIA sustainability: In:Posse R&D COLLABORATOR: Center for Architecture Science & Ecology MEP ENGINEER: AKF STRUCTURAL ENGINEER: Desimone Consulting Engineers CIVIL & TRAFFIC ENGINEER: Philip Habib & Associates GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEER: Langan Engineering & **Environmental Services** LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT: Mark K. Morrison Landscape LIGHTING DESIGN: Brandston Partnership signage: Pentagram ACOUSTICS/AV/INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY/SECURITY: Shen Milsom & Wilke THEATER DESIGN: Harvey Marshall Berling Associates CODE CONSULTANT: Design 2147 VERTICAL TRANSPORTATION: Van Deusen & Associates COST ESTIMATING: VJ Associates FOOD SERVICE: Hopkins

façade, and the teachers' parking lot. A demonstration wind turbine and stationary bicycles will also generate energy.

Classroom HVAC consists of tempered ventilation air, heated/cooled by hydronic induction displacement units, which provide clean conditioned air at the floor level that rises to the exhaust registers at the ceiling. The low air velocity also reduces noise and fan energy. Eighty geothermal wells support the HVAC functions.

Other conservation strategies include: a high-performance building envelope minimizing air infiltration via a vapor barrier; four inches of insulation; precast concrete panels anchored at foundation and roof to avoid penetrations and thermal bridging; south-facing clerestory glazing with an engineered fabric interlayer to cut heat gain; minimal glazing of 7% on east and west façades, 35% on north and south, reducing solar heat gain; and energy-efficient electric kitchen equipment.

The 50% energy savings, Duffy explains, is dependent on occupant behavior. Daily energy use displays will inform teachers, students, and staff about energy budgets and use. "Sustainability nodes" at the ends of the corridors will be dedicated to teaching about earth, wind, sun, and water.

SCA is responsible for some 1,400 school buildings citywide – 130 million square feet. Serving only the Department of Education, SCA leverages standardization to provide a consistent level of quality. SCA standards are continually evolving to keep up with current technologies while optimizing

30 Oculus Fall 2012 Learning Curve

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cost-effectiveness. On P.S. 62, "there were almost 100 non-standard items proposed," notes SCA Design Manager Bernard Forte, "and we approved more than half of them." The SCA is reviewing these new ideas for potential inclusion in the standards for new school design.

University Center: "marriage of need and location"

The New School lacks a traditional campus, organized around a quad or a park. "It's grown backwards," comments Vice President for Design, Construction, and Facilities Management Lia Gartner, FAIA, LEED AP. The school's graduate and continuing-education programs expanded before its undergraduate component. It's "an aggregation of institutions," in Duffy's description, with its components distributed widely enough that their center of gravity is hard to identify.

The University Center not only accommodates the institution's expansion but gives it a fulcrum. It includes 600 residential beds on the upper nine floors, and academic and other program areas on the lower seven and in the cellar. The plan, Gartner recounts, evolved into a 16-story, 375,000-square-foot as-of-right project that has proceeded with extensive community consultation and little public friction.

Gartner calls the vertical-campus typology "the marriage of a need and a location. We love that

(opposite page) P.S. 62 Richmond Net Zero School, Staten Island. (left) The New School University Center at 14th Street and Fifth Avenue. (below) The University Center's fourth-floor lounge with the signature stairway that cleverly includes an enclosed fire stair underneath.

we're on city streets, and we consider the whole city our campus, but we don't own spaces, so the new building is to provide public space akin to campus quadrangles." Since students' circulation on a bell schedule becomes awkward once vertical spaces require elevators, she adds, "there's a point beyond which it's very difficult to have an academic building, so it made sense for the upper region to be residential."

The University Center foregrounds its circulation with three transparent staircases. "One mandate we gave the architects was to reinvent the fire stair," Gartner recalls. "They're more comfortable fireman's poles." SOM devised what she calls a "sandwich of stairs': an open stair riding on top of an enclosed fire stair." The landings invite casual interactions while providing views. "Interesting people have gone through The New School and influenced the world," Duffy says, so SOM wanted to "showcase the energy of the institution and the organization of this building, turning it inside out."

Lower floors, he explains, achieve program flexibility with a structural bay 30 feet wide east to west, allowing north-south movement of interior walls for reconfiguration. Lighting and HVAC systems are organized so that infrastructure does not impede restructuring. Loftlike spaces can serve as design studios, classrooms, or computer labs, with program adjacencies fostering interdisciplinary work; the 800-seat auditorium stage is retractable. Continual realignment, Duffy says, reflects The New School's nature: "It's what they're about. Everything's very provisional."

The library, on the top two academic floors, has pride of place, located at a central setback point. It, too, is unconventional: a collection of workspaces conducive to collaborative study, "as much a social space as a book repository," says Gartner.

"This building is open," Duffy says, "and it's engaged with the city." Its materials, particularly the mottled-brown brass shingling, patinated to maintain color continuity, harmonize with nearby brownstones and connote industrial durability, while its transparency emphasizes the school's ideals. Opening in fall 2013, the University Center will have at least a LEED Gold rating and a 29.6% reduction in energy use from 2007 ASHRAE 90.1 requirements.

SOM's projects demonstrate that world-class architectural expertise isn't out of reach – it's reaching out.

Bill Millard is a freelance writer and editor whose work has appeared in *Oculus*, *Architect*, *Icon*, *Content*, *The Architect's Newspaper*, *LEAF Review*, and other publications.

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DEVELOPER:
The Durst Organization
SKIDMORE, OWINGS & MERRILL
TEAM: Roger Duffy, FAIA,
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RESIDENTIAL ARCHITECT:

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MEP ENGINEER: Cosentini Associates STRUCTURAL ENGINEER: DeSimone Consulting Engineers CIVIL ENGINEER: Langan Environmental & Engineering Services LIGHTING: Brandston Partnership LEED CONSULTANT; ENERGY модеціма: Buro Happold NYSERDA CONSULTANT: **ADS Engineers** INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY/ AUDIOVISUAL/SECURITY: Shen Milsom & Wilke

VERTICAL TRANSPORTATION: Van Deusen Associates COMMISSIONING: Fulcrum BLACKWATER SYSTEM: Alliance Environmental ACOUSTICS: Cerami Associates FOOD SERVICE: Cini Little FACADE MAINTENANCE: Entek THEATER: Fisher Dachs Associates CODE CONSULTING & **EXPEDITOR:** Milrose Integral Reudi Baur Paris SCHEDULE & COST MANAGEMENT: ProjectConsult



Schools Made to Order

A focus on flexibility provides ideal learning environments for two vastly different kinds of students

BY CLAIRE WILSON

his is a tale of two schools: the Blue School in Manhattan, and REED Academy in Oakland, New Jersey. Blue School is cutting edge, private, and geared to bright students. It is located in a downtown building that the Rockwell Group adapted to its progressive education methods. REED, an acronym for Resources for Effective Educational Development, is private, non-profit, innovative, and housed in a new, purpose-built structure in an industrial area. It was designed by WXY Architecture + Urban Design to meet the unique needs of 32 autistic students.

Different students, different settings, one thing in common: an environment in which each individual can learn at his or her own pace. As REED President Rick Klinenberg puts it, "It's like having 32 kids and 32 different classrooms."

REED Academy, founded in 2003, does not have 32 actual classrooms, but is a composite of multiple flexible spaces designed to teach academics as well as life skills that challenge people with autism. These include bathing, cleaning, cooking, going to the dentist, and getting a haircut. The building had to accommodate all these different functions while remaining simple. "Parts look like people's houses, and parts look like a normal suburban school so students can feel like they are in a school," says WXY Principal Claire Weisz, AIA. "But most of what's done here happens outside a regular classroom."

The A-shaped, 25,300-square-foot, single-story building starts out cozy and then goes grand, according to Weisz. The main entrance is intimate,

drawing visitors inside from a large parking lot to a central common room with bright, high ceilings and an open feel. Whimsical eyebrow dormers let light flow in for much of the day, an amenity that is part of a sustainability agenda throughout the project. "We wanted to create as much natural light as possible," Weisz explains.

That bright common room at the center is the main gathering place, a focus of the program in which interaction among youngsters is of prime importance. Students are as young as 3, and can remain matriculated until they're 21, all learning at a different pace. They learn from each other and from individual instructors at REED, where the student/teacher ratio is one-to-one.

Classrooms along the outer walls of the main corridors of each leg of the building are scattered among the instruction areas dedicated to life skills, and are likewise awash in light. Life-skills rooms are equipped with elaborate kitchens, mock apartments, laundry facilities, barber chairs, high-tech dentist chairs, lockers, showers, and hotel suites

for students who might later train as maids, for example. "The goal is to provide experiences that the kids can use their entire life," notes Jill Nadison, REED executive director.

Sixteen small alcoves Weisz calls "learning kiosks" run along the inside of the main corridors, divided between the outer peripheries of the common room, with others facing out over a rear courtyard. Some have designated uses, like a children's library or a student store kiosk where students practice shopping. Others can be used as needed for watching videos, reading, or working on electronic devices.

Materials, like low-VOC flooring and carpets, were chosen to be as healthful as possible in spite of a tight budget. According to Weisz, a little ingenuity made the school "look unique using standard materials," such as combining conventional bowstring trusses and sawtooth skylights to create the shell-like roof.

The surrounding landscape, by Starr White-house Landscape Architects and Planners, includes walking and biking paths and a garden that visually mimic the mainstream institutions to which many students will transition. "It looks close enough to the kind of one-story school any municipality would build," Weisz says.

The Blue School isn't blue at all. It takes its name from three of its founders, who were part of the original Blue Man Group – Matt Goldman, Chris Wink, and Philip Stanton – and their wives, Renee Rolleri, Jen Wink, and Jennifer Lamberts Stanton. Together they were so frustrated by the conventional educational options for their children that they started their own school in 2006.

In 2011 they acquired the six-story, 33,000-square-foot former Seamen's Church Institute, designed by Ennead Architects, then Polshek Partners, in 1991. A chance meeting with David





Rockwell, AIA, founding principal of Rockwell Group, and Blue School had its designer. The brief: transform the vertical building into a place for "playful learning," whose curriculum was based on the very latest neuroscience research.

Barry Richards, a principal and studio leader at Rockwell Group, notes that the project was about adapting an existing space, albeit one that was unusual for a school. "I can't claim it is big design," he says. "We create the space that allows the children to follow their passion and see those interests develop."

Students currently range from age 2 to grade four, with grade five expected to be added next year. They circulate freely around the building, in which movable partitions are key to providing flexible spaces. A first-floor chapel has been converted to a small gym, and the second-floor dining area is now a lunch- and meeting room. The third floor features a library, the fourth is for larger (but still kid-scale) building projects, the fifth has a science center, and the sixth an art studio. The building also has 4,500 square feet of outdoor space.

A lot of materials were donated. Rockwell Group dug into its storeroom and came up with bean-bag chairs from a pop-up restaurant, a Brazilian mahogany bench, and craft supplies. Others contributed tiles. Shoe cubbies were made from plastic tubes, and there were some very creative takes on items from the McMaster-Carr catalogue of industrial hardware, according to Richards.

The success of the space will be judged by how well it evolves going forward, kind of like a child's brain. It was not meant to be anything permanent. "Three years from now we might not be looking at our design," says Richards. "We didn't want to be the designer imposing something, but to create something that offered open-ended flexible support."

Claire Wilson writes for the New York Times.

(opposite page) REED Academy, by WXY Architecture + Urban Design (this page) Blue School, by Rockwell Group

PROJECT: REED Academy
ARCHITECT: WXY Architecture
+ Urban Design
PROJECT TEAM: Claire Weisz,
AIA, Mark Yoes, AIA, LEED
AP, George Layng Pew, AIA,
Alan Tse, Justus Asselmeyer
CIVIL ENGINEER:
McNally Engineers
STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:
Old Structures Engineering
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT:
Starr Whitehouse Landscape
Architects and Planners

PROJECT: Blue School ARCHITECT: Rockwell Group project team: David Rockwell, AIA, Barry Richards, Michael Fischer, Linda Casper, Ray Chuang, Helen Davies, Caroline Kim, Lawrence Shen, Sue Stein, Shunvi Wu CONSTRUCTION MANAGER: Yorke Construction Corporation MEP ENGINEER: P.A. Collins, PE STRUCTURAL ENGINEER: Rodney Gibble Consulting Engineers FIRE CODE CONSULTANT: Fire and Building Code Services DOB EXPEDITOR: William Vitacco Associates ARCHITECTURAL LIGHTING: Rockwell Group HISTORIC PRESERVATION: Higgens Quasebarth & Partners GRAPHICS/WAYFINDING: Dale Travis Associates



Expanding Architecture Beyond Form and Function

How Parsons The New School for Design is redesigning its curriculum and practices to prepare students for complex design challenges of the future

BY WILLIAM R. MORRISH

limate change, sustainability, global recession, high-speed communication, urbanization, digital technology, and social responsibility are just a few of the issues facing architects today. Preparing students to become active and engaged "citizen designers" is a common challenge for architecture schools around the world, and Parsons and its university, The New School, are no exception. We are redesigning our institutional structure, research agenda, and curriculum to focus on educating students who can produce the new knowledge necessary to shape our global urban future.

Architecture practice today is a complex set of challenges. We have a unique role to play in bringing about change in communities, and at the heart of this change is an emerging realization that the traditional design axiom of form and function has been radically altered by new social and ecological demands. Architecture needs to be not just figured

(above) Students from Parsons, the Milano School for International Affairs, Management and Urban Policy at The New School, and Stevens Institute of Technology constructed Empowerhouse on the National Mall for the 2011 Solar Decathlon.

footprints on a city map, but critical actors in urban systems. It needs to define and generate new values and knowledge and become a catalyst in the making of creative civil society.

Architects have never worked in isolation, but we need to get better at what we do by understanding these interconnections more deeply. The School of Constructed Environments at Parsons brings together programs in architecture, interior design, lighting design, and product design, while explicitly utilizing resources from the larger art and design school and the entire university. Students interact with fine artists, interactive designers, service designers, urban policy analysts, community organizers, anthropologists, performing artists, and many other specialists. The educational challenge is to find ways to capture the information generated through interaction, and translate it into new knowledge that will improve our capacity to solve future complex design problems.

In the coming years, Parsons will be rolling out new curricular enhancements that will reflect this philosophy. New thematics will bring together a number of disciplines to tackle complex problems like sustainability, bringing to light the many facets of the issue, from data-driven science to the impact of human behavior. We are seeking to train architects to become social entrepreneurs and to design building systems that have a larger impact on communities.

Real-world impact

One of our most successful recent examples of this interplay was the Parsons entry for the 2011 Solar Decathlon. Parsons partnered with its sister school, the Milano School for International Affairs, Management and Urban Policy at The New School, and Stevens Institute of Technology, to create a new model for sustainable, affordable housing. From the outset, we determined that the house we designed for the competition would not only be an exhibition model displayed on the National Mall in Washington, DC, but real housing for urban communities that could be replicable and scalable. (See *Oculus*, Spring 2011: "It Takes More Than a Village.")

Our goals were embraced by the Washington, DC, government and the local chapter of Habitat for Humanity. We won the affordability award at the competition, and the house is now home for two families in Washington. It is the first Passive House in the district, set to change environmental policies on the local and, we hope, national level. This spring we will begin another sustainability

project that focuses on wood construction, working with the local chapter of Habitat for Humanity in Philadelphia.

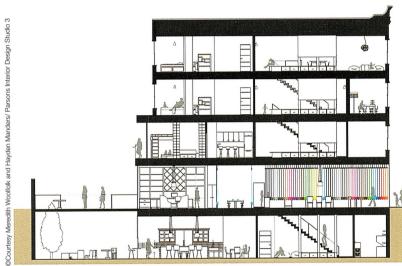
Led by Laura Briggs, former chair of Sustainable Architecture at Parsons and founding partner of BriggsKnowles Architecture+Design, and an interdisciplinary faculty team, the Solar Decathlon project is extraordinary not only for its real-world impact, but also as a carefully orchestrated interplay among a wide range of disciplines. It brought together students and faculty in engineering, architecture, urban policy, communication design, product design, interactive design, lighting design, and fashion design - often in the same room and around the same table. It required our students to rethink their approach to design; for example, while architecture and interior design students designed elements of the house, engineering students showed them the environmental impact of their choices.

Problem-solving through partnerships

Community-focused design is nothing new at Parsons. Over a decade ago we established the Parsons Design Workshop, a design-build program for non-profit organizations. It has become a signature studio of our Master of Architecture program, and is led by Alfred Zollinger, an assistant professor at Parsons and co-principal of Matter Practice. Students spend the spring semester collaborating on design concepts to present to clients, and narrowing the choices down to a final design; the summer is spent in the field, constructing the projects. The past two years we have worked with New York City Parks & Recreation to improve a recreation center and pool in Highbridge Park in Washington Heights. The primary goal of the project is to enable year-round recreation activities at the park. Previously the recreation center had to shut down in summer to provide changing and locker room facilities for pool visitors. Students designed a new locker and changing facility called "Splash House" and also renovated the recreation center.

To foster these types of partnerships, we will make community design a strong thematic in our undergraduate Architectural Design and Interior Design curriculum. A current example is an Interior Design studio led the past three years by architect and urbanist Gabriela Rendón. Titled Housing the Social: Re-adapting Vacant Spaces, the studio aims to position interior design as a practice significant not only within the architecture realm, but also in responding to social, economic, and political issues in the city. Students focus on the re-





habilitation of underutilized and vacant properties and the development of new working and living spaces for low-income families, exploring alternative housing models and community spaces.

The evolution of our curriculum will also play out on our physical campus. In addition to The New School's new University Center by Skidmore, Owings & Merrill [see pg. 30], we are also finding ways of creating more interactive workspaces in our existing facilities, with shared resources across the disciplines. We want our physical spaces to become places of constant intersection, and are digging deep to make this goal an integral part of our teaching and practice.

William R. Morrish is a professor of Urban Ecologies and former dean of the School of Constructed Environments at Parsons The New School for Design. He is a nationally recognized urban designer whose practice encompasses interdisciplinary research and educational programs exploring integrated design.

(above top) The Parsons
Design Workshop designed
and constructed "Splash
House," a new pavilion for
the Highbridge Pool and
Recreation Center, a WPA-era
bathhouse in Washington
Heights.

(above bottom) An undergraduate Interior Design studio, Housing the Social: Re-adapting Vacant Spaces, looked at transforming a vacant building in Bushwick, Brooklyn, into a mixed-use retail and residential space with permanent and transitory housing for homeless mothers and their children.



New Kids on the Boards

Relentless, transformative, collaborative are apt descriptions of the seven winners of this year's New Practices New York competition

BY LINDA G. MILLER

All had to be located within the five boroughs and founded since 2006. From 51 entries, these seven rose above to be named winners of the 2012 New Practices New York (NPNY) competition for their innovative, forward-thinking portfolios.

This year's jury included Stan Allen, FAIA, principal, Stan Allen Architect; 2010 New Practices winner Kit von Dalwig, AIA, principal, Manifold; William Menking, editor-in-chief, *The Architect's Newspaper*; Mahadev Raman, P.E., chairman, Arup Americas; and Billie Tsien, AIA, principal, Tod Williams Billie Tsien Architects. This year's New Practices Committee co-chairs are Marc Clemenceau Bailly, AIA, of Gage/Clemenceau Architects, a 2006 NPNY winner, and Philipp von Dalwig, Assoc. AIA, of Manifold.

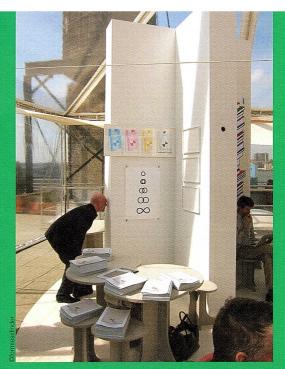
Abruzzo Bodziak Architects BROOKLYN, NY

Emily Abruzzo, LEED AP Gerald Bodziak, AIA, LEED AP www.abruzzo-bodziak.com Established 2009

Taking first place in a competition among the 2012 NPNY winners, the firm designed the installation showcased in the Center for Architecture's doubleheight window for the duration of the 2012 NPNY exhibition. The firm describes itself as "relentless," a term apropos to this project, which entailed an extensive exploration of materials and engineering possibilities. "The last three years have seen such drastic shifts in our profession," says Emily Abruzzo, AIA, LEED AP, "that it hardly seems possible to predict what's on the horizon. What we do see are new ways of making projects happen, different ways of defining a client, and non-linear paths of growth and development." For the immediate future, the firm is awaiting the ground-breaking for the East New York Greenhouse, a modular structure that is part of a series of greenhouses and urban farming projects in vacant lots (see Oculus, Fall 2011: "A Giant, Hardly Sleeping: Pro Bono Sector").

Christian Wassmann

to achieve the best results we experiment with the 2012 INDEPENDENT art fair, which included Café Kristall adjacent to the Swarovski Crystallized



formlessfinder BROOKLYN, NY Established 2010

Garrett Ricciardi www.formlessfinder.com

The firm formlessfinder compares its operations to those of a search engine - fluidly analyzing a wide range of inputs and producing diverse outputs. The range of explorations are best illustrated by two recent projects: "Bag Pile," on the short list for the 2011 MoMA/P.S.1 Young Architects Program, and "Load Test," a research-based project that shows that ideas can be buildable and, simultaneously, make theoretical contributions to the discipline. "We like architecture and want to be experts in architecture," says Garrett Ricciardi. "Architects today seem to want to be experts in something else - art, computation, ecology, biology, sociology." Adds Julian Rose: "There is a real value of owning the name architect."

(above) formlessfinder: "Load Test" explores replacing typical architectural materials with raw matter. Instead of concrete or steel columns, a building is held up by piles of rocks, sand, asphalt, and

(right) HOLLER architecture: Made of locally grown, sustainable materials, the Nosara Recycling Center in Costa Rica includes a sorting facility, an open lobby featuring a wall made of upcycled aluminum cans, and a landscaped seating area.



favorite project is the Nosara Recycling Center," currently under construction in Costa Rica, which began as an NYIT student design-build competition. The LIRR Long Island Radically Rezoned research project, also with NYIT, envisions sharing resources across boundary lines and applying closed-loop principles on a macro scale. These projects, as well as a Passive House planned for Long Island and designed to be affordable, illustrate the range of sustainability issues the firm handles and how it uses environmental performance to generate architectural form.

HOLLER architecture

BROOKLYN, NY

Tobias Holler, LEED AP www.hollerarchitecture.com Established 2010

"The most exciting project at any given time is always the project that is under construction," says Tobias Holler, LEED AP. "So at the moment, my

The Living NEW YORK, NY

David Benjamin, AIA www.thelivingnewyork.com Established 2006

"The burning question is not about what I call myself, but about what our city should look like," says David Benjamin, AIA, "The city is the ultimate ecosystem and influences the way we see everything." His practice explores new technologies and the future of architecture through design and construction. One recent example is a storefront made completely of salvaged building materials in Gowanus. "Amphibious Architecture," created from interactive tubes that house a range of sensors below water and an array of lights above, floats at sites in New York waterways, offering a real-time interface with the complex ecosystem of the city. "Living Light" is a canopy situated in a public park in Seoul that uses light to display realtime readouts of air quality in the city. The practice's research in biocomputation, new materials, and 3-D printing has led to a long-term collaboration on the design of the Airbus of the future.





(top) The Living: "Living Light" is made up of panels that measure air quality in Seoul's

(bottom) SLO Architecture: Stymied by the bad weather on the Bronx River, the 24-foot-diameter, light-gauge "Harvest Dome" beached on Rikers Island, never making it to its intended Inwood Hill

Marc Fornes & THEVERYMANY

BROOKLYN, NY

Marc Fornes, Architecte D.P.L.G www.theverymany.com

The firm is known for designing and constructing prototypical installations, such as a pop-up store for the jeweler Irene Neuwirth, and a finalist entry in the 2010 Sukkah City design competition. Currently, Fornes is working in residency at the Atelier Calder in France. •

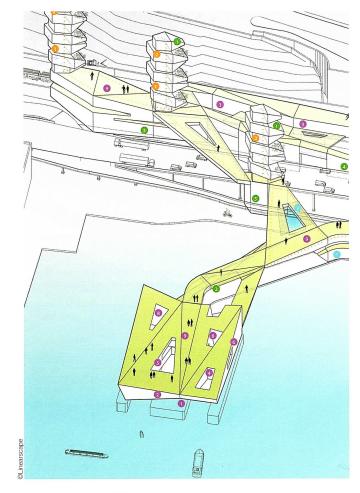
Linda G. Miller is a New York City-based freelance writer

SLO Architecture

NEW YORK, NY

Amanda Schachter Alexander Levi, AIA www.sloarchitecture.com

"We feel the potential in the present and future is i you can see the potential," says Amanda Schachter So what began as an investigation of the Bronx River Watershed produced a 1:87 scale model that was floated down the Bronx River, accompanied by canoes filled with students who worked on the project. That segued into the physical revelation of the city's accumulated waterborne debris in the form of the "Harvest Dome," a work of public art composed of trashed umbrellas and tossed plastic bottles. The practice is currently working on the Bronx River Right-of-Way, a project to transform and repurpose a derelict train station designed by Cass Gilbert. "While each project we create seems completely different," says Alexander Levi, AIA, "their roots and branches intertwine."



Real Solutions at Harlem's Edge

The winners of the biennial ENYA design competition offer solutions with far-ranging possibilities

BY JESSICA SHERIDAN, ASSOC. AIA, LEED AP BD+C

Here's something wrong with the world today," sings
Aerosmith's Steven Tyler in "Living on the Edge," a song invoked by an Italian team that entered this year's AIANY
Emerging New York Architects Committee (ENYA) design ideas competition. The Harlem Edge | Cultivating Connections is the committee's fifth biennial competition, and as part of the 2012
"Future Now!" Presidential Theme, ENYA looked for solutions that would improve the future of the city as a whole and perhaps make a positive impact on the world.

Staying true to this design ideas competition tradition, ENYA worked closely with the local community to develop a program, presenting and receiving feedback at Community Board 9 meetings (one ENYA member also sits on CB9). Nourishing USA served as the hypothetical client, and the organization – established in Harlem before expanding nationwide – helped steer the parti to promote healthy lifestyle choices and increase access to nutritious food. For the site selection, committee members took advantage of an underutilized site that could dovetail with

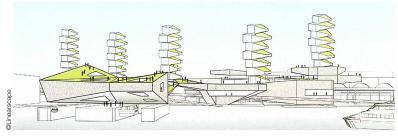
recent efforts by NYC agencies to reclaim the waterfront for non-industrial uses, including the Department of City Planning's "Vision 2020, the Comprehensive Waterfront Action Plan for New York City." When committee members heard of discussions to develop the 135th Street Marine Transfer Station, they decided to make it their site.

Perhaps more so than in previous years, entrants proffered solutions that could be feasible in the future. The ENYA Prizewinning entry "Sym'bio'pia" explores ways to create a truly sustainable community – a prototype that could be applied in cities throughout the world. New York- and Shanghai-based Linearscape proposes a series of towers connected by a land-scape that bridges the 70-foot elevation change from 135th Street to the water's edge. Each tower contains offices and urban farms, called "growing arenas," that would have a symbiotic relationship with one another. Plants would filter brown water that would then be used to grow edible plants. Compost would be an energy source to help power the buildings. Ultimately, the interior farms would support existing community gardens, grocery stores, restaurants, and local parks.

With both teams hailing from Brooklyn, the second-place "The Hudson Exchange," by Eliza Higgins, Cyrus Patell, Chris Starkey, and Andrea Vittandini, and third-place "Harlem Harvest," by Ryan Doyle, LEED AP, Guido Elgueta, and Tyler Caine, LEED AP, focused on the fact that, despite the many farms in upstate New York, 80% of the food grown is exported outside the state. "The Hudson Exchange" proposes using barges for mass transit, as vehicles for food delivery, and as gathering spaces for the community. Through experimental gardens, the project encourages a multigenerational exchange among Columbia University students, community members, upstate farmers, and local gardeners. "Harlem Harvest" proposes a series of barges that would deliver food to an on-site market and bring visitors to the upstate farms. A new relationship would be born by creating a physical connection between farmers, farms, the city, and the Harlem community.

The Harlem Edge competition shows that emerging architects and designers are proposing real solutions to existing problems in the city and beyond. Their conviction is strong – Linearscape has begun to shop out the proposal to potential developers – and their new energy is invigorating the city.

Jessica Sheridan, Assoc. AIA, LEED AP BD+C, is a project manager at Gensler and the associate director on the AIA NY Chapter Board of Directors.



(above and top) "Sym'bio'pia" by Linearscape took the \$5,000 ENYA Prize.

Raves + Reviews by stanley stark, faia

The Future of Architecture Since 1889

By Jean-Louis Cohen

This substantial and comprehensive volume is a thematically organized historic and critical narrative of 20th- and early 21st-century architecture and planning. It is supplemented by explorations of the byways and back roads of design that have eluded critical attention, such as the drive to memorialize the fallen of World War I, and the emergence of Modern architecture as a global phenomenon between the wars and after World War II. Just as no one voice can define the future, no singular viewpoint can explain the past.

Cohen, an art historian, architect, and professor at NYU's Institute of Fine Arts, casts his net wide. He delves into architecture, art, planning, engineering, theory, social dynamics, and popular culture to explain how Modern design grew, what it grew into, and how it was disseminated. While acknowledging the "Great Men" view of Modern architecture history organized around masters like Gropius, Mies, Corbusier, and Wright, Cohen recognizes that Modern design has a more fragmented and richer history.

The book spans from 1889 (the date of the Paris International Exposition and a convenient marker for the emergence of Modernism) to the first decade of the 21st century. It is rich, vital, and worthy of standing beside Gideon and Frampton on your shelf.

Aalto and America

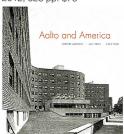
Edited by Stanford Anderson, Gail Fenske, and David Fixler

This collection of essays reflects the appreciation that a new generation of critics and historians has for Alvar Aalto's work and influence in America. While Aalto is an acknowledged master of 20thcentury architecture, he occupies an anomalous position. He bridged styles and ideologies, yet continued to display influential, revolutionary work that united the rigor of functionalism; sensitivity to the particularities of place, context, and materials; and a deep understanding of human social and psychological needs.

Essay contributors illuminate the relationships Aalto was able to foster that enabled him to perform significant work in America. He first achieved considerable public recognition for the design of the Finnish Pavilion at the 1939 World's



London: Phaidon Press, 2012, 528 pp. \$75



New Haven: Yale University Press, 2012, 340 pp. \$75



New York: W.W. Norton/ Library of Congress, 2012, 336 pp. \$75



Schlepping Through Through Ambivalence Essays on an American Architectural Condition Stanley Tigerman

New Haven: Yale University Press, 2011, 192 pp. \$45



New York: AIANY Emerging New York Architects Committee, 2012, 77 pp. \$15

Fair in New York. The book then examines his other important projects, notably Baker House at MIT, and how his influence on post-war American designers grew. The essayists also address the reciprocal effect that America had on Aalto.

As editors and authors, Anderson, Fenske, and Fixler have done an excellent job of organizing the broad spectrum of viewpoints and insights represented in this collection. Together they present a coherent picture of Aalto and how his work continues to inspire us.

Noted but Not Reviewed

The Mythic Modern: Architectural Expeditions into the Spirit of Place

By Travis Price

Price's record of projects conducted with his students from Catholic University over a period of 20 years in settings around the globe, alien to Postmodern cosmopolitan cities and suburbs. Minimal in scale and artisanal and elegant in design, the projects attempt to connect to or highlight something about the nature of the place in which they are built.

Schlepping Through Ambivalence: Essays on an American Architectural Condition

By Stanley Tigerman, ed. by Emmanuel Petit Essays by the iconoclastic architect, teacher, theorist, and critic on Chicago, the state of design, his contemporaries, and the profession.

The Harlem Edge | Cultivating Connections 2012 Biennial Ideas Competition

Edited by AIANY Emerging New York Architects Committee

The competition catalogue highlights 24 entries, including the winning designs [see pg. 39].

Stanley Stark, FAIA, is director of strategic planning at Vanguard Construction and Development Co., Inc. He served as chair of the Oculus Committee from 2005 to 2007.

Learning Curve Oculus Fall 2012

A pioneering example

of Modernism in New York is the 1931 New School for Social Research building by Joseph Urban

BY JOHN MORRIS DIXON, FAIA

ounded in 1919, the innovative New School for Social Research spent its early years in adapted townhouses. When ready to erect a structure of its own, the institution wanted advanced architecture in line with its avant-garde program. So its 1931 home on West 12th Street became, arguably, the first example of Modernism in Manhattan.

"Arguably" because The New School is often classified as Art Moderne, that dawn-of-Modernism mode born in 1920s Paris. The first edition of the AIA Guide to New York City (1967) indicates that The New School is an example of Modernism, but the latest edition (2010) calls it "Art Deco/Art Moderne." This stylistic indecision is somewhat explained in the 1987 compendium New York 1930, by Robert A.M. Stern, FAIA, Gregory F. Gilmartin, and Thomas Mellins. They quote Philip Johnson, FAIA, then pursuing his initial career as critic and curator, writing that the building rated "critical comparison with modern architecture in Europe," but "closer inspection suggests...the illusion of a building in the International Style rather than a building resulting from a genuine application of new principles."

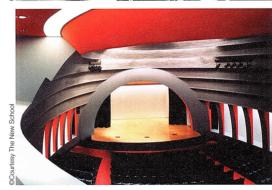
The New School's commitment to even the "illusion" of Modernism relates to its forward-focused mission: "to create a new model of higher education for adults" where men and women "could learn from and exchange ideas freely with scholars and artists representing a wide range of intellectual, aesthetic, and political orientations."

The choice of Joseph Urban as the architect was an unlikely one. Urban, who had started his career among the Viennese Secessionists, became well known in Europe for stage design. Arriving in the U.S. in 1911 as the artistic director of the Boston Opera, he grew famous as the designer of spectacular productions for clients such as the Metropolitan Opera and the Ziegfeld Follies. When, in the mid-1920s, he began to get substantial architectural commissions, he took a distinctly theatrical approach to them. Among his exuberantly ornamented works were the 1926 Mar-a-Lago estate in Palm Beach, the 1927 Ziegfeld Theater (demolished in 1966), and the 1928 Hearst publishing head-quarters, now the podium for Foster + Partners' 2005 office tower.

Urban obviously had to take a more sober approach to The New School design, and he did, up to a point. The eight-story façade is striking mainly for its severity, with its bands of ribbon windows alternating with spandrels striped in buff and black brick. But its principal interior space, the auditorium, displays Urban's more dramatic, Expressionist bent. It reiterates the novel egg-shaped concept he'd used in the Ziegfeld Theater and an unbuilt proposal for the Met. The acoustical drawbacks of this shape were dealt with by perforating much of the suspended ceiling.

The 1992 restoration of this remarkable room (now the Tishman Auditorium) by Prentice & Chan, Ohlhausen returned it to Urban's distinctive redand-white palette, which had long been whited out. Returned to its original appearance, the room was designated an interior landmark in 1997. (The exterior has been integral to the Greenwich Village Historic District since 1967.) In 1997 the school's tradition of advanced design was enhanced by the Vera List Courtyard, a collaboration among Mitchell/Giurgola Architects,





(top) Vintage view of Joseph Urban's building for the New School for Social Research. (bottom) Tishman Auditorium following a 1992 restoration by Prentice & Chan, Ohlhausen.

landscape architect Michael Van Valkenburgh, and sculptor Martin Puryear.

Now a university with several divisions at several sites, including Parsons The New School for Design, the institution maintains its architectural distinction through innovative design, preservation, and continued educational use.

John Morris Dixon, FAIA, left the drafting board for journalism in 1960 and was editor of *Progressive Architecture* from 1972 to 1996. He continues to write for a number of publications, and he received AIANY's 2011 Stephen A. Kliment Oculus Award for Excellence in Journalism.

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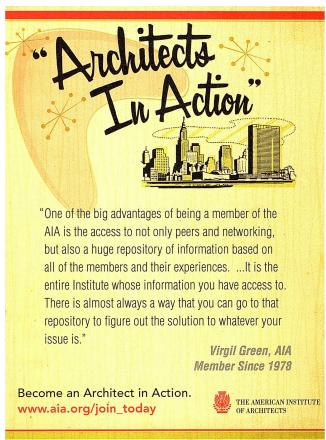
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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Bell at P.S. 234, designed by Dattner Architects.

I hear within what I see

outside

I see within what I hear outside....

Music invents silence, architecture invents space.

-from "On Reading John Cage," Octavio Paz, 1962

The harder Tom tried to fasten his mind on his book, the more his ideas wandered. So at last, with a sigh and a yawn, he gave it up. It seemed to him that the noon recess would never come.

-from Tom Sawyer, Mark Twain, 1876

...the kindergarten has brought bloom to the mind of many a child: and all this is the result of a growing philosophy of education. But there is. alas! no architectural kindergarten - a garden of the heart wherein the simple, obvious truths, the truths that any child might consent to, are brought fresh to the faculties and are held to be good because they are true and real.

> —from Kindergarten Chats and Other Writings, Louis H. Sullivan, 1901

The Young and the Edgeless

ulton Avenue School #8 in Oceanside, NY, was built quickly, a few years after the end of World War II, to deal with the baby boom thrust upon the suburbs. Its 1962 graduates recently held a reunion at which we shared old photos. Pictures were taken in the same spot every year, under the curved and cantilevered entrance canopy. This significant architectural detail was a gesture of invitation and protection, as was the gate in the eight-foot-tall, chain-link perimeter fence. We climbed that fence on weekends and some nights. PlaNYC now keeps schoolyards open after hours. At the grade-school alumni gathering, I started thinking about the collective clamor to go on to college, graduate school, and the conundrum of continuing education. How was the conjunction of play and learning conditioned early on? Did the architecture of our schools - and the designed permeability of our fences – play any part in it?

One of the best schools in New York City is P.S. 234, by Dattner Architects. Located not far from the Hudson River in Lower Manhattan, it has a nautical theme that engenders details such as porthole windows at kid's eye level. A boat-bedecked iron fence defines the perimeter of the play space on the corner of Chambers and Greenwich Streets. One way that a school can seem "edgeless" is by putting the schoolyard in plain sight.

In the 1980s, play space in growing neighborhoods was being sacrificed for plopped-in modular classrooms. Now we take more pains to provide adequate recreation space for physical activity, to help prevent chronic diseases such as obesity. At the Center for Architecture this fall we are hosting the exhibition "The Best School in the World: Seven Finnish Examples from the 21st Century." In its catalogue, Kaisa Nuikkinen, Ph.D., head architect for School Design in the Helsinki City Education Department, writes: "Learning is inseparable from the physical environment in which it takes place, and architecture is an integral part of the functional design of the school environment." Examples

from Espoo and Joensuu can be compared with new school design here in the Bronx and Brooklyn. Cities learn from each other and translate the lesson plan, as we see in the Finnish hybrid design for Cranbrook by Eliel Saarinen.

One of the dangers in educational facility design is the cynicism of hopelessness – the feeling that schools can devolve to daycare and incarceration. This has had architectural implications. Following French social philosopher Michel Foucault, Gilles Deleuze wrote in 1992 in *Postscript on the Societies of Control* that "perpetual training tends to replace the school, and continuous control to replace the examination." More recently, members of the Critical Pedagogy Forum wrote that "Foucault conducted intense studies of the structures of schools," adding, "We can see in all of these that the school environment is one of total control and surveillance."

I'm less sure of this, having been kicked out of kindergarten after four days. Everything I needed to know, before first grade, was left behind. So when I look at the curved boomerang swoops of the 2010 Kirkkojärvi School by Helsinki-based Verstas Architects, which accommodates 77 students aged 7 to 16 speaking 32 different languages, I see more than the sanctioned linguistic diversity. The edgeless and open courtyards fall adjacent to the arcs of the building, running parallel to the topography of the hillside site. And when I stop in at Pelli Clarke Pelli's Cooperative Arts & Humanities High School, completed in 2009 in New Haven, CT, I see a welcoming gallery lobby and vitrines displaying the artwork of the creative minds and hands of the next generation.

Perhaps I don't know much about geography or trigonometry or even what a slide rule is for anymore. But I do know that good school design can feed a hunger for knowledge. Edgy and edgeless schools are here and now.

Rick Bell, FAIA

Executive Director, AIA New York Chapter

Index to Advertisers

Grassi & Co45	Consulting Engineers, P.C6	
APPLIANCES	Wexler and Associates26	Caldwell Manufacturir America
Karl's Appliance Wholesale Division42 Miele, Inc16	CONTINUING EDUCATION Institute of Design and Construction14	INSURANCE Design Insurance Age Prosurance Redeker
ARCHITECTS Gertler & Wente Architects, LLP14 Tenguerian Architectural Models13 ARCHITECTURAL BAR GRILLES	CORK FLOORING American Cork Products Company13 DESK SPACE FOR RENT Gertler & Wente Architects LLP14	INTERIORS Gertler & Wente Archi LAW FIRMS
Architectural Grille	DRAWINGS/RENDERINGS/MODELS Tenguerian Architectural Models13 EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES Pratt Manhattan	Ingram, Yuzek, Gaine Carroll & Bertolotti Menaker & Hermann, Zetlin & De Chiara, LL LEGAL SERVICES
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NSURANCE Design Insurance Agency Inc15 Prosurance Redeker Group Ltd8
NTERIORS Gertler & Wente Architects, LLP14
.AW FIRMS ngram, Yuzek, Gainen, Carroll & Bertolotti
.EGAL SERVICES Menacker & Herrmann, LLP17
.IGHTING .utron3
MECHANICAL ENGINEERS Edwards & Zuck, PC44
METALWORK Drnamental Metal Institute of New York4 The Steel Institute of New York10
OUTDOOR LIVING Valpole Woodworkers12
PLANNING Gertler & Wente Architects, LLP14
PRINTING National Reprographics Inc24, 25
PROJECT MANAGEMENT Levien & Company Inside Front Cover

STORAGE
Global Partitions13
STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING

A Degree of Freedom	13
Wexler and Associates	26
OLIGIA IN A DUE DEGLON	

303 TATIVABLE DESIGN
Warmboard Radiant Subfloor14
TREATED WOOD BRODUCTS

TREATED WOOD PRODUCTS	
Hoover Treated Wood Products23	3
UTILITIES	

Long Island Power Authority16	6
WALLS	

Hunter Pa	anels			Inside	Back	Cove
WINDOW	RALA	NCES	Ω.	DEDAII	20	

WINDOW	BALANCES	&	REPAIRS
Coldwoll	Manufactur	in	α .

Company North America	.26
WINDOWS AND DOORS	

Authentic Window Design	8
WOODWORKING	

Tenguerian Architectural Models13 Walpole Woodworkers.....12

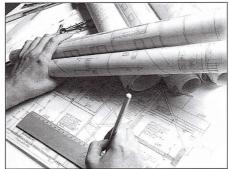
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ASI Storage Solutions www.globalpartitions.com
Authentic Window Design www.authenticwindow.com
Caldwell Manufacturing Company North America www.caldwellmfgco.com
Cosentini Associates www.cosentini.com
De Nardis Engineering LLP www.denardis.com Outside Back Cover
Design Insurance Agency Inc. www.designinsuranceagency.com 15
Edwards & Zuck, P.C. New York www.edzuck.com
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F.J. Sciame Construction Co., Inc. www.sciame.com5
Gertler & Wente Architects, LLP www.gwkarch.com14
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IMAGINIT Technologies www.imaginit.com
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Institute of Design and Construction www.idc.edu14
Karl's Appliance Wholesale Division www.karlsappliance.com
Levien & Company www.levienco.com Inside Front Cover
Long Island Power Authority www.lipower.org16

Lutron Electronics, Co. Inc. www.lutron.com3
Menaker & Hermann, LLP www.mhjur.com17
Miele, Inc. www.mieleusa.com
National Reprographics Inc. www.nrinet.com24, 25
Ornamental Metal Institute of New York www.ominy.org4
Pratt Manhattan www.pratt.edu
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