to care, share, and trust beyond one’s universal/individual self and one’s ties of kin(ship),
across a broadened human network of friends [Self / Friends] . . . as in relations of citizenship: a bond of ‘well-being’ gained from exercising one’s individual capacity to care, share, and trust beyond one’s universal/individual self and one’s ties of kin(ship) and friend(ship) into an arena of self-governing citizens — a commitment rooted in the idea of individual citizens working collaboratively to achieve a bond of “public family” [Self / fellow Citizen(s)] . . . as in relations of stewardship: a bond of ‘well-being’ gained from exercising one’s individual capacity to care, share, and trust beyond one’s universal/individual self and one’s ties of kin(ship), friend(ship), and citizen(ship) into an arena of planetary stewards — a commitment rooted in the idea of “human family” and a conscious quest for global harmony [Self / fellow Steward(s)].

**community:**  
1. a. Not a physical place — i.e., not the community, not a community, not my community; not even so much a physical aggregate of people sharing similar values and/or interests; rather, a greater unity of energy gained when human beings make a common commitment to care, to share, and to be mutually trustworthy.  
2. b. An otherwise un-tapped reservoir of energy (perpetually) waiting to be ‘tapped’ and ‘mobilized’ through human acts of cooperation.  

Lest we forget, we do not create (community; rather, we open ourselves up to this unique bonding energy by committing to ever-widening thresholds of “family” relationships: ever-widening commitments of caring • sharing • trusting; “community,” in a very real sense, continually (re)makes us.

J. Chaffers
Addressing the whole of Third Millennium design/planning challenges calls for an unparalleled exercise of personal and professional leadership. To this end, I offer the following definition:

[leadership n. Our human capacity for caring in ways that serve to inspire ourselves and others; an inherent and active capacity which each of us must choose to exercise (in our own unique way) if we are to make our visions, real.]

Leadership: An inherent capacity exercised with the understanding that “caring,” alone, is not enough; specifically, the act of putting one’s “caring into action”—caring enough to act . . .

(as) Personal Guide
     paying attention to linkages of self and “spirituality”
     the Spiritual (personal)
     in lifelong pursuit of common good

(as) Professional Advocate
     paying attention to relationships of service and “opportunity”
     the Intellectual (practical)

(as) Global Visionary
     paying attention to bonds of ecology and “communality”
     self / others self / nature self / nature

J. Chaffers
Oct 08

This “graphic statement” and the one on the cover are from James Chaffers’ Space Spirit project, a work in progress that Professor Chaffers envisions as a pocket glossary-dictionary for use by a broad range of practitioners engaged in critical inquiry and creative practice.
I am very excited and honored to be here at the University of Michigan Taubman College of Architecture + Urban Planning.

Architecture and urban planning are at a critical point in their history. Environmental issues are bringing into question old modes of thinking and exposing the limits of how these fields were conceived. It is clear that our patterns of consumption have led to a disastrous impact on the globe. Buildings and their proliferation in the landscape have played a critical role in the creation of the problem, and we must take responsibility if a true solution is to be achieved. We must dramatically change the way that buildings are designed and constructed, and we must substantially reassess current patterns of land settlement if the globe is to survive its current crisis and endure for future generations.

At the same time, I believe that technological advances are dramatically influencing architecture and urban planning and as a result the fields are poised to undergo dramatic changes over the next decade. Digitization continues to transform the way we imagine space, transfer information, and construct our material reality. Technology is transforming the building industry and these changes will have an impact on the way buildings, sites and cities are conceived. Much like the digital revolution of the 80s affected the way that we drew buildings and sites, digital technology is rapidly changing the way that buildings are fabricated and assembled.

Thus, at this point I think it is essential that we consider the cultural impact and relevance of our fields. We need to re-examine, how do architecture and urban planning affect the world and can we do better? I came to Ann Arbor because I found at Taubman College the right ingredients to address these issues. The diversity of the faculty, its breadth of knowledge, and expertise are fundamental to facing the challenges that lie ahead. In addition, the university as a whole has a long history of commitment to research and interdisciplinarity, two traditions that I believe will be the key to address the transformations in our fields.

Those of you who know my design work know that I am not interested in a signature style, or a single mode of thinking. I am interested in the pursuit of excellence, and in creating things that matter. I believe that diversity and multiple voices are the means to get there. I know of no other college of architecture and urban planning where distinct modes of thinking have not only coexisted, but thrived throughout its history. For example, at the inception of the Architecture Program Le Baron Jenney incorporated a variation on the Beaux Arts teaching model; while shortly thereafter Emil Lorch incorporated the abstract compositional rules of “pure design” into the core curriculum well ahead of the Bauhaus. It is interesting that it was Emil Lorch himself who brought to Michigan Eliel Saarinen and his commitment to detailing and craftsmanship. In the mid-century, the college was home to the classic modernism of Robert Metcalf and the structural complexities of Gunnar Birkerts. So it is not surprising that the Architecture Program counts among its alumni such diverse practitioners as Chuck Bassett and Charles Correa, and that the Urban and Regional Planning Program has amid its
graduates such diverse figures as Marcy Kaptur and Jorge Pérez. It is this proven track record in academic diversity that will ensure we continue to advance in our fields.

The best deans I have worked with were those who understood the culture of the school and used it as the basis for forging academic programs that kept pace with changing times. The best deans were those who recognized the strength of their faculty and nurtured that strength. I am looking forward to getting to know the college and will need the help of faculty, students, staff, and alumni to gain a meaningful understanding of Taubman College. I am interested in building on the strengths of the college as a means of taking it to its next chapter.

I have asked the faculty to participate in a series of brainstorming sessions to look at the history of academic components, how other schools are currently approaching them, and how each impacts its field. Together we are beginning to formulate answers to the question, “can we do better?” Most of the topics for these brainstorming sessions have come out of one-on-one meetings with the faculty and out of conversations with the chairs prior to the beginning of the term. My intention has been to have substantial discussions as to what is it that we all do and why, and where are we are going from here. The most rewarding results of these meetings have been our re-examination of existing modes of teaching. I am excited about our speculation on alternatives that may prove to offer richer and more meaningful opportunities for educating the next generations. I am looking forward to working with the faculty and the alumni on this reformulation because I believe that it holds the key for the future success and effectiveness of our fields.

Monica Ponce de Leon
Dean and Eliel Saarinen Professor
of Architecture and Urban Planning
Editor's note: Amos Zezmer, M.Arch. ’78, took us to task for omitting the word “Jews” from the piece on the Wallenberg Studio Awards in the Student Update section of Portico Fall 2008. As he very coherently states, remembering that Jews were the vast majority of those who were exterminated by the Nazis—and the vast majority of those saved by Wallenberg’s heroic actions—is essential to understanding and learning from this terrible chapter in world history.

Mr. Zezmer writes, “While I understand the need for brevity in a short blurb about such an illustrious alumnus as our own Mr. Wallenberg, brevity should not be an excuse for inaccuracy. While I am not Mr. Wallenberg’s biographer, it is a pretty much well-known fact that he is a hero to Jews the world over thanks to his efforts to save the Jews of Budapest from deportation and certain death in the crematoria of Auschwitz. In fact, thanks to his efforts, some 100,000 Budapest Jews were saved from deportation and certain death in Auschwitz. Let me repeat that: some 100,000 (one hundred thousand) Budapest Jews. How many football stadiums would that represent? It could very well be true that he saved gypsies, homosexuals and other people deemed unworthy by the Nazis. Yet, the fact of the matter is that his ‘claim to fame,’ as it were, stems from his issuing the thousands upon thousands of schutzpasses that saved many of Budapest’s Jews as well as creating safe houses in Budapest under Swedish protection.

The text in Portico reads ...Wallenberg set up safe houses and issued schutzpasses or passports that spared thousands from the concentration camps.

The text should have read ...Wallenberg set up safe houses and issued schutzpasses or passports that spared nearly 100,000 Jews from deportation to Auschwitz.

The text now is historically correct. As you mention, brevity is oftentimes important in writing a blurb. The text is only a few characters longer than what’s in print, yet it’s significantly more correct. Furthermore, it pays respect to Wallenberg’s heroic accomplishment as well as to the nearly 100,000 Jews whose lives he saved.

I am delighted, in fact, to know that Mr. Wallenberg holds such an important and well-deserved place at the College.”
Each year, in conjunction with the University of Michigan’s homecoming weekend, Taubman College pays tribute to its alumni with special events, including lectures, reunions, and plenty of food. In addition to celebrating its many accomplished alumni, the college honors one alumnus in particular with the Distinguished Alumnus Award. This is the highest award from the college, celebrating the person’s accomplishments after graduation.

This year’s Distinguished Alumnus, Jorge Pérez graduated with a master’s degree in urban planning in 1976 and is the founder, CEO, and chairman of The Related Group. Pérez spoke to an audience of over 150 students, alumni, faculty, and staff about his career and offering advice for success in business and in life.

Provost Teresa Sullivan was on hand to help honor Pérez. From Provost Sullivan’s remarks:

Today’s tribute to Mr. Pérez is very much in keeping with his personality and with Michigan traditions. We won’t simply sit and celebrate this afternoon. Rather, a group of accomplished faculty members, alumni, and students will exchange ideas about issues ranging from public private partnerships to the transferring of effective urban development strategies from one city to another. It’s wonderful to have this opportunity to think about how cities work and what we can contribute to their development. The discussion of critical issues is an important part of a Michigan education, something all of us appreciate and enjoy.

Honoring an alumnus, as we do today, provides us with an opportunity to recognize and appreciate the ways in which our graduates serve the University. Mr. Pérez exemplifies three important roles that alumni play in campus life.

First, Jorge Pérez is a leader in his field, real estate development. He is very successful—but that success is not simply financial. Mr. Pérez has a vision of what cities can be—vibrant communities that provide housing, cultural activities, business, and commercial development for all who choose to be part of them. This vision guides his business decisions. Since his graduation from Michigan he has been concerned with affordable housing, cultural development, innovative design, and the renovation of historic neighborhoods. In many ways, Mr. Pérez contributes to the development of communities that nurture their inhabitants. His vision—and the action that makes it real—are the hallmarks of a Michigan graduate. Mr. Pérez is a wonderful model for our students who seek to improve cities around the world.

A second characteristic of Michigan alumni is their willingness to help the generations of students who follow them. Alumni provide career advice, offer assistance with internships, and recruit employees who wear maize and blue. The strong networks that reach across generations of Michigan alumni are truly a gift from those who value what they gained here.

A third quality found in our alumni is their financial support for the University. They want others to have the advantage of a Michigan education. Generous support from our graduates helps us to recruit the very best students to Ann Arbor. Mr. Pérez made such a gift, supporting student fellowships in urban planning. It’s a wonderful example of how our alumni help to develop the next generation of innovative thinkers and energetic actors who will shape our communities.

Most of you are probably familiar with the Michigan fight song, Hail to the Victors. From that song we draw the phrase, “leaders and best.” Those words capture an essential quality about the University and its graduates. We want to excel in everything we do. These words are particularly appropriate when considering the roles that our alumni play in the world. They are leaders in their fields of work and their communities. They strive to make a better world. Jorge Pérez is an alumnus who exemplifies the Michigan commitment to being leaders and best. It’s a great pleasure to honor him today.
He has often been the first to enter emerging or undiscovered neighborhoods. He made Miami Beach, West Palm Beach, and Biscayne Bay cool again.

Pérez was one of the first residential developers to work closely with some of the best architects and designers, demonstrating that design had the potential to transform urban centers and setting the standard for others to follow.

And most importantly, Jorge Pérez has had the vision to argue that people should be able to work and shop close to where they live. Ahead of its time, he advocated and developed mixed-use urban centers, turning on its head the predominant suburban model of the commuter city.

This dedication to the creation of thriving urban communities also materializes in his commitment to the arts and a broader cultural arena. Jorge Pérez is a previous member of the National Endowment for the Arts, and he currently serves on the board of directors of the Miami Art Museum. He also chairs the Miami Dade Cultural Affairs Counsel and is a director of the Miami International Film Festival. His dedication to the arts demonstrates that to build community it is not enough to only construct the places we inhabit, but that we must also create the opportunities to interact as well as the institutions that will connect to future generations.

His creativity and outstanding entrepreneurship have resulted in numerous awards. Jorge Pérez is the only American developer ever to have received the Icon Real Estate Award of Excellence at MIPIM in Cannes France. He also received the Lifetime Achievement award from the Urban Land Institute. Time magazine named Jorge Pérez one of the top 25 most influential Hispanics in the United States.

Jorge Pérez has been quoted as saying: “Every time you make an act, not only are you defining yourself but you are defining the world around you.” I cannot think of a better definition for the field of urban planning and a better model for our students to follow. I am very proud to introduce Jorge Pérez and welcome him back to his alma mater.
Jorge Pérez’s address to Taubman College students, faculty, and alumni:

Good morning to all of you. Being on campus today makes it feel like yesterday when I graduated from this wonderful institution and, all the extraordinary memories that took place over thirty years ago have so pleasantly been reawakened.

First let me promise you I will be very brief, so you all can get on with this wonderful Homecoming weekend. Secondly, I really want to thank your President Mary Sue Coleman, Provost Teresa Sullivan, Dean Monica Ponce de Leon, Urban Planning Chair Jonathan Levine, and the University for selecting me for this incredible honor. The University of Michigan, in addition to being one of America’s great universities, was a very important part of my life and my maturing process; as such, this award is of great significance to me.

Let me take a few moments to talk about my career and then what I think is most important in my success. After I graduated from the U of M, I used my new knowledge to start in and rapidly head the Department of Community Development in the city of Miami. In this role, I was both a neighborhood planner and created Miami’s first comprehensive housing program. All that I learned at the University of Michigan, from housing to neighborhood planning to advocacy was applied directly in those first two years and I can assure you that what I learned here was extremely useful.

Unfortunately, the bureaucracy of city government took its toll and I wanted to explore something more entrepreneurial. I loved analyzing the financial feasibility of projects and I decided to test myself and I talked my way to a job heading the Florida and Latin America market study and appraisal division of Landauer, at the time one of the foremost companies in this field. This gave me a great opportunity to advise both private developers and local and federal governments as what to do with land, plans, projects, etc. My recommendations proved well-received so my next question was: if I can tell others what to do successfully, why not try it myself?

So, starting with a very small government subsidized job in 1979 with my partner Steve Ross, I created the Related Group, which has today become one of the largest multifamily and mixed-use developers in the country, with developments in Florida, Georgia, Texas, and several countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. We have today built or rehabilitated over 60,000 units with a value of around $20 billion. I am very proud that Related has been the national market leader over the last decade in what is a very competitive industry.

But, as I thought about all of you today and how my life experience as a successful businessman, planner and community leader, could assist you, I decided it was best to speak of something that could be helpful to you as individuals soon to go into the workforce. Basically, I thought of what are the two most important things that have led to my success and how they apply to what you will be doing in the future.

President Calvin Coolidge once said: “Nothing in the world can take the place of Persistence. Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not; the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent. The slogan ‘Press On’ has solved and always will solve the problems of the human race.”

I quote this to my employees continually. While education gives you a great base and talent and luck surely helps, I have met few individuals who have achieved success in any field that are not totally dedicated to the pursuit of their goals. I can assure you that in life you will be faced with innumerable problems, as we are now faced with in the housing sector. You can’t let them get you down. Phrases like “impossible” or “can’t be done” are usually not acceptable answers to the roadblocks that we constantly face. In our company, we view difficult situations as
challenging opportunities where we, and not others, can succeed by applying creativity, persistence and hard work. In our rapid-pace world, constant change is a given and it must be embraced and not shied away from. Companies and people that are not willing to continually reinvent themselves through dedication and hard work will quickly become obsolete.

In our company, for example, there tends to be an attitude of complacency after we design, build, and successfully market one of our buildings. The tendency is to say: “Let’s get the same great architect and interior designer, copy the same floor plans and amenities that were so well liked in the market.” Basically, we are being lazy and really saying “Let’s repeat ourselves.” To this I always reply that I have no interest in doing cookie-cutter buildings. It is okay to learn from our success in the past but for our next project we need to always do better. We have to go back and research our market and find what people want, study the newest products, visit other successful projects in other areas, and discover new talent in architecture and design. If we don’t, a more aggressive, hungrier, and dedicated competitor will become better than us.

This constant re-evaluation implies an immense amount of hard work. As a company, we do not know what “9 to 5” and “not working on weekends” mean. But, to be able to maintain this pace and yet lead a happy and rewarding life, you will need to have passion and love what you do. It is of extreme importance as you make your employment decisions that you find something that is meaningful and satisfying to you. If not, hard work becomes unrewarding and real success will never be achieved. I think it would be impossible for me to devote the time I do to real estate development if I did not passionately love what I do.

And thus comes my second important ingredient to success: passion. For me hard work and passion always go together. I can’t be the best by just working hard. I need to have the passion that is necessary to transcend the common place. The combination of passion and hard work are what enable you to move from good to great.

From these two qualities come perseverance, persistence, dedication, creative change and, most importantly, self-esteem and success.

So, as my company has grown and people see the effort that it has taken, they always ask: How do you do it and not go nuts? Where do you get the energy? The answer is simple: I really love what I do. I feel like the professional basketball player that I saw being interviewed on television recently that stated with great passion “I still can’t believe they pay me so much money to do what I love to do!”

So, to all of you that will be going out to make your mark in this world, my advice is: pick something that you really love and fulfills you, then set your goals high and pursue them with passionate hard work.

Thank you very much again for allowing me to come back here in such a wonderful and rewarding way.
Megan Gibb: What do you think the role of private developers should be not only in the creation of but also in the ongoing maintenance of public amenities such as the Miami’s Millennium Park—a project for which you are currently raising funds?

Jorge Pérez: I’ve always believed in public-private partnerships. I think it is almost impossible for either the public sector or the private sector to do it alone. So any project that we have started that has a certain magnitude particularly in areas that have yet to be discovered, we have successfully engaged the public sector in these partnerships. We believe that art—you mentioned a park that has a tremendous amount of art—art and design go hand in hand and enhance people’s lives; not only their physical lives but their intellectual lives. There are two great projects in Florida where we have partnered up with the local government. One is CityPlace in West Palm Beach where we took 75,000 acres of the world’s most desolate area with homeless people and cocaine and crack addicts and so forth. With the help of the city and a very large bond issue we totally redid it and now it is the new center of West Palm Beach. It has added a tremendous amount of tax value to the city and for the first time they have shopping and living in the downtown area. The second project is One Miami where the city came to us and said, “We have never had a residential project in downtown Miami—never, in the history of Miami.” It was a scary thought because people said, “Why are we going to pay in rent twice as much, or three times as much to be in a high rise building as opposed to a suburban location?” We took the plunge. But when we took the plunge we said, “as developers we are only going to take the plunge if you provide us with some government assistance.
The Related Group was the first to build housing in downtown Miami. One Miami’s waterfront location is where the Miami River meets Biscayne Bay.

photographs courtesy of The Related Group

So we got assistance in terms of some tax abatements but most importantly they decided to spend $5 million on a River Walk for which we did a national competition for art and picked about 12 pieces of art that grace this River Walk which today is extremely well-accepted. We built 1,000 units in what was a tremendously successful project and the city got repaid its $5 million investment in just the tax base in less than six months. As a return on investment it was great. So I don’t think these types of projects that are art projects and urban projects can be done without the partnership of the public and private.

Malik Goodwin: Miami and Detroit are two of the poorest major cities in the nation and cities that have experienced racial tension and disinvestment. Developments by Related and others in Miami’s downtown have helped to create a vibrant community. What are some of the lessons you have learned that you might share with those trying to revitalize Detroit?

Jorge Pérez: Solving urban problems is very difficult. Building housing is just one part of the solution. Detroit I don’t know much about except for my experiences with Kate [Warner] when we were doing—30 some years ago—our urban planning workshops and going to Detroit for them. As we embarked on Miami, a lot of things had to come together. We talked about public and private partnerships. There has to be the political will to not just ‘talk the talk’ but really ‘walk the walk’. When it comes to housing, when it comes to investment in downtown, all politicians will tell you, “that’s what we want.” But will they put their money and will they make their efforts to do things in ways that are not always politically expedient. In Miami, in Dade County we were very lucky to have a very forward-thinking mayor. I don’t know if he convinced us or we convinced him, but we worked very much together to do just not one building but major infrastructure improvements. We had funds for the rehabilitation of small businesses in downtown. We had a program to take the homeless away from downtown and move them into a center closer to the hospital at Jackson Memorial. We had a program where the police gave extra security to the downtown area. We had the cooperation of all the business owners who taxed themselves in order for downtown to be cleaner and so forth. We have a large rapid transit program to connect the different areas of downtown. When all that happens and somebody takes the plunge—and I’m very proud that we were the first ones to take the plunge—if you do it right and you show success, others will follow. So what started as one project probably became too many projects because now we have an oversupply of housing. The important part is we have created, in a historically short period of time, a vibrant 24-hour walking city. People no longer leave the city at 5 o’clock to drive a one hour commute to their house. Now professionals and the people working downtown are staying downtown. Once that happens everything becomes a lot simpler because everybody wants to be there. So now you go to a young professional and tell him, “Do you want to go and live in Kendall?”—which was a very popular suburban location—and he says, “Are you crazy?” That’s not the thing to do. They all want to be where the action is. Five years ago when we completed One Miami I couldn’t give the retail space away. Now we have restaurants and retail stores coming from everywhere to rent. Why? Because the people are there who are going to buy their food and their goods. It’s a difficult process that needs a holistic approach and needs everybody to pitch in.
City Place is the new town center of West Palm Beach. The project has added tax value for the city and provides shopping and living in the downtown area.
Joshua Brugeman: We’ve heard a lot of great things about your early involvement in the development of low-income housing. How do you think we can address the increasing need for adequate workforce and low-income housing in urban areas? And what role can the private sector play?

Jorge Pérez: I’ve worked on both sides and I am still working with a lot of not-for-profits doing some joint development projects. The private sector will always be able to build houses for a cheaper rate than the not-for-profit or the government and that’s because we can hire much better expertise. We can hire much better contractors and subcontractors and architects. Affordable housing, particularly in urban areas, is very difficult and cannot be done by the private sector alone. A high rise building costs you the same whether it’s affordable or not affordable. You can go to the brick layer and say, “This one is affordable so charge me less for that brick.” He’s going to charge you exactly the same thing. The difference is in the way you design the building but it is impossible for the private sector to provide affordable housing. The cheapest apartment that I could provide today in Miami, for example, as a non-subsidized apartment, for say a two-bedroom, 1,000-square-foot apartment—which is a fairly small apartment—would probably be around $300,000 an apartment. That would be really cutting costs. So that is really not accessible to the majority of the working people—forget about the poor—just the working people, the firefighters, the secretaries, and so forth, that are working in downtown. Again working with the city of Miami we engaged in a very unique program where the city provided us the land for free, did not make us do parking, and allowed us to use unused parking spaces in the garages they already had in the area. And we agreed to limit our profits and by doing those things, without having to build parking structures—which are very expensive in public buildings—we were able to provide some projects and you saw some with the rapid transit going inside them. Those are great projects. And we did one bedrooms starting at $99,000 a unit. Of course those were blown right away and there was a huge waiting list. Even in this bad market Loft II and Loft III have been very successful. But again it requires the public sector to put some skin in the game and work with developers and make sure the developers don’t take advantage of the program. I’m afraid that without these types of government incentives we will either wind up with the cities that are very, very poor or very, very rich. Because the only people that are going to be there are the ones able to afford the $500,000 and up condominiums and the deeply subsidized public housing recipients and that’s a real mistake. You will not have 24 hour cities for everybody. Then you’re defeating the purpose of having 24 hour cities because the middle class will be forced to drive out and drive in again.
As a child growing up on his family’s homestead in northern Louisiana, Jim Chaffers intuitively understood the transformative power of architecture. “Our house had unusual features for the time, including a large indoor playroom, primarily for children, something unheard of in those days,” he says. “So early on, I sensed that the spaces we build aren’t just about habitation, but, also, about building and sustaining respectful relationships, no matter the age or social standing of the occupants involved.”

Years later, the concept of space as a catalyst and generator of possibilities would manifest itself in the structures Chaffers designed, the classes he taught, and the research projects he pursued. As he notes, “My work has been guided by a belief that the practice of architecture is first and foremost an act of addressing human aspiration and, as such, is fundamentally future-oriented and spiritual.”

The Journey Begins
In high school shop class, Chaffers’ natural affinity for building led his teacher to suggest a career in architecture. “That was something of a revelation for me,” he recalls. “Until that moment, I had limited knowledge that carpenters worked from plans or that carpenters could become architects.”

After graduation, Chaffers—who, as an African American, was barred from attending Louisiana State University (LSU) —enrolled in a combination architecture-and-engineering program at Southern University, one of the nation’s largest black colleges. In 1960, he became one of three students to enroll in the university’s new department of architecture.
In April of 1998, James Chaffers was asked to serve as Senior Programmer and Senior Design Juror for a living memorial in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The winning design—chosen from among 900 worldwide submissions—is sited on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. and scheduled for completion in July of 2010.

Walking the Talk
Michigan students were excited by Chaffers’ graduate design-and-studio course on “The Ethics of Architecture,” a precursor to today’s courses on sustainability. A gifted and inspiring teacher, he encouraged his students to enter national and international competitions, most of them in the student/professor category. “We won our share,” Chaffers says modestly, “including the ‘Grand Prize’ Award for a competition to design the USA World’s Fair Pavilion at Seville Expo ‘92.”

But Chaffers was also intent on using architecture as a force for “bonding and enabling.” Guided by that vision, he launched two neighborhood-based design centers.

Founded in 1969 and headquartered in an abandoned inner-city storefront, the GROW Design Workshop in Detroit created a grassroots neighborhood plan that is now part of the city’s Comprehensive Master Plan and was instrumental in lifting red-line mortgage banking practices affecting several square miles of central city residency. In 1974, with the support of local activist Letty Wickliffe and developer Joe O’Neal, Chaffers established the NCPOA Design Workshop in what is today Ann Arbor’s Kerrytown District. “In those days,” he notes, “it was a mosquito-ridden flood plain, filled with slaughterhouses and junkyards, where Ann Arbor’s earliest Black citizens were relegated.” After working with students and neighborhood residents to successfully halt demolition of Ann Arbor’s historic train station—now, the Gandy Dancer Restaurant—Chaffers and his student teams assisted in the design of Summit-Wheeler Park, one of the city’s most popular public spaces.

Southern University, like many other major universities at the time, required compulsory ROTC for all of their male students. Chaffers’ outstanding performance in ROTC earned him a highly prestigious West Point commission—and set him on the road to a promising military career.

A Change in Direction
A post-graduate tour of duty in Vietnam and other personal considerations convinced the young Chaffers to rethink his future. And so it was that he served out the last few months of his military commitment as director of the Army Reserve Station in faraway Ann Arbor, Michigan. “The military trains you to be mission-oriented,” Chaffers explains. “So it was two months, maybe longer, before I broke with routine and began inquiring about the University of Michigan’s school of architecture.”

Looking back at his first visit to Lorch Hall, Chaffers now sees a certain force at work, an inevitability. As he walked the hallways, he encountered not only the future-founder of the doctoral program, C. Theodore Larson, but the chair of the architecture program, Walter Sanders, and a young professor named Robert Metcalf. Larson, Sanders, and Metcalf would become lifelong friends and mentors.

In 1971, Chaffers became the first student to graduate from the University of Michigan with a Doctor of Architecture (D.Arch.) degree. Following a stint with Nathan Johnson Architects in Detroit, he returned to Southern University to chair its department of architecture. In 1973, he accepted a tenure-track position at Michigan.
In 1989 and again in 2005, Chaffers accepted the college’s Outstanding Teacher Award. From 1991 through 1994, he served as chair of the Doctoral Program in Architecture. In 1995, he directed the Florence Studio Program at the UM Villa Corsi-Salviati in Italy, the same year he received the Educator of the Year Award from the Architectural Studies Foundation of Michigan Colleges and Universities.

Turning Inward... and Outward
In 1998 and 1999, Chaffers traveled to Ghana and found a new professional focus. As he explains, “Since colonization, West Africa has suffered from an architectural disconnect. Indigenous building techniques have largely disappeared and Ghanaians are fast losing their ability to resonate with local materials and local environments. I wanted to help foster an architectural renaissance.”

In 2000, with support from Taubman College and the UM’s Center for Afroamerican and African Studies (CAAS), Chaffers launched the West Africa Studio in Ghana. Current designs include a museum/cultural marketplace near the capital city of Accra, a medical clinic and literacy center near Addis Abba, Ethiopia, and proposals for campus buildings in the heart of the Kumasi-Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology.

Crowning a Chapter
“In fullest recognition of his scholarship, distinguished teaching, and professional consultations that serve to empower rather than impose” . . . Chaffers was elevated to the “College of Fellows” of The American Institute of Architects, in May of 2007. But his foremost accomplishment, he notes, has been his ten-year effort focused on marshalling the political, financial, and architectural resources necessary to design and build a national memorial to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Construction is pending on a $100 million memorial to be located on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

Anything But Retiring
As one of his first post-retirement tasks, Chaffers is designing a residence for himself and his wife, Gerri, near his birthplace in Louisiana; a “home-at-home” where extended family kin will visit. Even so, the two plan to spend a good portion of every year in Ann Arbor.

In the near future, Chaffers expects to devote a good deal of time to his latest project, Spacespirit. This forthcoming book, he explains, focuses on issues of “design quality, human communality and ecological sustainability for a new millennium;” in other words, all the aspects of architecture that have intrigued and engaged Jim Chaffers for more than four decades.
The international studios of Taubman College were featured in NAFSA: Association of International Educators’ September/October 2008 issue of International Educator magazine. Both Jonathan Levine, chair and professor of urban planning, and Tom Buresh, chair and professor of architecture, are interviewed, as well as alumnus Orri Gunnarsson, M.U.P. ’07, leader of the Taubman’s International Studio in Iceland. The article discusses the importance of studying abroad as a student, as well as a professional architect or urban planner.

Mary Anne Drew was appointed assistant dean for a five-year term beginning Sept. 1, 2008.

Jean Davison Wineman’s appointment as associate dean, was renewed for an additional three-year term.

Two new books in the Michigan Architecture Papers (MAP) series have recently been published by the college. MAP 13, Cosmopolis is based on Daniel Solomon’s Raoul Wallenberg lecture with an introduction by Douglas Kelbaugh. MAP 14, was edited by former faculty member Gretchen Wilkins, M.Arch. ’99 and documents Hitoshi Abe’s John Dinkeloo lecture on-the-spot, and a collection of his projects in Japan that use inventive techniques and methods of construction. Both books were designed by faculty member Christian Unverzagt, B.S. ’94 along with recent graduate Rachel Rush, M.Arch. ’07. The books are distributed nationally by DAP (Distributed Arts Press) and are available through their website (artbook.com), amazon.com, speciality architecture bookshops and directly from the college’s Media Center.

Taubman College and the School of Art & Design have joined together to participate in a campus-wide pilot study dealing with the behavioral aspects of energy conservation and sustainability. The pilot study has focused on multiple UM buildings and their occupants. The Art & Architecture Building will be the first building under study this academic year.

The architecture program launched a new website in September intended as a fresh and easy-to-navigate destination for prospective and current students, faculty, staff, alumni/ae, and friends. It was designed as both a repository and a gateway of information that captures the spirit of the school, its people, and their work. It features a dynamically generated master template intended to simplify future modifications to the site and allow it to evolve over time. The site was designed and implemented by faculty, recent graduates, current students, and staff. Full credits are posted on the site. Work is underway to add image galleries of student and faculty work. See for yourself: arch.umich.edu
Tradition of Excellence Dinner

The annual scholarship dinner brought together donors, students, and members of the class of 1958 who were celebrating their 50th reunion. Below is a list of scholarships currently awarded by the college as well as those ‘under construction.’
Top Left: Le Thuy Nguyen, the inaugural Tower Pinkster Scholar with Presidential Challenge Scholars Amy Maresko and Alice Cloud, and William and Leigh Gustafson Scholar Alex Timmer

Center Left: Marian Downes (daughter of Charles W. Attwood, B.S.Arc.'17 with Jamie Cobb, the 2007-08 Attwood Scholar and husband Leonard

Bottom Left: Alexis Hankett, Joseph and Elsie Lee Scholar, Bob Knouse, A.B.'42, M.B.A.'45, and Daniel Weissman, Louis and Ruth Redstone Scholar

Top Right: Dean Emeritus Robert Metcalf, FAIA with Caroline Souza, the 2008 King and Francis Stutzman Scholarship recipient

Center Right: Architecture Chair Tom Buresh introduces Michelle Dresden, 2008 James Jeas Scholar who emceed the event

Bottom Right: Elder Sang Nam, M.C.P.'66 shares his reasons for providing scholarship support

photo credit: Peter Smith
Faculty News

Mark Linder and Julie Czerniak
The winter 2009 Max M. Fisher Visiting Professors will be Mark Linder and Julie Czerniak who are currently associate professors of architecture at Syracuse University School of Architecture where Linder is also chairman of the graduate program. Czerniak and Linder are founding principals of CLEAR, a transdisciplinary collaborative that aspires to both strengthen its disciplinary identity and to expand its range of operations. Linder received his bachelor’s of science in architecture from the University of Virginia in 1982, and his master’s of architecture and a master’s of environmental design (MED) from Yale University in 1986. Linder also received a Ph.D. in architecture from Princeton University in 1998. At Syracuse, Linder teaches architectural design and theory. He has also written numerous publications, his most recent book, published in 2004 is called Nothing Less Than Literal: Architecture After Minimalism. Czerniak was educated as an architect and landscape architect, receiving her master’s of architecture from Princeton University and bachelor’s of arts in landscape architecture from Penn State University. She is a registered landscape architect teaches architectural studios as well as seminars on landscape theory and criticism at Syracuse. As a principal of CLEAR, Czerniak recently won the Syracuse Connective Corridor Design Competition in conjunction with Field Operations. Czerniak has worked on award-winning designs for the Syracuse Connective Corridor and the Public Art Landscape of Toledo, Ohio; a widely published writer, she is the co-author, with landscape architect George Hargreaves, of the recently published Large Parks.

Professor of Practice Eric Hill, FAIA, was a presenter in the October 2008 ULI Detroit Symposium titled, “The New Economy: The University as a Catalyst for Urban Development”, sponsored by Wayne State University. Hill presented an overview of the Wayne State University Campus Master Plan, of which he was the principal author.

David Bergman has been appointed associate director of the Real Estate Certificate program. Bergman currently teaches real estate development and planning at the Southern California Institute of Architecture (SCI-Arc) and is a principal at Economics Research Associates in Los Angeles. He directs large-scale planning and policy-research programs, including initiatives in public sector community economic development and the commercial real-estate market. During the winter 2009 semester, Bergman will teach two courses in the Real Estate Certificate Program, including the required Seminar in Real Estate Development and a one-credit elective seminar in real estate.

The Rise of Popular Modernist Architecture in Brazil by Fernando Luiz Lara, assistant professor of architecture, was recently published by University of Florida Press. Modernist architecture enjoyed some popularity in mid-twentieth century in North America and Europe, but a relatively small number of homes and industrial structures could actually be classified as ‘modernist.’ In sharp contrast, Brazil appeared to be enthusiastic national adopters of the form. Middle-class people read about it in popular newspapers and journals, then designed their own homes in the modernist style, using distinctive layouts and façades. In other words, modernist architecture was the popular architecture of Brazil. Rather than glorifying the phenomenon of popular modernism or holding it up to the paradigmatic examples of good architecture, this book serves as a bridge to understand the complexities of the phenomenon’s location and context as well as how popular and how modern buildings labeled popular modernist really are. Defining the phenomenon of popular modernism in architecture, Fernando Luiz Lara introduces its characteristic place and time. Based on an analysis of hundreds of photographs and plans, Lara then describes the physical characteristics of modernist buildings, locating popular modernism within the context of the challenges faced by architecture. Readers begin to discover how the meanings of modernism are specifically manifested in Brazil within the larger context of Latin American and global modernism. This original and significant contribution to the field counters the traditional historiography of modernist architecture, and has broad applicability in examining the importance of the style throughout Latin America. (see excerpt, page 23)

In October, Assistant Professor of Architecture Peter von Buelow attended three conferences. He presented his paper, “Breeding Topology: special considerations for generative topology exploration using evolutionary computation” at the ACADIA 2008: Silicon + Skin Conference, in Minneapolis. He also presented two papers at IASS convention, Shell and Spatial Structures: New Materials and Technologies, New Designs and Innovations in Acapulco, Mexico. The first was titled “Design of a Modular Truss Structure using Evolutionary Computation for Application as a Disaster Shelter” and the second with joint author Andreas Falk from Sweden titled “Exploration and Optimization of Combined Timber Plate and Branching Column Systems using Evolutionary Computation.” Finally he delivered an invited lecture, “Generation and Optimization of Trussed Towers” at the 6th International Seminar on Structural Morphology also in Acapulco. Along with wife, Leeta, von Buelow translated Oases Settlements in Oman by A. Gangler from German into English. The English translation was published by Esfeld & Traub in Stuttgart, Germany.

Professor Margaret Dewar gave a talk at a research seminar, Moving Towards Solutions: Research and Policy on Vacancy and Abandonment, organized by the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland in late August. Her presentation was on what helps and hinders nonprofit developers in reusing vacant, abandoned, and contaminated land in cities.

The regents approved W. Shaun Jackson’s appointment as professor of operations and management science without tenure, at the Stephen M. Ross School of Business.
Professor Emeritus Richard D. Duke’s early work, (Metropolis — Gaming Simulation in Urban Research, 1964 and Metropolis: The Urban Systems Game, 1964; Gruppennaufteilung fur das Simulationspiel Metropolis, 1964) was featured in an international exhibition Social Diagrams—Planning Reconsidered at Kunstlerhaus Stuttgart that ran from June through August 2008. Curators for the exhibition were Jesko Fezer and Axel John Wieder. The retrospective presented the work of 39 professionals and featured both artistic projects and historical material that focused in different ways on complex social systems. A shared interest of the works and projects on display was the dynamic of social interaction. The exhibition provided insight into the intense and varied inquiries into methodologies that have sought to describe developments of society through the use of increasingly complex models. Early discussions in this respect can be found in cybernetic research and feedback theories, while later research is particularly concerned with the potential of strategies involving direct user participation. Such theories have recently been taken up by artists and designers in order to research the function of communication and control. The exhibition enabled connections to be made between examples from different contexts and times. Contributions and projects of current artists and architects shown in the exhibition underline the relevance of the approaches of the 1960s and 1970s to the present. Duke’s new book on policy simulation for professionals, Why do Games Work? was just released by Caluwe, Hofstede & Peters, Kluwer, Antwerp. Duke was also the author of Chapter One of One Perspective on the Active Substance of Gaming Simulations.

In September, Andrew Herscher, assistant professor of architecture, was invited to lecture on the Detroit Unreal Estate Agency at the Van Abbe Museum in Eindhoven, the Netherlands, in conjunction with the museum’s exhibition, “Heartland,” on the American Midwest. The Detroit Unreal Estate Agency is a collaborative research project on alternative urbanisms in Detroit that includes members of the Dutch cultural entrepreneurial group, Partizan Publik, the Israeli activist group, Foundation for the Achievement of Seamless Territory, and UM architecture faculty Mireille Roddier and Herscher. In December Herscher will lecture on modernism, urbanism, and violence in Kosovo at University College, London, in the frame of the college’s research program, “Cities and Urban Experience.”

“Surfacing Stone,” a seminar taught at Harvard by Wes McGee, lecturer in architecture and Monica Ponce de Leon, dean and professor of architecture + urban planning, is part of an exhibit at the 2008 Architecture Beijing Biennale, (Im)material Processes: New Digital Techniques for Architecture.

Mojtaba Navvab presented two papers at the BalkanLight 2008 international symposium on lighting, Ljubljana, Slovenia, in October: “Daylighting Aspects for Plant Growth in Interior Environments” and “Modeling Color Appearance of Clazing Systems Under Different Daylight Conditions.” The papers were published in both languages (English and Slovenian) in the conference proceedings by the Lighting Engineering Society of Slovenia.
“A House with a View” near the Baltic Sea in windswept Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, was recently completed by Lecturer in Architecture Lars Graebner, principal of Detroit- and Berlin-based VolumeOneArchitects. He collaborated with design partner Christina Hansen in the design of the building. Graebner proved that working within strict local construction directives can be inspiring rather than limiting. The region’s traditional architectural conventions of brick farm houses dominate local regulations. The building was restricted to a symmetrical sloped main roof between 38 and 48 degrees, with dormers not to exceed 25% of the roof and could not be higher than 8.5 meters (28 ft). The materials of the façade were limited to brick, wood, or stucco. The owners’ desire to have a modern building, which is environmentally responsible as well as their intriguing site on the perimeter of a small village, led to a custom tailored house with a view into the pastoral landscape. While the design honors the traditions of North-German constructions, Graebner created the modest 1,750 sq ft house with a distinct identity. The angled geometry mediates between the view, the relationship of interior and exterior spaces and the proximity of neighboring buildings. In response to the high energy costs in Germany, the building was constructed in prefabricated wood construction instead of masonry, to exceed the stringent German energy savings regulations. The timber-construction is well suited for a super-insulated skin and allowed the complex geometry with its wide spans, angles and large sun-oriented windows, to gain most of the heating energy passively during the long winter months.

Karl Daubmann was granted tenure by the University of Michigan Board of Regents and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor.

Professor Douglas Kelbaugh, FAIA, who stepped down as dean of Taubman College at the end of August, has accepted the position of executive director of building and urban design for Limitless, an international real estate development corporation headquartered in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. The 500-person firm is developing sustainable towns and urban centers in Asia, Europe, Middle East, and Africa. Its $100 billion portfolio of projects is in various stages of planning, design, and development in China, Vietnam, Malaysia, Singapore, India, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Egypt, Senegal, Russia, Poland, Italy, and England. Many of them are notable for their mixed-use, walkable, environmental urbanism that often includes transit. The projects are planned and designed by leading international urban planners, architects, landscape architects, and engineers. The position, which includes the selection and oversight of the project design teams, will allow him to help plan and design communities around the world that combine many of the planning, urban design, and architecture principles and ideas that he has been writing, charretting, and lecturing about for two decades. He will also be building the design and planning staff at Limitless. He starts the job in mid-November and has been granted a two-year leave by the University, after which he plans to rejoin the faculty of Taubman College. While on administrative leave this October Kelbaugh traveled through northern Europe, visiting green architecture and urbanism projects. He was a visiting professor at Lund University in Sweden, and chaired the International
Advisory Panel for the School of Design and Environment at the National University of Singapore. He participated in a panel at the “Re-imagining Cities: Urban Design after the Age of Oil” conference at the University of Pennsylvania in November. He continues to act as design consultant on Ann Arbor’s new downtown library and on its proposed central parking garage. He also wrote the foreword for In Love with a Hillside Garden, soon to be published by the University of Washington Press. In November,

**Robert Adams**, assistant professor of architecture, exhibited his recent research focused on material culture in contemporary China at the 3rd Architectural Beijing Biennial (ABB). The exhibit was assembled with graduate student **Richard Tursky** and Song Jie Zhou and displayed from late October until early November. ABB was located at Beijing Design Park 751, a former factory in the Dashanzi 798 complex which is a thriving arts/design district in the city. The work includes Adams’ research on architecture and urbanization in China with an emphasis on new media, material culture, and infrastructure. He also presented a lecture at the ABB. The theme for the ABB was “Ecological City/Building.” The work was supported by B.A.S.E., which is headed by Robert Mangurian and Centennial Professor Mary-Ann Ray. Adams was recently named a faculty associate at the University of Michigan Center for Chinese Studies.
My motivation to research and write about the dissemination of modernist vocabulary and spatiality in mid-twentieth-century Brazil was born from a misunderstanding. When I first arrived in the United States in 1996, I walked the streets looking for a modern residential architecture that I never found. Where, I wondered, were the modern and postmodern houses I had seen in magazines? Instead, the new residential suburbs had a nineteenth-century look. How could this be when the United States was supposedly the paradigm of twentieth-century modernization?

Having lived in Brazil for the first twenty-five years of my life and having grown accustomed to the overwhelming presence of modern architecture there, I thought the whole world had gone through the same modernist frenzy after World War II. Modernism was very familiar to me. It was present on all the streets I used to walk along on a daily basis. I was used to a variety of canopies, thin metallic columns, void ceramic blocks, inverted roofs. And beyond the façades, a modernist spatiality constituted most of my experience of space. My grandparents’ house, the first apartment building I lived in as a child, my kindergarten, many of my friends’ houses, and of course, the building that housed the school of architecture at my university—all were modernist.

The fact that in the United States modernity flourished everywhere except in residential architecture puzzled me, for in my native Brazil the opposite was true. Modernity in Brazil was manifested in the built environment more than in any other facet of society. My realization of the very different built environment in the United States provided me with a hint that something was unique about Brazil. This experience proved one of alterity, in which this “other” land helped define my own self, or in this case, my native built environment.

Such alterity prompted me to write about the phenomenon and to continue researching and writing about the extensive, unique, and quite unknown dissemination of modernism in Brazil. The fact that a phenomenon so extensive had gone unnoticed gave me extra...
encouragement to write about it. In the early stages of my research, I was frustrated at the absence of architectural literature about the dissemination of modernist vocabulary. Worse, in the few instances where I was able to find any mention of it, the popular appropriation of modernism was portrayed as degenerative, imitative, or volatile. In contrast, in this book I make the case that daily life and ordinary buildings shape our relationship to the built environment as much as the paradigmatic buildings traditionally considered by architectural historiography do. I enlarge the scope of what is considered worthy of architectural scholarship by investigating the acceptance of modern architecture in Brazil, as manifested in its middle-class housing of the 1950s.

The first chapter presents the phenomenon of popular modernism in architecture as I define it, introducing some of its characteristics and discussing its place and time. The high point of modernism in Brazil occurred in the 1950s, and I present the highlights of this decade. Although modernist architecture was disseminated throughout Brazil, I focus on the city of Belo Horizonte for reasons I discuss later.

The second chapter starts with a documentation of popular modernism and a description of the methods I used to collect case study data. I then describe the physical characteristics of modernist buildings, based on an analysis of five hundred photographs of façades and about fifty plans retrieved from city archives. This analysis constitutes the bulk of the original research in this book. In addition, in-depth interviews with the original inhabitants of the houses—who were also the builders--reveal their motivations for building as they did. Chapter 2 concludes with a discussion of how the architectural information disseminated through different media actually reached the Brazilian middle class.

Another purpose of this book is to locate popular modernism within the context of modernist architecture and of the current challenges faced by architecture. Therefore, in Chapter 3, I analyze the meanings of modernity, modernization, and modernism, as well as how these were manifested in Brazil. Habermas’s conception of modernity as an ongoing development is used to illuminate the often contradictory relationships among modernity, modernization, and modernism. Moreover, the concept of an ongoing modernity seems more applicable than the idea of postmodernity to the study of this unique manifestation of modern architecture because it implies continuation and transformation. Nevertheless, it is quite clear that the so-called failure of modern architecture should be credited to its promise (and subsequent inability) to solve the conflicts of modernity rather than to the exhaustion of modernity itself.

In Chapter 3 I also discuss the unique path of Latin American modernism in order to highlight the peculiarities of the Brazilian case and provide a framework for situating the Brazilian path of modernization in a global context. Much has already been written about Brazilian modern architecture, and chapter 3 also reviews this literature to provide a context within which to study the middle-class houses. In addition, I analyze five selected popular magazines and journals to illustrate how modern architecture was portrayed in the media. This chapter concludes with a review of how architects perceived the popular appropriation of their modernist vernacular.

The fourth chapter problematizes the multiple facets of popular modernism in architecture. How modern was the experience of those who built the houses? And how has this experience been manifested in the public realm? The main question is thus how popular and how modern the buildings labeled popular modernist really are. To this end, I locate the phenomenon of popular modernism within the spectra of high versus low architecture, the center versus the periphery, and modern versus traditional.

The concluding chapter begins by challenging the definition of popular in the Brazilian context and proceeds to discuss the universality of the debate surrounding popular modernism. After placing popular modernism within the modern/postmodern debate, I investigate the uniqueness of the phenomenon. I argue that popular modernism is rooted in local issues but is also linked to global themes.

My main goal in this book is to analyze the dissemination of architectural vocabulary into middle-class housing in order to discuss from an architectural perspective some of the reasons why modern architecture seems to have been better accepted in Brazil than in the United States or Western Europe. In the process, I present an original analysis of Brazilian popular modernism in hopes of challenging the traditional boundaries of what is considered good architecture.

**Student News**

The fall 2007 UP634 class received the Outstanding Student Planning Award from Michigan Association of Planning (MAP) for “Putting Back the Welcome Mat: A Neighborhood Guide to Turning Vacant Houses into Homes.” Their work was among the first in the nation to address how neighbors and community-based organizations can save neighborhoods from the tidal wave of mortgage foreclosures. They were honored at the MAP conference in Kalamazoo in October 2008. The student participants (now alumni) were Danielle Bober, Peter Bratt, Khalilah Burt, Syeda Naqvi, Beth Rothman, and Dave VanderZee. The team was led by instructors Margaret Dewar and Eric Dueweke.

Urban planning student Michael Glynn was awarded one of five scholarships at the 22nd Annual University of Michigan/Urban Land Institute Real Estate Forum held in Grand Rapids in October. The forum took place at the Amway Grand in Grand Rapids and the theme was “WEST SIDE STORY: Grand Rapids, Grand Vision, Grand Region”. The scholarships are funded by donations from Butzel Long, The Christman Company, Commercial Real Estate Women (CREW Detroit), First Commercial Realty & Development Co. and Mika Meyers Beckett & Jones. UM graduate students studying business, architecture, urban planning, public policy, law, natural resources or engineering were eligible for the scholarships which were awarded based on their response to the following issue, “Large gaps exist between Michigan’s three largest metropolitan areas and the number of young professionals in the most prosperous regions in the Great Lakes. What would you advise political and business leaders to do to eliminate those gaps?”

Andy Fang, a second year urban planning student, was awarded an American Planning Association (APA) Foundation Scholarship to attend the 2008 APA China Study Tour. The tour took place in October and explored the ways in which China is handling challenges in its urbanization and economic transformation. The tour was designed especially for American planners to help develop relationships between American planners, their Chinese counterparts, and Chinese decision makers in government and business. The tour participants experienced exclusive exhibitions, lectures, and forums. The tour started in Beijing and ended in Nanjing.

Vandana Baweja has been awarded the Oberlin-Michigan Partnership Postdoctoral Fellowship, at Oberlin College, Ohio. This fellowship includes a one-year teaching position at Oberlin College, a liberal arts college in Ohio. Vandana will join Oberlin as a visiting assistant professor in the Department of Art at Oberlin College. She will teach a class on the history of sustainable architecture in fall term and a class on colonial architecture and urbanism in South-Asia in the spring term.

This summer Suma Pandhi, a student in the Doctoral Program in Architecture, M. Arch, and Center for Japanese Studies M.A. Programs, interned at Toyo Ito’s office in Japan. During this time, she worked on the Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive Project. She also had the opportunity to interview (in Japanese) Mr. Ito and Mr. Riken Yamamoto, a leading scholar and architect of collective housing theory in Japan, for her dissertation. She will return to Japan this coming summer for further research and intern work.
Susan Massey was selected as a winner in the “EveryVille” Competition. The international jury (Aaron Betsky, Zaha Hadid, Thom Mayne, Wolf Prix, Flavio Albanese, Luigi Centola, Francesco Delogu, and Paolo Baratta) chose 10 winners from the 782 projects that were submitted from 48 countries around the world. Massey received an award from the committee in Venice, Italy on September 11th during the Venice Biennale vernissage. Her project is on display at this year’s Biennale, which runs through November 23rd. The competition “calls for the preparation of an idea-project based on the theoretical-critical text written by Aaron Betsky” in which he laments the placelessness of our towns and suburbs. “The proposal should certainly be an evocation of a real place of community where there is right now none and that may be again just a series of fragments in sprawl a decade from, it should be an EveryVille of the imagination and of memory, of hope and of fear.” Massey used drawings from her thesis—“Addressing the (Wal-Mart) Carcass: Fantasies of Adeptive Misuse” as the basis for her response. Susan Massey received her M. Arch. from UM in 2008 and is currently a student in the Masters of Science program.

Robert Walsh has won an early dissertation research grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. His proposal is titled: “The Vancouver Urban Model: A New Typology for High-Density Urban Housing with Potential for Application in American Cities.” As one of seven recipients of this award nationwide in 2008, Walsh will be using the award to advance his research into successful high density housing strategies through a series of case studies comparisons examining urban morphology and design processes in Vancouver BC, San Francisco and Seattle. More information is available at tinyurl.com/robertwalsh. Walsh was also one of several Taubman College students to attend the EDRA conference in Veracruz Mexico this year. Walsh was an invited commentator for an all day intensive session examining the recently published book The Nature of Order by Christopher Alexander. This session was organized by Professor David Seamon, of Kansas State University. Walsh has written a detailed summary of this event which has now been published at in the most recent edition of the journal: Environmental and Architectural Phenomenology, available on line at http://www.arch.ksu.edu/seamon/Walsh_Alexander.html
Gift in kind

The graduating class of 2008 included 32 master of architecture students who started in the summer of 2005 in the college’s 3G program for students with undergraduate degrees in subjects other than architecture. The 3G students bring to their architecture studies a variety of perspectives with degrees and experience in everything from painting and engineering, to agriculture, history, music, literature, and philosophy. Sammy Muhlfelder, who died in November 2006, would have graduated with this class.

Before they left Ann Arbor for jobs in San Francisco, Berkeley, Toronto, Chicago, and Los Angeles, several classmates of Sammy’s created a special memorial. Adapting an original concept for a bench by Sammy, the students completed the design work, experimented with materials and techniques, purchased materials with funds of their own, fabricated the bench out of concrete and steel and ipe, and placed it in the Art & Architecture Courtyard as a permanent memorial to their friend. We gratefully accept this gift and acknowledge the young men who created it, Josh Kleinman, Morri Freeman, Mike Donohue, Ryan Depersia, Mike Wagenbach, and Glenn Ginter.

photographs courtesy Josh Kleinman
Taubman College Alumni/ae Society Board of Governors convenes in Ann Arbor twice each year. They come from around the country at their own expense, dedicating several days each year to learn about current issues at the school and provide their perspectives as practitioners and academics. They involve themselves in activities at the college and interact with our students, helping them to prepare for jobs in the profession.

Janice E. Barnes, LEED® AP, M.S.’99, Ph.D.’02, Chicago
Benjamin Baxt, B.Arch.’67, New York City
Randall S. Denfeld, M.U.P.’77, Park Ridge, Illinois
Craig B. Furuta, M.U.P.’97, Washington, D.C.
Megan L. Gibb, M.U.P.’96, Portland, Oregon
Malik R. Goodwin, B.S.’97, M.Arch./M.U.P.’02, Detroit
Craig A. Hamilton, B.S.’75, M.Arch.’77, Los Angeles
Marlene Imirzian, AIA, B.S.’80, M.Arch.’83, Phoenix, Arizona
Wesley R. Janz, AIA, Ph.D.’93, Indianapolis, Indiana
J. Wendom Kimsey, FAIA, B.S.’83, M.Arch.’85, Henderson, Nevada
Steven Langworthy, M.U.P.’79, Dublin, Ohio
Marc L’Italien, B.S.’84, Berkeley, California
Thomas E. Lollini, FAIA, B.S.’72, M.Arch.’75, San Rafael, California
John W. Myefski, AIA, B.S.’84, M.Arch.’86, Glencoe, Illinois
Regina Myer, A.B.(LSAR)’82, M.Arch.’84, New York City
Joseph M. Valerio, B.Arch.’70, Chicago
Donald J. Vitek, B.S.’87, Saint Joseph, Michigan

Honor roll of volunteers 2007–2008

We gratefully acknowledge those who have donated their time as studio critics, visiting lecturers, who have hosted students at their place of business or who have provided special resources to the college and its students. We thank them for their efforts.

Caryl Arnet, Arnet’s Becker & Burrell Monuments + Crematorium, Ypsilanti, Michigan
Rod Arroyo, AICP, Clear Zoning, Clear Zoning, Lathrup Village, Michigan
Michael Bell, Columbia Project on Housing, Columbia University, New York City
David Bergman, Economics Research Associates, Los Angeles
Zachary Branigan, AICP, M.U.P.’01, Carlisle Wortman Associates, Ann Arbor
Professor Vanessa Borges Brasiliero, PUC-Minas School of Architecture
Kevin Carter, Jones Lang LaSalle, Detroit
Beth Diamond, UM School of Natural Resources and the Environment
Dan Dolson, National Health Care Services Group, CB Richard Ellis, Saline
Devany Donigan, McKenna Associates, Northville, Michigan
Bev Erickson, Real Estate Advisory Services, Plante Moran, Southfield, Michigan
Greg Erne, Redico Management, Inc., Southfield, Michigan
Cory Gallo, RLA, LEED®, M.U.D.’03, JIR, Ann Arbor
Malik R. Goodwin, B.S.’97, M.Arch./M.U.P.’02, Detroit Economic Growth Corporation
Leonardo Pontes Guerra, city of Belo Horizonte, Argentina
Jennifer Hall, city of Ann Arbor
William Jay Hartman, III, AIA, B.S.’80, M.Arch.’82, Gensler, Detroit
Chet Hill, Johnson Hill Land Ethics Studio, Ann Arbor
Kristen Keary, city of Grand Haven Michigan
Christina Kelly, M.U.P.’00, Genesee County, Flint, Michigan
Pam Kisch, Fair Housing Center of Southeastern Michigan
Dave Nicholson, AICP, planning director, Ypsilanti Township, Michigan
Wendy Rampson-Cage, AICP, M.U.P.’90, city of Ann Arbor
Allen Rawls, DMJM H&N | AECOM, Detroit
Michael Rodemer, UM School of Art & Design
Tami Salisbury, 8 Mile Boulevard Association, Detroit
Paul Schutt, Issue Media Group, Detroit
Ilene Tyler, FAIA, B.Arch., Quinn Evans Architects, Ann Arbor
R. Scott Wade, ImmoTech, Ann Arbor
Brian Weinert, city of Ann Arbor

Campaign Advisory Committee is composed of individuals of varied backgrounds and experience who all share one thing in common — dedication and commitment to the College in providing excellence in public education. The group has demonstrated a willingness to provide not only financial support, but to give their time and expertise to help the College reach its goals. These volunteers helped shape “The Michigan Difference” Campaign Case Statement and establish the goals.

Susan C. Longo, B.B.A.’68, Evanston, Illinois
Sharon Madison-Polk, M.U.P.’94, Detroit
Robert W. Marans, B.Arch.’57, Ph.D.’71, Ann Arbor
David J. Metzger, FAIA, B.Arch.’68, Chevy Chase, Maryland
Arnold Mikon, FAIA, B.Arch.’66, M.B.A.’69, Huntington Woods, Michigan
John Myefski, B.S.’84, M.Arch.’86, Glencoe, Illinois
Howard F. Sims, FAIA, B.Arch.’63, M.Arch.’66, FAIA, Southfield, Michigan
Herbert J. Straither, Detroit
Marvin I. Suomi, A.B.’70, Beverly Hills, California
William S. Taubman, Birmingham, Michigan
Joseph M. Valerio, FAIA, B.Arch.’70, Chicago
Real Estate Advisory Committee convenes from time to time to discuss and render advice on the Real Estate Certificate Program.

Peter Allen, M.B.A.’73, Peter Allen Associates, Ann Arbor
Geoffrey Baker, A.B.(LSA)’82, M.B.A.’86, Blue Hill Development, Ann Arbor
James Becker, B.G.S.(LSA)’84, Jones Lang LaSalle, Detroit
John Boyd, B.S.(SNRE)’78, M.B.A.’84, Signature Associates, Southfield, Michigan
Matthew Cullen, A.B.(LSA)’78, Quicken Loans, Detroit
Peter Cummings, Peter D. Cummings Associates, Detroit
Robert Davis, Arcadia Land Company, San Francisco
Louis Dubin, The Athena Group LLC, New York City
Douglas Etkin, Etkin Equities, Southfield, Michigan
Robert Gibbs, M.L.A.’84, Gibbs Planning Group, Birmingham, Michigan
Bernie Glieberman, Crosswinds Communities, Novi, Michigan
William J. Hartman, B.S.’80, M.Arch.’82, Gensler, Detroit
David Kollmorgen, Jones Lang LaSalle Americas, Inc., Chicago
Sean McCourt, Ford Motor Land Development, Dearborn, Michigan
Marilyn Melkonian, Telesis Corporation, Washington, D.C.
John Myefski, B.S.’84, M.Arch.’86, Glencoe, Illinois
Doug Rothwell, Detroit Renaissance
Gilbert ’Buzz’ Silverman, Silverman Companies, Bingham Farms, Michigan
Herb Strather, Strather & Associates, Detroit
Marvin Suomi, A.B.(LSA)’70, KUD International LLC, Santa Monica, California
Daniel Swartz, B.Arch.’71, M.B.A.’73, Los Angeles
Michael Tobin, B.S.’74, M.Arch.’75, US Equities Realty, Chicago
William Watch, B.B.A.’75, M.B.A.’81, First Commercial, Southfield, Michigan

Campaign Update

As we approach the end of The Michigan Difference Campaign on December 31, 2008 we wish to extend our thanks to the many hundreds of Taubman College alumni and friends who supported the campaign with their generous gifts. Your support helped us exceed both our original campaign goal of $40.5 million and our revised goal of $43 million. As of October 20, 2008 we have received over $45.8 million in gifts, pledges and new bequest intentions.

Although we surpassed our goal, we still have unmet needs in both faculty and program support. Year-end giving opportunities are available and recently passed legislation provides for attractive options for certain people through their IRAs (see details on page 52). The President’s Challenge for Graduate and Professional Student Support continues through December 31, 2008 and provides a 50% match for all gifts for this area of support as long as matching funds are available. There is still time to take advantage of this highly successful challenge.

Thank you for helping make the Michigan Difference!

History of Giving

Total Number of Donors

Total Giving During Public Phase of Michigan Difference Campaign*

* Excludes the Taubman gift which adds $5 million per year for 2003–2005
Alumni Profile: Douglas Farr

Douglas Farr, B.S. ’80, will receive the Taubman College Distinguished Service Award on March 20, 2009 when he will deliver a lecture at the college. He is one of the world’s leading green architects. His firm, Farr Associates Architecture and Urban Design, Inc., holds the unique distinction of being the only architecture firm in the world that has designed three LEED®-Platinum buildings: the Center for Neighborhood Technology, Chicago Center for Green Technology, and Christy Webber Landscapes. Doug Farr was featured in design: e2, a PBS series on the green-building revolution, and most recently, he has written the book Sustainable Urbanism: Urban Design with Nature, published by John Wiley & Sons, Inc. The book describes Farr’s effort to make sustainable urbanism the dominant pattern of human settlement by 2030. It functions as a how-to guide not only for developers, planners, and architects, but also for city councils, mayors, engineers, and voters.

Doug Farr is on the board for the Congress for the New Urbanism, a member of the LEED® Steering Committee, and was the inaugural chair of the LEED® for Neighborhood Development committee, which has just finished its pilot program and will launch its post-pilot version of the rating system in 2009. He is also the founder of the 2030 Communities Campaign that seeks to reduce vehicle miles traveled. The campaign proposes to reverse the increase in VMTs and adopt LEED® for Neighborhood Development as a municipal standard by 2030. Working in parallel to the 2030 Architecture challenge, this campaign serves as a viable standard to address the challenge of climate change in the transportation sector, while improving community health and well-being.

Farr Associates, founded in 1990, is a sustainable architectural and planning firm in Chicago, Illinois, and is widely regarded as one of the most sustainable planning and architecture firms in the country. The company has developed a unique relationship with the city of Chicago to link the firm’s practice to Mayor Richard Daley’s effort to make Chicago the “greenest city in America.” Farr Associates is currently in the construction phase for two monumental projects in Chicago. The first is the conversion of the historic Homan Square Power House that supplied heat and electricity to the Sears, Roebuck, and Company headquarters into a LEED® Gold charter high school and community center. The other project is the LEED® Platinum designed Yannell Zero Net Energy Residence, which will produce more energy than it consumes in a year. The company’s website is www.farrside.com.
1940s–1960s

Charles Correa
B.Arch.’53
is the subject of a documentary by Indian film maker Arun Khopkar titled *Volume Zero: The Work of Charles Correa*. *Volume Zero*, which debuted this fall at the National Centre for the Performing Arts in Mumbai, is a cinematic tour of some of Charles’s best work. Charles is currently working on Lisbon, Portugal’s Champalimaud Centre for the Unknown, a scientific research center, and has been tapped along with Pritzker Prize winner Fumihiko Maki to design a $200-million cultural and religious complex in Toronto for the Aga Khan. The project will include a pair of buildings on a 17-acre suburban site: a religious and community center by Charles and a new Islamic art museum by Maki.

Nicholas G. Lardas
B.Arch.’55
entered the architecture program in 1950 under the G.I. Bill after a tour in World War II. He graduated in 1954 and settled in Ann Arbor with his wife, Betty Perros, and three sons. Nick worked in architectural and engineering firms, earning his Michigan State Registration in 1968. He opened his own firm three years later and continued to design and build residential homes and commercial buildings. In 1968 he retired, and at his wife’s urging he returned to writing, a life-long interest so that he could transcribe the biographies of his family—a desire he often expressed. He attended Washtenaw Community College to study writing, and in four years produced he many short stories and poems. His brother, Jack (B.S.Des.’53) suggested a collaboration; Jack would illustrate the book of Nick’s selected stories and poems about their ancestral home, the Island of Ikaria in the eastern Aegean Sea. Jack included artworks based on the mythical Ikaros and designed and printed *Ikaria Remembered*. Artemis Leontis, Associate Professor of Modern Greek University of Michigan, wrote the stories were “so strong and pure they burn the imagination.” The book has been very successful and is in its second printing. For information write Jackart31@aol.com

Richard von Lahrte, FAIA
B.Arch.’68
was named 2008 Architect of the Year by AIA Colorado. This award recognizes a licensed architect who has contributed to the profession and set an example in design, service, and leadership to AIA Colorado. He was also chosen for this honor because of his longstanding commitment to sustainable urbanism and community building, taking architecture beyond building to defining new models of sustainable urban development. Rich is president as well as principal and board member of RNL, a design firm with offices in Denver, Los Angeles, Phoenix, and Dubai. His key projects include Union Park Downtown Master Plan, Las Vegas; Horizon Center new town, Aurora, Colorado; Rapid City Rushmont Mixed Use residential project, Rapid City, South Dakota, and Cairo Heights new town, Cairo, Egypt.
Ronald Edgerton
B.S.’70, M.Arch.’71, M.U.P.’73
has announced his retirement from KZF Design Inc., a Cincinnati, Ohio multi-disciplinary A/E/P consulting firm, effective January 2, 2009. Ron has been a project manager and chief planner at KZF for over 30 years, is a principal in the firm and serves on the executive committee. During his career at KZF, Ron managed hundreds of projects including new buildings, renovations, urban design plans and community planning projects in both the public and private sector. A number of Ron’s projects have won local and regional awards. His career spans about 40 years including previous employment with Commonwealth Associates, JJR, and HBA, all in Michigan. Ron earned both APA/AIICP and PCP certifications. While attending UM, he served as a teaching fellow and won a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to research and design a new town in Southeast Michigan. He has served on many committees including the zoning board and chamber of commerce in Anderson Township, Ohio and has completed numerous community projects. Ron is currently serving as chairman of the Anderson Township Greenspace Committee that has helped acquire 61 separate parcels totaling over 600 acres of preserved green space. Ron is also president of a local 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation that promotes improvement projects in the community. For his many years of volunteer service, Ron has been recognized twice (1993 and 2004) as “Citizen of the Year” in Anderson Township. He has traveled extensively throughout his career including vacations to Russia, 12 countries in Europe, many islands in the Caribbean, Canada and nearly all 50 states. Ron expects to continue to travel in retirement as well as volunteering in his community. He is grateful for the education he received from U of M!

Brian K. Craig, AIA, NCARB, LEED® AP
B.S.’73, M.Arch.’75
has taken a position with URS Corporation as education practice leader for the college and university business line. His responsibilities will include building URS’s existing and new college/university client relationships in Michigan and the Midwest. He will also be involved with the design and programming of major projects. Prior to joining URS, Brian served as senior vice president at Progressive AE in Grand Rapids, Michigan. In this position, he led teams in the successful design of learning communities, many earning AIA design awards. Brian’s lifelong passion for education and service both locally and internationally are evident in his leadership participation in public and non-profit organizations. He is a member of the AIA, NCARB, Council of Educational Facility Planners International, and is a LEED® accredited professional.

Carl Mezoff
B.S.’73, M.Arch.’75
sent in the above photo, taken in March 1972 in the newly opened architecture design studio on North Campus. The class proudly shows off the results of a semester’s diligent scholarship and hard work—a map of Detroit, with cupcakes locating the principal buildings in the study. This was before the advent of computers, so more “concrete” media were used for presentations. It was a visible “feast,” which, after jury remarks, was all literally enjoyed.

Michael Tobin
B.S.’74, M.Arch.’75
has joined the U.S. Equities Realty Development Group as senior vice president. A 33-year veteran of Chicago’s
commercial real estate industry, Michael will assist in identifying new opportunities and oversee major projects, including the development of a mixed-use urban center that will house Centene Corporation’s headquarters in Clayton, Missouri’s central business district and the development of MetraMarket, a 200,000 square foot retail and restaurant development in Chicago’s West Loop.

Brad Leech
M.U.P.’77
relocated to the Portland, Oregon region in 2005 and is a member of the River Plan Team with the city of Portland Bureau of Planning. This six-member team is preparing updates/plans for the Willamette River corridor in the city. Brad is working downtown and riding the bus to his job. Prior to this he was the city planner for Petoskey, Michigan and also worked for Genesee County.

Russell Perry, AIA, LEED® AP
M.Arch.’77
has assumed the managing director role at the Washington, D.C. office of SmithGroup, one of the nation’s leading architecture, engineering, interiors, and planning firms. Rus will continue as corporate director of sustainable design for SmithGroup, a role he has held since joining the firm in 2005. The largest of SmithGroup’s 10 offices, the Washington, D.C., location houses studios devoted to the commercial workplace and interiors, healthcare, urban design, planning and landscape architecture, learning, government, and cultural markets. Rus has been active in several of SmithGroup’s most prominent projects, including the master planning of the historic St. Elizabeth’s Campus for the General Services Administration and the Department of Homeland Security, the Brookland/Catholic University Area Plan for the D.C. Office of Planning, and the master plans for the two largest campuses of Indiana University. Before joining SmithGroup in 2005, Rus was a partner at William McDonough + Partners (WM+P), Charlottesville, Virginia, where he led some of the world’s most significant sustainable design projects. His talent is familiar to many in the real estate development and construction industry in Washington, D.C. Rus has been an active member of the U.S. Green Building Council since 1994 and co-founded the committee that wrote the LEED® Green Building Rating System for Core and Shell Buildings (LEED®-CS). He recently served on USGBC committees studying the regional appropriateness of credits within the LEED rating systems. For leading sustainable design journal Environmental Building News, he serves on the advisory board. He continues to share his expertise through a busy speaking schedule, most recently at Design D.C. and the Summer Leadership Conference of the Academy of Architecture for Health. Once again this year he will be a featured speaker at GreenBuild, the annual conference of the U.S. Green Building Council.

Steve Langworthy
M.U.P.’79
led the “Sustainable Codes: It’s More Than Just Being Green” session at the Michigan Association of Planners annual conference in Kalamazoo in September 2008. Steve is director of land use and long range planning for the city of Dublin, Ohio.
1980s

Emil Sdao
M.Arch.’82
has been promoted to design director at Neumann/Smith Architecture in Southfield, Michigan. He has over 25 years of experience designing distinctive buildings with a special talent for creating dynamic “people places.” Since joining the firm in 1994, he has been the lead designer on several projects honored with multiple awards for design excellence including the SPO World Headquarters for General Motors in Grand Blanc, Michigan, the Detroit Science Center Expansion and Renovation in Detroit, the Holocaust Memorial Center in Farmington Hills, Michigan, and the expansion and renovation of Twelve Oaks Mall for The Taubman Company.

Joyce Durham
B.S.’83, M.Arch.’85
has joined Health Strategies & Solutions Inc., a national health care strategy firm. Joyce joined the firm’s facility planning team, bringing a unique background of both clinical and architectural experience to the firm’s clients. (Prior to her architecture degrees, Joyce earned a bachelor of science in nursing, also at Michigan.) Before joining HSS, she was a medical planner for HKS, Inc. and for Trinity Design, an architecture firm that was a subsidiary of Trinity Health. She also served as a principal for two major health care consulting firms.

Marlene Imirzian
B.S.’80, M.Arch.’83
was a finalist in the Flip a Strip competition sponsored by the Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art (SMoCA). The competition aimed to envision a new future for this lowly (yet overabundant) building stock. SMoCA initiated a national competition that resulted in this exhibition of innovative proposals by a total of 35 architectural teams from around the country, for flipping local strip malls in Scottsdale, Tempe, and Phoenix.

Bert Koseck, LEED® AP
M.Arch.’84
has been with Neumann/Smith Architecture in Southfield, Michigan for over 24 years, and is now taking on new responsibilities as director of business development. He has been increasingly involved in developing new opportunities for the firm and will now focus on developing strategic client relationships. Bert is a talented designer whose keen eye for architectural composition and detail is reflected in the clarity of his design solutions for projects such as the Livonia Community Recreation Center, the Warren Civic Center, the Ann Arbor YMCA, and the Corporate Crossings Office Building for Ford Motor Land Services Corporation. As a member of the city of Birmingham Board of Zoning Appeals since 1992, he has gained an insider’s view of community policies and procedures that provides valuable insights for expediting project approvals in communities throughout the state.

Kenneth Crutcher
B.S.’89, M.Arch.’92
has been appointed commissioner on the city of Farmington (Michigan) Planning Commission by the Farmington City Council and will serve a three-year term.
Amy (McGruther) Vansen
B.S.’91
is working for the city of Berkley, Michigan as building
director/city planner. She earned her master of urban
planning degree at Columbia University. Amy recently
presented a session at the Michigan Association of
Planning’s annual conference. Her session was entitled
“Small Changes, Big Impacts” and described the
improvements in zoning laws that the city of Berkley has
made during her tenure. On the home front, Amy and
Sam live in Dearborn with sons Benjamin (age 5) and
Caleb (age 3).

Theresa (Pacheco) Harris
B.S.’94, M.Arch.'96
was promoted to manager of health care planning and
named a senior associate at Albert Kahn Associates, Inc.,
in Detroit. Since joining Kahn straight out of architecture
school, she has worked on multiple health care projects
ranging from small clinics to cancer centers to hospitals.
Most recent projects include the Aurora Medical Center in
the Town of Summit, Wisconsin, and the Aurora BayCare
Orthopedic and Sports Medicine Center in Green Bay,
Wisconsin. For vacation, Theresa and her husband Chuck
enjoy snorkeling and hiking in Kauai every year.

Wesley R. Janz
Ph.D.’95
was one of four international finalists for the Curry Stone
Design Prize, which carries with it an award of $100,000.
The prize is awarded to an individual or group who, in
response to a particular need in an area of clean water,
clean air, clean food, shelter, community health, and peace,
have developed a specific design solution that has the
potential to create beneficial change and vital community.
Like the MacArthur Award, this prize is “no strings
attached.” The ongoing nomination process is anonymous.
Wes is an architect and associate professor of architecture
at Ball State University in Indiana, and author of the
forthcoming book One Small Project. Wes’s practice focuses
on “leftover places”—the world’s slums and settlements
where people build shelters from scavenged materials—as
sites of innovation and inspiration for architects committed
to using their craft for social good. In collaboration with
his students and local communities, Wes has constructed
shelters and pavilions in Argentina, Sri Lanka, and
elsewhere, using found materials such as mud and rubble
from demolished buildings.

Patrick Kanary
B.S.’95, M.Arch.’97
has joined SHW Group’s Berkley, Michigan office as
a project manager/project architect. SHW Group, an
architecture, planning, interior design, and engineering
firm based in Plano, Texas, has offices in Michigan, Texas,
Virginia, and the District of Columbia. Patrick has over 10
years of professional experience in commercial, mixed-use
development, adaptive reuse, and higher education science
teaching and research laboratories with clients all over the
country. He is currently working on projects for Kirtland
Community College, The University of Michigan Health
System, Oakland University and Oak Park Schools. Patrick
and his wife, MaryAnn, reside in Bloomfield Hills with their
three sons, Jameson (5), Brendan (3), and Sean (4 months).
Jeffrey Gaines
M.Arch.’97, M.U.P.’97
was promoted to senior associate at Albert Kahn, Inc., in Detroit, Michigan.

Robert Banach
B.S.’98
works for Drewett + Brenden Architecture in Phoenix, Arizona (www.drewettbrenden.com). The firm recently opened a satellite office in Ruston, Louisiana. Rob is working on a number of large scale commercial developments in Ruston and recently earned LEED® accreditation from the U.S. Green Building Council. He and his wife Kimberly have a daughter Madison, and are expecting their second daughter in January 2009.

Tracy Koe Wick
M.U.P.’99
has joined Neumann/Smith Architecture in Southfield, Michigan as director of client services where she will manage consulting services and client relations for the firm. For the past nine years, 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 will enhance 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.

2000s

Zachary Branigan, AICP
M.U.P.’01
was a panelist for “The NEW Master Plan: Throw Convention to the Wind” session at the Michigan Association of Planners’ annual conference in Kalamazoo in September 2008. Zak is an associate at Carlisle/Wortman Associates in Ann Arbor.

John Wagner, AIA
M.Arch.’01
is an associate at City Architecture, an urban design and architecture firm in Cleveland, Ohio. He is living in Cleveland Heights with his wife, Erin, their three-year-old son JR, and three-month-old daughter Nora.

Sandra Robison Dold
M.Arch.’02
married Tobias Reinhold Dold in July 2008 at Sunset Ridge Country Club in Northfield, Illinois. Sandra worked for Valerio Dewalt Train in Chicago for five years. Her last project with them was as project architect for Trump Tower Restaurant Sixteen in Chicago with Joseph Valerio, FAIA (B.Arch.’70). Tobias is a senior architect at Murphy Jahn which has has been working on the Doha Convention Center and Tower; DCC+T, a 550 meter tall tower in the center of West Bay, the financial district of Doha. They have both recently relocated overseas to Doha, Qatar to continue working in the field. Sandra has taken a position with Cansult Maunsell | AECOM on the design management/project management team as senior architect LEED® specialist. She is working on a regeneration of 35 hectares consisting of 200 mixed-use buildings in the “Heart of Doha,” the historic city center adjacent to the Amiri Diwan, Qatar’s seat of government office, the master
plan is targeting LEED® Multiple Building Gold. A select number of buildings in phase 1A are targeting LEED® NC Platinum, the design architects are Allies & Morrison out of London and Burns and McDonnell from Kansas City acting as executive architects/engineers. She welcomes anyone visiting Qatar to contact them at sdold@gmail.com. More information can be found on Arup’s website. Both projects will be seeking summer interns for 2009.

Tamara Redburn, LEED® AP  
M.Arch.’03
moved to Memphis, Tennessee in June and is working as a project architect at Fleming Associates Architects. Her projects at Fleming currently include a 7-12 private school campus and a dormitory at a university. She became a LEED® Accredited Professional in October 2007. Her husband, Mark Conley, is a professor of teacher education at University of Memphis.

Ryan Brouwer  
B.S.’03, M.Arch.’05
along with Randy Pease (B.S.’94, M.Arch.’98) designed a new, environmentally friendly toilet-shower building at Grand Haven State Park for Integrated Architecture in Grand Rapids. The water- and energy-efficient building is the first of its kind in the state park system in Michigan.

Sai Balakrishnan  
M.U.D.’04
worked at RNL in Denver following graduation, then she moved east and earned her master of city planning degree from M.I.T. She received the Outstanding MCP Thesis award for her thesis, “Desired Outcomes, Unexpected Processes: Two Stories of Sanitation Maintenance in Erode Tenements, India.” Sai spent the summer in South Africa and India and returned this fall to Cambridge, Massachusetts where she is enrolled in the Ph.D. program in urban planning at Harvard GSD.

Mandeep (Mandy) Grewal  
Ph.D.’04
ran unopposed in the November 2008 election as the Democratic Party’s nominee for Pittsfield Township (Michigan) supervisor. She previously served on the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners and represented Pittsfield Township in the 7th District. Prior to earning her Ph.D. at Michigan, she earned a master’s degree in economics from Eastern Michigan University and a master’s degree in public administration and a bachelor’s degree in economics from Punjab University.

Sheena Garcia  
B.S.’05
graduated with her M.Arch. from Princeton where she received the AIA Henry Adams Certificate. Her master’s thesis project “Rooted Insertions” is going to be displayed in the 7-9-8 Space in Beijing in an exhibition entitled (Im)material Process: New Digital Techniques for Architecture and will also be appearing in an upcoming issue of Surface magazine.
Elizabeth Jellema  
M.U.P.’05  
and  
David Leopold  
M.U.P.’05
moved to Chicago together after graduation and were married in September 2008. David is a project manager for the city of Chicago Department of Transportation Streetscape and Sustainable Design Program. Liz is a senior analyst at Economics Research Associates (ERA), an international real estate and development consulting firm.

Natalie Pauken  
B.S.’05
has joined the design team at Studio Graphique, Inc., a Cleveland, Ohio-based brand development consultancy and environmental graphic design. Natalie has experience in print, graphic design, architecture, urban planning, and environmental graphic design. Her responsibilities for Studio Graphique include environmental graphic design, wayfinding strategy development, design, and production.

Sarah Traxler  
M.U.P.’05
was a panelist for “Roadmap to Redevelopment: A Saginaw County Community’s Route” session at the Michigan Association of Planners annual conference in Kalamazoo in September 2008. Sarah is a senior planner at McKenna Associates in Northville, Michigan.

Timothy A. Risk  
M.Arch.’06
founded Gontina Building & Design with partner Woody Gontina in 2004. The firm is a full service design and building firm that serves Oakland County and the surrounding areas. The company focuses on creating spaces that require fewer resources to build as well as operate. From small remodeling and addition projects to custom homes, Gontina Building & Design approaches each project with an eye towards artistry, technology and sustainability. The company is currently working on a new 3,700-square-foot custom home in Bloomfield Township. The home is registered to be LEED® certified and the partners are shooting for a Platinum certification. The home will utilize a geothermal heating and cooling system and has been constructed to optimize the efficiency of the building shell through the use of structural insulated panels (SIPS) and insulating concrete forms (ICFS). The house has been designed using passive solar as well as natural day-lighting strategies to further reduce the energy needs of the home. Additionally, water saving systems like rainwater collection for irrigation and gray water storage will be installed. Interior finishes will include FSC certified woods, low VOC paints, wool carpet, and Energy Star appliances and fixtures. The company’s goal is to become the leading Green residential construction and design firm in southeast Michigan by focusing on a range of markets spanning affordable housing to higher end residential projects. This year, the firm worked with Habitat for Humanity in Oakland County to design the organization’s first affordable LEED® certified home. In addition to the new homes the company is working on, the company is well versed in additions and efficient retrofits for existing homes. For more information, please visit: www.gontinabuilding.com
Sanjeev Vidyarthi  
M.U.P.’06, Ph.D.’08  
received an honorable mention for the 2008 Gill-Chin Lim Award for the Best Dissertation on International Planning. According to the committee, his dissertation entitled “Inappropriate appropriations of planning ideas: Informalizing the formal and Globalizing the Local” provided a critical theoretical analysis of how Perry’s American concept of “neighborhood” unit is appropriated into an Indian city (Jaipur) by adapting the concept to local conditions. Furthermore, the committee stated the dissertation presented a nuanced analysis of how politics, power, culture, and space are intertwined in the adoption (or subversion) of an alien planning concept. The 2008 Lim committee members were Dr. Diane Davis (MIT), Dr. Benjamin Kohl (Temple), and Sukumar Ganapati, Florida International University.

Derek Brown  
B.S.’07  
was one of nine winners of the [spot] competition sponsored by Philadelphia University and organized by Qb3, a small architecture firm. The competition called for entrants to propose creative outdoor interventions for the idle space between the bustling streets and sidewalks of the city, the usually stagnant urban parking spot. Proposals were to evolve the notion that these spots, even if only for a few hours, can be occupied by design and engage with the public. Derek’s entry, mediCRATE, is a prototype for one solution to the crisis of people who have no health insurance, providing free early screening for medical conditions that may escalate if gone untreated. The unit is modular, deployable anywhere, easily transportable, and assembles quickly. His entry will be exhibited at DesignPhiladelphia, a week long, city-wide design showcase. Derek works for Kieran Timberlake Associates.
in memoriam

**William W. Lyman**, FAIA, B.S.A.A.’39  
September 14, 2008, York, Maine. Bill was a graduate of the University of Michigan, and the Harvard Graduate School of Design where he taught and assisted Walter Gropius in the masters class from 1947 to 1953. During World War II he served in the U.S. Coast Guard. A fellow of the American Institute of Architects, Bill worked for several architectural firms in Boston, New York, and the Detroit area for 20 years before retiring in 1981. He was president of the firm of Jickling, Lyman, & Powell in Birmingham, Michigan, and also served as president of the Michigan Society of Architects. During this time the firm designed the Gerald Ford Presidential Library in Ann Arbor along with many other libraries in the state. In retirement, Bill lectured on early American furniture and was active in historic preservation while serving as chairman of the board of governors of the Warner House in Portsmouth, N.H.

**Ruth Redstone,’41**  
September 8, 2008, Southfield, Michigan. Mrs. Redstone was the widow of Louis Redstone, B.S.Arc.’29, and mother of Daniel Redstone, FAIA, B.Arch.’65, and Eliel Redstone, B.Arch./M.C.P.’68. She and her husband collected and advocated for art and artists; were active and engaged citizens of Detroit for many, many years; and generous supporters of architecture and art students at the University of Michigan. Mr. and Mrs. Redstone, along with their family established the Louis and Ruth Redstone Scholarship at Taubman College, a merit based scholarship awarded annually to a student who embodies the love of art and architecture which defined the Redstones’ commitment to the fine arts.

**George E. Klein**, B.S.Arch.A.E.’43,  
August, 17, 2008, Tallahassee, Florida. George retired as co-owner of Johnson-Klein, Inc., a general contracting firm in Kalamazoo, Michigan. George also served as a second lieutenant in the United States Army Air Corp during World War II.

**Richard W. Leithauser**, B.A.A.E.’49  

**Mr. Carol L. Williams**, B.Arch.’54  
June 9, 2008, Destin, Florida.
Make Charitable Gifts from Your IRA

The Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 provides a limited-time opportunity to make charitable contributions directly from Individual Retirement Accounts to qualified charitable organizations, like the University of Michigan. Between now and December 31, 2009, you may take advantage of this unique opportunity to support the University and other qualified charities. Here are the basics:

- Individuals aged 70 ½ and older may transfer up to $100,000 in each of 2008 and 2009 directly from an IRA to a qualified charity.
- Because a qualified charitable distribution generates neither taxable income nor an itemized tax deduction, even non-itemizers can benefit.
- The charitable distribution may be applied toward your Required Minimum Distribution.
- Even if you plan other charitable gifts that will fully utilize your allowable federal income tax charitable deduction (50% of your adjusted gross income for cash gifts to public charities), you can take advantage of this legislation.

For more information, please visit our website at:

or contact Don Taylor at 734-763-9707 or dftaylor@umich.edu

Stay in Touch with Class Notes

Class Notes is a regular feature in Portico. Please take a few minutes to tell us about the latest news in your life and show us the work that you are doing. Your friends and classmates will be pleased to hear about you!

To submit your updates, please send an email to: portico@umich.edu

or visit the Taubman College website at:
www.tcaup.umich.edu/portico/classnotes.html

You are encouraged to submit images. We are especially interested in showcasing the work of our alumni.

For best results, the resolution of digital images should be 200–300 dpi. The higher the quality the better.

If you prefer you may fax or mail your update to:

Class Notes
Taubman College
The University of Michigan
2000 Bonisteel Boulevard
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-2069

734 763-2322 fax

Editors’ note:

We are proud to announce that beginning with this issue, Portico will be printed on 100% recycled paper. Rolland Enviro100 contains 100% post-consumer fiber, is certified EcoLogo, processed chlorine-free, FSC recycled, and manufactured using biogas energy.

By using 100% recycled content instead of virgin paper for three issues of Portico each year we will reduce the college’s annual ecological footprint by:

- 128 mature trees
- 8,172 lbs. of solid waste
- 77,081 gallons of water
- 52.2 lbs. of suspended particles in the water
- 15,860 lbs. of air emissions
- 18,733 cubic feet of natural gas
calendar

December 08  
12, 15, 16  Lecture: John Harwood, Oberlin College  
14  Final Studio Reviews  

January 07  
TBD  University Commencement  
TBD  First Day of Winter Semester  
TBD  MLK Symposium  
TBD  Lecture: Loic Wacquant, UC Berkeley

February 04  
Lecture: Jean-Louis Cohen, NYU

Feb 21–Mar 01  
Winter Break  
March 12  Career Fair  
15–22  Architecture Student Exhibition

16  Lecture: Srdjan Jovanovic Weiss, UPENN + School for Missing Studies, Belgrade  
20  Lecture: Douglas Farr, B.S.’80, 2008–09 Distinguished Service Award Recipient  
20–21  Board of Governors Meeting  
Architecture Recruitment Weekend  
April 03–04  Urban Planning Recruitment Weekend  
23–24, 27–30  Final Studio Reviews  
May 01  University Graduate Exercises  
02  University Commencement  
03  Taubman College Graduation Brunch  
Taubman College Commencement

Please visit our website for times and locations, and up-to-date information  
http://sitemaker.umich.edu/tcaupevents for a complete listing of events.
21st C family n. 1a. A preeminent cultural medium through which each of us grows to understand that our individual life quality is impossible apart from the life quality of others; as well, the medium through which each of us grows to understand that our collective well-being is further enriched as we commit our-selves to ever-more challenging relationships of caring, sharing, and trusting . . . as through relations of spiritualship: a bond of ‘well-being’ gained from seeking harmony with one’s universal self — a commitment rooted in one’s spirituality and one’s relations with the universe (Self / Universe) . . . as in relations of personalship: a bond of ‘well-being’ gained from seeking harmony with one’s individual self — a commitment rooted in the concept of self-hood and one’s relations with self (Self / Self) . . . as in relations of kinship: a bond of ‘well-being’ gained from exercising one’s individual capacity to care, share, and trust within a human network of kin — a commitment rooted in the idea of ‘kin family’ and one’s relations with other kin (Self / Kin); as in relations of friendship: a bond of ‘well-being’ gained from exercising one’s individual capacity . . .