On the cover Joshua Appleman’s portfolio, awarded an Honorable Mention in this year’s Willeke portfolio competition. Photo: Jason Dembski.
The fields of architecture and urban planning are poised to undergo dramatic changes. Beginning in the nineties, we saw the emergence of the “star” architect as a cultural force and the consolidation of architecture as an agent for physical and economic change in cities across the world. The 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing were a culmination of this era and a demonstration of the potential power of architecture. However, this model of practice has already shown its limits, its weaknesses, and its flaws. It is safe to say that a new generation of practitioners will not be able to follow in the footsteps of its predecessors and more importantly, should not.

Technological changes paired with economic forces are significantly altering the construction of buildings and the practice of architecture. Conventional techniques will no longer suffice if architecture is to remain a viable venture. In addition, architecture’s role in the construction of culture has become associated with elite societies, and as a result, has remained outside of recent dramatic cultural shifts.

It is not surprising that in the new economy architecture has been badly hit. According to the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) the unemployment rate for architects in 2008 more than doubled from the previous year. With more than 50,000 students in schools of architecture across the country this figure should give us pause. It is important, however to look at a complete picture. If we look at the Bureau of Labor Statistics, there are positive signs: as I write, the national overall unemployment rate is over 8%, while the architecture unemployment rate is 3.8%—only slightly worse than that for engineers (which is holding at 3%), but much better than the unemployment rate for the finance sector (4.5%). Even more encouraging, the United States Department of Labor “expects the number of jobs for architects to grow faster than the average for all occupations through 2016.” Similarly the Department of Labor forecasts “employment for urban and regional planners to grow 15% by 2016, faster than average for all occupations.”

At the same time, it is evident that architecture is being left out of the most critical issues in the national agenda, despite the fact that historically our field has precisely demonstrated to have the tools and expertise to address these very pressing problems (environment, housing, infrastructure, just to name a few). We must wonder if our concern for very narrow problems (mostly formal) has led to our failure to engage the world.

The time has come to examine these issues and to begin to chart a course for the future of the disciplines. This will require new approaches to cultural engagement and for architecture and urban and regional planning to re-write their own rules. These changes need to begin “at home” with our own cultural institutions, namely in architecture and planning schools. At critical points in the history of our fields, the academy has given us critical perspectives with which to measure and evaluate our impact upon the world. Academia provides a lens independent of the demands of the professions, and has the potential to advance the fields in extraordinary ways. But so far pedagogy is not living up to this potential: Our teaching methodologies and the predominant model of studio instruction has remained virtually unchanged for over 100 years. More importantly, in the last twenty years architecture has stagnated in research that narrowly focused on topics which proved to have little consequence.

The conundrum of academic specialization is not exclusive to our disciplines. Our current environmental, economic, and societal crises have exposed the limits of conventional notions of specialization as a mode of research and
scholarship in every field. Many disciplines are beginning to recognize this and are moving towards an interdisciplinary model of research and education. In no other area does this become more poignant than in the environmental arena. In this first decade of the 21st century, it has become clear that by looking at technological advances in isolation during the 20th century, we missed their broader impact. Efficient production methods have led to the proliferation of goods and it is now clear that our patterns of consumption have led to a disastrous impact on the globe. This is certainly true for architecture and planning as well. In the last century, as we extolled the benefits of new materials and methods of construction in terms of efficiency and economy, we overlooked their impact on natural resources. For most of the 20th century we exalted the comfort and convenience of the suburbs, while overlooking their impact on a larger network of natural ecosystems. Now we know that addressing environmental degradation has no easy answer and that the responsibility resides across many fields. Transgressing the boundaries of various disciplines may be the only way to address the complex challenges of our time.

Because of their history and their own nature, architecture and planning are best suited to develop an academic model that works across disciplines. After all, unlike most other fields, architecture is an intricate area of study that encompasses distinct fields in the sciences and the humanities, and urban planning is considered to be the first multi-disciplinary profession. It is not surprising that several schools of architecture and planning mention interdisciplinarity in their mission statements. However, for most, this is limited to relationships between architecture, landscape architecture, interior design, and urban planning. Instead, the disciplines of architecture and urban planning should re-examine their place within a larger body of knowledge that lead to new pedagogies. Only through new teaching methods that work across disciplines will we be able to allow future generations to look at design holistically writing a new chapter in the public missions of architecture and urban planning.

Here are examples of the work that the chairs and the faculty have been doing in order to transform pedagogy:

Revising course content of all courses to integrate significant issues
The Urban and Regional Planning Program, for example, is revising its course of study so that environmental sustainability and social justice, two core topics, are integrated in virtually all instruction. The intention is for these overarching themes to inform the full scope of the planning coursework, as opposed to being self-contained in discrete classes. For example, environmental planning courses may examine forces behind inequitable environmental burdens; quantitative methods courses may develop techniques for the analysis of exclusionary zoning; history courses may seek approaches to sustainable development in the heritage of domestic planning.1

Integrating expertise from other units on campus into core courses
For instance, the Architecture Program is currently revising its sequence on environmental technology. It will be taught in teams that include faculty from engineering and the School of Natural Resources (SNRE), as well as Taubman College. Other areas where we see similar opportunities are the history sequence which could be co-taught with art history faculty, and site planning courses that could involve faculty from SNRE.

Revisiting the relationship between design instruction and the other areas of architectural expertise
This is essential in order to more closely represent contemporary professional practice. In this regard we have identified three strategies:

Integrating studio work into other required courses. As an example, Construction II students are asked to advance their design studio project from a previous semester by developing it to a high level of technical resolution.

Integrating various areas of expertise into studio. Studio may no longer be taught exclusively by a studio instructor, but also by faculty in other areas of specialization. For instance, we are currently revising the format for the design thesis project so it will be co-taught by two instructors: a designer paired with faculty in another area such as history/theory, structures, environmental technology, or urban planning.

Coupling design studios with courses in other areas of concentration. In the winter we are launching a pilot program that pairs a structures course with an upper level seminar in structures. The intention is that students who enroll in the studio will be required to also enroll in the seminar. The content of the courses will be coordinated while each faculty will retain their area of expertise.

If we have the courage to look critically at the academy, we will increase the relevance of architects, planners, and designers and the ability of these professionals to make meaningful contributions in formulating solutions for the challenges facing the planet.

Monica Ponce de Leon
Dean and Eliel Saarinen Collegiate Professor of Architecture and Urban Planning

Footnotes
1 U.S. Department of Labor website
2 My gratitude to Keith Mitnick for articulating these issues clearly
3 Many thanks to Jonathan Levine for his contributions to this section
Artificial Light

Keith Mitnick

The following excerpt is from Associate Professor of Architecture Keith Mitnick’s recent book, Artificial Light and is reprinted with permission from the Princeton Architectural Press.

Percept/part1/ When I was a kid... my parents hired an architect to design a summerhouse for our family. I remember him coming to our home to discuss it with my parents while I played beneath them under the dining room table. I don’t remember their voices, but I do recall the sounds of them turning large pages of blueprints overhead and becoming so overwhelmed by the atmosphere of the conversation that I threw up in the middle of their meeting, right on the leg of my father’s pants.

My father was angry and embarrassed and had to excuse himself from the table to change his clothes while the architect waited with my mother who pretended everything was normal. I could tell she was upset but I knew from experience that she would not react until after the guest had gone. For her, it was important to behave in front of others as though everything were fine, even when it wasn’t. The architect just stood there awkwardly, feeling the tension in the room but not wanting to acknowledge it.

When construction finally began on the new house, the builder invited us over for a big dinner at his home to celebrate. His house was a large suburban structure, covered in endless rows of white shiplap siding with fake black shutters on each of the numerous windows. The house seemed like an overgrown version of something meant to be much smaller. The rooms inside were also strangely oversized; even the yard was immense, seeming more like an empty field than a suburban lawn.
I remember looking out of a second-story window and seeing, in the distance, a series of narrow strips of lawn rolled up into wheels at the end of dirt lanes cut into the grass. I didn’t understand what I was seeing: to me, grass was a part of the ground, not a veneer that could be peeled away. Someone told me that they were making “sod” to sell for other people’s lawns. I was perplexed, and I wondered how somebody could sell a lawn. A yard didn’t seem like a thing to me, and the fact that it was for sale was disturbing.

As the construction of our new house began to take shape, we would visit the site regularly and have picnics on the nearby beach. Everybody seemed happy on these trips. My parents used to call it their dream-house project: they were building their dream. They told us it was a special “upside-down house,” which meant that the living room and kitchen would be upstairs, in order to have a view of the ocean, and the bedrooms were downstairs for privacy. It was strange to me that my parents’ dream would be upside down, though in retrospect it was a fitting description for a marriage that would end in divorce only a few years after the completion of the house.

During one of our visits, I remember walking through the house and feeling overwhelmed by the appearance of the exposed-stud wall construction. The array of overlapping walls produced a spellbinding effect as one moved through the space. I was confounded by the elusive sense of shifting centers and alignments I saw among the field of studs. At the same time, I was aware of their logic as soon-to-be-solid walls, as though the same studs participated in two dissimilar systems simultaneously within the same space.

Seeing the house constructed made a huge impression on me as a child: it not only changed my conception of what houses were but also challenged the way I thought about things for how they actually were. It startled me how easily my uninformed assumptions about even the most familiar things—walls and floors, hallways and rooms—I felt uneasy about the blurry boundaries. I worried that I couldn’t be certain of things and my relationship to them if the building didn’t describe them to me in definitive terms.

I became increasingly obsessed with a belief that there was a fundamental “order” or organization to the world that was not readily apparent—at least not visually—and required effort to comprehend. I looked to things like buildings for clues about what was real and what was not. I used to imagine that I had a little machine that would tell me what was true and what was false. I would ask it questions, and it would give me objective responses. Its only limitation was that it could only deal with “yes” and “no” answers.

Rather than rejecting the rigid black-and-white reductions of my truth-finding device, I only asked questions that could be answered “true” or “false.” Sometimes I would project the functions of the truth-finding device to other things, like my elementary school building, asking questions of it as if it were an information machine. I expected tangible objects like buildings to reveal objective premises about the world to me. Not just about material things, like structure and construction, but about deeply personal and emotionally traumatic things. I asked buildings why my parents were breaking up, who I was, and if I would ever be happy: “Yes or no?”

I went to an alternative elementary school founded upon a philosophy of education called “open school.” Open school meant that we didn’t have individual classrooms but moved throughout various learning areas. The odd thing about it wasn’t the openness of the learning format but the ambiguity between the spaces: the ridiculously wide hallways and the wall-to-wall carpet that ran all the way up the walls. Accustomed as I was to a clear distinction among these things—walls and floors, hallways and rooms—I felt uneasy about the blurry boundaries. I worried that I couldn’t be certain of things and my relationship to them if the building didn’t describe this distinction upon me rather than accommodating something I already was.

While we were building our upside-down house, my family was falling apart. I acted as though everything were fine, when my parents would fight, which was often, I pretended it wasn’t happening. I wasn’t very good at it though, because I believed that if things were going to feel wrong, then they should look that way as well. The actual breakup of my parents was more manageable to me than the deception and denial that preceded it. I could handle the pain and uncertainty that would accompany their inevitable divorce, but I had difficulty pretending everything was fine when it wasn’t.

There was a gaping disconnection between appearances and reality in my family. My mother would always put on a happy face if someone stopped by, or force an upbeat voice when she answered the phone, even if she had just been yelling at us, or fighting with my father, or crying. This confused me because I thought it was dishonest: these same people (my parents) had taught me that it was wrong to lie, even though both of them did so repeatedly.
My father would say things that were untrue and my mother would perform untruths. Their contradictions and inconsistencies frightened me.

For better or worse, incongruent appearances have fascinated me ever since. A friend told me that when she was a child her mother used to smoke in front of her while simultaneously denying that she was doing so because she didn’t want them to think that it was okay to smoke. She would sit in the living room puffing away, and if one of the children entered the room she would put her arm with the cigarette behind the chair, out of view. Sitting there with a smile, smoke rising up in the air behind her, she would pretend there was no cigarette.

In a sense our summerhouse was all smoke and mirrors, even though it represented my parents’ dreams of happiness. Buildings lie by staging deceptions about everything from their materiality, their age and manner of construction to the ideological messages that they embody. They are like television sitcoms about absurdly idealized families: everybody knows it is just an act, a pretense, but somehow we are still seduced by the images of perfection it presents.

Percept/part 2/ It is the relationship among things—rather than the things themselves—that gives objects their identities. Though we tend to regard them as having stable and enduring characteristics, the determination of “thingness” is more a matter of groupings and classifications than it is a consequence of inherent material properties. Objects require limits in order to be distinguished from the field of reciprocal relations in which they exist, but the limits we impose upon them are a function of our perception rather than a property of their thingness.

Like a collection of books organized into a library or a set of maps configured into an atlas, groupings of subsidiary parts into larger wholes occur at different scales to produce different identities from the same material. In the case of buildings, a wall may be defined as a coplanar assortment of studs, sheetrock, screws, paint, windows, and doors, but each of these subcomponents in turn comprises another set of secondary elements. The door may be composed of a frame, laminate, panels, knobs, hinges, and locking mechanisms, and the sheetrock out of paper, gypsum, glue, and so on.

Because physical matter may be conceptually broken apart or compounded to yield an infinite array of classifications, the notions by which we separate fields of relationships into parts and wholes are essentially indeterminate. We may define the same arrangement of elements according to multiple and even contradictory orderings that consequently ascribe different properties to the same material: the same elements are understood to be different things at the same time. A wall may be defined by the texture of its surface, its structural properties, or according to the spaces it defines. It may be the vertical continuation of a wrapping floor, the inner lining of a massive façade, or the consequence of a system of formal processes intended to eradicate the very notions of floors, walls, and ceilings.

We understand the world according to our organization of it. Through images, diagrams, language, and other translations, our perception of the physical world is molded according to our representations of it. Therefore, things may only appear to us according to the logic of these abstractions. Our models are provisional, approximate descriptions that extract and isolate an infinitely complex network of relationships in order for them to be intelligible to us. We give the abstractions names, then project the logic of these abstract orderings back upon our perceptions of the world, looking for things according to their names and mistaking recognizable patterns for essential properties.

When my parents eventually broke up, and the family shifted from a group of five to four, we all felt like different people. We stopped doing things together and retreated into our individual worlds. In retrospect it was my father alone who achieved a new life, with another wife and new children—an identity without us. He moved far away to a different climate and became a different person while we stayed behind—the same family minus a father.
When a professor retires from Taubman College, a writer is hired to create a retirement profile that will appear in Portico. With his reputation for “writing the best faculty meeting minutes ever, whether or not he attended,” his self-deprecating sense of humor, and masterful command of understatement, it was thought that we could do no better than to let Turner tell his own story.

I never intended to be an architect or a professor. My father painted houses for a living and I worked with him from age 10. By 12 I was painting ceilings with a 6 inch brush from a wooden stepladder. I was being taught the family business. My father wanted to name me Hartwell Dexter Turner after two streets in Detroit. He figured that such a regal name would surely benefit me. I suspect that “Hartwell Dexter House Painting” was what he was thinking. Some of my friends still call me Hartwell.

A dubious academic beginning
My academic record took a beating from the start. My fifth grade homeroom teacher wrote on my final report card, “Jimmy is a leader, but he tends to lead in the wrong direction.”

I seldom thought about college until my senior year in high school. I had a knack for math and physics and enrolled in advanced classes in both. My math teacher was from Columbia University and created her own experimental curriculum for our class. We developed a new number system with its own operators and data types. Rules governed every operation and addition and subtraction and other operators were carefully defined. We built it using a notation I hadn’t seen before. I was in heaven and did very well. That success had an influence on my other courses. I became a member of the National Honor Society. This surprised my literature teacher to the point that she would not excuse me for the NHS group photo. I was doing well in her class but she was sure the con was on. It took a visit from the principal to pry me loose. I think she asked him to see my transcript. She never apologized and I think she still thinks I took advantage of her.
Although there were many non-believers, I was awarded the math and art medals at graduation and my counselor suggested math, engineering, architecture, or art as careers. I was accepted to Michigan’s engineering and architecture schools and eventually chose engineering. That was a mistake and I eventually found a home in Architecture & Design, although I could not name a single architect other than my high school drafting teacher. My greatest accomplishment in his class was a detailed section of a Briggs and Stratton four-cycle gasoline engine.

F.E.W.
At first I was not a good student preferring to practice guitar or ride my bike rather than attend design studio. As a reward for this behavior, I was asked to stay home for the entire 1968-1969 school year and “Further Enrollment Withheld” was stamped on my transcript. My permanent record was tainted.

I partially blame the housing office for my situation because I was assigned a room in a new, unfinished dormitory on North Campus called Bursley Hall. The dormitory was very modern compared to East Quad where I had spent my first two years. Its location among the trees and hills of North Campus and its recreation room filled with ping-pong and pool tables added to its vacation-like appeal. We would often sled down the hill from the Commons to the Veteran’s Administration Hospital and, if there was no traffic, a little push would propel us to the river. This sled run is where the Art & Architecture Building sits today.

Finding my niche
I returned to school and enrolled in a computer programming course. It was a new class and a new requirement for graduation. Professor Harold Borkin was the instructor. I had trouble programming for the first half of the term and no resources were available. In 1969 there were no shelves of computer books at the local bookstore and Ulrich’s had only one or two programming books located in its math section. Eventually I learned to program and in the fall of 1970 I became a teaching assistant. Harold advised me to help anyone who needed computing assistance, including faculty, all architecture and art students, doctoral students, and anyone else on campus.

I graduated in the spring of 1973 and despite the handicap of my pedestrian norm-de-plume, I began looking for a job. On weekends I delivered pizzas for my sister’s pizzeria. I had squeezed six years of required coursework into eight years of school. That alone should have impressed potential employers. On my first interview, I was asked if using computers would allow a firm to make better buildings, design buildings faster, and make buildings cheaper. I had no clever or pragmatic response.

I was hired by the college to write a user manual for a computer graphics program that Harold had been writing. When the job was completed I left town; returning a month later with no money, no job, and plenty of pizzas to deliver. I was surprised to find another paycheck waiting for me. I tried to give the money back but neither Harold nor Bob Metcalf—who was now the dean—knew how to accomplish that. I was eventually hired permanently and after a few years and a few sponsored research projects, I was hired as a research scientist and one day Harold asked if I wanted to officially be an instructor. I said that I did. The checks kept coming and I stopped trying to return them.

My first programming project was to improve 3D modeling tools in our graphics program. There was no AutoCAD or Rhino, or any relevant literature and almost nothing on computer graphics programming. My charge was to add the ability to add, subtract and intersect 3D models. It took nine months to implement a similar 2D algorithm and three years for the 3D version. I spent many years debugging them, and I still have a list of changes I would like to make. I continued to write application programs and the “research lab” began to attract large sponsored CAD research projects. I worked every day and never considered it to be a real job. If I had trouble with an algorithm I would ride my bike along Huron River Drive to Dexter to clear my head. I solved many tough problems while pedaling. It was a wonderful time.

There were few universities writing architectural related software in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Our doctoral program provided student programmers and a few faculty learned to program. We were inventing and implementing programs that, in some cases, are still advanced today. The research staff included Harold Borkin, Robert Johnson, Ted Hall, P. Lynn Borema, John McIntosh, and Patricia McIntosh. We delivered papers at ACADIA, ACSA, Siggraph and attended conferences and committee meetings all over the world. Our first CAD doctoral student entered the program in 1968. My last doctoral student graduated in 2005.

Accomplishments that I consider significant are: As initiator of a pair of CAD Fundamentals courses, the revision of the sequence of computer programming courses by adding a third and fourth course in 2D and 3D computer aided design programming sequence; as investigator or co-investigator for many large sponsored research projects from Construction Engineering Research Laboratory, Gilbert Commonwealth, Townsend and Bottom, Southeastern Michigan Council of Governors, the U.S. Navy, and others from 1975-1992; as an active member of the IGES/PDES/STEP international committee convened for the purpose of defining a neutral file format for the exchange of product design, analysis and fabrication, and the precursor to
Building Information Modeling, as an active member of ACADIA and receiving its lifetime achievement teaching award, as a member of the college’s curriculum committee for many years; and as secretary of the Architecture Program and College; as developer of many computer applications such as ArchModel, GEDIT, Acoustic2D, Acoustic 3D, and various prototypes: Syntax2D, Graph2D; and serving as member of over 30 doctoral dissertation committees; and as developer of many function libraries to manipulate geometries.

What I taught over the stretch of my career coincided nicely with what was or was not available commercially. From 1970-1982, there were few 2D drafting programs and no 3D modeling, visualization or animation programs available, so we wrote our own and made them available to students. During that period I taught Fortran to all students whether they wanted to learn it or not. From 1982 to 1990, AutoCAD was available but we decided to continue to develop and teach our software. From 1992 to 2006 there were many good programs available and we changed our CAD courses to use commercial programs. Recently, the Architecture Program decided to reduce the teaching of computer drafting and to concentrate on non-programming computing topics such as machine generation of 3D models. My courses were recently removed from the catalog.

How many mentors does it take to create a professor? When my responsibilities increased (initially Harold advised me to not attend faculty meetings) I turned to my professors for advice.

Professor Norm Barnett and I have met at least once a week since 1997 when he convinced me to spend my sabbatical developing interactive architectural acoustic teaching applications. Norm is a scientist and was my acoustics instructor. Together, we created two exceptional acoustic programs. I still enjoy his stories about French horns and fencing.

Professor Henry Kowalewski and I worked on the College Rules together. The experience was somewhere between no fun and dull pain. I cried when he told me that the young architects in his office had painted his original George Nelson “ball clock” to match the color of the walls. I still get teary-eyed when I think about that poor clock. Hank was my lighting instructor, and he wrote the best exams.

When I became a full professor I decided to help Professor Bill Werner teach structures. During my second year of trying to explain “\( \sum F_x = \sum F_y = \sum F_z = 0 \),” a group from my recitation section came to my office and told me that I should not assume architecture undergraduates know the meaning of “\( \sin \phi \).” I told them I did expect such knowledge since a course in calculus was required for admission and before tackling calculus you must first understand trigonometry. It was downhill from there and I never taught structures again. I came to Bill whenever I had a problem with students or problems with the administration. The latter seemed to be status quo for me so I visited him often. Bill was my structures instructor and I served with him on the undergraduate admissions committee for almost a decade.

I worked for Professor Joe Lee on the first transformation of buildings next to the farmer’s market into what eventually became Kerrytown. Joe was my studio instructor. He taught me to find value in the quality of objects. He often used a simple watchband as an example of the beauty of successful intersection of economy, craftsmanship, and simplicity.

Professors John Nystuen, Mitch Rycus, and Jim Snyder showed me that planning faculty and architecture faculty can work together. I provided maps, GIS software, and digitized maps to John, Jim and Mitch for use on sponsored research projects. This was before GIS software was widely available. For three summers I attended weeklong workshops in computer mapping at Harvard and was a digitizing and mapping consultant to SEMCOG, Detroit Economic Growth Corporation, and the Michigan Department of State for many years.

Professor Kingsbury Marzolf taught the courses I enjoyed most. He was engaging and humorous and presented some pretty dull material in a way that kept my interest. I think King has been a doctoral student at MSU for over 40 years. I still watch his video when it shows on late night television; I think it’s called: “Kingsbury Marzolf, the Beret Years.” King was my history of architecture instructor. King was the first person I poked fun at when I became college secretary and was responsible for creating the faculty meeting minutes.

Professor Al Feldt and I were members of a small jazz band for about 10 years. He played piano and I played saxophone. Not exactly a mentoring experience but I mention it because it was such an enjoyable time.

Beverly Brockman

Today, an instructor changes a grade by logging on a web site and entering a few keystrokes, but back in the early 1980s, a grade change was made on a paper form and submitted to the Registrar’s Office in the LSA Building. There, a recorder had to manually remove the old grade from the student’s Mylar transcript and write in the new grade. It was very time consuming. I had no idea that grades were compiled and stored that way. In my large lecture
class I typically gave 20-30 incompletes, but one term I gave grades of "C–" instead of "I." If assignments were finished I would submit a new grade, and if not, I would let the grade stand. I gave almost 50 C– grades one term and about the same the following year.

Beverly Brockman worked in the Registrar’s Office and was responsible for architecture grade changes, and all the extra work I created was her responsibility. In December 1986, she was hired as our College recorder. A few minutes before we were formally introduced, she was warned that I was responsible for all those manual grade changes. Beverly also tells a story about calling me when she was still at the LSA Building to ask about an art student’s grade for one of my courses. When she was told that I was in the “lab” she pictured a medical laboratory with the staff all wearing white lab coats. According to her I was rude.

In April 2000, Beverly and I were married in the lobby on the first floor near Slusser Gallery. The Mayor of Ann Arbor presided over the ceremony and we provided cupcakes from the Dexter Bakery. And, yes, Beverly asked me. On February 29, 2000 she baked a cake and wrote in icing, “Will you marry me?” I knew it was coming and had to sell two baritone saxophones in order to purchase an engagement ring.

Beverly made sure no one missed her engagement ring, flashing it unsubtly at any woman within striking distance. It was the most aggressive she has ever been. She showed it to Peter Noonan the lead singer of Herman’s Hermits (“I’m Henry the 8th, I Am”) whom we saw in a sleazy lounge in a Windsor casino; I’m sure he was devastated. It was a beautiful, two saxophone ring; very rare.

Beverly and I retire on May 31, 2009.
College News

East Side Neighborhoods Create Vision for Future Sustainability

Making one of Detroit’s most historic and diverse districts economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable was the focus of an intense visioning exercise in February, involving students and faculty from local architecture and planning schools.

Students and faculty from University of Michigan Taubman College of Architecture and Planning, Lawrence Technological University’s School of Architecture, and the University of Detroit Mercy School of Architecture participated in the charrette, joined by local professionals. The students, faculty, and professionals divided up into several teams to design concepts that will aid in future planning for such historic neighborhoods as Indian Village, West Village, East Village, Islandview, the Gold Coast, and the Berry Subdivision.

Many charrettes focus strictly on increasing urban density through new development. But in a unique feature, the Villages Charrette targeted non-traditional land uses including urban agriculture, greenways, and bicycle lanes to make use of vacant land in the district and to increase the environmental sustainability of everyday life.

Students, faculty, and professional advisers worked at the Gleaners Community Food Bank where the participants made final presentations to the Villages Community Development Corporation (CDC) board and guests at the end of the workshop. Prior to the charrette, the Villages CDC engaged key community stakeholders such as Adult Well-Being Services, Capuchin Soup Kitchen Earthworks Urban Farm, and Detroit Waldorf School to gather important research to inform the students and ensure actionable results.

The UM team included architecture and planning students in Bob Beckley’s class: Nana Bonsu Adja-Sai, Apoorva Alankar, Jeannine Bessette, Seong Yun Cho, Scott Curry, Nan Dai, Nicole Eisenmann, Joanna Hong, Ashwini Kamath, Natasha Krol, Yanjia Liu, Katie Miller, Nadia Qureshi, and Peter Robie.
Urban and Regional Planning Capstone Receives Dow Sustainability Innovation Student Challenge Award

The University of Michigan’s Urban and Regional Planning capstone class on Community-Based Sustainable Food Systems recently was awarded The Dow Chemical Company’s Dow Sustainability Innovation Student Challenge award. The student challenge award recognizes the Taubman College students for innovative sustainability efforts.

Taubman College was selected as a finalist, competing with internationally known competitors that included Cambridge University, Northwestern University, Peking University, Tufts University, and the University of Sao Paolo as well as other UM schools for the honor.

“Building sustainable environments is a fundamental component of the planning field,” said Jonathan Levine, UM’s urban and regional planning program chair. “As municipalities and metropolitan areas plan for important cultural, physical, and social resources, sustainability needs to be a core value. Our curriculum builds it into many aspects of students’ work.”

The winning entry is entitled “What is a Community-Based, Sustainable Food System? Defining Elements and Identifying Encouraging Examples for Application in Detroit.” The product of their research is a publication available online and in print. The first part of the publication focuses on defining elements of a community-based food system and identifying existing barriers.

The second part of the publication profiles sustainable food case studies, summarizing factual information and highlighting innovation. The third part is concerned with applying these innovations in the context of Detroit. The final chapter of the publication offers Detroit residents and decision-makers concrete suggestions and implementation strategies. The publication is intended to be an engaging resource for community residents, organizations, and municipalities interested in community-based food systems from diverse settings. The team is lead by Assistant Professor Larissa Larsen, who also holds an appointment at UM’s School of Natural Resources and the Environment.

The group received $10,000 to support further research. This enabled students to examine sustainable food systems in other cities such as Your Dekalb Farmers’ Market in Atlanta, Georgia; Red Hook Farm, in Brooklyn, New York; and Nuestras Raices in Holyoke, Mass.

The winning team includes students Rachel Arndt, Rebecca Cheney, Jaimie Cohen, Allison Craddock, Stephanie Etkin, Caitlin Greeley, Brendan Moriarty, Nicholas Posavetz, Catherine Sanders, and Joshua Stacey. Eric Dueweke, community partnerships manager for the college, assisted as an additional faculty advisor.
In 2005, Professor of Architecture Harry Giles received an NSF-PATH Grant to research “technological innovations in an industrially-designed and manufactured modular housing concept for low energy, prefabricated, low-rise low-income housing units.” The grant solicitation—$300,000 over three years—was to encourage greater collaboration among disparate industry stakeholders, advance innovations in home building, and to create new avenues of research and development. Giles’ objective was to research and develop concepts that would “dramatically contribute to the advancement of technology, engineering...as well as have significant long-term relevance for the homebuilding industry and society.” Giles developed a modular housing concept called MidMod that integrates customization of affordable living units and flexibility in building design with industrialized manufacturing methods.

MidMod, which stands for Midrise Modern Modular, is a new genre of affordable medium density building concepts that are more adaptable, durable, and energy efficient as whole-life housing typologies than those currently available. The individual units are customizable in their format and dimensions, and the units can be stacked to create tall buildings. The building units are ideally suited to mixed use developments and can house shops, offices and restaurants. The building system offers low-income families the opportunity to own their homes, and encourages a viable mixed use development that can serve as a model for creating socially sustainable communities. MidMod has demonstrated energy savings of up to 50 percent as a consequence of integrating passive energy strategies with efficient mixed mode hydronic heating and cooling systems. The MidMod concept is ideally suited to create opportunities for repopulating urban areas. As a result, Professor Giles and his team focused on sites in the Detroit inner urban area and similar sites in other cities as a model for housing in urban regeneration schemes. The principles of his work will be equally relevant to the re-densification of cities throughout the world.

Giles collaborated with faculty from various departments outside the college and enlisted students throughout research and fabrication. MidMod has involved a total of 10 faculty and 49 students through a number of studio and workshop style courses. Giles has collaborated closely with Lecturer Lars Graebner, architecture students Glen Ginter (M.Arch.’08), Kristen Dotson (graduate), and Kelly Raczkowski (undergraduate); and Aggie Drelich (graduate) and Mary Martin (graduate) in documenting, component detailing, design integration, and prototype fabrication. Following a successful prototype design build project starting in summer 2008, Kelly has continued to work with Giles on the fabrication of a prototype with graduate architecture student Dwight Song. Kelly values the ongoing experience of working with Giles and being involved at every stage from researching materials to working on the construction of the prototype. Dwight, who is planning to pursue a career in construction, is particularly interested in the creation of the prototype. He is glad to have some input in the actual production, including material choices and placement of components. At the design and documentation level, graduate student Mary Martin studied the thermal performance of MidMod and Aggie Drelich assisted with the design coordination of the MidMod prototype. She has been assisting with the creation of a website for the project. Mary and Aggie began working on the project with Giles in July 2008 and are receiving independent study credit for their work. The team created a full-scale prototype while learning the many facets of putting together a real prototype from an initial concept. The prototype is expected to be placed on display in the fall.
Fellows, Past and Present
Michigan Fellows Reunion

An event celebrating the 25th year of the Michigan Fellowships in Architecture Program was held at the Architectural League of New York in March. The program originated at the University of Michigan and laid the foundation for similar programs at other universities.

The four fellowships focus on different aspects of architecture and urban planning exploration. The fellowships enable architecture and urban planning practitioners and scholars to be in residence at Taubman College during an academic year and conduct research. While engaging the student body through the teaching of studios and/or seminars, these scholars are provided with resources to advance their research.

The fellowship has served as a platform to launch the careers for the more than 60 fellows who have participated. Former fellows have gone on to become noted figures in the field, including school deans, program chairs, or faculty members, in addition to becoming authors and award-winning international design practitioners.

“During my time at the University of Michigan, I valued the generosity, support, and discourse amongst the Fellows,” said Adam Yarinsky, the 1992 Sanders Fellow and principal of New York City-based Architecture Research Office. “Sharing ideas with each other, the students, and the faculty developed my approach to architecture and helped build the framework for my practice.”

“The fellowship helped me confirm my career path at a formative point in my life,” said Michael Meredith, a 2000 Muschenheim Fellow and associate professor of architecture at the Harvard University Graduate School of Design. “The fellowship is more important than ever as a means to encourage and promote young architects given the current economic climate.”

A book containing current work of the fellows will be available in the fall. To learn more about the fellows and hear about their work, visit the college’s website (taubmancollege.umich.edu/fellowsreunion).
In December, Robert Marans, professor emeritus of architecture and urban planning and research professor at the Institute for Social Research was a keynote speaker at an Institute for International Energy Studies (IIES) Conference in Tehran, Iran. His talk, “The Human Dimensions of Energy Conservation and Sustainability,” described his empirical research that contributed to the establishment of UM’s Planet Blue energy conservation program. While in Iran, Marans conducted a workshop at IIIES and gave lectures at Tehran University on the quality of urban life in Detroit and other world cities.

Craig Wilkins, lecturer in architecture and director of the Detroit Community Design Center (DCDC) at UM’s Detroit Center, served as keynote speaker at the Transitions symposium hosted by Syracuse University in February. He presented the work of Studio:DetroitHS, which received the 2008-2009 ASCA Collaborative Practice Award, and participated in a special focus session on the Aesthetic Experience at the 2009 ASCA Conference in Portland in March. He served as an invited speaker and panelist at the 3rd Annual Unspoken Borders Conference at the University of Pennsylvania in April. He is the subject of a forthcoming article by Dennis Archambault for Model D, the online magazine about Detroit. He has been named to the Executive Board of the NOMA Detroit chapter and is spearheading the effort of the NOMA Detroit chapter to bring the six final designs for the new Smithsonian National African-American History & Culture Museum to Detroit for public display, discussion, and critique. In addition, the DCDC won the bid issued by the state of Michigan Historic Preservation Office and the city of Detroit City Council Historic Designation Advisory Board to create adaptive reuse designs for two recently closed high schools in Detroit. The DCDC will act as lead designers in association with Hamilton Anderson Associates of Detroit to complete the conceptual designs.

Associate Professors Craig Borum and Karl Daubmann are principals of PLY Architecture. The firm’s work appears in two new books. OMI Sushi, in East Lansing is one of 42 restaurants world-wide included in eat! Best of Restaurant Design. The firm’s studio, Park House appears in 1000x Architecture of the Americas. This volume features 1000 outstanding creative projects recently built or under development in the Western Hemisphere by acclaimed and emerging architects.

Assistant Professor Mireille Roddier and Associate Professor Keith Mitnick are principals of Mitnick Roddier Hicks. Their LL House is included in the new volume 1000x Architecture of the Americas which features outstanding creative projects recently built or under development designed by celebrated architects from Canada to Chile.

Peter von Buelow, assistant professor of architecture, presented work from his Frame Structures class at the 2nd Sino-Italian Workshop on Bridges and Special Structures, IUAV, University of Venice in December. This project is a cooperative effort between the University of Michigan and TU Delft. The course presented an initial trial use of Bentley’s generative components with a genetic algorithm for the exploration of structural form. STAAD-Pro FEA software is used for analysis. All members were designed using HSS steel tubing sections for a two-lane bridge load. The designer’s selection is made based on visual (aesthetic) criteria. This potentially allows the genetic algorithm to explore solutions more in tune with the designer’s intentions.
Jonathan Levine will present the results of his study comparing accessibility between major metropolitan regions at the Urban Research Symposium sponsored by the World Bank in Marseille, France in June. The theme of the symposium is *Cities and Climate Change: Responding to an Urgent Agenda*. He will also present on transportation and social equity at a Planning for/with People conference in Haifa, Israel in June.

In March, Assistant Professor Andrew Herscher presented the Center for International and Comparative Studies 2009 Human Rights Lecture, entitled "A Humanity without Humans: On Architecture and Human Rights." He presented the paper "monster@thesis.edu," co-authored with Brendan Moran, in the panel "The Future of the Thesis" at the ACSA Annual Conference. In April, he presented the paper, "Cultural Heritage and Political Activism in Post-Yugoslavia" in the panel Architectural Heritage: Collecting, Saving, Exhibiting at the Society of Architectural Historians Annual Conference, and he will present the paper "Points of No Return" at the conference, *Curating Difficult Knowledge*, sponsored by the Centre for Ethnographic Research and Exhibition in the Aftermath of Violence at Concordia University. In April, he was also one of a group of researchers dealing with the post-conflict environment to be convened by the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in the frame of the Center’s Post-Conflict Project. This project will produce, among other things, an edited volume on the post-conflict environment. In May, he will give a talk on "Post-Warchitecture" at Oberlin College in the Department of Art History’s Clarence Ward Lecture Series.

While Professor Douglas Kelbaugh takes an unpaid leave to be the executive director of design and planning at an international development company in Dubai, he continues to keep his fingers in the academic pie. He has written chapters for two forthcoming books: *Activist Architecture* co-edited by Taubman College Lecturer Craig Wilkins and Dan Pitera, and *Urban Design: Influences and Trends* co-edited by Tridib Bannerjee and Anastasia Loukaitou-Sideris. He has co-authored an intro to a book on the history of sustainability by Professor Robert Fishman and written a book review for the *Journal of Urban Design*. He is also serving on the jury for the Burnham Memorial Design Competition on the lakefront in Chicago, and will speak in June at the Congress for the New Urbanism, on whose board he sits. He reports from Dubai that, although the world economic downturn has hit the Gulf states, his company is able to cherry-pick the most viable projects from its portfolio of projects in countries in Asia, the Middle East, Europe, and Africa. Although the number of current projects has diminished, he continues to enjoy and learn from the hands-on design and planning work with his in-house staff of 40 and dozens of architects from around the world. His recent letter to the editor in *Architectural Record* points out that a slowdown is precisely what is needed in places that have grown explosively like Dubai.

Lecturer Fei Wang’s new essay “A Multi-Dimensional Valley, Zhangjiang: A Study of Heterology in Contemporary China” is published in Thresholds 36: Difference (The MIT Press, 2009). His new essay in Chinese, “Dimension, Program, Context” is published in Interior Architects (Beijing, 2009). Fei Wang’s research work and video Thaumatorama and three of his students’ work on food and building (Brianea MacDonald, Lisa Macfarlane and David Theisz) were exhibited in The Five Senses exhibition, at Work: Ann Arbor Gallery, in March 2009. Fei Wang’s research and teaching work on history and theory of architecture representation, titled “11*11*11”, was exhibited at the ACSA Annual Meeting, in Portland, Oregon, in March 2009. Fei Wang’s design and research work “Building as Painting,” was exhibited in a group exhibition Mirroring China, at ON/OFF International Cultural Exchange Forum, at Universität der Künste Berlin, Berlin, November 2008. He delivered the closing lecture for the China Design Now exhibit at Cincinnati Art Museum, titled “3 Heterogeneity Studies of China, Between the 18th Century and Contemporary” in January. China Design Now, organized by the Victoria and Albert Museum, captures an extraordinary moment as China opens up to global influences and responds to the hopes and dreams of its new urban middle class. This is the first exhibition in the United Kingdom or United States to explore the recent explosion of contemporary design in China and the first to attempt to understand the impact of rapid economic development on architecture and design in the country’s major cities. From significant architectural projects, including the 2008 Olympic national stadium, to the latest in fashion and graphics, the exhibition investigates this dynamic phase.

Centennial Professor of Architecture Mary-Ann Ray has received a grant from the Graham Foundation for the project “Caotangdi: Beijing Inside Out—Farmers, Floaters, Taxi Drivers, Artists, and the International Art Mob Challenge and Re-make the City.” During the spring semester she delivered a lecture titled “Recent Work” at Mississippi State University. During the spring semester she was an invited presenter and/or panelist at a number of conferences and symposia including Critical Practice in a Globalizing World: Borders & Networks, held at University of Washington, Department of Architecture, College of Architecture and Urban Planning, focusing on analyzing and discussing the effects of globalization upon borders and networks in the Pacific Rim, and “Postopolis! L.A.” sponsored by the Storefront for Art and Architecture in New York. She was an invited speaker and panelist at China Urbanism at University of California Berkeley College of Environmental Design, Everything Must Move, Paul A. Kennon Memorial Symposium at Rice University School of Architecture, Houston, Texas, and LASH Los Angeles/Shanghai—Urban/Sub-Urban Discourse.

Assistant Professor of Architecture Claire Zimmerman’s co-edited essay collection, Neo-avant-garde and Postmodern: Postwar Architecture in Britain and Beyond (with Mark Crinson) has been accepted for publication as Volume 21 in the Yale Studies in British Art. The book will be published by Yale University Press and will appear in Fall 2010. Her essay, “Siegfried Kracauer and Architectural Surface,” will be included in the collection Looking after Siegfried Kracauer (ed. Gerd Gemünden and Johannes von Moltke). Zimmerman delivered three talks in early 2009; the first at the College Art Association meetings in Los Angeles, entitled “From Chicago to Hunstanton,” the second at the Society of Architectural Historians Annual Meeting in Pasadena, entitled “Photographic Architecture: Cold War Export.”
The third she delivered in May 2009 as an invited speaker at the Yale School of Architecture symposium on James Stirling entitled “Jim Stirling’s ‘Real Function.’” She is also co-organizing the Fall 2009 symposium in the University of Michigan Department of the History of Art with Professor Alexander Potts. The working title of the symposium is Conflicted Imperatives of Modernity, 1945-1980.

Dean Monica Ponce de Leon’s firm, Office dA, won a 2009 Progressive Architecture (P/A) Award for Thunder Stadium in St. Paul, Minn. This was the year of the 55th Annual P/A Awards. According to Architect Magazine, the awards are designed to change over time. “Every year for the past 55 years, a jury of architects and architectural experts has accepted the Herculean task of reviewing hundreds of submissions of unbuilt building projects to identify a handful that together embody the term ‘progressive architecture.’ No juror ever serves twice, new projects get submitted every year, and architecture itself is in a constant state of evolution, so each jury inevitably arrives at a different definition of progress.” Banq, by Office dA was selected Best New Restaurant by Wallpaper.com for its 2009 Design Awards.

Current Fellows Jason K. Johnson (2008-09 Oberdick Fellow) and Nataly Gattegno (2008-09 Muschenheim Fellow) lectured and exhibited their design work at the ACADIA 2008: Silicone + Skin Conference in Minneapolis, Minn. The lecture and exhibit focused on their interactive installation “VIVISYS”, which was recently installed at the Extension Gallery in Chicago. This summer, Johnson and Gattegno will be in residence at the Van Alen Institute (VAI) as the 2009 New York Prize Fellows. An installation of their design research will open at the VAI Gallery in September 2009.

Professors June Manning Thomas and Margaret Dewar have been selected by the National Center for Institutional Diversity (NCID) for an inaugural NCID Distinguished Diversity Scholarship and Engagement Award. This award recognizes senior faculty members whose nationally-recognized diversity scholarship has promoted social change in line with the NCID’s core mission of bridging diversity scholarship and multilevel engagement.

Several urban planning faculty members presented at the 2009 Urban Affairs Conference in Chicago in March. Associate Professor of Urban Planning Scott Campbell presented his paper “The Return of Modernist Urbanism: The Prospects and Implications of Modernism’s Rehabilitation in Urban Planning.” Also at this conference, Assistant Professor of Urban Planning Lan Deng presented her paper “Assessing the Neighborhood Impacts of Low Income Housing Tax Credit Investment.” Finally, Assistant Professor of Urban Planning Joe Grengs presented his paper “Equity and the Social Distribution of Transportation Accessibility in Detroit.”

Six Research Through Making grants were awarded to architecture faculty working singly and in teams. This is the first year the competition has been held, and the jury included Sarah Herda, director of the Graham Foundation; Reed Kroloff, director of the Cranbrook Academy of Art and principal of Jones/Kroloff; and Catherine Seavitt-Nordenson, New York-based practicing architect, Rome Prize winner, adjunct professor at Princeton University, and Taubman College Alumna. The Research Through Making grants are intended to fund research and experimentation through making. Projects will be exhibited at the college in the fall. The following projects were funded: Assistant Professor Robert Adams’ “Spontaneous Mutations, Genetic
Deletions, Adaptive Environments, and Assistive Technology in the Compression of Developmental Time or Crawling Sticks and Other Architectural Accoutrements, Actants, and Apparatus,” “Digital Steam Bending,” submitted by Lecturer Josh Bard, Assistant Professor Steven Mankouche, and Lecturer Tsz Yan Ng. Karl Daubmann’s project “In Search of the (w)hole,” “Aurora” submitted by Architecture Fellows Nataly Gattegno and Jason Johnson, “Spatial Blooms + Here be Dragons” submitted by Associate Professor Perry Kulper, and “Heterogeneous Constructions” submitted by Associate Professor Keith Mitnick and Assistant Professor Mireille Roddier.

Associate Professor Lydia Soo presented “A Restoration Academy: The Places of Architectural Discourse in Late 17th Century London,” at the meeting of the Society of Architectural Historians in Pasadena in April.

Assistant Professor Fernando Lara presented his paper, “Learning from the Favelas: What Informal Settlements Tell Us About the Dissemination of Our Knowledge” as part of the “Social” Value Of Design session at the ACSA Annual Conference in March.

Associate Professor Will Glover won the 2008 American Institute of Pakistan Students (AIPS) Junior Book Prize for his book Making Lahore Modern. The AIPS Executive Committee described the book as a “tour de force that blends cultural history, urban studies, architectural history, colonial history, and the study of modernity.... In writing a ‘history of the present’ for the city of Lahore in Making Lahore Modern, William Glover does far more than historically analyze the city’s urban landscape. His multidimensional work describes the physical changes brought to the city’s landscape by the British Raj, the closely related cultural, social, and aesthetic changes, and various responses to these changes as well. In so doing, his work is as much about colonial governmentality as architecture, as much about conceptions of history as urban planning. Making Lahore Modern also points out the limits of the colonial enculturation project by showing how Indian colonial subjects were often active participants in the colonial projects of urban renewal. They brought their own set of meanings to them, and so appropriated them to their own ends. As one would expect from such a rich study, Glover’s work is not only relevant to urban studies but also studies of colonialism, governmentality, and the development of non-western modern aesthetics.” At the Society of Architectural Historians in Pasadena in April, Glover presented his paper, “Mid-20th Century New Towns in India and Changing Conceptions of the Social.”

Lecturer in Architecture Josh Bard was awarded a Lecturer’s Professional Development Grant from the UM Center for Research on Learning and Teaching (CRLT). Bard’s research has centered on investigating how digital practice can be shaped by hands-on tacit knowledge. The professional development grant will allow him to move to a new phase of research investigating methods of production and digital fabrication in conjunction with the ancient material practices of ceramics. He will be able to enlarge his focus to an architectural scale and engage a number of fabrication technologies.

Professor of Practice Harry Giles’ conference paper titled “Prefabricated Construction Using Digitally Integrated Industrial Manufacturing” has been chosen as honorable mention for the Architectural Research Centers Consortium (ARCC) submission from the joint 2008 EAAE/ARCC International Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark. Fifty of 120 submitted abstracts were chosen for the conference and the top 5 ARCC papers were selected for honorable mention.
In March, Taubman College celebrated the release of *Middle _ Out*, a volume cataloguing the work of its architecture faculty and edited by Jason Young, associate professor of architecture. The book is dedicated to Robin Wilson Carrier and Gordon R. Carrier, FAIA, B.S.’70, M.Arch.’81. The compilation of *Middle _ Out* is simultaneously a testament to the strength of the faculty and an affirmation of the bond between Taubman College members present and past. Young describes the book and its goals in his preface to the book:

The Architecture Program at the University of Michigan is defined, in part, by the creative work done by design faculty through private practice. Inadequate on its own to fully account for the intensity of the school, these practices nevertheless pressurize the collective conversations within the curriculum. *Middle _ Out* intends to celebrate and disseminate the design work of our faculty, emanating outward from the middle of Taubman College, of the discipline of architecture, of the country. Much of the work published here speaks to recent contexts of economy and geography in southeastern Michigan through small-scale, design+build projects. Simultaneously, there is a strong collection of projects that openly game with digital organization, fabrication, and assembly as it relates to projects of all scales. Pacing these two strands in the book is a third that exemplifies an intellectual preoccupation with representational methods and diverse conceptions of making. Together, these three strands offer a robust approximation of the near now within the discipline of architecture. The design of the book purposely casts the work of diverse and mostly independent practices together across its pages, allowing for a varied range of work and approaches to manifest itself and in doing so reveal consistencies among projects. Organized in horizontal bands, the projects intermingle and suggest new, diagonal readings of a collectivity that might otherwise remain ambient within the college. In this sense, the book claims a geography for what otherwise might dissipate into the day-in, day-out interactions between faculty and students.
student update

Willeke Portfolio Competition

Willeke Jurors
Michael C. Corby, B.S. ’82, M.Arch. ’84
Craig A. Hamilton, B.S. ’75, M.Arch. ’77
Marlene Imirzian, B.S. ’80, M.Arch. ’83
Wesley R. Janz, Ph.D. ’95
Marc L’Italien, FAIA, B.S. ’84
David J. Neuman, FAIA, B.Arch. ’70
Umayal Ramanathan, M.Arch. ’87
Thomas J. Sherry, B.S. ’91, M.Arch. ’93
Joseph M. Valerio, FAIA, B.Arch. ’70
Neal Robinson, Lecturer in Architecture

First Prize
Marc Maxey, UG4
$9,000.00

Second Prize
Maynard Hayden León, UG4
$6,000.00

Honorable Mention
Marie Matta, UG4

Honorable Mention
Joshua Appleman, UG4
Alumni Society
Undergraduate Awards

Undergraduate Jurors
Michael C. Corby, B.S.’82, M.Arch.’84, Grand Rapids
Marlene Imirzian, B.S.’80, M.Arch.’83, Phoenix
Mark L’Italien, FAIA, B.S.’84, San Francisco
Thomas J. Sherry, B.S.’91, M.Arch.’93, Detroit
Perry Kulper, Associate Professor

Undergraduate Studio Award
Britt Eversole UG3 Studio
“Top Down, Bottom Up and Side to Side”

Undergraduate Honor Award
Marc Maxey
“Leveraging Cold War Logistics”
Britt Eversole UG3 Studio
$1,000

Undergraduate Merit Awards
Cameron Stewart
“Shipped Perspectives and Alternate Experiences”
Keith Mitnick UG3 Studio

Richard Cosgrove
Bernard Peng
Alexander Timmer
“B.A.R. Bifurcated Aggregation Resort”
Karl Daubman UG3 Studio

Michael Pigozzi
“YAN—Youth Action Network”
Elizabeth Vandermark UG1 Studio

Joshua Klevorn
“Spatial Fit”
Anya Sirota UG1 Studio
Alumni Society
Graduate Awards

Graduate Jurors
Craig A. Hamilton, B.S.’75, M.Arch. ’77, Los Angeles
David Neuman, FAIA, B.Arch. ’70, Charlottesville, Virginia
Umayal Ramanathan, M.Arch. ’87, Boston
Joseph Valerio, FAIA, B.Arch. ’70, Chicago
Mireille Roddier, Assistant Professor

Graduate Honor Award
Michael Hopkins
“Niche Space”
Nataly Gattegno 2G1/3G4 Studio
$1,000

Graduate Merit Awards
Natalie Wiersma
“Boathouse”
Tsz Yan Ng 3G2 Studio

Daniel Weissman
“DaWeissBrau”
Glenn Wilcox 2G1/3G4 Studio

Rajeev Aravapalli
“Brew Factory”
Glenn Wilcox 2G1/3G4 Studio

Natasha Krol
“Threshold”
Jason Young 2G1/3G4 Studio

Loren Halter
Matthew Ducharme-Smith
“Strange Attractors”
Jason Johnson 2G3/3G6 Studio

Holly Ferguson
“Florence: 24 hours”
Neal Robinson 2G3/3G6 Studio

Claire Sheridan
“The Stripped Bare House”
Perry Kulper 2G3/3G6 Studio
“nostalgic, metaphorical, analytical and even the downright daft _illustrated pieces demonstrate the potential for spatial occupation, leading to new territories in architectural design”

linger
pause
saturation
over-stimulation
Student News

Erin Evenhouse’s paper, “The People Know Best: Developing Civic Participation in Urban Planning” has been accepted for presentation at the 2009 Breslauer Conference, The Public Interest in May at University of California, Berkeley. Erin is a LSA senior and first year urban planning student in the Concurrent Undergraduate/Graduate Study program.

Second year urban planning student Thida Sam has been granted a Harold and Vivian Shapiro/John Malik award from the Rackham Graduate School.

Doctoral students in architecture Kristina Luce and Nicholas Senske, presented their paper “Reconsidering the Ethics of Transparency” at the ACSA meeting in Portland, Oregon in March. Doctoral student Suma Pandhi presented “Collapsing the Material and the Haptic: Explorations of Japanese Architecture and Design” at the ACSA meeting.

Second year planning student Adam Hollier is the recipient of the Catlin/Long Memorial Scholarship of the American Planning Association. Adam received his award at the Planning and the Black Community scholarship luncheon during the National APA Conference in Minneapolis in April.

Dale Winling, a doctoral student in urban and regional planning, received one of the highly competitive Rackham Pre-doctoral Fellowships to complete work on his dissertation, “Building the Ivory Tower: University Development and the Politics of Urban Space.”

Scott Curry, a second-year urban planning student, has been chosen as the Spring 2009 Fellow of the APA Urban Design and Preservation Division’s Fellowship Program. This program was established to foster interest in the study of urban design and preservation, as well as the interrelationship between these two areas of planning. The program is open to third and fourth year undergraduate students and first and second year masters degree students. Scott’s responsibilities will include assisting the division’s executive committee with implementing various items of its work plan, and monitoring nationwide issues that relate to urban design and preservation in the field of planning.

Susan Massey has been named a Fulbright Scholar to Australia for 2009-2010. With help from the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute, she will be conducting research on her proposal, “The Aesthetics of Performance: Regulating Architectural Style in Low-Income Housing.” Susan graduated from Taubman College with an M.Arch. in 2008 and is currently a student in the Master of Science History/Theory Design Research program.

Graduating urban planning student Nathan Cataline has been awarded the Rosalie Ginsberg Award for Community Service and Social Action’s Outstanding Community Impact Award from the University of Michigan’s Ginsberg Center. This award is given to individual students or student organizations that have made service and social action an integral part of their college experience and have made a significant contribution to the community through sustained relationships or commitment to an issue. Nathan was recognized with an Outstanding Community Impact Award at a Celebration of Community in April.
Graduate architecture students Ryan Horsman and Jason Dembski have won second place in the Student Product Design category of the second annual International Design Awards Competition for their “Chopstick/Steamer Stool.”

An interdisciplinary team of students with Mary Martin, graduate architecture student, Jim Bucher doctoral candidate in engineering, and master of business administration student Mark Leo supported by Professor of Practice Harry Giles collaborated on the commercialization of an innovative transparent and energy efficient façade system called SITumbra, invented by Harry Giles that previously won an EPA P3 national award for sustainability. SITumbra was a finalist in the DTE Clean Energy prize competition. The Clean Energy competition was founded this year to help move clean energy technologies from the laboratory to commercial production. DTE Energy, through its DTE Energy Ventures subsidiary, challenged teams from Michigan colleges and universities to develop the best business plans for bringing new clean energy technologies to market. The competition began with 23 teams, each with a connection to the University of Michigan. The finalists went through three rounds of judging as part of the Michigan Business Challenge, the university-wide business plan competition and $3,400 was awarded to SITumbra as a fourth placed finalist. The competition required teams to focus on business ideas that support renewable energy, energy efficiency, smart grid technologies, environmental control technologies, plug-in electric vehicles or energy storage. The prize money will help the winning teams start new businesses that can contribute to Michigan’s emerging role as a leader in clean energy.

Agora: The Urban Planning and Design Journal of The University of Michigan

Now in its third year of publication, Agora: The Urban Planning and Design Journal of The University of Michigan continues to be entirely edited and designed by a team of graduate students in the Urban and Regional Planning Program. Led this year by co-Editors-in-Chief Scott Curry and Thomas Skuzinski with Senior Editors Stephanie Etkin and Krista Trout-Edwards, the journal’s staff also included Tara AuBuchon, Nicholas Cilluffo, Jaimie Cohen, Benjamin Newman, Spencer Olinek, Sarah Pavelko, Matthew Schildkret, and Trevor Thomas. According to Scott and Tom, “We take pride in moving this publication forward every year, and we were fortunate to once again have a dedicated staff to help us reach our goals for this year.”

One of these goals was to increase collaboration between the urban design and urban planning programs, and this is reflected by a greater balance between both in the substance of the journal. Readers will also find more artistic and photographic work to complement the fine narrative work of the selected contributors.

This year’s theme was the meaning of change for urban planners, designers, and theorists. The articles and design work reflect in various ways how this is not just a forward-looking concept, but also one that often requires an appreciation of the past. As noted by the editors, “We hope that this issue of Agora contributes to a positive ethos of change and informs the efforts of our readers as they create our future urban fabric.”

As in past years, the publication of Agora was made possible through the support of the Saarinen-Swanson Endowment Fund and The University of Michigan Urban and Regional Planning Program.
Spring Break 2009

We would like to heartily thank the firms and organizations who took time from their busy schedules to host a student this year!

Ann Arbor, Michigan
Ann Arbor Architects Collaborative
Hobbs + Black Architects
Hopkins Burns Design Studio
JFR
Lord Aeck & Sargent
University of Michigan AEC

Atlanta, Georgia
Lord Aeck & Sargent
Urban Collage

Battle Creek, Michigan
Architecture + Design

Boston, Massachusetts
Bergmeyer Associates
Boston Redevelopment Authority
Cambridge Seven Associates
Cannon Design
CBT Architects
EYP
Goody Clancy
Howeler + Yoon Architecture
Kennedy & Violich Architecture
Maryann Thompson Architects
Moshe Safdie and Associates
Office dA
Sasaki Associates
Shepley Bulfinch

Bozeman, Montana
Gallatin Valley Land Trust

Chicago, Illinois
Adrian Smith +
Gordon Gill Architecture
Brininstool + Lynch
Congress for the New Urbanism
DeStefano + Partners
DLK Civic Design
Farr Associates
Garofalo Architects
Gensler
Gettys
Ghafari Associates
Gibbons, Fortman & Associates
Goettsch Partners
Group A Architects
Harding Partners
HOK
John Ronan Architect
Murphy/Jahn

High Temperatures for Monday, February 23, 2009
Myefski Cook Architects
OWP/P
Pappageorge/Haymes
Perkins + Will
SOM
SMNG-A
Solomon Cordwell Buenz
Studio/Gang/Architects
tvsdesign
Valerio Dewalt Train Associates
VOA Associates
Worn Jerabek Architects
Zoka Zola Architecture + Urban Design

Columbus, Ohio
NBBJ

Denver, Colorado
RNL

Detroit, Michigan
Birchler Arroyo Associates
Detroit Economic Growth Corporation
Downtown Detroit Partnership
Hamilton Anderson Associates
HKS Architects
Kraemer Design Group
Rossetti Associates
SHW Group
SmithGroup

Fort Wayne, Indiana
Design Collaborative

Grand Rapids, Michigan
Integrated Architecture
Tower Pinkster

Greenwich, Connecticut
Joeb + Partners, Architects

Houston, Texas
Curtis & Windham Architects

Indianapolis, Indiana
A2SO4

Kalamazoo, Michigan
Tower Pinkster

Kansas City, Missouri
Collins Neoteis & Associates

La Jolla, California
Estudio Teddy Cruz

Los Angeles, California
Cannon Design
ROTO Architects

Miami, Florida
The Related Group

Minneapolis, Minnesota
City of Minneapolis

New York, New York
A+I Design
ABA Studio
Acconci Studio
Alexander Gorlin Architects
Architecture Research Office
Baxt/Ingui Architects
Brezavar + Brezavar Architects
Campion Platt Architect
Conant Architects
David Howell Design
Dean/Wolf Architects
Design AIDD Architects
Eisenman Architects
Fink & Platt Architects
G Tects
Iu + Biblowicz Architects
Lewis Tsurumaki Lewis
Lindsay Newman Architecture and Design
Mancini Duffy
Marble Fairbanks Architects
Metropolitan Transportation Authority
Pei Cobb Freed & Partners Architects
Perkins + Will
Perkins Eastman Architects
Rockwell Group
Ronnette Riley Architect
Sam Trimble Design
Selldorf Architects
Smith-Miller + Hawkinson Architects
Spector Group
Studio SUMO
Tod Williams Billie Tsien Architects
Truism Suk Design Group

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Kieran Timberlake

Phoenix, Arizona
Marlene Imirzian & Associates Architects
SmithGroup

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Rothschild Doyno Collaborative

Portland, Oregon
SERA

Raleigh, North Carolina
BBH Design

Saginaw, Michigan
Wigen Tincknell Meyer & Associates

Salt Lake City, Utah
Cooper Roberts Simonsen Associates

San Francisco, California
Arcsine Architecture
EHDD Architecture
Endres Ware
Gensler
HOK
Mark English Architects
Page & Turnbull
Perkins + Will
Sasaki Associates
SB Architects
SmithGroup
Studios Architecture

Seattle, Washington
EHS Design
LMN Architects
Mahlum Architecture
Miller Hull Partnership
Mithun Olson Sundberg Kundig Allen Architects
Place Architects
Stuart Silk Architects
Zimmer Gunsul Frasca Architects

Washington, DC
Cooper Carry
Cunningham
Quill Architects
US Department of Housing and Urban Development
Quinn Evans Architects
Elisabeth Knibbe, named fellow of the AIA

Elisabeth Knibbe, FAIA, B.S.’76, M.Arch./M.U.P.’78 has been named a fellow of the American Institute of Architects. The 2009 Jury of Fellows elevated 112 AIA members to its prestigious College of Fellows, an honor awarded to members who have made significant contributions to the profession. Lis Knibbe, a principal at QUINN EVANS | ARCHITECTS in Ann Arbor, was the only architect from Michigan to receive the award this year. For 30 years Lis has pioneered the use of historic preservation as an effective economic development tool to save endangered landmarks, serve low-income communities, and recycle valuable resources and architectural treasures. By building strong relationships with community development organizations, private developers, and economic development consultants, Lis has repeatedly revitalized buildings viewed as unsalvageable by the traditional development community. She is also the leading architect in Michigan to apply federal and state historic preservation tax credit programs to extend the life of historic buildings, ensuring that future generations will benefit from our architectural legacy. And long before sustainable design became the norm, Lis has been recycling buildings, returning well over 2,000,000 square feet of vacant and abandoned space to active use. Throughout her professional career Lis has been an active member of public boards ranging from a local historic district commission to the Michigan Historic Preservation Review Board. Her leadership has directly resulted in the establishment of successful community revitalization strategies, the adaptive use of historic buildings, and the investment of millions of dollars in school improvements.
1940s–1960s

Carl Luckenbach, FAIA
B.Arch.’57
is a founding principal of Luckenbach|Ziegelman Architects. In November 2008 the firm received a 25-Year Award for its work on the Matilda Wilson Aviary addition at a ceremony at the Detroit Zoological Park. Built 25 years ago and still in use for the same purpose for which it was designed, the aviary’s all glass addition was attached to the original 1920’s building and was intended to preserve the original classical style with an appropriate modern translucent glass semi-circular structure. The courtyard space topped with a wire grid allows free flight for the resident condor.

Robert L. Ziegelman, FAIA
B.Arch.’58
is a founding principal of Luckenbach|Ziegelman Architects. Three of the firms’ projects—Bank of Birmingham, Michigan; Affirmations Community Center in Ferndale, Michigan; and the Lubavitch Synagogue in West Bloomfield, Michigan—received three of the nine Masonry/AIA Michigan Building Design Awards, given May 2008. According to a recent publication on American synagogues, the Lubavitch Synagogue is considered one of the 40 best designed synagogues in the history of the United States. In 2009, Bob is looking forward to an exhibition at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Museum of his patented Prefabricated Building System that traces its roots from his time as a student at the University of Michigan Architecture and Design School.

1970s

Michael F. Malinowski, AIA
B.S.’74, M.Arch.’77
was recently elected vice president of communications and public affairs for the 11,000-member AIA California Council, and was also honored at the AIA Grassroots conference in Washington D.C. with the “Grassroots Excellence Award for Individual Contribution” for his work on streamlining process by implementing effective virtual meetings. Mike served as 2008 President of the 850-member AIA Central Valley, and last year completed the Globe Mills conversion of Sacramento, California’s “most blighted property”—a long-abandoned flour mill—into a thriving mix of affordable senior housing and market rate lofts. The Globe Mills was recently recognized nationally with the “2008 Award for Redevelopment Excellence” from the National Association of Housing Finance Agencies and the “2009 Award for Excellence in Residential Redevelopment” presented by the California Redevelopment Association in April.

Michael F. Malinowski
Perrin Emanuel  
M.U.P.’80  
has been appointed president of the Michigan Economic Developers Association (MEDA) Board of Directors for 2009. He is a native of the city of Highland Park, Michigan and was an honors graduate of the Highland Park School District, class of 1974. He is currently the president of HP Devco, Inc., the nonprofit economic development agency servicing the city of Highland Park. He has been instrumental in generating more than $300 million in new residential, commercial, industrial, and public infrastructure redevelopment in Highland Park since 1989. Emanuel has more than 25 years of professional experience in economic development and has worked for such organizations as New Detroit, Inc., Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, city of Ann Arbor, city of Ypsilanti, Wayne County Economic Development Corporation, and the Detroit Minority Business Development Agency. Current boards and affiliations include Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency board member, Highland Park Boys and Girls Club vice president and board member, a member of the city of Highland Park School Superintendent’s Advisory Council and the Reggie McKenzie Foundation Advisory Council, and a city of Southfield Building Authority commissioner. He has served on the MEDA Board of Directors as secretary and vice president, as well as serving on the education committee, two years on the annual meeting committee, and on the former land use task force.

Marc Jaffee  
M.U.P.’80  
has served several New England communities over the years. He taught in the geography department of Bridgewater State College (Massachusetts) for five years, and currently teaches environmental planning at Northeastern University in Boston.

John Barrie  
B.S.’83, M.Arch. ’85  
is a member of the Appropriate Technology Collaborative in Ann Arbor, and recently received a Lindbergh Grant for his project entitled, “Creating and Disseminating an Efficient, Cost Effective Universal LED Circuit Board Design as a Replacement for Kerosene Lamps in Central America.” John aims to bring 21st century light emitting diode (LED) technology to people who are currently using 19th century fuel-based lighting. He plans develop a universal LED circuit board—able to accept a variety of power supplies including photovoltaic panels and battery power or recycled charger power—in Guatemala and Nicaragua. A universal circuit board will make LED lighting less expensive than kerosene lights commonly used in areas without reliable access to electricity. He believes providing LED lighting will improve the quality of life, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and remove a major cause of burns and lung disease for a large number of people in the rural areas of developing nations, all while reducing energy consumption. John received one of 10 Lindbergh grants. He was chosen from 166 applicants from around the world. Lindbergh Grants are made in amounts up to $10,580, a symbolic amount representing the cost of building Charles Lindbergh’s plane, the Spirit of St. Louis, in 1927.
Juliet Jakobowski Maes  
B.S. ’83, M.Arch. ’89
has joined FTC&H to lead healthcare programming and planning in the healthcare architecture studio. She is a registered architect, member of the Detroit Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA), and a member of the AIA Academy for Health. Juliet was formerly the founder and principal of StudioMAES, LLC, a programming and planning consulting firm working with Beaumont Hospitals and Mount Clemens General Hospital private physician groups. Juliet has 25 years experience including managing the design of the first two phases of the Karmanos Cancer Center, projects for Detroit Medical Center and Beaumont Hospitals, and a range of project work including inpatient and outpatient diagnostic suites, medical office buildings, outpatient treatment centers, private physician offices, and women’s health facilities.

Douglas Atkinson  
M.Arch. ’84
has been elected president of the board of directors for Preservation Wayne. Preservation Wayne is Detroit’s oldest and largest architectural preservation organization. Doug is an associate/project manager with Hamilton Anderson Associates.

John Ronan  
B.S. ’85
is principal of John Ronan Architects in Chicago. His project, the Gary Comer Youth Center, Chicago is one of nine projects to be recognized with a 2009 AIA Honor Award. Project types range from cathedrals to trend-setting residential projects that have a tremendous impact on the social and physical fabric of the communities they serve. Many were designed with budget constraints and a number of projects were a reuse of existing buildings or an integration of old with new. The Comer Youth Center is a 74,000-square-foot facility, located in one of Chicago’s poorest neighborhoods. Its mission is to advance social progress by providing a constructive environment for area youths to spend their after-school hours. The center provides support for the programs of a 300-member drill team/performance group for children of ages eight to 18 and provides space for various youth educational and recreational programs for disadvantaged children to better their chances of success in life. John was also made associate professor at the Illinois Institute of Technology last spring.

Mark Shuler  
B.S. ’85
has been running his own boutique design practices since 1992, focusing on the high end residential and light commercial markets. Because he lives in Seattle and practices throughout the greater Puget Sound, green building techniques have been a part of his design and project management repertoire as well as the regulatory environment since he arrived there in 1989. Part artist, part engineer, part lawyer and part marriage counselor is how he describes his typical day. Mark is also a part of a non-governmental organization based out of Los Angeles, (Amrit Davaa World Health, www.amritdavaaworld.org) that builds medical clinics and water projects in some of the least developed parts of the world. Amrit Davaa World Health typically works in areas unserved by other NGOs and underserved by local government. Mark is the chief technical advisor for the organization and is now
working in India and Tibet with future projects slated for India, Mexico, and Vietnam. Mark flies to India twice a year and just returned from a three-week visit. Photos of that visit are on his Facebook page: http://tinyurl.com/Shuler.

Dana Buntrock
M.Arch./M.U.P.’88
is associate professor of architecture at University of California Berkeley. Her review of the exhibition Toyo Ito: the New ‘Real’ in Architecture, entitled “Build,” was published in Tokyo from Vancouver 2, a volume edited by George Wagner. The essay was also published earlier in CAAReviews.com, the online refereed publication of the College Art Association.

Peter May
B.S.’88
lives in Crestone, Colorado, where he practices architecture, leads wilderness education programs, and is chief of one of the fire departments. He also plays with the Paul Winter Consort on its recent release CRESTONE: A Celebration of the World of Crestone which received a 2008 Grammy for Best New Age Album. Peter produced the album, played the conch shells, and recorded many of the animal sounds. This is his first Grammy nomination. Peter scouted locations over the course of a year to record the album. He hiked to fifteen sites, recording his trumpet on a video camera. On one scouting expedition, Peter writes, “we found buffalo, in remote parts of a ranch in the San Luis Valley, but weren’t able to get close enough to record. One evening I decided to play my trumpet for them. Three of them were very attentive, and we were able to drive our pick-up within twenty feet of them. We quietly set up our recording equipment. Gradually the buffalo began to come around us, until we were surrounded by perhaps 200 of them, making gentle grunts and chuffing sounds.” The primary recordings for this new release were done in the natural acoustics of North Crestone Lake, at an altitude of 11,800 feet in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. The album introduces the voice pow-wow drum and cedar flute of John-Carlos Perea, a young singer of Apache heritage, who sings in the Northern Plains Indian tradition. The album also features the sounds of the mountain bluebird, red-winged blackbird, whooping crane, meadowlark, sandhill cranes, coyotes, and buffalo.

Connie Rizzolo Brown
B.S.’89
and Celeste Allen Novak B.S.’82, M.Arch.’84, placed in the top ten for the National Greenhouse Competition in Philadelphia through their Ann Arbor-based firm RizzoloBrown + Novak Architects. Their firm focuses on design that incorporates things as eclectic as art and as essential as sustainability. Their innovative design work includes materials not normally seen in traditional architectural projects (recycled car window glass). They also renovate fire-damaged apartments and build green homes. Connie has presented lectures and papers at the Creative Cities Conference in Detroit; the Michigan State Economic Development Authority; the Michigan Business Brokers Association; and participated in the ICONUS08 International Conference on Urban Sustainability in Hong Kong. Celeste was named to the Build Up Detroit Advisory Council and published articles on sustainable building materials in the Architectural Record and Green Source magazine. Both are adjunct professors at Lawrence Technological University in Detroit.
Wassim Jabi  
M.Arch.’89, Ph.D.’04  
accepted a permanent, tenured position as a senior lecturer (equivalent to associate professor in the U.S.) at the Welsh School of Architecture, Cardiff University in the United Kingdom. He will be spearheading the school’s initiative to integrate digital design tools in all aspects of teaching in the school. In particular he will work to introduce a comprehensive approach to digital and analog methods of design enabled by the integration of digital tectonics, associative computational geometry, building information modeling, building performance analysis, and digital fabrication.

1990s

Kenneth Huo  
M.Arch.’90  
is an architect and a building official for the town of Atherton, California. Last fall, he led a five-man team of seismic safety and building experts from the Bay Area to China to inspect the rural villages in the Gansu Province damaged by the May 2008 Wenchuan earthquake that is blamed for nearly 70,000 deaths. Gansu province, home to 55 of China’s 56 ethnic groups and a wide variety of architectural styles, is about 200 kilometers from the epicenter of the quake. Ken led the delegation on the 10-day trip, which included building inspections, seminars with Chinese officials, and a bit of paintbrush diplomacy—bringing artwork and school supplies from American school kids to an earthquake-damaged school in Wenxian. The team consulted with local authorities on a sustainable post-disaster reconstruction plan. The trip was organized by San Francisco-based Cross Cultural Exchange, a non-profit organization specializing in recruiting qualified U.S. experts to assist China in various engineering/construction projects. Ken and his team volunteered their time to make the trip.

Heather Taylor, AIA  
B.S.’90  
led a tour and presentation on the University of Southern Maine’s Abromson Community Education Center, Maine’s first LEED Gold building at a North Atlantic Society for College and University Planning meeting. She also served on the Build Boston panels “Leadership Development: Action Items” and “Highly Effective Business Development Habits for Principals.” Heather is principal in the Boston office of Einhorn Yaffee Prescott.

Mark F. Miller, AIA  
B.S.’91, M.Arch.’93  
was named 2009 Young Architect of the Year from the AIA Grand Valley Chapter. The annual award recognizes proficiency and exceptional accomplishments in the profession as well as contributions to the community by an architect who is 40 years old or younger. Mark is chairman of the Grand Rapids Historic Preservation Commission, the immediate past president of the AIA Grand Valley and writes a monthly column on architecture and design for Grand Rapids Magazine. He lives in historic Heritage Hill in Grand Rapids, Michigan with his wife Lisa Miller (B.S.’91) and their three children.
Russell Baltimore
B.S.’92, M.Arch.’94
has been elected secretary of the board of directors for Preservation Wayne. Preservation Wayne is Detroit’s oldest and largest architectural preservation organization. Russell is a designer for Hamilton Anderson Associates in downtown Detroit.

Richard Mitchell
M.U.P.’92
after four years as general counsel for state of Washington Governor Chris Gregoire, Richard is leaving the governor’s office to join Summit Law Group. He will be leading its real estate asset group, a multi-disciplinary practice involving real estate, land use, environmental, design and construction law. Richard earned a bachelor of architecture degree with honors from Cornell University. He then worked in London, England, with British architect Sir Terry Farrell, and Canadian developer Olympia York on the London Docklands Redevelopment in 1989. After receiving his planning degree from Michigan, he earned his juris doctor degree from Syracuse University. He has served as a board member on the Washington Low Income Housing Network, Environmental Works, and the city of Seattle’s Landmarks Preservation Commission. He is currently on board of the King County Bar Association and International Community Health Services Foundation.

Darin Daguanno, AIA
B.S.’93, M.Arch./M.S.E.’99
was recently hired by SmithGroup’s Detroit office in their office/workplace, government and cultural studios. He has over 15 years of design, construction, and project management experience which includes typologies from commercial/office to a variety of learning facilities. Darin was formerly a project designer at inFORM Studio in Northville, Michigan. He has taught design studio at University of Detroit Mercy and has been a guest juror at the State University of New York at Buffalo, and Lawrence Technological University. As a senior designer, Darin is currently working on the Cranbrook Educational Community, Museum and Library Renovation and Central Michigan University Events Center.

James Nicita
M.U.P.’94
a land use and environmental attorney and planner, was recently elected to the Oregon City commission. Jim was motivated to run for office to set the city on a new course by halting annexations and refocusing the city’s urban renewal priorities back to the downtown area. One of his biggest issues was the inadequate level of staffing in the police department and he proposed a charter amendment requiring police staffing be in line with the city’s population. Jim has only been in Oregon City (the historic end of the Oregon Trail) since 2007, but has been involved in local matters since his arrival when he became active with the historic preservation committee. As an environmental and land-use attorney he has been representing the opposition to the proposed liquid natural gas pipeline that would cut through Clackamas (Oregon) County on its way to fuel California. Following a trip to Europe where he visited projects that were treating water in an innovative way, he helped bring world-renowned architect Herbert Dreiseitl, whose focus is waterscapes, to Portland to consult on a local park project. Jim is also active in the Oregon Pacific Green party. He defeated incumbent Damon Mabee for his commission seat with 52 percent of the vote.
Theodore Touloukian  
M. Arch. ’94  
and Susan [Kremers] Touloukian  
B. S. ’91, M. Arch. ’94,  
have three children and live in South Boston, Mass. They  
have an architecture and urban design practice in downtown  
Boston. They recently received two 2008 AIA/BSA Small  
Firms/Small Projects Design Awards for their work. A  
“Citation for Design” for the Pergolas and Pavilion at the  
Greensboro, N.C. Center City Park and an “Award for Design”  
for the East Sixth Street Rear Residence in South Boston.

Noel Michaels  
M. Arch. ’95  
is an associate director and studio head in the Chicago office  
of SOM. He has worked there for the past ten years on  
many projects, most notably the Trump Tower in Chicago  
and the Dallas Convention Center. Noel is currently heading  
up several mixed-use high rise projects most recently in  
Wenzhou, Wuhan, Chengdu and Shanghai China, as well  
as Dubai. The tallest building is in Wenzhou at 350 meters  
and begins construction this year. Additionally his studio  
recently completed construction drawings for a genomics  
laboratory for the University of North Carolina.

Donn Angel Perez  
B. S. ’95, M. Arch. ’97  
is the principal of Sitios, Studio of Art + Architecture,  
a design and art studio at the Russell Industrial Center  
in Detroit. The studio is a design laboratory for the  
development of architectural design investigations and  
ar chitectural art, elements, and furniture. Donn also creates  
art explorations related to cancer healing, music, and art  
investigations through painting and sculpture making. Donn  
teaches graduate and undergraduate courses at Lawrence  
Tech in Southfield, Michigan in architecture and design  
and sustainability. He also collaborates with programs  
in interior architecture and exhibition design topics.

Anselmo Canfora  
M. Arch. ’96  
is an assistant professor of architecture at the University  
of Virginia. In September 2008, ground was broken in  
Uganda for the Building Tomorrow Academy of Gita.  
Supported by UVA, the academy will provide the first-ever  
permanent public school structure within a nine-mile  
radius. It will open later this year and serve about 325  
children. The design was created by 15 architecture students  
in collaboration with engineering students and directed  
by Anselmo. His project, Initiative ReCOVER, focuses on  
research, design, and fabrication of humanitarian designs  
that are shared with the general public, disaster relief  
agencies, and those in need of assistance, with an ultimate  
goal of designing and building safe, healthy, and sustainable  
communities around the world.

John Comazzi  
M. Arch. ’98, M. S. ’99  
is an assistant professor at the College of Design at the  
University of Minnesota. With two colleagues from  
Landscape Architecture, John has received an American  
Institute of Architecture Education Honor Award for  
excellence in course development and architectural  
teaching. The trio was recognized for their collaborative  
graduate architecture and landscape architecture design  
studios in Fall 2007 and Fall 2008.
David Sears
M.Arch. ’98
founded David Sears Design in 2006 with a mission to create highly functional pieces with low environmental impact. His Cube Furniture Collection—which he debuted at the International Contemporary Furnishings Fair in New York City last summer—is a five-piece modern collection made of sustainably harvested wood and eco-friendly finishes. The collection uses maple and a nine-ply plywood with inner hardwood plies and signature details. The collection’s modular pieces supersede space confinements because they can be moved and configured in different ways. The use of modular pieces has not yet been fully attained in the high-end market. He recently lectured at the New England School of Art and Design at Suffolk University Gallery, where his pieces were on exhibit during February. His collection so far has been recognized by InteriorDesign.net, BoutiqueDesign.com, Furniture/Today, Modern Woodworking, Design Trade Magazine, and online at Residential Architect. David has held positions at Gund Partnership and Arrowstreet Architects, in Boston.

Danny Tak Cheng Sze
B.S. ’98
worked for Ramboll Whitbybird Engineers in London, England last year. He was a façade consultant for the Tate Modern extension with Swiss architects Herzog and De Meuron. Danny will continue his career in China in 2009 with Meinhardt Façade Technology.

David Teare
B.S. ’98, M.Arch./M.Eng.’03
has been employed by a local project and program management consultant, Administrative Controls Management, Inc., for over five years, and is just completing a two-year assignment as architectural field representation consultant for Kohn Pedersen Fox on the new 270,000 square foot UM Ross School of Business facility. Prior to this, he was engaged in a similar position for 15 months for Polshek Partnership Architects on the 500,000 square foot UM Biomedical Science Research Building. When not working proactively for architects to facilitate successful project completion, he has worked on writing multiple construction claim reports, and has participated in mediation and deposition testimony. He has also just recently passed all his NCARB Architectural Registration Exams, and is looking forward to being able to finally declare himself an Architect with a capital “A.”

Rachel Lee
M.Arch.’99
has been promoted to senior associate at the San Francisco office of Perkins + Will. A valued employee at the architecture firm for nine years, she has focused on complex science and technology projects for top tier research institutions.

Paul Tebben
B.S. ’99
along with his friend and business partner Vladimir Radutny, Paul recently established STUDIO IDE, an architecture and design collaborative in Chicago. Through a critical assessment of contemporary life, the pair strives to transcend the conventional interpretations of space, material, form, and function. They place emphasis on the
opportunities of program, the intricacies of place, and the nuances of culture. These become the catalysts for design strategies that move beyond aesthetic response, creating intelligent solutions grounded in function, context, and personal meaning. They hope everyone will explore the firm’s new website, www.studioide.com, and welcome and encourage any and all feedback!

**Tonino Vicari**
B.S. ’99, M.Arch. ’01, M.S. ’03
is principal of Tectonic Design which will be featured in the new design volume *Modern Sustainable Residential Design: A Guide for Design Professionals* by William Carpenter, FAIA with a foreword by Allison Arieff, *New York Times* “By Design” columnist. This book offers lessons for architects and interior designers who want to conceptualize and implement sustainable design strategies in modern residential design. Recognized residential architect and educator William J. Carpenter offers solutions for incorporating sustainable aspects into a home design from conceptualization to implementation. Examples feature some of the best modern sustainable residential projects from the U.S. and abroad. The built work of Tectonic Design has also been featured in *Dreaming Green: Eco-Fabulous Homes Designed to Inspire*. Projects will also be featured in a *Dwell* green homes case studies volume, and on the Discovery Channel’s “Worlds Greenest Homes,” airing on their new network “Planet Green” next year.

**Tracy Koe Wick, LEED AP**
M.U.P. ’99
has earned LEED accreditation from the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). Director of Client Services at Neumann/Smith, Tracy has over 16 years of experience working with many of Michigan’s most respected development teams. In the nine years before joining Neumann/Smith, she managed her own real estate consulting firm, The Kirkwood Group, where she specialized in providing pre-development studies and marketing strategies. Her market knowledge and real estate expertise enhances Neumann/Smith’s capabilities in developing new business and deepening existing client relationships. Tracy is a member of the Urban Land Institute, commercial Real Estate Women, and the National Association of Realtors.

**Andrew Volckens**
B.S. ’00
has been working on a project entitled “NEST House” with the principals of Nalor and Chu where he works in San Francisco. This project has recently received national and local recognition including a Progressive Architecture (P/A) Awards citation and a San Francisco AIA Honor Award. The NEST House is a two-bedroom, single-family house that can serve as temporary or permanent housing for people displaced by natural disasters and can survive a repeat disaster. It is the first completely self-contained expandable pre-fabricated house transported inside a shipping container and ready for immediate occupancy. The goals for the NEST House are straightforward: it should be extremely efficient in its use of materials, non-toxic and sustainable throughout, modern yet timeless in design, extremely efficient in operating costs, dignified, warm and livable, and extremely affordable.
Jeeyong An AIA
M.Arch.’01
launched a design firm, Ginseng Chicken Architects, with two partners in New York City in 2008. The firm is involved in a wide range of projects from the design of single family homes, restaurants, hospitality venues to fashion shows. It has received awards in various competitions and a short story was recently published in *Architectural Record* in the “Recession & Recovery—Recession Stories” slide show. The firm’s website is www.ginsengchicken.net.

Nicolette Mastrangelo
B.S.’03
was one of three students awarded the 2009 John K. Branner Traveling Fellowship from the College of Environmental Design at the University of California, Berkeley for her proposal, “The Untested City: Unprecedented Urbanism and the Performance of New Public Space.” She will be traveling abroad for the next 12 months conducting fieldwork and researching cities in Dubai, India, China, Korea, Japan, Kazakhstan, and Europe. She is interested in opportunities for collaboration and invites her classmates and fellow alumni to follow her travels online at her blog: untestedcity.com. Nicolette is in her third year at the College of Environmental Design pursuing a dual master’s degree in architecture and city planning while also teaching as a graduate student instructor.

Laurie Hughet Hiller
B.S.’04, M.Arch.’06

Beth Jagnow Frye
M.Arch.’04
married Kendall Lee Frye in September 2008, in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Their marriage ceremony took place on the lawn of La Posada de Santa Fe, under a beautiful sky on the last day of summer. Guests mingled during the cocktail hour on the terrace as the sun set, then ended the evening with an elegant dinner reception in the candle-lit ballroom. Kendall received a bachelor’s of science in architectural engineering and a master’s of science in telecommunications from the University of Colorado, Boulder, in 1991 and 1997, respectively. He is an engineer at the Los Alamos National Laboratory and a combat medic in the New Mexico Army National Guard. Prior to getting her master of architecture degree at Michigan, Beth received a bachelor’s of art in architecture from Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts in 2000. She is a project manager at the Los Alamos National Laboratory. Kendall and Beth reside in Los Alamos, New Mexico.

Matt Battin
M.Arch.’05
is a visiting assistant professor at the College of Architecture, Art and Design at Mississippi State University. He was most recently working on hurricane recovery as a consultant to FEMA in New Orleans. He has worked for...
firms in Washington, D.C. and Ann Arbor dealing with residential, commercial, and government projects at multiple scales. His research is currently focused on tactical approaches to architecture and suburban housing.

Jim Diego  
B.S.’06  
continues to work as a project manager for the Division of Real Estate Services within the Department of Citywide Administrative Services for the city of New York, a position he has held since July 2007. His projects include an asthma counseling center in East Harlem, a restacking of city space at a leased ten-story building in the Bronx, and building a micrographics center for the NYC Department of Buildings in Lower Manhattan. He is also enrolled at Hunter College as a graduate student in its urban planning program. Recently, he bought his first home, a co-op apartment in New York City.

Kathleen Duffy  
B.S.’06  
is an assistant planner for LSL Planning, Inc. in Royal Oak, Michigan. She graduated in May 2008 from the University of Illinois with a master’s degree in urban planning. At Illinois, Kathleen received the Departmental Excellence Award, served as president of the student planning organization, and was a teaching and research assistant in housing and community development. With four of her peers in Illinois’ architecture and urban planning programs, she participated in the national 2008 Urban Land Institute Gerald Hines Student Urban Design Competition. They won an Honorable Mention for their proposal for the redevelopment of a neighborhood adjacent to downtown Dallas during this intensive two-week competition.

Adrienne S. Lyon  
B.S.’06  
has joined the architectural team at GWWO, Inc./Architects. Adrienne recently received a master’s of architecture degree from the University of Virginia. She has been involved in several park and cultural projects since joining GWWO and is currently working on planning for Student Learning Center space at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. GWWO, Inc./Architects is a full service architectural firm that specializes in the planning and design of cultural and educational facilities, with emphasis on quality design that is both evocative and inspirational.

Luna Khirfan  
Ph.D.’07  
presented at the 5th Savannah Symposium titled, World Heritage and National Registers in Perspective in February 2009. This annual symposium is organized by the Architectural History Department of the Savannah College of Art and Design. She presented a paper titled “Documentation and Policy-making: Preserving the Built Heritage or the Life Within?” Luna is an assistant professor at the University of Waterloo (Ontario).
Charles William Lauzon, B.A.A.E.’43, Port Huron, Michigan, March 8, 2009. Charles was 88 years old, and had been an architect in the Chicago area for 50 years. He served in the U.S. Army in Europe during World War II where he earned a bronze star. He married Marguerite Postill in Port Huron, Michigan. After the war, they settled in Highland Park, Illinois where they lived for 57 years. Charles is survived by his wife, three daughters and four grandchildren. He was a member of the American Institute of Architects, the Construction Specifications Institute-Chicago Chapter, Highland Park Presbyterian Church, and the Highland Park Kiwanis Club. He devoted much time to the local Boy Scouts, designing buildings for their summer camp in Wisconsin and for several Chicago area Girl Scout camps. An expert amateur photographer, Charles documented many of the travels he enjoyed throughout the years with his family.


Maurice B. Allen, FAIA, B.Arch.A.’50, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, November 1, 2008. Born in Lansing, Michigan in 1926, he was educated at Western Michigan University and Notre Dame University in the Navy V-12 program, was commissioned an officer, and served on a destroyer in the Pacific Fleet. He later graduated with a bachelor of architecture from the University of Michigan. Throughout his professional life Maury exhibited a concern for architectural excellence in the fullest sense. He designed many prominent structures which received local, regional, and national recognition. In addition, his design interests led him into positions of teacher, juror, public speaker and counselor to state government. His career started as draftsperson/designer for Smith, Hinchman & Grylls Associates and for a decade as an associate of Eero Saarinen. He was a principal of TMP Associates for 31 years, retiring from his board position in 1993. Maury was honored with advancement to the College of Fellows of the AIA in 1983 for his outstanding contributions in design and service to the profession. In 1995 the AIA, Detroit Chapter, honored Maury with its most prestigious award, the Chapter’s Gold Medal.

Donald J. Bergsma, B.Arch.’55, M.Arch.’57, Clearwater, Florida, January 28, 2009. About 35 years ago Mr. Bergsma came to the Building Arts Department at St. Petersburg Junior College with a vision of establishing a high-quality architectural program that would mirror the first two years of a university education. Using his experiences gained from teaching positions at the University of Michigan and the University of Utah, and working with the University of Florida, he transformed a typical junior college drafting program into an architectural transfer program that has sent students to the finest architectural schools in the country including the University of Florida, FAMU, Berkeley, Columbia, Harvard, MIT, Penn, SCI-Arc, UCLA and Yale. Since his retirement in 1996, the Building Arts Department has continued his vision of excellence; SPC has been successfully transferring students
directly into USF’s graduate School of Architecture and Community Design. Mr. Bergsma set the bar very high; he demanded nothing short of excellence. He was fond of reminding people, “Good enough’ means ‘I don’t care.’” His students responded to the challenge. One of his last comments was, “...I have a long list of excellent students I have been privileged to know.” Mr. Bergsma is survived by his brother Ralph (B.Arch.’59) and family.

Basil Nemer, B.Arch.’56, Troy, Michigan, August 8, 2008.


Julie Cash Levin, M.U.P.’82, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, October 29, 2007 passed away from a brain tumor. She earned her master’s degree in urban planning from UM after earning her bachelor’s degree in urban planning from MSU. Loving books, she got her second masters in library science from Wayne State. She was a children’s librarian in Bloomfield Hills until she became ill. She was a mother of two sons.

Angela Kay Fleming, B.S.’96, M.Arch.’99, Los Angeles, California, November 8, 2008, passed away in Los Cabos, Mexico as the result of a swimming accident. Angie was born July 2, 1974 in Taylorville, Illinois. She graduated from Alma High School in 1992. Shortly after receiving her master of architecture she moved to Los Angeles, California to work for DMJM, an architectural firm and worked for them for ten years. Angie loved spending time with her family and friends and had been a member of St. Mary’s Catholic Church.

Dana Habel, B.S.’99, Ypsilanti, Michigan, November 22, 2008, after a long struggle with cancer. After Dana received his degree in architecture he began work at SmithGroup in March of 2000. His love for his profession and this company could be seen daily in his work and attitude, always looking for ways to better himself and his colleagues. Dana was an early advocate of adopting BIM technologies and had strong interests in green building design, becoming one of the first to pass the LEED exam. He also led the charge to promote a more sustainable office culture-companywide, through conservation, recycling and educational programs. Dana was an active member in Alpha Rho Chi, a foundation established to advance education and research directed toward the discovery, promotion, furtherance, and dissemination of knowledge related to architecture and the allied arts, promoting the artistic, scientific, and practical proficiency of its membership and the profession. As a student he served as president of the University of Michigan chapter, as an alumnus, vice president and mostly recently President of the local alumni association. In all capacities he strove to meet the fraternity’s goals by providing support and encouragement to the students in the chapter, as an available resource to its members. For the next five years, the SmithGroup’s University of Michigan Endowed Scholarship has been renamed: “The SmithGroup Endowed Scholarship in Memory of Dana Habel.”
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Class Notes
Taubman College
The University of Michigan
2000 Bonisteel Boulevard
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734 763-2322 fax
calendar

May 01  University Graduate Exercises

02  University Commencement

03  Taubman College Commencement

September 08  Fall Semester Begins

24–27  UM Homecoming 50th Reunion Celebration and Emeritus Weekend

October 19–20  Fall Study Break

23–25  UM Recent Grad Reunion: Undergraduate Classes of 2004–2008 are invited!

November 11–12  23rd Annual UM/ULI Real Estate Forum: The New Real Estate Reality

December 20  Winter Commencement

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